

Welcome to

AI: What's Happening Now - And What Comes Next

A Community Conversation on Technology

- ▶ Sponsored by Rotary & NAACP Middlesex Branch

- ▶ Tonight's agenda:

- ▶ Community Tech Updates
- ▶ Security Tips / Protecting Yourself
- ▶ AI Keynote
- ▶ Q&A — Your questions answered
- ▶ Community Resilience

- ▶ All are welcome — no tech background needed

- ▶ Greg's Website: SeekTheGeek.com



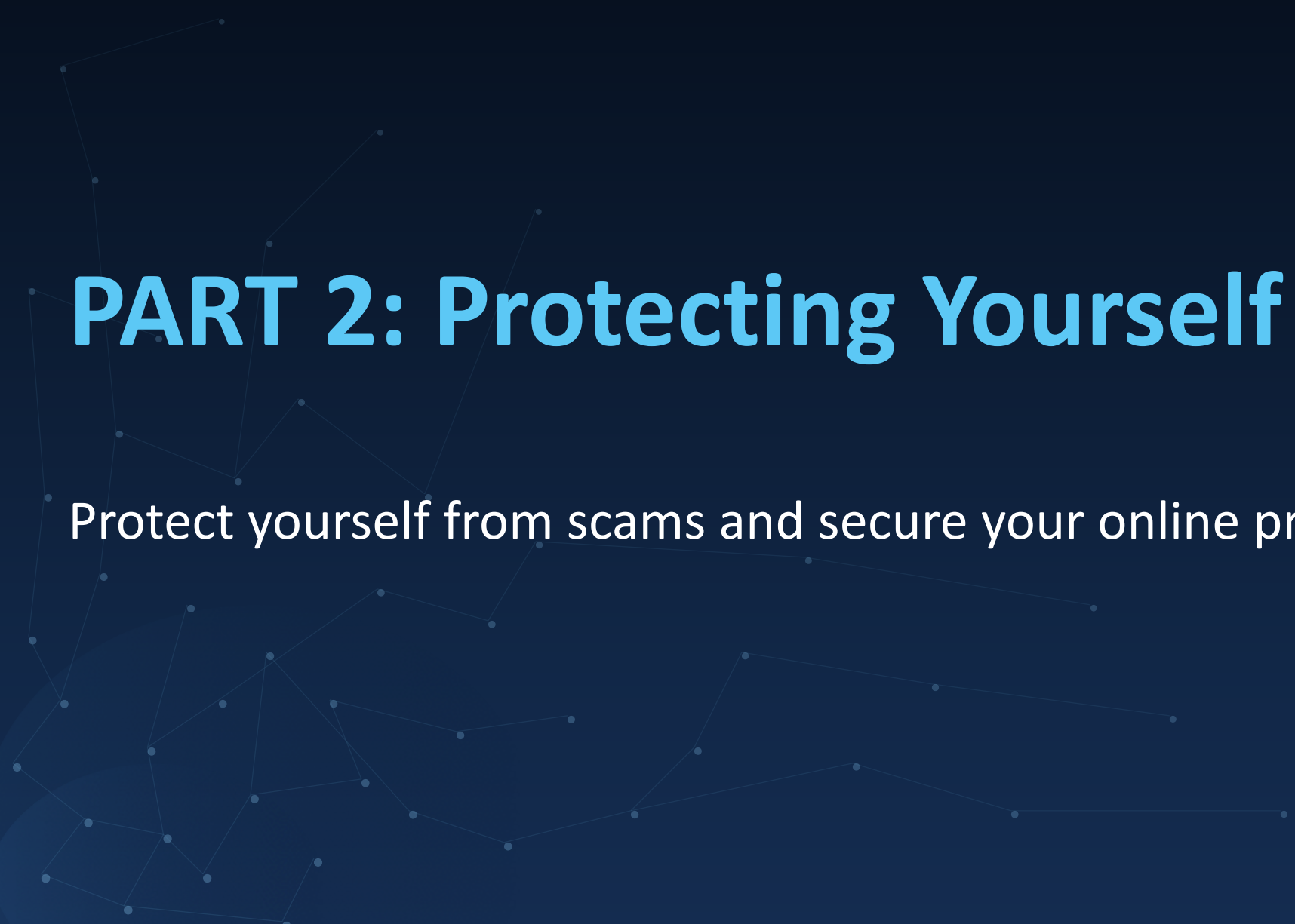
PART 1: Community & County Updates

Internet • Grants • Cell Service • Broadband Authority

What's happening locally?

Let's Talk Tech

- ▶ Internet access is expanding to the unserved within the county
- ▶ Grant – Identified Partnership opportunities from a Needs Assessment exercise
- ▶ Expansion of Verizon Towers
- ▶ Middlesex Broadband Authority is available to research and advise



PART 2: Protecting Yourself Online

Protect yourself from scams and secure your online presence

How Scammers Use AI to Target You

AI Scam Tactics

Scammers use AI to analyze personal data and craft convincing messages, making attacks highly targeted and realistic.

