

THE COMMUNICATOR



A newsletter from your friends at RC Technologies
Vol. 24 No. 3 March 2026

TECHNOLOGIES www.tnics.com | 605-637-5211



Join Us!
Corona's
St. Patty's Day
Celebration!

Sat., March 14
starting at 3:30 p.m.



What You Should Know... as AI becomes mainstream

You have probably seen on social media the video of an "exploding tree," or maybe someone shared a caricature of themselves that describes who they are and what they do in a single image. Both the video and these caricature images are examples of AI-generated tools being used and a proverbial signal that "The cat is out of the bag," as these tools are more accessible, fear is waning, as AI is now "mainstream."

Like anything in the world, good things and not-so-good things can come out of using anything, including tools. Take cars. There is a responsible way to drive a car, and there is an irresponsible or reckless way.

So, just as the Department of Transportation would have some messaging alongside the highway, such as "Don't Text & Drive" or "Slow Down Icy Roads." Internet providers, such as RC Technologies, are putting their own messaging out regarding the use of AI: "Caution With Use" and "Think Before You Input".

Let's explore some basics of what Artificial Intelligence (AI) is, best practices, how it's being used today, the good and the challenges/cons, how different industries are using it, and key AI terms, as much of the world is learning about AI together.

What Is Artificial Intelligence (AI)

There are many definitions to describe the term "AI" or "Artificial Intelligence" from tech industry experts to scholars. Here is a definition from IBM's article, "What is artificial intelligence (AI)?" from their Think website: "Artificial Intelligence (AI) is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy."

A commonality throughout many of the definitions of AI that are out there is that many of them include four to six pillars as the foundation of artificial intelligence (AI). They are:

- Learning** - improving from performance or data
- Reasoning** - using "if-then" logic, probability models to reach conclusions
- Problem-Solving** - navigating complex scenarios to reach a specific goal
- Perception** - seeing, hearing, understanding the world
- Action** - interacting with environments
- Language Learning** - interpreting/generating human language

Think Before You Input

As more people are using AI as part of their everyday Internet use, it's important to stay vigilant about your privacy, scams & online safety.

We would like to share with you some best practices.

Some AI Best Practices

❖ Protect Your Privacy & Sensitive Information

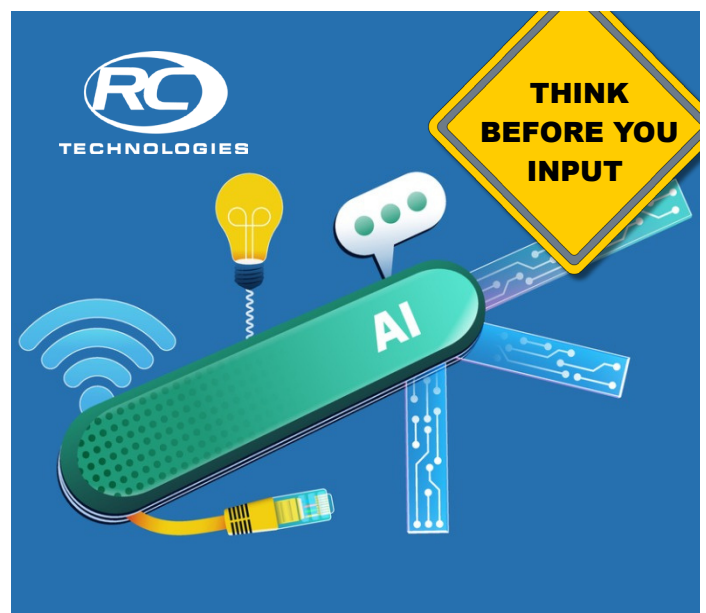
- Think Before You Input into an AI bot
- Ask Yourself "Would I be okay if this became public?"
- **DON'T** enter personal & sensitive information, such as passwords, social security numbers, bank info, personal health information, client data, or internal business details/data

