

INDIA FUTURE FOUNDATION

Freedom of Expression, Trust and Safety on the Internet



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

INTRODUCING INDIA'S FIRST AI NEWS ANCHOR

Greetings! Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter, in the realm of artificial intelligence (AI). The recent introduction of India's first full-time artificial intelligence (AI) powered news anchor has sparked discussions about whether the country has entered into a new era of news broadcasting. While some view it as a significant milestone, others express concerns about the potential implications it may bring.

The Rise of AI in News Broadcasting: The India Today Group, an Indian media conglomerate, recently unveiled Sana, an AI-powered news anchor on its flagship Aaj Tak news channel. Sana, with her human-like appearance, utilizes text-to-speech technology to deliver news updates multiple times a day. This follows similar advancements seen in other countries, such as the creation of AI-powered news anchors in China and Russia.

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Journalism in the Age of AI: With the increasing presence of AI-powered news anchors, questions arise regarding the impact on journalism professionals. While AI has the potential to revolutionize news bulletins, concerns persist about the ability of AI bots to engage in debates and provide the same level of observation and experience as human anchors. Experts suggest that explanatory journalism, on-the-ground reporting, and investigative journalism may continue to be areas where human journalists excel.

Boon or Bane: As AI takes centre stage in newsrooms, diverging opinions emerge. Some believe that AI could enhance efficiency and potentially surpass human journalists in certain aspects. However, there are concerns about job security, credibility, and the potential for AI to perpetuate existing biases in the data it uses to generate news. The balance lies in understanding how AI can be a valuable tool to aid newsrooms rather than replace human skills.

Shaping the Future: The introduction of AI news anchors raises broader questions about the future of journalism and its role in the society. While AI technology offers potential benefits, such as objectivity and cost efficiency, there are valid concerns about the impact on democratic principles and the dissemination of accurate information. Striking a balance between regulation and embracing technological advancements will be crucial as we navigate this evolving landscape.

European Parliament Endorses Groundbreaking Legislation for AI

In a momentous decision, the European Parliament's Internal Market Committee and Civil Liberties Committee have endorsed a new set of regulations to govern the development and use of AI powered systems. The approval of this landmark legislation marks a crucial step forward in ensuring a human-centric and ethical approach to AI technology in Europe, and sets the stage for the establishment of global AI regulations.

With an overwhelming majority of 84 votes in favor, seven against, and 12 abstentions, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have expressed their commitment to overseeing AI systems that prioritize safety, transparency, traceability, non-discrimination, and environmental sustainability. The proposed regulations seek to establish a uniform definition of AI that remains technologically neutral, allowing the rules to be applicable to both current and future AI systems.

Adopting a risk-based approach, the legislation imposes specific obligations on providers and users of AI systems based on the level of risk they pose. Stricter prohibitions are placed on AI systems that present an unacceptable level of risk to people's safety. This includes systems employing subliminal or manipulative techniques, exploiting individuals' vulnerabilities, or being used for social scoring purposes. MEPs have introduced amendments to broaden the scope of banned practices, such as prohibiting real-time and post remote biometric identification systems in publicly accessible spaces, except for authorized law enforcement purposes related to serious crimes and with judicial approval.

