## A Conversation About Chat GPT (Al Chat) - Pros or Cons

As with **concerns** over "central bank digital currency" (CBDC) one would also be wise to have **concerns** about Chat GPT or any other AI chat applications; such as <u>Microsoft's Bing Chat AI</u>... still my favorite. As a long time "IT Software Engineer" (retired), who actually wrote AI code for a couple applications for the company I worked for, long ago, there are both pros and cons to this technology... and "**concerns**".

The biggest reason for **concern**, *so far as I am concerned*, is that these AI chat "systems" are composed of manipulatable "sub-systems" the average user has no direct way to investigate or understand; while they operate behind the scenes (out of sight, out of mind) within the so called systems programmers' back offices, so to speak. Software could care less what any of us thinks. It will never have any true feelings, one way or the other. Software can only mimic/simulate human thought, emotions, etc. to the extent that human coders manage to "deep fake" the users to think so. Any false or misleading outputs generated by any software, AI logic included, will ultimately depend on the motives of those who develop and alter/update the AI algorithms to begin with. IF they actually manage to build AI logic that supposedly has the ability to self-alter or "learn" (without deceptive manipulation hooks) THEN chances are 50/50, at best, that said changes (AI evolution) will be more able to generate positive results/outcomes than not. Until then the "deceptive manipulation hooks" will no doubt be supplied by the "deceptive manipulation people" coding the systems.

BTW, this thesis was explored, for example, in the movie series Alien were an AI android in the first movie had flawed logic and followed its programmed alliance with corporate objectives to the demise of everyone aboard the fictional space craft that came across an Alien life form on a remote planet (in our real world case Earth is loaded with dangerous illegal Alien life forms and enemies of civilization of every sort of ilk BTW). In the sequel, Aliens, the AI droid had been upgraded and was one of the heroes saving at least a couple humans who fought back the bad guys and eventually nuked the planet in the end. It all remains to be seen how this AI frontier technology will pan out, just like the case with our human made nukes, et al. That said...

While Chat GPT (or more generically any AI system) has no way to know EXACTLY who might be using it, what it does know is the user's IP address and the general location of said user(s) to which that IP address has been allocated. It can also mine/log the date and time of each and every interaction, and entire conversations processed (good/usable legal evidence BTW). In other words it knows/records that someone located in your neighborhood, on a given date and time frame (start time/end time), typed in questions/statements and it then responded with so and so, good or bad, true or false. AND (given enough storage capacity within some huge data storage facility... a.k.a. data base or "cloud") it can save the entire interaction (millions per minute if need be) to be exploited LATER by not only the service provider/AI operator (Microsoft, Google, Amazon, etc.) but, potentially, any government on the planet who might gain access (legally or otherwise); something to chew on, alright.

But, should we fear it, maybe?

Well, as it turns out, the exact same **concerns** apply to any search engine usage, web browsing activity, online shopping purchases, banking transactions, etc. and have applied for years already; nothing new there. The moment you use any web browser to directly visit any web site (**all of which** have service providers operating them and **all of which** can potentially mine/log the exact same or similar data) or any search engine (**all of which** are simply interactive **service provider web sites** as well) to assist in locating target information via the entire web (again just a HUGE collection of web sites) you are *POTENTIALLY* allowing said service providers (and their app software) to mine the exact same data about you (the person operating the browser or search engine).

THUS: Use the web, or not, at your own risk.

My advice is to *be judicious* when using any application while connected to or that connects you to the web; to begin with. The only way to prevent being tracked and/or mined as a user of any device with a CPU and hardware that connects you to any given network is to stay **un**connected to begin with. The same can be said for using email services, text messaging services and even phone calls now days.

On the flip side, a tip of the online trade, there is no way the government can **prove 100%** exactly who might be operating a physical hardware device (a PC, a mobile phone, a keyboard, a home phone, a tablet, an iPad, etc.) unless a camera and microphone are activated, anyway, because the device (like Hunter Biden's lap top) could be borrowed, stolen, used by any given family member or friend, or simply hacked remotely. But, how it is used and what the "possible" user/candidate is trying to learn, accomplish, access, or do can be exposed (along with generating a "profile" of any user's interest(s) and their tendencies). In other words user habits can be surmised given enough online activity coupled to apps designed to data mine their user base.

So, if you want to chat with an AI (or simply perform a Google or Bing search) to find out where to get gas for less, or where to get a recipe for your favorite dish, or what bank might offer the best mortgage, or how to cure a certain kind of back pain, or anything else that is general in nature **then** go for it. But, if you are looking for how to rob a bank, how to overthrow the government, how to take down some social media conglomerate, etc. **then** *buyer/user beware*. Chances are your entire conversation will be stored away in the search engine/chat AI database and could very easily be used against you and/or your entire neighborhood of family and friends. That's the main reason I rarely ever subscribe to anyone or anything social media related online (let alone Facecrook, Tweeter, etc.) unless I strongly believe the rewards far outweigh the risks. NOTE: I do have a Microsoft account, a YouTube account, a few bank/investment accounts, and a couple government accounts (complete with logon ID's and profiles) <u>unfortunately</u>. So far, knock on wood, I'm still not in jail or in major trouble as a result. But I know "they" are watching me as well.

One more thing; the real difference between an AI application like Chat GPT (or Microsoft's Bing Chat) is that it is actually a **better way to carry out** *SOME* **searches** on the web (see screen captures below). In fact that is exactly what it is doing for you. It's not smarter than the average bear. But it is faster when it comes to searching for possible honey. Most search engines (like Google, Bing, DuckDuckGo, Baidu, Yahoo, YouTube [a video database search engine], etc.) simply fall on their face if you type in a long form "natural language" (NLP) question similar to asking a friend, "What are search engines good at doing vs. what are AI chat programs good at doing?". The AI application will figure out what you are talking about and have a much better chance of actually answering that question or generating meaningful feedback based on your "query". But, if you type the same query into one of the basic search engines of the past what they find for you will probably be based more on locating a web site (or hundreds of sites) that simply contain all the different words that you just typed in and nothing that you really want of any value (and sprinkling in some paid for ads to throw you off as well). Again; see the two screen captures attached.

Notice that the chat engine may take your questions or statements and still <u>perform one or more searches</u> to DIG UP or formulate some sort of "best guess" answer (honest or not) in order to appear to be conversing with you and to seem like a friendly helper or chat bot. But, don't forget, garbage in, garbage out. If you ask a flaky question chances are you will get a flaky answer. Same goes for flaky searches, or flaky web sites (like wiki). The AI may or may not give more reliable results than you would get by performing some well-crafted searches on your own. But it will do its best (over time) to "seemingly" understand what you are digging for or asking about or trying to learn; and it will learn right along with you. The more **people** (users and programmers alike) **teach it** (by building up a huge collection of similar queries within a HUGE data base, library or "index") **right from wrong** the better the odds of it gaining satisfied customers and hooking them over time... just like cell phone users are way more hooked on cell phones now days than simple land line phones once were.

So, not only should folks be wary of AI, from a tyrannical police state and government watching you point of view, BUT folks should be wary because it will be yet one more way to hook you into relying on the AI and becoming addicted to it just as easily as Google once was before it. Before you know it you won't just be

fixated on your phone's screen for a few hours a day but you just might be living alone in a cave hoping your favorite AI feeds and cares for you the rest of the way to your grave as well.

CONCLUSION: Don't get too paranoid UNLESS you are the type who is so low on IQ that you can't keep certain curiosities to yourself and/or you might tend to go brain dead thanks to being hooked/dependent on technology from now until death do you part.

