

A Christian manifesto for AI: managing the key impact areas on humanity

- 1 **Cognitive skills** – Where AI is used to replicate particular human skills in application areas that involve decision-making and that influence people's lives, humans should always make the final decision. The principles of justice and fairness must be upheld by allowing decisions to be challenged and requiring independent human review. Such applications must be audited and their performance reviewed on a regular basis.
- 2 **Human relationships** – Frequent use of artefacts that simulate human interaction have the potential to diminish our ability to relate to other human beings. People should always know they're interacting with such an artefact and it should not be assigned personhood or ethical rights. Such artefacts should be designed to signal that they're neither human nor a particular gender or persona; for example, by the nature of their voice or expression.
- 3 **Moral agency** – Humanity should not give up moral agency to an artefact such as an autonomous weapon or self-drive vehicle. AI intrinsically has no ethical or moral rights because it's an artefact made by a human. AI designers, owners and users should be held accountable through law and regulation for their use and actions.
- 4 **Work** – Automation of tasks that replace humans should be contemplated only where alternative work can be provided for those replaced. The dignity of work must be preserved and not replaced entirely by leisure.
- 5 **Reality** – We're created to inhabit and interact with the real world and for human relationships. We should be careful not to lose a sense of reality through exposure to virtual or augmented reality. Such systems should be designed to ensure users are aware of the difference between the virtual and the real and exposure may need to be time limited by the application.
- 6 **Privacy and freedom** – Every citizen's privacy should be respected together with freedom of movement and association. Data resulting from encounters with digital technology is private property and should not be collected and used by third parties, even when personal identifiers are removed, without informed consent. Given that this is mostly impractical, the use of digital products and services should not be conditional on such data being collected by the supplier nor any other third party. Digital surveillance of citizens is a breach of privacy and freedom and should be banned.
- 7 **Idolatry** – certain deployments of AI will dehumanize civilization as we place more and more reliance on it and allow it to control our lives. This amounts to idolatry. Seeking to augment the human soul or to create superintelligence is to seek to become God and is also idolatry.