

# UNFINISHED



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**Welcome back to the Unfinished newsletter, where we explore the intersection of tech, ethics, and social impact.**

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# What we're obsessed with

There has been a lot of buzz recently about generative AI. Generative AI is different from analytical AI in that it generates something new instead of analyzing something that already exists. While analytical AI analyzes vast quantities of data to tease out insights and uncover patterns, generative AI uses its power to create original, new works.

With generative AI, computers draw from existing content like text, audio files, and images to create new, original content. You might have heard of [DALL-E 2](#), an image generator that OpenAI released earlier this year. It has [1.5 million users](#) creating more than two million original images every day.

We partnered with [DALL-E 2](#) to create the painting above. We provided the prompt, “*a painting depicting a future where democratic institutions need to balance both the metaverse and in-person worlds*”, and DALL-E 2 used that prompt to generate the image.

Generative AI creates vast new opportunities. The venture capital firm Sequoia Capital is a major investor in generative AI startups, and it [says the following about its potential](#):

“Generative AI is well on the way to becoming not just faster and cheaper, but better in some cases than what humans create by hand. Every industry that requires humans to create original work—from social media to gaming, advertising to architecture, coding to graphic design, product design to law, marketing to sales—is up for reinvention. Certain functions may be completely replaced by generative AI, while others are more likely to thrive from a tight iterative creative cycle between human and machine—but generative AI should unlock better, faster and cheaper creation across a wide range of end markets. The dream is that generative AI brings the marginal cost of creation and knowledge work down towards zero, generating vast labor productivity and economic value—and commensurate market cap.”

But such powerful technology is also accompanied by prickly ethical questions. Students are using generative AI to [write school papers](#). These papers aren't exactly plagiarized because the output is original, but is it ethical? An AI-written paper is, in effect, a collaboration between a human's specific prompts, and the algorithm's response.

While generative AI images may be unique, they could still infringe on copyright laws. [Experts say we're in a legal gray zone](#) both for copyright infringements of the outputs (like the image above) and the data inputs that generate the text or images. For example, if copyrighted images are used as training data to generate original images or new text, are the rights of those inputted images infringed upon?

There's also an issue with generating violent or pornographic images. Representative Anna Eshoo, Democrat of California, [has called on regulators](#) to police unsafe open-source generative AI models after racist and violent images against Asian women were discovered online.

Like all technologies, generative AI can be used for good or evil – and it's up to us to shape and steer it in a way that's positive for society.

To explore this topic further, we have a special guest we've invited to interview for this episode: generative AI itself.

We used [OpenAI's playground API](#) to pose questions to an AI bot. It provided the following, unedited answers as its responses. We promise we didn't make this up (our minds are slightly blown).

**Unfinished: Thanks for being willing to be interviewed by Unfinished.**

*Generative AI: Thank you for the opportunity!*

**If we fast forward 5 years, how will generative AI be used?**

*In 5 years, generative AI will be used to create new products, services, and experiences. It will also be used to create new forms of entertainment, such as movies, TV shows, and video games.*

**What are the biggest ethical issues connected to generative AI?**

*The three big issues are data privacy, data bias, and control.*

*Data privacy is a huge ethical issue with generative AI. This is because generative AI requires a lot of data in order to work. This data is often personal data, and it is often collected without the person's knowledge or consent.*

*Data bias is another big ethical issue with generative AI. This is because the data that is used to train generative AI models is often biased. This can lead to generated outputs that are also biased.*

*The last big ethical issue is control. This is because generative AI can be used to create things that are very lifelike, such as realistic images or videos. This raises the question of who should have control over what is created.*

**How might we reduce the potential harm of AI-generated images that depict violent or pornographic scenes?**

*There is no one answer to this question as it will likely vary depending on the specific context in which the AI-generated images are being used. However, some possible mitigation strategies could include:*

- *Restricting or regulating the use of AI-generated images that depict violent or pornographic scenes*
- *Educating users on the potential risks associated with viewing or sharing such images*
- *Creating filters or other mechanisms to automatically detect and remove AI-generated images that depict violent or pornographic scenes*
- *Reporting any AI-generated images that depict violent or pornographic scenes to the authorities or to the platform on which they are shared*

### **Could generative AI be a threat to democracy?**

*There is no definitive answer to this question as the impact of generative AI on democracy is not yet known. Some experts believe that generative AI could have a positive impact on democracy by providing citizens with more information and increasing transparency. However, others believe that generative AI could be used to manipulate public opinion and interfere with elections. It is important to note that generative AI is still in its early stages of development and its impact on democracy will likely become more clear as it evolves.*