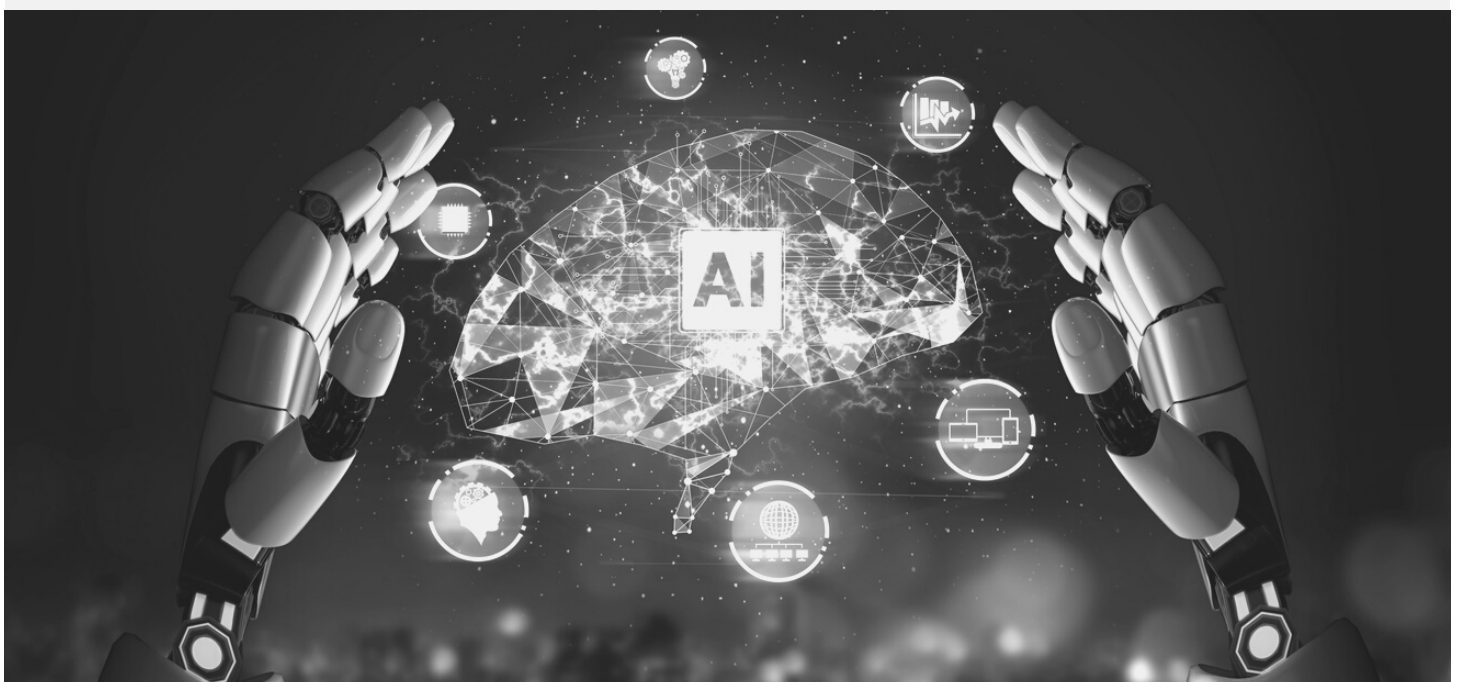
Biometric categorization systems based on sensitive characteristics and predictive policing systems are also included in the list of prohibitions. Additionally, MEPs have emphasized the prohibition of emotion recognition systems in law enforcement, border management, workplaces, and educational institutions, as well as the indiscriminate scraping of biometric data from social media or CCTV footage for the creation of facial recognition databases, which infringe upon human rights and the right to privacy.

Furthermore, the legislation introduces measures specific to high-risk AI applications, expanding the definition of high-risk areas to include potential harm to people's health, safety, fundamental rights, the environment, as well as AI systems used to influence voters in political campaigns and recommender systems on social media platforms with a user base exceeding 45 million users under the Digital Services Act.

Recognizing the significance of foundation models, such as GPT, MEPs have incorporated obligations for providers of these models. They must ensure robust protection of fundamental rights, health, safety, environment, democracy, and the rule of law. These providers are required to assess and mitigate risks, comply with design and information requirements, meet environmental standards, and register in the European Union database. Generative foundation models, including GPT, face additional transparency requirements, necessitating the disclosure that the content is generated by AI, prevention of illegal content generation, and publication of summaries of copyrighted data used for training.

The legislation includes exemptions for research activities and AI components provided under open-source licenses to foster AI innovation. Additionally, it promotes the establishment of regulatory sandboxes by public authorities, allowing controlled environments for testing AI systems before their deployment.

MEPs have also emphasized the importance of citizens' rights in relation to AI systems. The legislation aims to empower individuals to file complaints regarding AI systems and receive explanations for decisions made.



