AI ART THEFT

The Ethical Dilemma of Image Scrubbing

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PRESERVING CREATIVITY IN THE DIGITAL WORLD OF AI

In the rapidly evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the past year has experienced a surge in advancements, particularly with the release of many AI-generative programs capable of creating art. As AI developers share the potential of these programs, a concerning trend has emerged - one that demands our attention and collective action.

Many AI developers rush to release their programs before others saturate the market. To speed along the process, many developers are "scrubbing" the internet for images to train their AI models.

However, this seemingly innocuous method has ethical dilemmas. A significant portion of the billions of images utilized are copyright-protected. They are the intellectual property of original artists who have not granted permission for their use.

The widespread act of image appropriation raises serious legal concerns. If AI-generated art cultivated from illicitly acquired images is used for commercial purposes, developers and users alike may find themselves entangled in lawsuits for copyright infringement. This type of situation not only threatens the original artist's financial interests but creates a legal minefield for those unaware of the origins of the training data.

Beyond the legal implications, the surge in AI-generated art has cast a shadow over original artists' work. The sheer volume of AI-generated art flooding the internet has inadvertently overshadowed the creations of human artists. This situation creates a dual threat to the artist community - diminished visibility and the prospect of being uncompensated for their intellectual contributions.

The consequences go beyond individual artists to a broader realm of creative expression. As AI programs benefit from the unauthorized use of copyrighted images, the diversity and authenticity of human creativity face an unprecedented threat. It is imperative for AI developers, both current and future, to acknowledge and address these ethical concerns to ensure the sustainable growth and moral evolution of AI technology.

In the pursuit of innovation, it is crucial that developers adopt ethical practices that respect the rights of original artists. Developers must prioritize responsible image sourcing and transparency. They must respect the rights of all contributors through fair compensation. As the pioneers of the AI evolution, developers hold the key to fostering innovation with ethical standards.

EMPOWERING AI USERS

As users explore the new creative possibilities of AI-generative programs, holding developers accountable for ethical image sourcing is imperative. By supporting developers who prioritize transparency, respect intellectual property, and compensate artists fairly, users have the power to foster a tech community that values creativity while maintaining ethical integrity. Your choices as a user influence the direction of AI development, ensuring a responsible and respectful platform for artists and creators. Users should only support AI developers that respect original artists.

Keagan Duemmel is an undergraduate at Florida State University. He is pursuing a bachelor's in computer science with a minor in physics, intending to work in the artificial intelligence industry.

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