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Cover image

The cover art for this edition was generated through the Midjourney AI text-to-image generation project, using only the following prompt and asking for variations: "Design the cover art for a popular science magazine with the edition theme 'Opening AI', that illustrates the concepts of artificial intelligence and Large Language Models. The image should have no text. It can be either abstract digital art or an appropriate photographic depiction."

EDITOR'S NOTE

Opening AI

As an experiment, I asked ChatGPT to write my editor's note for this edition – it seemed fitting. This was my prompt:

Write an editor's note in the voice of the editor of a South African popular science magazine, where the edition theme is "Opening AI", with articles that will expand on the realities, dangers, opportunities and limitations of Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models as new technological tools, specifically in the context of developing nations on the continent of Africa.

ChatGPT's editor's note in response:

Welcome to the latest edition of [Quest], where we delve into the fascinating world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and explore its profound impact on our lives, particularly within the context of developing nations across Africa.

In this edition, aptly titled "Opening AI," we embark on an illuminating journey to demystify the realities, dangers, opportunities, and limitations of AI, with a keen focus on its implications for Africa. As AI technologies continue to evolve at an unprecedented pace, it is imperative that we grasp both the promises and perils they present, especially in regions where access to resources and infrastructure may vary.

Through insightful articles penned by experts and thought leaders, we aim to shed light on the transformative potential of AI in addressing pressing challenges, from healthcare and agriculture to education and sustainable development. At the same time, we confront the ethical quandaries and socio-economic disparities that accompany the proliferation of AI, urging for

responsible and inclusive deployment strategies.

Central to our exploration is the role of Large Language Models (LLMs) like the one powering this very editorial. These marvels of modern technology possess immense capabilities to generate, understand, and manipulate human language, yet they also raise profound questions about privacy, bias, and the erosion of human agency.

As we navigate this brave new world of AI, we must ensure that its benefits are equitably distributed and that safeguards are in place to mitigate potential harms. Moreover, we must recognize and amplify the voices of African researchers, innovators, and communities who are shaping the AI landscape in ways that are culturally relevant and locally empowering.

So join us as we embark on this intellectually stimulating expedition into the heart of AI, where the future is not merely a distant horizon but a canvas upon which we can paint a more inclusive and prosperous tomorrow for all Africans.

Happy reading!

I myself would have perhaps used both less generic and less prosaic language, but nevertheless, that about sums it up. And I do hope you enjoy the read.

Warm regards,



Fanie (RS) van Rooyen (Editor)

Bohlale bja Maitirelo (AI) bo a tšhoša e bile bo a kgahliša ka mo go makatšago. E tla tšea legato la mehuta ye e itšego ya mešomo ka pela kudu gomme e hlola mehuta ka moka ya mathata a boitshwara, eupša gape e ka lebiša go koketšego ye kgolo ya methopo, mešomo ye mefsa, phihlelelo ya tsebo le katlego ya batho. Kgatišong ye, re lebelela AI go tšwa ponong ya Afrika.

Translated into North Sotho by A/Prof. Walter Matli

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