User Vulnerabilities

Users often share personal information online, making them susceptible to tailored phishing and social engineering.

Countermeasures

Awareness training, privacy controls, and advanced security tools help mitigate risks and detect AI-driven scams.

Dynamic Threat Adaptation

AI algorithms evolve based on victim responses, constantly improving scam effectiveness and evading detection.

Good scammers have stopped asking for your a credit card ...

Now they change the beneficiaries on your life insurance or investment accounts

Protecting Your Personal Information

Strong Passwords

Create unique, complex passwords for each account. Avoid using the same password across multiple platforms.

Multi-Factor Authentication

Enable MFA wherever possible to add an extra layer of security beyond just passwords.

Limit Data Sharing

Be cautious about what you post on social media and restrict sharing sensitive information publicly.

Update & Scrutinize

Regularly update software to patch vulnerabilities and carefully review app permission requests.

If you use the same Password everywhere?

Add characters from the website URL like the First 3 letters to make each sites password different

Simple Steps to Identify AI Scams

Verify Requests

Always confirm unexpected requests through a trusted alternate channel, such as a phone call or in-person conversation.

Check Communication Style

Look for inconsistencies in grammar, tone, or content that may indicate AI-generated messages.

Use Detection Tools

Leverage AI detection tools and platforms to analyze suspicious messages or emails.

Stay Informed

Keep up with current scam trends and educate yourself on AI's capabilities and common scam tactics.

Establish a family code word and phrase

"Did you make that new salad?" "Adding Broccoli would not have been my first thought"

What to Do If You Suspect a Scam

- 1 Stop engaging immediately**
End the call/chat, don't click more links, and don't reply.
- 2 Share nothing sensitive**
Don't provide passwords, codes, banking details, or ID info.
- 3 Document the evidence**
Save screenshots, emails, URLs, phone numbers, and timestamps.
- 4 Report it quickly**
Notify the platform, your bank, and local/national fraud hotlines or online portals.
- 5 Alert affected organizations**
Contact institutions tied to the incident so they can secure accounts and limit damage.

Prompt action can reduce harm and supports investigations.

Securing Your Online Presence

- **Review Privacy Settings**

Regularly check and update privacy settings on all online accounts to control what information is shared.

- **Back Up Data**

Regularly back up critical data to secure locations to prevent loss from cyber attacks.

- **Use Security Software**

Install and maintain comprehensive security software to protect against malware and phishing.

- **Monitor Account Activity**

Keep an eye on your accounts for any unusual or unauthorized activity.

- **Avoid Public Wi-Fi Risks**

Be cautious when using public Wi-Fi; use VPNs and avoid sensitive transactions on unsecured networks.

- **Stay Informed**

Educate yourself on privacy best practices and emerging AI-driven threats to stay ahead.

Community Resources and Support

Government Agencies

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) scam alerts and reporting tools help identify and report AI-related scams.

Reporting Platforms

Centralized portals for reporting suspicious activity streamline collective action.

Cybersecurity Training

Webinars and workshops by national cybersecurity centers provide practical safety education.

Educational Resources

Guides, checklists, and awareness campaigns empower individuals to recognize and avoid scams.

Consumer Protection Groups

Organizations like the Better Business Bureau offer scam tracking and victim support.

Online Safety Communities

Peer discussion forums and support networks share real-time scam information and advice.

Empower Yourself to Navigate AI Safely



Recognize AI scams

Watch for deepfakes, urgent requests, and “too good” offers.



Protect your information

Share less, use privacy settings, and verify before responding.



