

Should We Fear Artificial Intelligence?

Intelligence – the ability, enabling the understanding of new situations, dealing with them, retaining knowledge gained through the way and applying it again. This skill is exclusive only to some of the more complex biological forms on planet Earth according to current researches.

But what if this uniqueness is no longer exclusive to animals and arguably to some of the plants inhabiting Earth? What if it is possible for non-living things to have intelligence? What I'm talking about is making machines have intelligence like humans – the so called artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence is actually already here, but not in the same manner that science fiction depicts it. From computer controlled characters in games or non-player characters (NPC), to programs that recommend us products and content to watch based on our recent searches, it is all around us. It makes shopping and browsing easier and faster for customers using internet services. Furthermore it has long ago been employed in the making of programs that fly unmanned planes in the air or even steer cars in the hustle and bustle of the streets. In general artificial intelligence has many uses and most of them are of benefit to the humankind. Then again you might be asking yourself why do we have this negative image of artificial intelligence (AI) instilled in our minds? What makes us fear it?

In my opinion, the case might be that science fiction has played a big role in making the negative image we have for AI. The entertainment industry has already introduced to us the possibility of a future conquer of the humanity, one that is far more superior to us, in the face of the intelligent but soulless machine. Even though it's only a possibility, doing something as highly sophisticated as the bringing of machines to "life" and the very fact that we still do not completely understand nature and ourselves as well as we would like to, would naturally evoke fear in our hearts. Mankind has always had fear of the unknown. Bringing more clarity would greatly help us to overcome it. Therefore it is worth trying to answer the questions which ethics ask, as this would help change public opinion by raising awareness. Questions such as - what will happen if a machine that can infinitely upgrade until it becomes more intelligent than humankind and even surpasses it? Will it be able to help humanity by solving all of its problems or will it see us as a threat that must be exterminated? We might never know for sure, until it happens, but the plans are to encode this machine so that it will always protect humans. This way the chance to destroy us is minimal.

To conclude, fear helps us to survive, but if humankind feared every new invention, we might have never moved on from the Stone age, which might have resulted in human's extinction. It is in our nature to progress, evolve and adapt to the surroundings – to be better. Developing new technologies is one of

humankind's ways of doing this. I don't disagree that we should think about the risks involving this new technology but in the end we should at least try.