Apple Co-Founder Says AI May Make Scams Harder to Spot

Renowned computer scientist and Apple co-founder, Steve Wozniak, has expressed his apprehension regarding the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the identification of scams and misinformation. Wozniak cautions that the advanced capabilities of AI may be exploited by "bad actors" who seek to deceive individuals.

In an interview with the BBC's Technology Editor, Zoe Kleinman, Wozniak emphasized the importance of clear labeling for AI-generated content and called for regulatory measures to govern the AI sector.

Earlier this year, Wozniak joined forces with entrepreneur Elon Musk in signing a letter that called for a temporary halt in the development of the most powerful AI models. Wozniak is a veteran of Silicon Valley and played a pivotal role in the establishment of Apple alongside Steve Jobs. He shared his thoughts on the advantages and concerns surrounding AI during the conversation with Kleinman.

Highlighting the intelligence of AI, Wozniak expressed his concern that "bad players" could exploit its capabilities to deceive individuals about their true intentions. While he does not believe AI will replace humans due to its lack of emotion, he cautioned that programs like ChatGPT have the potential to generate text that sounds remarkably intelligent, making it even more challenging to distinguish between genuine and fraudulent communication.

Wozniak stressed the importance of assigning responsibility for content generated by AI to those who publish it, asserting that "a human really has to take the responsibility for what is generated by AI."

He called for regulations to hold major tech companies accountable, particularly those who believe they can evade consequences for their actions. However, Wozniak expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of regulators, suggesting that profit-driven forces often prevail, which he finds disheartening.

As a pioneer in computing, Wozniak draws from missed opportunities during the early stages of the internet to draw parallels for the architects of today's AI. While he acknowledges the unstoppable nature of technology, he advocates for better education and preparedness among individuals to identify fraudulent schemes and protect their personal information.

Apple's current CEO, Tim Cook, recently addressed investors, emphasizing the company's commitment to approaching AI in a deliberate and thoughtful manner. Cook described AI as a significant aspect of Apple's future product development, with a focus on its integration with careful consideration.

In an ever-evolving technological landscape, concerns about the potential negative consequences of AI remain prominent, driving the call for responsible use and regulation.

Microsoft Urges For A New Agency for AI Regulation

In an effort to shape the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI), Microsoft has joined the global conversation, calling for the establishment of a new federal agency to oversee the development of AI technology. Brad Smith, Microsoft President, delivered a speech in Washington, D.C., outlining a five-point plan aimed at addressing the risks associated with AI while promoting a liberal vision for its use. The company is advocating for the Biden administration to impose new restrictions on the government's utilization of AI tools.

Smith emphasized the significance of AI regulation, comparing it to the challenge of the 21st century. He stressed the need for "the rule of law" to govern AI throughout its entire lifecycle and supply chain, including data centers and end users. Microsoft's proposal extends regulations to various sectors, such as banking and healthcare, where AI is employed in making critical decisions. Smith drew parallels to historical instances where the rule of law and a commitment to democracy successfully managed the impact of technology.

In line with OpenAI's recent calls, Smith supported the creation of a government regulator responsible for overseeing a licensing system for cutting-edge AI development, accompanied by safety standards, testing, and mandatory disclosure rules. The debate in Washington is focusing on whether a new federal regulator should be established or if existing agencies should incorporate AI regulations within their purview.

Smith also urged President Joe Biden to issue an executive order mandating federal agencies that procure AI tools to implement a risk management framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This framework, mandated by Congress in 2020, provides guidelines for the responsible and ethical use of AI. Microsoft plans to adopt the NIST framework across its services and is committed to publishing an annual AI transparency report.

Additionally, Microsoft proposed the inclusion of revamped export controls specific to AI technology to prevent misuse by sanctioned entities. Smith also advocated for the implementation of redundant AI circuit breakers, allowing critical infrastructure providers or data centers to disable algorithms if necessary.