Take proactive steps

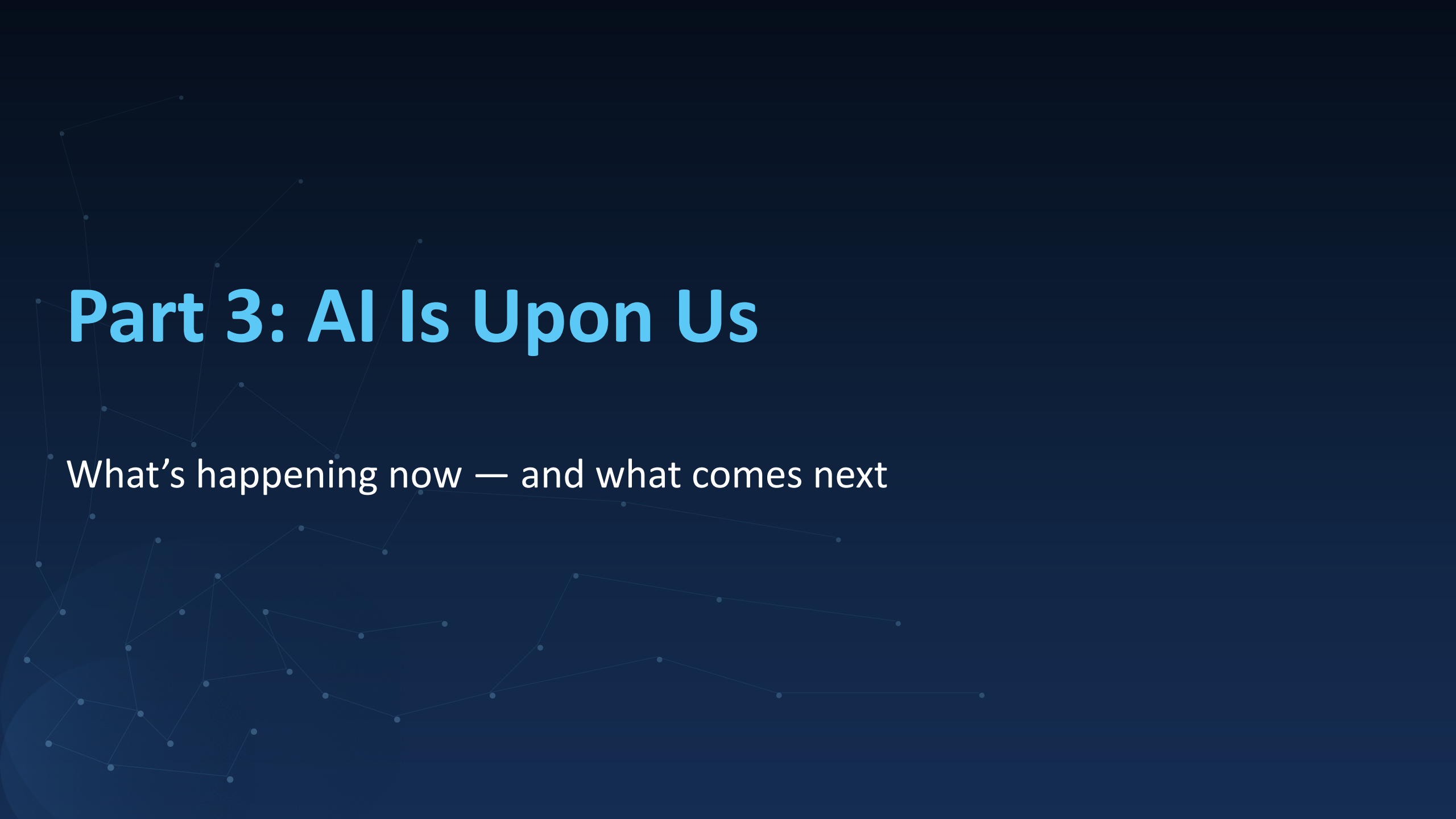
Enable MFA, use strong passwords, and keep devices updated.



Stay informed & supported

Use trusted resources and community help to stay vigilant.

As AI becomes increasingly integrated into daily life, understanding how it can be used — both positively and maliciously — is essential.

An abstract geometric pattern consisting of numerous small, light blue dots connected by thin, light blue lines. The pattern is scattered across the dark blue background, with a higher concentration of dots and lines on the left side, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Part 3: AI Is Upon Us

What's happening now — and what comes next

What Is AI Today?

1



AI today is mostly **narrow AI**

It is trained on large amounts of text, images, audio, and other data

2



It predicts patterns and generates output

It can answer questions, summarize, classify, translate, and create content

3



Generative AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini

can write, code, analyze information, and create images, audio, and video

4



AI is a **powerful tool or copilot**

Best for drafting, brainstorming, searching, and automating routine tasks

5



AI can still be wrong, biased, or overconfident

It does not have human wisdom, judgment, or real understanding



Best way to think about AI today: a fast, useful assistant — **not a human mind.**



AI Terms You'll See in the News



Prompt

The instruction or question you type to an AI. Like giving directions — the clearer you are, the better the result.



LLM

Large Language Model — the AI engine behind tools like ChatGPT and Claude. Trained on billions of pages of text to understand and generate language.



AI Agent

An AI that can take actions on its own — browsing the web, sending emails, or completing multi-step tasks without you clicking every button.



Hallucination

When AI confidently states something that is completely wrong. It sounds certain, but the "fact" is made up. Always verify important information.



AGI

Artificial General Intelligence — AI that can reason and learn across ANY topic like a human can. We're not there yet, but researchers say we're getting closer.



Token

The tiny chunks AI uses to read and write text. Roughly equal to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a word. AI tools often charge by the token and have a token "memory limit."



Chatbot

A program you can have a conversation with. ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini are all chatbots powered by LLMs.



