

AI Prejudice
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AI did not generate a single sentence in this document. However, AI was used for grammar and punctuation correction.

While this article is oriented primarily towards the software development industry, it is analogously applicable in increasingly more fields.

An increasing number of us are losing our jobs to AI. There is good reason to be upset. There is good reason not to like AI. AI is the enemy of your livelihood.

One of the ways to attack this enemy is to underscore the errors it makes, of which there are many examples both constructed and in real use. The problem with this is that people make mistakes too. What do we do with mistakes people make? We evaluate and test the work people do, provide feedback, and allow them to correct their mistakes. AI works far faster and makes fewer mistakes. Comparing what AI does without evaluation and testing to what people do with evaluation and testing is surely an unfair comparison. In terms of quality and speed, if proper evaluation and testing are performed, AI almost always wins in terms of productivity. Thus, attacking AI based on the errors it makes is fallacious.

Attacking AI based on the career destruction it causes, while I understand it, is short-sightedly fighting a surely losing battle. It is no different than the horse-drawn carriage manufacturers fighting the automobile industry. Sure, you can slow things down a very little bit, but it is a fight you are guaranteed to lose.

The last and weakest way I see people fighting AI is because "it isn't perfect." Yes, it isn't, but then, neither are people. The question is not whether it is perfect. The question is, is it more productive than people? Yes, people are needed to run the AI. The point, however, is that with the AI tool, productivity increases so much that far fewer people are needed. The fact that AI isn't perfect means little when proper testing and evaluation are employed. With proper evaluation and testing, AI ends up faster, cheaper, and more perfect than most people—not to mention personality issues, reliability issues, dependability issues, and legal issues.

AI is here and getting more powerful and prevalent each day. While fighting it may slow it down a very little amount, it is coming regardless of what you do or think. For now, what is likely in your best interest is to fully embrace it and learn to take maximum advantage of it. When employers downsize their personnel, they'll base it on productivity, and those that embrace AI will be far more productive. Embracing AI will maximally but not ultimately save your job.

The Future

In the long run, AI will ultimately replace all jobs, starting with software developers and ride-share drivers. I can see attorneys (except for litigators) and accountants following quickly behind. With the advent of AI, robots will take all other jobs too. There isn't a single safe job I can think of.

There is a question about what this will do to our society. Initially, the business owners will make more profit, and the employees will lose their jobs and have increased financial issues. Ultimately, the gap between haves and have-nots will increase to a breaking point, causing social conflict the world hasn't seen. After that period, I see a future where true equality will reign. People no longer work. Machines do all of the work, producing all of our needs (the GNP). Money will be paired with the GNP and divided up among the people, assuring balance between GNP and consumption.

People can still work at whatever they're interested in, but it'll be more like a hobby than a vocation. On very rare occasions, people will have ideas not thought of by AI. Those too will be incorporated into our society.

Best Strategy

Fighting AI will do as good for you as fighting the future did for some of our prior generations. It is a sure path to losing. If that is true, what is the best strategy we can use now?

1. Fully embrace AI

Job layoffs will be related to productivity. People who embrace and utilize AI will be more productive and retain their position longer.

2. Find positions that are harder to replace

It will be a long time before AI replaces us all in the job market. Seek positions that are harder for AI to do. While AI is the biggest threat to white-collar jobs, given the state of robotics, blue-collar jobs will be far more reliable. I am talking about jobs like electrician, plumber, and construction.

3. Acquire assets

People will always need a place to live, and AI can never replace housing. Acquire assets with ongoing value. This will be your best hedge against what is coming.