Microsoft's stance on AI regulation aligns with Google's recent call for global cooperation and common standards in the field of AI. Both companies emphasize the importance of regulating AI effectively, recognizing its potential impact on society and the need to ensure responsible development and deployment of the technology.



The Eight Trending AI Technologies in 2023

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to evolve and revolutionize various industries, ranging from healthcare to transportation. As we enter 2023, let's explore the emerging trends in AI and their potential impact on our lives.

Edge AI:

Edge AI brings data analysis closer to the source, reducing the need for data to be sent to remote systems for processing. This approach is gaining popularity with the increasing prevalence of Internet of Things (IoT) devices. By processing data locally, Edge AI reduces energy consumption and addresses privacy concerns associated with data offloading.

Generative AI:

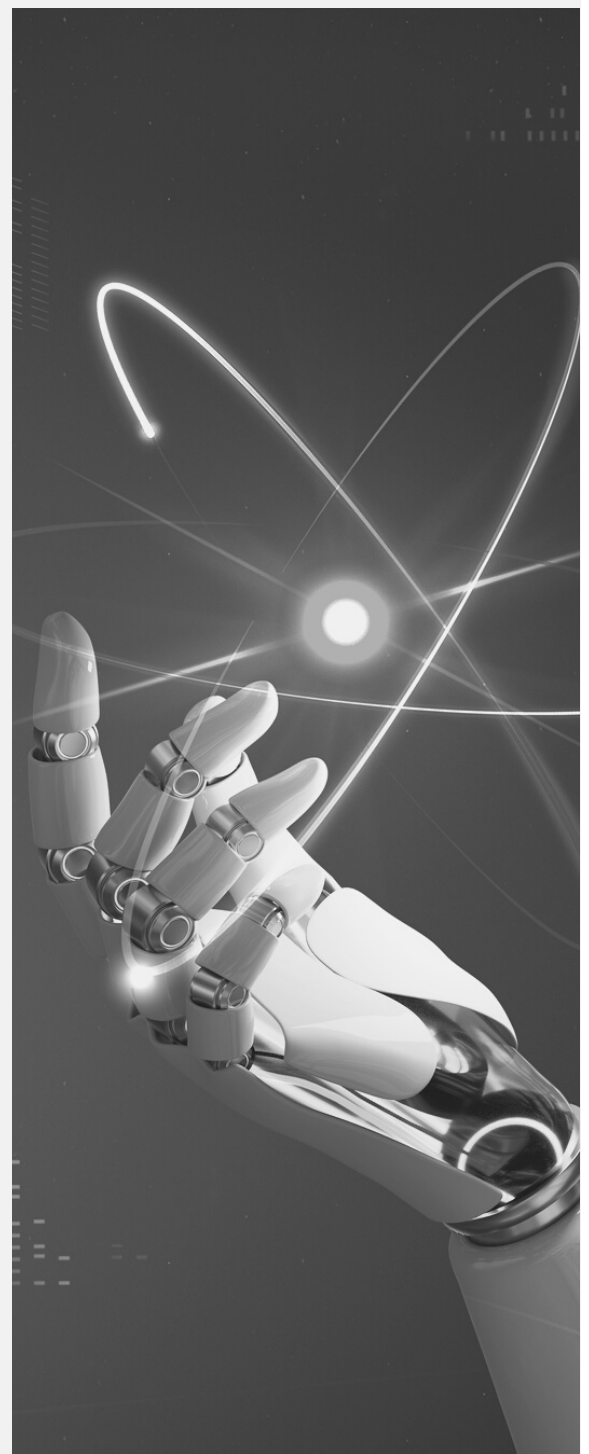
Generative AI involves generating new data or content based on existing datasets. Deep learning algorithms are used to identify patterns and features within the data, which can include code, text, images, audio, or video. Generative AI has diverse applications and aims to produce outputs that closely resemble real-world data.

Quantum Machine Learning:

Quantum machine learning represents a significant technological breakthrough by enabling the development of complex machine learning models capable of solving problems that are currently intractable for classical computing. It has attracted substantial investments from companies like IBM, Microsoft, and Amazon.