❖ Verify Everything & Keep Humans in Control

- Verify Everything, Don't Assume or Trust
- AI can make mistakes or "hallucinate" facts
- Use AI as a Helper, NOT the Final Authority
- All AI Needs Review by a Human

❖ Use AI Responsibly & Critically

- Watch for Bias and Tone Issues
If an image and tone (in this case, we are not talking about tone of voice, but the core values of a person or company, if "something doesn't seem or feel right")
- Respect Copyright & Originality
- Be On the Look Out for Unreal Images and Deepfakes



What you should know... as AI becomes mainstream (Cont.) >>>

How AI Is Used In Our Everyday



VEHICLES

Lane-keeping and adaptive cruise control

Real time traffic and route updates

Voice controls for calls and music



WEBSITES

Personal product recommendations

Chat boxes that answer customer questions

Fraud and spam detection



SMART PHONES

Face ID and fingerprint unlocking

Photo enhancement and organization

Online ordering that suggest add-ons



RESTAURANTS

Online ordering that suggest add-ons

Smarter inventory tracking and ordering

Reduced food waste/food costs



HEALTHCARE

Analysis X-rays and scans identify abnormalities track changes

Appointment scheduling assistants

Monitoring patient data to spot health risks early

The Pros | Good Stuff of AI

Safety: AI supports human safety by handling high-risk tasks, such as space operations, to lower risk safety such as alerting drivers to road hazards early so they can react faster.

Helpfulness: It can improve the quality of life, work, and overall efficiency in things that would take much longer to accomplish.

Fun Factor: Creating something amazing or simply using a filter on social media like making your face into cat

The Cons | The Challenges of AI

Fairness: If an AI bot learns from data that is biased / unfair, the AI will be unfair too.

Jobs: Some people worry that if computers/robots get too good at working, humans might not have enough jobs

Truth: AI can sometimes make mistakes or make things up (hallucinations), always double-check information from it

You + AI = The Future

The world is changing rapidly because of AI. The most important thing to remember is that AI was a tool created by humans. It requires you to guide it, use it responsibly, and decide how it should be used to help the world.

Few Key AI Terms

AI Hallucinations - an AI responses based on incorrect or fictitious data which proposes a fictitious or improper answer, misinformation

Algorithm - a set of step-by-step instructions to solve a problem or accomplishing a goal; algorithmic outcomes can be biased if the rules are flawed.

Bias - errors or deficiencies in AI systems that can lead to subjective outcomes

Data - information in the form of text, photos/image, numbers, recording, or video

Prompt - a user inquiry in response to which answer or prediction is generated, i.e. "Create a spring cleaning to-do list."

AI In Industry



AGRICULTURE

Farming: precision farming, crop, soil, and water analysis, timing of planting and harvest; Animal farming/ranching: monitoring feed, breeding, and animal health/welfare



EDUCATION

Personalized learning, provide resources and tools for teachers & students



TRAVEL / HOSPITALITY

More efficient operations, alert delays, ease of scheduling and rebooking



HEALTHCARE

Scheduling, billing, patient record management, diagnostic imaging, accelerate research and development, precision surgical assistance



LEGAL SERVICES

Preliminary document collection and review



FINANCE & INSURANCE

Fraud detection, customer service, risk assessment, and claims processing



MANUFACTURING

Production process, auto adjusting of equipment, improving quality control



MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Content recommendations, media creation, network optimization



RETAIL & E-COMMERCE

Personalized recommendations, maintaining inventory



TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

Development of software, improve products and customer experiences, security features



ENERGY ANDE UTILITIES

Predicting energy demand, monitoring infrastructure, optimizing renewable energy production



Debunked Exploding Tree AI Video

That "exploding tree" video that went viral on social media early this year was debunked by scientists and weather people. They explained trees don't actually "explode", but "frost crack" is something that is caused by extreme cold when moisture and sap inside the tree freeze and expands sounding like a gunshot, and that trees can heal from the crack.