AI Ethical Concerns

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I am vehemently against the use of Generative AI and refuse to use it as of right now. Something I want to say immediately right now is that I do not look down at those who use tools such as Chat GPT to help accelerate their learning paths. However, I have a number of ethical and learning concerns when it comes to the way Generative AI tools are used by the general populace.

Environmental Issues

One of my biggest issues is the use of Generative AI and its environmental impact. It is widely known how much electricity is used as well as the water consumption / evaporation of water from the intense heat produced by AI server farms. While this data is easily accessible from a single google search, many people tend to ignore this information to make themselves feel better about how much energy a single prompt into ChatGPT takes. While companies such as DeepSeek claim and do truly make efforts to take charge in creating more environmentally friendly servers, ChatGPT has such a stronghold on the market that most language learning models will base themselves off of ChatGPT or even just use it directly when implementing AI into websites or products. This creates a monopoly in the market that only seeks to promote American companies that continuously do nothing about the problems they create, only to complain about it when it begins to affect them- To which they will still do nothing about. The climate change crisis only gets worse day by day, and is now to a point where even if every single person in the general populace did everything they could nothing would change unless large companies and conglomerates completely overhauled production - Which will never

happen. The most I can do personally is waste less in my life, choose greener options, speak up against companies who continue to push for creating a worse world, and on that list is not using Generative AI.

Wider Learning Concerns

There have been significant signs I have personally noticed of students relying far too much on Generative AI, letting programs like ChatGPT doing the majority of the work. I have had people take my notes, put them through ChatGPT, and have it summarize my notes, when if they would have asked or even looked at the top of the page they would realize that the short summary of notes was at the top. Then ChatGPT proceeded to incorrectly summarize my notes, and I had to sit there and correct the AI's summary output instead of them being willing to read the incredibly short bullet pointed list of the premade summary. There is too much reliance on trying to do things as quickly as possible, rather than taking the time to learn things. It's only making the culture of getting things done quickly, rather than done properly far worse especially in an academic setting. I understand that Generative AI can be used in a good way to boost learning, however I don't think many if any students are going to make that choice if they have the option right there to get things done for them.

Personal Learning Concerns

Putting aside even wider learning concerns, I also do this for myself as well. I have trouble retaining and taking in information when I only read something. If I do not directly break things down and try implementing myself then I simply will not understand what it is that is happening. This is easy to do with things like design and general media, coding is a different beast. I know for a fact, if I just prompt something I will not consider what it is actually giving me. I will simply put it in my code and go on my merry way. I will not learn, where as if I look up tutorials or go on stack overflow I need to adjust things for my projects itself as well as analyze

what I am actually putting into my code. I have to think which means I will be able to easier learn what it is I am doing.

Copyright Issues

As a current freelance illustrator, I have huge concerns with how generative AI scrapes every surface of the internet whether we want it to or not only to push everything into a big grinder that creates the right slop for the right person. It is consistently wrong and I have serious concerns of how it steals so much information, imagery, etc - Only to meld it together into something that people continue to state will take over many job markets. It greatly upsets me that people would rather screw over people by using a machine that will pump out worse quality work then paying or supporting someone to do that work. For example, people will take the work of artists they 'like', put their work in, and ask an image generating program to copy the work of that artist. There is no permission asked for to the artist and they nearly never give their permission to use their work. Why am I expected to support a system of work that inherently is created off of the backs of other people's work, only to have it spit out inherently worse results overall.

Overall

I am more than aware that many AI models are doing good in the world. There are efforts being made to create more sustainable Generative Models, that there is more to AI then just ChatGPT or Deepseek, and that if used and developed properly we could have a revolutionary tool that will completely change the systems in power that allows the common person to have an easier time in life. I am not unaware of all the good things that AI can and is doing. However, publicly available Generative AI programs are currently destructive in a vast number of areas. The CEO of OpenAI Sam Altman is pushing for harsher regulations on AI programs, which on paper sounds good. But it's incredibly alarming and concerning to me that

the spearhead of the AI movement is pushing for regulations that would make creating more sustainable and healthy AI options nearly impossible. There is a push for OpenAI to be the center of the AI movement, only for them to block off anyone from even trying to compete. They have seen what can be done with DeepSeek, a model based off of ChatGPT and they felt threatened.

I am not willing to support that.