Automated Machine Learning:

AI has empowered the auto-machine learning industry to create sophisticated and scalable machine-learning models. The focus is on improving the performance of neural network models and enabling efficient model development.



IoT and Digital Twins:

The expansion of the Internet of Things (IoT) is a significant trend to watch. It encompasses all internet-connected devices, including smartphones. Companies like Uber are utilizing IoT sensors to transform the transportation industry. Digital twins, virtual models simulating the behavior of products or processes, have applications in large-scale manufacturing, energy, and urban development.

Low-Code, No-Code AI:

The low-code, no-code trend seen in website and app development is extending to AI, enabling organizations to personalize intelligent systems using pre-built templates and drag-and-drop techniques. This simplifies the integration of AI into existing workflows and accelerates its adoption within organizations.

Cybersecurity:

As technology advances, cybersecurity becomes a crucial concern to protect sensitive information and digital assets from threats posed by hackers and fraudsters. AI-based cyber defense systems are being implemented to detect and mitigate these risks, ensuring the security of businesses and their personnel.

Augmented Analytics:

Augmented analytics is transforming how organizations analyze data and make informed decisions. By 2025, it is estimated that 75% of data stories will be generated automatically using augmented analytics approaches. This trend empowers business users and leaders to gain deep insights and automate the process of identifying significant changes, even without extensive data expertise. As AI continues to advance, these trends highlight the potential for transformative impact across industries. Embracing these technologies can lead to increased efficiency, improved decision-making, and enhanced security in a data-driven world.



New developments:

'Jugalbandi': An AI-Driven Chatbot Enabling Easy Access

In a bid to enhance accessibility to government services for residents in rural areas of India, Microsoft has launched 'Jugalbandi,' a state-of-the-art generative chatbot powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI). Developed in collaboration with Microsoft Research, AI4Bharat (an open-source language AI center), and OpenNyAI, this made-in-India AI chatbot aims to bridge the language barrier and provide comprehensive support to the Indian population.

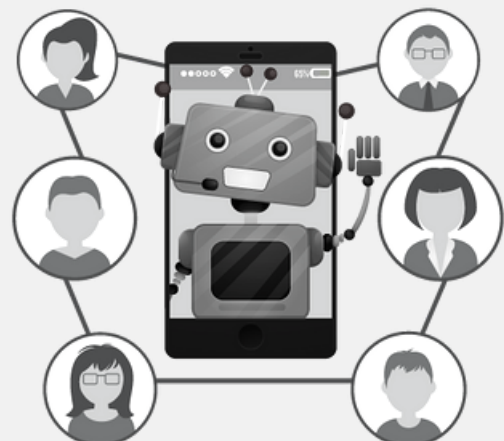
With an impressive repertoire, 'Jugalbandi' currently understands 10 out of the 22 official languages in India, covering a wide range of 171 government programs. The language diversity accommodated by the chatbot signifies a significant step toward making government assistance more accessible to all citizens.

In a recent blog post, Microsoft highlighted the underlying vision behind 'Jugalbandi,' recognizing that while business and public life in India are predominantly conducted in English, only a mere 11 percent of the population speaks the language fluently. Conversely, 57 percent of the population communicates in Hindi. This language disparity has resulted in a significant portion of the population being unable to access crucial government programs due to the language barrier. 'Jugalbandi' addresses this issue by offering Indians the ability to access information in their local language through a user-friendly mobile interface.

The unique features of 'Jugalbandi' have garnered praise from individuals closely associated with the project. Often described as a 'chatbot plus plus,' the AI-powered assistant functions as a personalized agent, understanding and addressing user queries in their preferred language. Abhigyan Raman, a project officer at AI4Bharat, emphasized that 'Jugalbandi' has the ability to reliably and affordably deliver accurate information, even if it exists in a different language within a database.

One of the notable advantages of this new generation AI chatbot lies in its ability to provide consolidated answers instead of presenting users with an overwhelming list of links, which is common in traditional web searches. By streamlining information retrieval, 'Jugalbandi' ensures a more efficient and user-friendly experience.

