

When robots inherit the workplace – and humans’ jobs.

Willie McTuggie looks like a photocopier on wheels. But he – it, actually – has the engineered brain of a reasonably smart human, and acts like one when he rolls up to a nurse’s station, opens a drawer, retrieves a dose of pills and glides off to make a delivery.

- 5 Packed with more than 30 motion-detecting and other sensors. Willie and his automated buddies avoid collisions with doctors on rounds and perceive when to wait for a free elevator.

The machines perform duties once handled by nurses, orderlies, cafeteria staff and maintenance crews. So far, no people have lost jobs to the bot corps.

- 10 The human-brain mimics are becoming so clever that according to a study by Oxford Martin Program on Technology, 47 percent of all US jobs are at risk over the next two decades of being given over to computers. They’re already writing sports stories, milking cows and reviewing X-ray results.

- 15 The artificial intelligence revolution is writing a new chapter in the age-old debate over whether machines are putting people out of work or opening up new opportunities for them. “The idea of technology destroying jobs has been going on for two centuries,” says Richard Cooper, an economist at Harvard University who has studied the impact of technological advancements on employment. “Certain jobs get destroyed but other jobs get created.”

Document 2 – Samuel Gibbs, “Our Biggest Existential Threat”, *The Guardian*, October 27, 2014

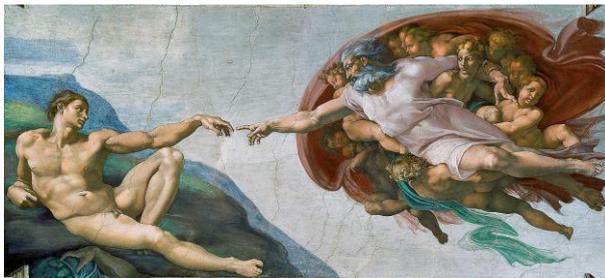
Elon Musk has spoken out against artificial intelligence (AI), declaring it the most serious threat to the survival of the human race. [...]

- 20 “I think we should be very careful about artificial intelligence. [...]” said Musk. “I’m increasingly inclined to think that there should be some regulatory oversight, maybe at the national and international level, just so that we don’t do something very foolish.”

He recently described his investments in AI research as “keeping an eye on what’s going on”, rather than viable return on capital.

- 25 “With artificial intelligence we are summoning the demon. In all those stories where there’s the guy with the pentagram and the holy water, it’s like – yeah, he’s sure he can control the demon. Doesn’t work out,” said Musk.

Document 3 – The Creation of Adam by Michelangelo / Photo by Gerard Julien



Document 4 – Andrew Griffin, “Stephen Hawking on AI”, *The Independent*, October 8, 2015

Stephen Hawking has warned that artificial intelligent machines could kill us because they are too clever.

- 30 A questioner noted that Professor Hawking’s ideas about artificial intelligence are seen as “a belief in Terminator-style “Evil AI””, and asked how he would present his own beliefs.

“The real risk with AI isn’t malice but competence,” Professor Hawking said. “You’re probably not an evil ant-hater who steps on ants out of malice, but if you’re in charge of a hydroelectric green energy project and there’s an anthill in the region to be flooded, too bad for the ants. Let’s not place humanity in the position of those ants.”

- 35 We may face an “intelligence explosion” that might eventually result in “machines whose intelligence exceeds ours by more than ours exceeds that of snails,” Hawking said. When this happens, Hawking said, “it’s likely to be either the best or worst thing ever to happen to humanity, so there’s a huge value in getting it right”. As such, we should “shift the goal of AI from creating pure undirected artificial intelligence to creating beneficial intelligence.”