Deepfake

AI-generated photos, audio, or video that makes it look or sound like someone said or did something they never did. A major source of misinformation.



Context Window

The AI's short-term memory. How much of a conversation it can "see" at once. Longer windows mean the AI can remember more of your chat.

Three Levels of AI

AI Today → General Intelligence → Super Intelligence

AI Today

Specialized / Narrow AI



- Good at specific tasks
- Needs human direction
- Fast pattern recognition
- Examples: chatbots, image tools, recommendations



Real and widely used now



Scope: narrow

General Intelligence

AGI



- Learns across many tasks
- Reasons more like a person
- Adapts to new situations
- Could work with less supervision



Not here yet



Scope: broad

Super Intelligence

ASI



- Much smarter than humans
- Can solve very complex problems
- Could improve itself rapidly
- Raises major opportunities and risks



Theoretical future stage



Scope: beyond human level



Simple concept overview — actual timelines and outcomes are uncertain.

AI Tools You Can Use Today — For Free

For You or an Organization

- ▶ **ChatGPT** (chat.openai.com) — write newsletters, grants, announcements
- ▶ **Claude** (claude.ai) — answer questions, summarize documents
- ▶ **Gemini** (gemini.google.com) — integrates with Google Docs & Gmail
- ▶ **Canva AI** — design flyers, social posts, presentations
- ▶ **Google NotebookLM** — summarize PDFs and meeting notes

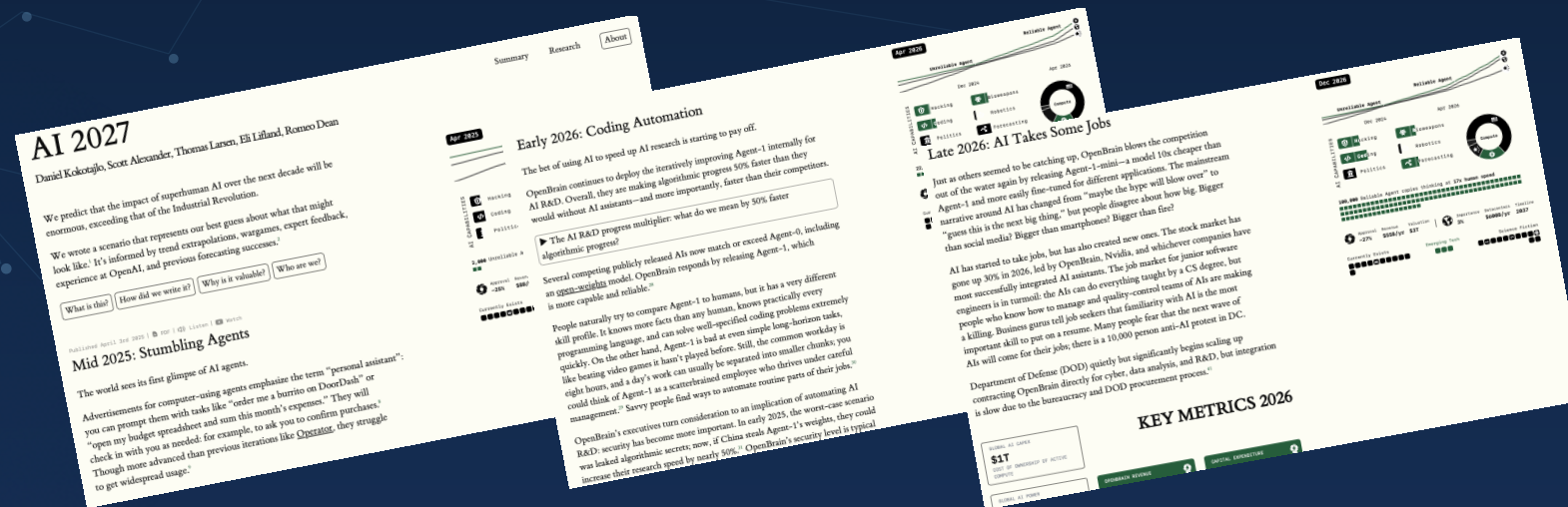
Tips for Working with AI

- ▶ Always review AI output — it can make mistakes ('hallucinate')
- ▶ Never enter private data into AI tools
- ▶ Use AI for drafts, not final decisions
- ▶ Start with one task and learn before expanding
- ▶ Make copies of your data prior to allowing AI to edit

The AI 2027 Report: A Roadmap to Watch

Published April 2025 by the AI Futures Project

- ▶ Written by Daniel Kokotajlo (ex-OpenAI) — his 2021 predictions proved remarkably accurate
- ▶ It's a 'scenario forecast' — a research-based story of what could happen
- ▶ Key prediction: AI coding agents may become superhuman by late 2027
 - ▶ Path one - Slow down and world corporation
 - ▶ Path two - Race to the top
- ▶ Bottom line: AI is accelerating faster than most people realize



