

WHAT IS AI?

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AI is the science of making machines mimic human intelligence.

Where is it going?

- Personalised and wearable AI devices.
- Autonomous AI that could match or even surpass human intelligence.

What can it do now?

- Generative AI can create original content, such as text, images, video and code.
- It can instantly write emails, summarise long reports, and translate between languages.
- AI can generate, debug, and explain complex computer code for programmers.
- It can create unique, photorealistic images and art from a simple text description.
- AI can generate realistic human speech, clone a person's voice, or compose original music.
- It can generate detailed 3D models and high-definition video clips complete with sound.
- In healthcare, AI helps discover new drugs and analyses medical scans to find diseases earlier.
- In scientific research, AI generates new, testable hypotheses to accelerate discovery.
- AI agents can autonomously manage complex business tasks like logistics and marketing.

What can we do?

- Test AI tools yourself to learn their real limits.
- Always fact-check information that comes from an AI.
- Never share private data or secrets with public AI.
- Use AI as a partner to become more effective at your tasks.
- Focus on your human skills, like empathy and creativity.
- Your opinion on AI matters, even if you are not a tech expert.

Why the fuss now?

Generative AI transformed artificial intelligence by enabling machines to create original content, like text, code, and images based on learned patterns, not preprogrammed fixed rules.

What are the challenges ahead?

- AI can state completely false information with a confident and convincing tone.
- AI can be used to create realistic fake videos and audio (deepfakes) for fraud or misinformation.
- AI can be a "black box," meaning even its creators cannot always explain how it reached a decision.
- Relying on AI companions can damage our empathy and harm real human relationships.
- AI is changing work, requiring human experts to become skilled at using AI tools.
- AI is changing education, making critical thinking more important than memorising facts.

THE AI
CENTRE FOR
HARLOW