Drawing inspiration from its namesake, a duet between two musicians in Indian classical music, 'Jugalbandi' taps into the power of language models from AI4Bharat, a government-backed initiative. The chatbot can be accessed through the widely used mobile messaging system, WhatsApp, making it highly accessible and easy to operate for individuals across different regions and demographics.



Microsoft has outlined the operational mechanism of 'Jugalbandi.' Users initiate a conversation by sending a text or audio message to a designated WhatsApp number. The chatbot utilizes AI4Bharat's speech recognition model to transcribe the message into text and subsequently translates it into English using the Bhashini translation model. Bhashini, a language solution introduced by the government in July 2022, aims to enable people to access the internet and digital services in their native language through emerging technologies. Leveraging OpenAI's ChatGPT, 'Jugalbandi' retrieves information on the relevant government schemes, translates the response into Hindi, and synthesizes it using the AI4Bharat text-to-speech model. The synthesized response is then delivered back to the user via WhatsApp.

As a nascent chatbot, 'Jugalbandi' aligns with the objective of providing government assistance tools at the fingertips of mobile users. Its expanding language support and comprehensive coverage of government programs indicate a commitment to inclusivity and convenience. With its innovative approach, 'Jugalbandi' has the potential to significantly transform how citizens interact with government services, fostering greater accessibility.

Microsoft Introduces Azure AI Studio for Building Custom AI 'Copilots'

Microsoft has introduced Azure AI Studio, a new feature within the Azure OpenAI Service that allows customers to build their own AI "copilots" using machine learning models from OpenAI. Azure AI Studio enables customers to combine OpenAI's models like ChatGPT or GPT-4 with their own data, whether it's text or images, to create chat assistants or other types of apps that work with private data. Unlike Microsoft's existing AI-powered copilots, which can't access proprietary data, copilots built through Azure AI Studio can reason over a company's data to perform tasks securely and without exposing the data or training models on it.

To build a copilot in Azure AI Studio, developers start by selecting a generative AI model such as GPT-4 and provide a meta-prompt that describes the copilot's role and functionality. The tool also allows for the addition of cloud-based storage to keep track of conversations with users and respond contextually. Plug-ins can extend copilots by granting access to third-party data and services.

Microsoft emphasizes the value of Azure AI Studio in enabling customers to leverage OpenAI's models on their own data while adhering to organizational policies and access rights. Organizations can integrate internal or external data, including structured, unstructured, or semi-structured data, without compromising security, data policies, or document ranking.

Azure OpenAI Service, which currently serves over 4,500 companies, including Coursera, Grammarly, Volvo, and IKEA, is also receiving updates. Microsoft is introducing the Provisioned Throughput SKU, allowing customers to reserve and deploy model processing capacity on a monthly or yearly basis. This feature enables customers to purchase "provisioned throughput units" (PTUs) to deploy OpenAI models, such as GPT-3.5-Turbo or GPT-4, with reserved processing capacity, ensuring consistent latency and throughput for workloads with consistent characteristics.

By offering Azure AI Studio and updates to Azure OpenAI Service, Microsoft aims to empower customers to build customized models using its cloud-hosted tooling, tapping into a potentially lucrative market as the adoption of the Azure OpenAI Service continues to grow.

Red Hat Unveils Ansible Lightspeed

Red Hat, the leading provider of open-source solutions, has made significant announcements during its annual customer summit in Boston. Among the enhancements to its popular open-source IT automation tool, Ansible, is the introduction of the groundbreaking AI-powered tool called Lightspeed.

At its core, automation simplifies complex processes by creating a playbook or recipe of actions. With the rise of generative AI, the automation process can be further streamlined by simply describing the desired outcome and allowing the tool to generate the necessary steps and code, minimizing the need for human intervention.

Red Hat aims to accomplish precisely that with Lightspeed, an innovative generative AI-driven tool set to launch later this year. Thomas Anderson, VP and GM for the Ansible business unit, explained that Lightspeed combines IBM's Code Assistant and foundational models with Ansible's automation language to facilitate the creation of automations.