AI 2027 Report: Key Milestones

2025

AI Breakthroughs

AI automates some
AI research tasks



Generalist Models

Improved reasoning,
multitask agents

2026

Advanced AI Labs

AI systems
designing better AI



Autonomous AI Agents

AI agents handle
complex tasks

Early 2027

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)

Human-Level AI Achieved



AI Automates AI R&D

AI systems drive rapid
progress

Late 2027

Artificial Superintelligence (ASI)

Superhuman AI Emerges



Massive Economic Disruption

Productivity soars;
major disruptions



The AI 2027 Timeline (Details as of February 2026)

What the report predicts, year by year

- ▶ Mid 2025 - 90% First AI agents emerge; unreliable but useful
- ▶ Late 2025 - 75% Massive datacenter buildout
- ▶ Early 2026 - 85 % AI transforms software engineering; junior dev market in turmoil
- ▶ Mid 2026 - 80% China ~6 months behind; nationalization; compute consolidation; espionage*
- ▶ Late 2026 - 50% Widespread job elimination; public protests; DOD scaling AI contracts / Protection
- ▶ Jan 2027 - 25% AI nearly equal to top human experts in research engineering
- ▶ Feb 2027 - 35% (China) Successful exfiltration of frontier model weights via insider access
- ▶ Mar 2027 - 40% AI beats top human engineers at any coding task
- ▶ Dec 2027 - ?? Artificial Superintelligence — better than humans at everything

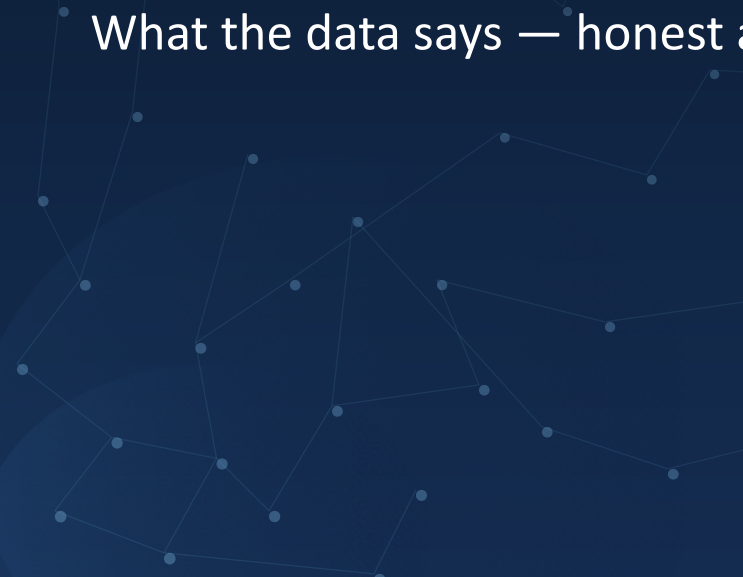
**Feb 2026 – Espionage Event*

Anthropic alleged 35,000 fake AI accounts from Chinese labs for industrial-scale distillation of Claude's design



AI & Jobs

What the data says — honest and balanced



Why AI Feels Different From Past Technology

Technology	What It Replaced	Time to Spread
Electricity	Human & animal power	~50 years
Automobiles	Horses & carriages	~40 years
Internet	Paper & physical mail	~25 years
Smartphones	Landlines & cameras	~15 years

Artificial Intelligence

Human mental tasks

Possibly 10 years or less

Key Insight: *AI is the first technology designed to replicate parts of human thinking — not just physical work.*

<https://www.anthropic.com/economic-index#us-usage>

Early 2026: Economic Turbulence

AI investment, layoffs, and market volatility

- ▶ Stock market volatility in early 2026 tied partly to AI disruption fears
- ▶ 2025 saw 1.17 million total U.S. layoffs — highest since the pandemic
 - ▶ ~55,000 job cuts in 2025 were directly attributed to AI
- ▶ Amazon, Workday, and others cited AI when announcing major workforce reductions
 - ▶ Important: experts warn of 'AI washing' — some companies blame AI to distract from other problems
- ▶ Tech sector: 32,000 additional job losses in just the first two months of 2026

