

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1313 Do This and AI Won't Take Your Job (At Least Not Soon)

The whole topic of artificial intelligence, or AI, has been buzzing on the lips of countless folks around the globe. Some say that the machines are coming for our jobs, and that they'll eventually enslave or even dispose of the human race. I'm Jerry Roberts, and I'll tell you what to do if you don't want to see your job go to a robot, next on The Extra Point.

Up to a few months ago, the whole idea of robots taking over was fanciful smalltalk. Sure, we'd see the latest innovations in robot tech and talk about how close they're getting to developing machines that can actually make a major impact.

Still, that was likely a ways off, and the costs were through the roof. Come on, how many people would realistically be able to use any of the advancements? Then, ChatGPT was launched and everything changed.

The conversational bot that can generate an endless variety of human-like responses to a wide range of questions and prompts, has achieved a user base of over 100 million in just two months.

The bot's unique capabilities include passing advanced university exams in law, medicine, and business, translating pictures into recipes, generating essays, poems, and articles, and translating a picture of a handwritten website sketch into full code in seconds.

Even in its infancy, ChatGPT is performing job functions in industries far and wide. It's not perfect, but improves daily. All this without asking for a raise, questioning the company's policy on work-life balance, or cooking smelly food in the break room.

As such, the workplace has lost its mind. AI, this potential future threat to workers, was now a voracious beast that would quickly take over everything, and throw us all out of a job.

Well, I'm here to tell you...they're right. AI will

affect everyone's work at some point. It is an inescapable fact. However, there are qualities we have that can deliver value that no robot likely will, at least not for some time.

First, *self-awareness* is critical. Understanding ourselves in the age of AI means paying close attention to how technology is reshaping our behaviors, as well as the behavior of the people we work with and serve. Some people will be fine with tech, tech, and more tech. Others, not so much. We'll have to know how to deal with those differences.

Second, *humility* is important. It's one of the greatest and most attractive human qualities. Machines aren't humble. No matter what words a bot can generate, we will know they came from a bot. Advantage: Us.

Third, *empathy*, that unique human capacity to understand and share the feelings of others. The tech masters will fill robots with elaborate algorithms that will make them seem to be empathetic — but there will be a difference in that and how you would interact.

I think if you and I can harness those three — self-awareness, humility, and empathy — there is going to be a place for us in the working world, even as artificial intelligence develops.

There's one more, and this last quality kept coming at me as I wrote this commentary. You might not agree that it is a desirable quality, but it makes us human. It is *imperfection*. Machines will become more and more perfect, and the simple mistake or miscalculation may someday be relegated to history. Perhaps, by then, the human race will be fine with that.

However, as bots take over our lives to a larger degree, I think the majority of humans will want human contact, maybe even crave it, from imperfect beings.

How fast will AI disrupt industries and jobs to a level that matches the fears of some? (Con't.)

That's hard to say. Twenty years for some, ten years for others, yours...maybe less.

Baby Boomers and Gen Xers may have less to worry about, as they're further along in their careers. Millennials and Gen Z members have more at risk here.

AI will no doubt change our lives in ways that are almost unimaginable. Robots will one day look like us, sound like us, and seem like us. Yet, they won't be us. The things that make us uniquely human will always have a place and bring value.

Hopefully.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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