Doomsday

(November 2023)

Please assist in attempting to find out the meaning of the newspaper article below.

1. What exactly is A. I. in their mind, beside the acronym for artificial intelligence, which they do not define?

2. How exactly "*could*" it, moreover "*potentially*" (note the double conditional), "*become a threat to jobs or **humanity***", no less?

It is worthwhile noting that the washing machine caused the vanishing of the washerwoman, and so did the automobile with the coachman, the electric starter and car heater with the chauffeur, the gas stove and refrigerator with the in-house cook, the sewing machine with the seamstress ([see the 1931 riot](#)), the vacuum cleaner with the maid, the computer with the typist, Amazon with the brick-and-mortar bookstore keeper, GPS with the sextant-savvy marine officer, petroleum fuels with the stoker, the sail with the galley slave, the steam engine and the propeller with the Cape Horn sailor, the diesel engine with the steam locomotive engineer, natural gas and nuclear energy with the collier, soon the drone with the airline or air force pilot, and so forth, *ad proxime infinitum*.

I would venture that the professionals which are the most at risk from A. I. are (note the present tense) those who make an art of bad faith and misapprehension, such as quite a number of journalists, activists, attorneys and judges (no offense meant), politicians, government ministers and presidents, fraudsters, researchers, and also all the prophets of the Doomsday.

As for the "*threat to … humanity*", I would rather think that the new tool will be in fact hugely beneficial to mankind, except of course for the professions listed above.

The New York Times

The Evening

November 22, 2023

Sam Altman returned to OpenAI

First he was fired, then he found another job and [now he's back](#): Sam Altman was reinstated as the chief executive of OpenAI late last night. His return coincided with the departure of several board members who had pushed him out last week.

The debacle illustrates how [the creation of artificial intelligence systems is testing whether businesspeople](#), who want to make money from A.I., can work in sync with researchers, who worry that it could potentially become a threat to jobs or humanity.