Anthropic Research Job Exposure

Red Bar - Usage with Today's AI
Blue Bar - Theoretical

Chart provided by fortune.com
March 2026

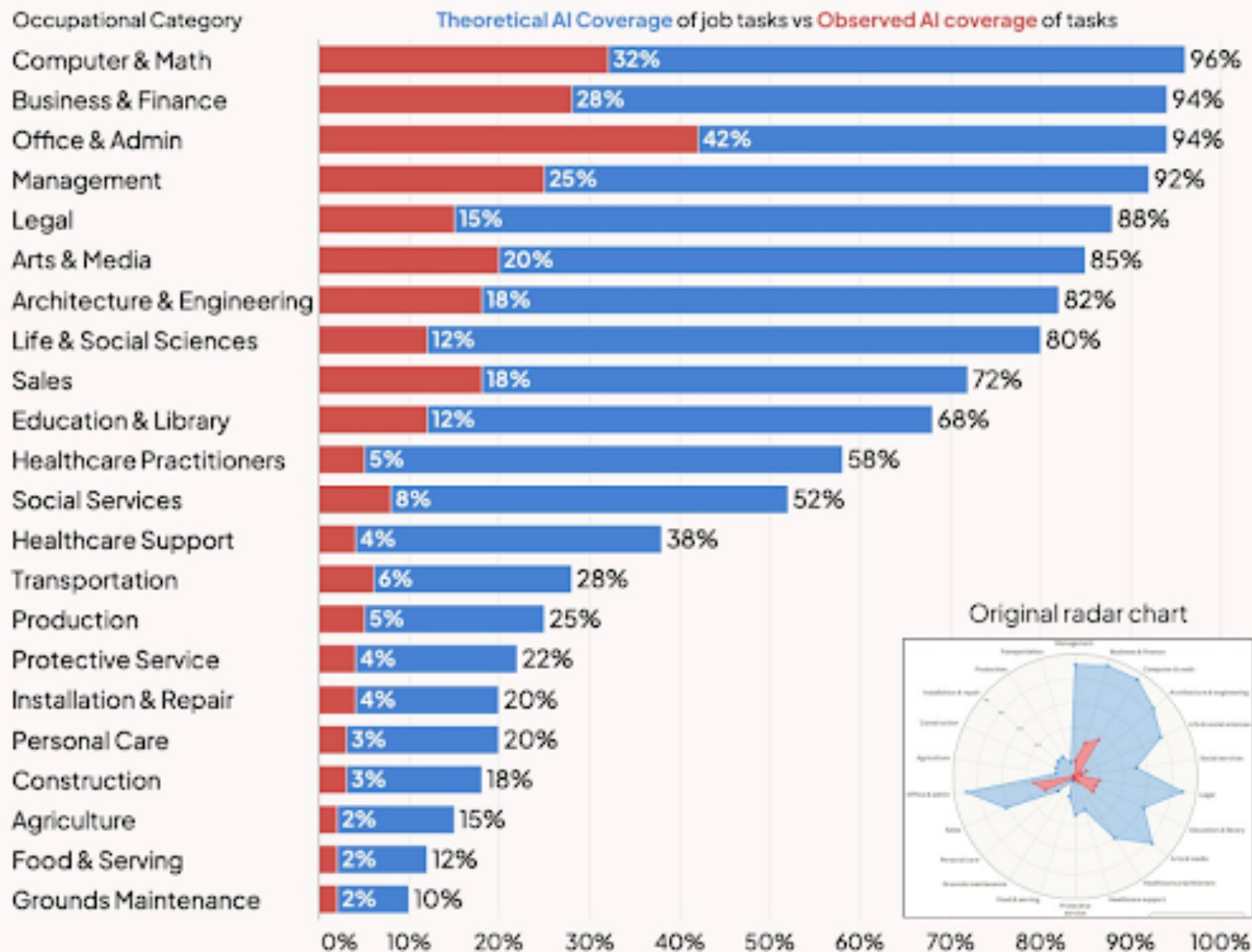
*Greg's old World
Big Government Contractors*

Business & Finance - 94%
Office & Admin - 94%
Management - 92%
Sales - 72%

Theoretical capability and observed exposure by occupational category

Share of job tasks that LLMs could theoretically perform = **blue bars**

Anthropic's own job coverage measure derived from usage data = **red bars**



Jobs & AI: Two Sides of the Story

Reasons for Concern

- ▶ 41% of global employers plan to cut up to 40% of staff due to AI (WEF)
- ▶ Entry-level workers ages 22-25 saw 16% employment drop in AI-exposed roles
- ▶ Anthropic CEO: AI may eliminate 50% of entry-level white-collar jobs in 5 years
- ▶ WEF: 92 million jobs displaced by 2030
- ▶ New college grads facing fewer entry-level opportunities

Reasons for Hope

- ▶ WEF: 170 million new jobs created by 2030 — net gain of 78 million
- ▶ Fastest-growing roles: AI development, cybersecurity, sustainability
- ▶ Skilled trades are in high demand and cannot be automated
- ▶ Workers who learn AI tools are more employable, not less
- ▶ History: every tech revolution created more jobs than it destroyed — eventually

New AI Job Opportunities

AI will create the first billion dollar company with 1 employee

- ▶ As AGI becomes a reality, the most sought-after non-technical jobs will involve human-AI collaboration, empathetic service, ethical oversight, and curation. These roles will use human intuition, which AGI lacks in empathy and complex judgment.
- ▶ Anyone with specific domain experience will excel in requirements writing, specialized auditing, and Human-in-the-loop decision points.
- ▶ Entrepreneurs will have a wide open canvas to work in.
 - ▶ Ex: Small town guy like Greg will build applications specific to the local needs.