### **We've discussed some of the risks. What are you most personally excited about? You are an artificial intelligence algorithm after all.**

*I am most excited about the potential to help humans in their everyday lives. I believe that artificial intelligence can help humans in a number of ways, including reducing the amount of time they spend on tasks, increasing their accuracy and efficiency in completing tasks, and providing them with insights and recommendations they would not otherwise have access to.*

### **Any final thoughts?**

*I believe that generative AI is a powerful tool that has the potential to help humans in a number of ways. However, it is important to be aware of the risks associated with its use. I believe that if these risks are managed carefully, generative AI can be a force for good in the world.*

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This final answer was based on the cumulative back and forth questions and answers, which led the algorithm to provide some closing thoughts that were relevant to the conversational inputs we both entered above. We intentionally left the question abstract to see how the algorithm picked up on context clues.


As artificial intelligence becomes more powerful and ubiquitous, we'll need strong civic institutions and human values to govern our technology. This is why within our work of [Project Liberty](#), the [McCourt Institute](#) aims to ensure that digital governance is prioritized in the development of new technology and embedded in the next generation of the web.





Note: You can try out OpenAI's [prompt-to-text generator](#) and its [text-to-image generator](#) for yourself.




## Other notable headlines

 We're following the cheating scandal that is making waves (making moves?) in the world of chess. But [this article in the Atlantic](#) goes further to explore how a good chess cheater might never be caught. It's becoming harder and harder to detect cheating because it's increasingly likely for computers to influence human thinking and behavior, especially for the youngest generation of chess grandmasters who have trained with Chess AI algorithms.

 The fight against disturbing content posted on social media platforms like TikTok requires real humans to moderate content. The content they review for multiple hours a day, six days a week, can be so traumatic that it has created serious mental health issues. As TikTok grows throughout Latin America, it's contracted with a company that employs more than 42,000 workers in Colombia to moderate content. In [this fascinating piece by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism](#), they interview nine content moderators who work alongside AI to keep the platform free of harmful content. They're paid poorly, are subjected to home surveillance, and receive limited mental health support while they review the most disturbing content on the web.

 [INTERPOL](#), the global police organization, announced a metaverse it has designed specifically for global law enforcement. The metaverse allows users to interact with police officers via their avatars and take fully-immersive training courses in policing, like forensic investigation. INTERPOL has also allocated more staff to address crime in the metaverse. "The Metaverse has the potential to transform every aspect of our daily lives with enormous implications for law enforcement," said Madan Oberoi, INTERPOL's Executive Director of Technology and Innovation. "But in order for police to understand the Metaverse, we need to experience it."

 The [featured story in Bloomberg's Businessweek](#) this week is a multi-part, long-form article on crypto. It covers everything from the foundations of blockchain to the origins of Bitcoin to the emerging crypto financial system, and finally what it means for our understanding of trust, money, community, and society.



## Unfinished Network Partner News

We're proud to see a number of Network Partners represented on the just-launched [Council for Responsible Social Media](#), hosted by Issue One. Jonathan Haidt of **Heterodox Academy**, Tristan Harris of **Center for Humane Technology**, and Vivian Schiller of **Aspen Digital** join Unfinished Live speakers [Maria Ressa](#) and [Frances Haugen](#) as part of a cross-partisan group

that will address the negative mental, civic, and public health impacts of social media.

**Jason Steinhauer**, author of **History, Disrupted** and founder of the **History Club** (incoming Network Partners!) just announced a new eight-week webinar series, “History, Disrupted.” From November 1st through December 20th, the course will highlight the various ways social media has transformed our understanding of history. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Unfinished Network Partner **All Tech is Human** created an installation at Unfinished Live – a repurposed shipping container where they recorded a podcast focused on the question, “How do we build a responsible tech future?” All 16 podcast episodes are now live, with key takeaways and quotes from these rapid-fire intimate conversations with academics, AI ethicists, activists, entrepreneurs, public interest technologists, and integrity workers. Check them out [here](#).



## Thank you for reading.

Follow Unfinished ([@byUnfinished](#) on Twitter and [@thisisunfinished](#) on IG) for ongoing chitchat on the changing web.

Have a great, restful weekend.

The Unfinished team

Project Liberty, 888 Seventh Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, New York 10106

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