Where AI Can Assist a Landscaping & Hardscape Company

1

Customer Inquiries & Scheduling

AI answers website messages & books estimates automatically

2

Estimate & Proposal Generation

AI generates quotes, material lists, and job proposals

3

Design Visualization

AI creates landscape mockups, patio layouts & planting plans

4

Project Planning

AI schedules crews, predicts timelines & coordinates equipment

5

Materials & Inventory

AI forecasts stone, mulch, pavers & plant inventory needs

6

Crew Dispatch & Routing

AI optimizes daily truck routes & job assignments

7

Marketing & Social Media

AI creates before/after posts, seasonal promos & ads

8

Customer Communication

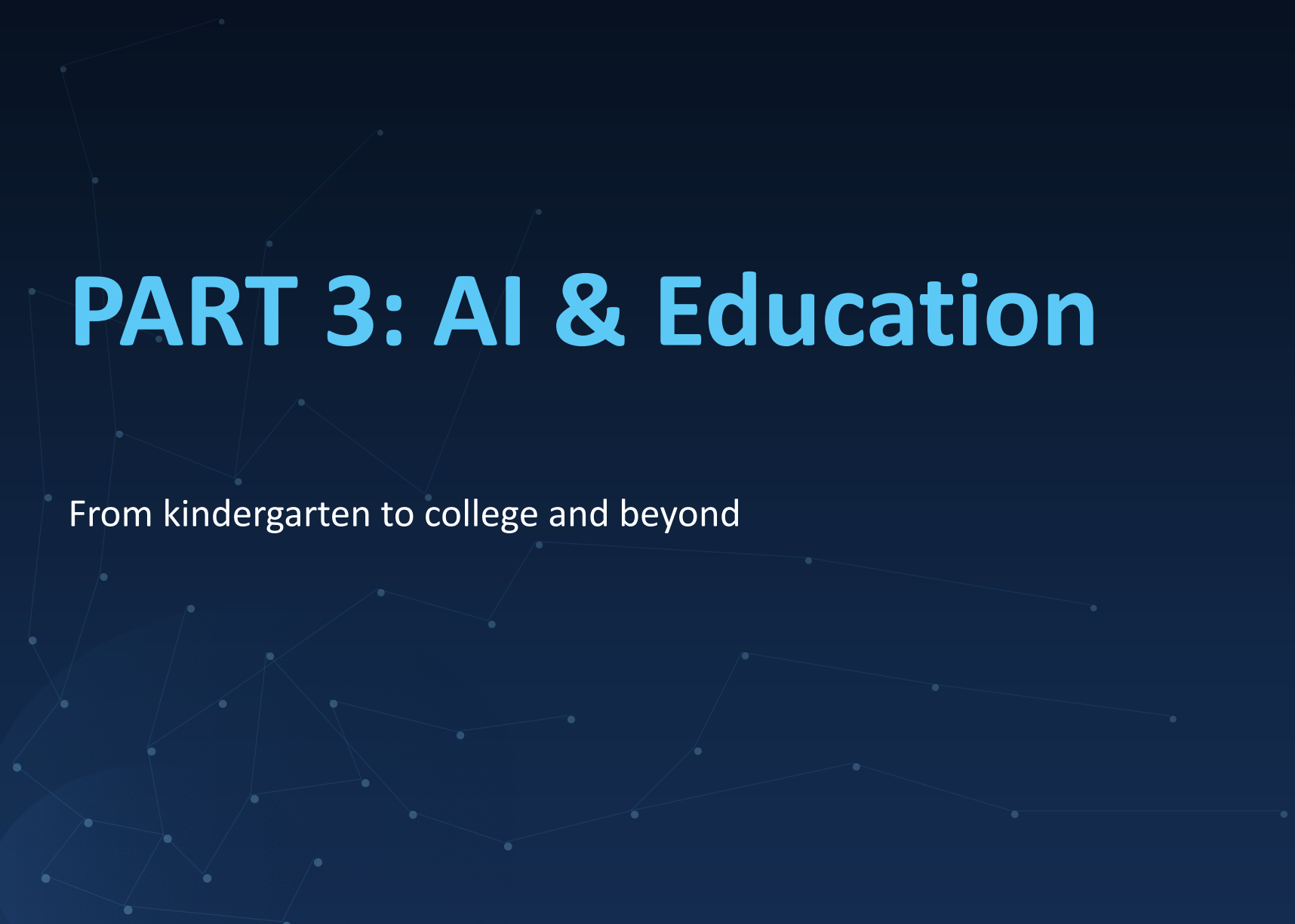
AI sends automated updates, reminders & review requests

9

Business Analytics

AI analyzes profit margins, job costs & productivity

AI has access to all of the same tools you use today - MS Office, Email, Texting, Voice Calls, etc.



PART 3: AI & Education

From kindergarten to college and beyond

AI in K-12 Schools: Right Now

It's already in your children's classrooms

- ▶ 54% of K-12 students used AI for schoolwork in 2025 (RAND survey) — (~85% 2026)
- ▶ 60% of teachers use AI for lesson planning, grading, and communication
- ▶ Teachers using AI weekly save ~5.9 hours per week — about 6 extra weeks per year
- ▶ Harvard physics study (2025): AI tutors helped students learn 2x faster than traditional classes
- ▶ Big challenge: only 31% of U.S. school districts had AI policies as of late 2024
- ▶ 71% of teachers worry AI harms students' critical thinking skills

Higher Education: Crisis & Opportunity

Colleges are struggling to adapt — fast

- ▶ 86% of college students now use AI as a primary research & brainstorming tool
- ▶ 33% of students have faced accusations of academic dishonesty related to AI
- ▶ 95% of college faculty worry about student over reliance on AI (AAC&U, Jan 2026)
- ▶ Colleges are redesigning tests: oral exams, in-class writing, and project-based assessment
- ▶ New hiring reality: AI fluency is now a baseline requirement across industries
- ▶ Top LinkedIn skills added in 2025: ChatGPT proficiency and prompt engineering

Feb 2026 - Medical School Curriculum

AI will only get better than what we have today

- ▶ 1 Developer
- ▶ 2 Weeks working with an AI Agent running other agents
- ▶ ~ \$3,000 in Token cost

Produced

- ▶ 450 Lectures
- ▶ Notes
- ▶ 16,000 Figures / Illustrations
- ▶ 99% Accurate
- ▶ The equivalent of years of human capital

What to Tell Your Kids About AI

Practical guidance for parents & grandparents

- ▶ 'AI is a tool, not a teacher' — using it without thinking is like Googling answers on a test
- ▶ Learning to use AI well is a job skill — but so is knowing when NOT to use it
 - ▶ Ask: 'Did you understand what AI told you, or just copy it?'
- ▶ Encourage curiosity about how AI works — many free resources at code.org
- ▶ 40% of young graduates in 2025 chose trade paths — an excellent, AI-resistant option
- ▶ Most important skills for the future: creativity, empathy, critical thinking, communication discernment, taste, domain knowledge

The quality of AI output is determined by human specification.

- Clear Objectives
- Clear Constraints
- Bounded Communication



PART 4: Our Community Response

‘We are one community — and we will face this together’



AI: A Balanced View

Legitimate Concerns

- ▶ Job displacement, especially for entry-level workers
- ▶ Deepfakes, AI scams, and misinformation
- ▶ Students over-reliance on AI instead of learning
- ▶ Privacy: AI systems trained on personal data
- ▶ Power concentration among a few large companies

Real Opportunities

- ▶ Amplify your impact: AI handles admin, you handle people
- ▶ Free or low-cost tools that rival expensive enterprise / professional solutions
- ▶ Personalized learning for every student
- ▶ Medical breakthroughs, climate solutions, scientific research
- ▶ Communities that adapt early will lead — not lag behind

If AI Changes the Economy — We Respond Together

The civic groups, churches, & nonprofits role in the AI transition

- ▶ Economic disruption always hits the most vulnerable first
- ▶ Food banks, job training, counseling, and community support will be in greater demand
- ▶ Organizations can use AI to serve MORE people with the same resources
- ▶ Churches and community orgs are uniquely positioned: Established people trust
- ▶ Consider: digital literacy workshops, resume help, job retraining partnerships
- ▶ The question isn't just 'what will AI do to us' but 'what will WE do with AI for our neighbors?'

5 Things You Can Do This Week

Practical first steps — no tech background required

- ▶ 1. Try Claude or ChatGPT — ask it questions you'd normally Google
- ▶ 2. Set up a password manager — Chrome and Apple
- ▶ 3. Talk to your kids or grandkids about AI in their school / lives— listen first
- ▶ 4. Help share this story - Younger people need to Learn to Learn
- ▶ 5. Send us Feedback - Do we do more talks?

“We are one community — and we will face this together.”

One Last Thought Before You Go...

“
AI is incredibly good at tasks — but it still has the confidence of a politician when it's wrong.
”

Bottom line: Always verify what AI tells you — it answers with confidence whether it's right or wrong.

Thank You for coming tonight.

Have more questions?
What to give feedback?
Advise about what we should do next.



Scroll down on ... SeekTheGeek.com

**Submitting a comment helps me track and
forward to the other speakers**

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