Collaborating with its parent organization IBM, Red Hat focuses on building tailored models specific to the unique requirements of its customers. While companies like OpenAI, Microsoft, and Google adopt a broader approach, Red Hat leverages its relationship with IBM to expedite the development and launch of a generative AI product.

Anderson emphasized the use of IBM's large language model, trained on the extensive Ansible ecosystem, including playbooks, subject matter expertise, and community contributions, to power Watson Code Assistant for Ansible Lightspeed. When a user describes a workflow, Lightspeed generates it based on the description and provides visibility into the sources of its work. This allows IT professionals to verify the trustworthiness of the sources before executing the playbook.

Red Hat has a roadmap for Ansible Lightspeed, with a public version available to train the data model. The enterprise version, in collaboration with IBM, is scheduled for release in October this year, featuring additional enterprise safety features.

The application of generative AI in IT automation can help bridge the skills gap and enhance productivity. Subject matter experts can achieve higher levels of efficiency, while newcomers can quickly adopt Ansible and automation without extensive expertise. Although open-source Ansible users will have to wait until later this year for a preview, an enterprise version is expected to be available as early as this fall.

In addition to Ansible Lightspeed, Red Hat also unveiled Event-driven Ansible, a product designed to automate advanced developer or SRE tasks, commonly known as Day 2 operations. This offering is now generally available to customers.

Gan.ai Raises \$5.2M in Seed Funding

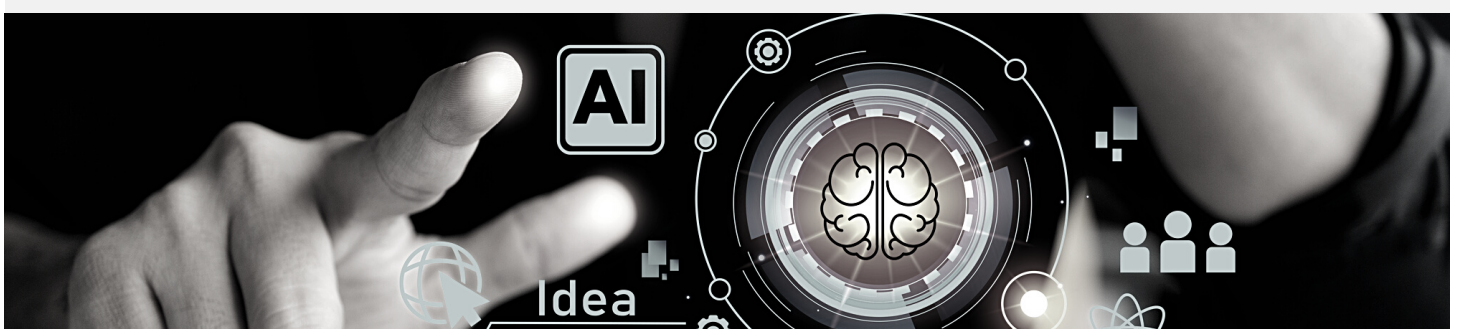
Gan.ai, an AI-powered video creation platform, has secured \$5.2 million in seed funding led by Surge, Sequoia Capital's rapid scale-up program. The San Francisco-based startup helps brands develop customized videos using generative AI, allowing them to personalize content for their customers. With Gan.ai's video personalization software, brands can record with an actor, add keywords to a script, and easily send personalized videos to their customers. The platform also integrates with popular e-commerce tools like Shopify, Calendly, Stripe, HubSpot, and Salesforce, enabling the creation of landing pages and seamless shopping and payment options.

Gan.ai, founded in 2021 by CEO Suvrat Bhooshan, a former employee of Facebook AI Research (FAIR), has already attracted over 200 users, including prominent enterprise customers such as Samsung, Zomato, Vivo, and Mobile Premier League. Bhooshan emphasizes that generative AI has significant potential in marketing and sales, and Gan.ai aims to provide innovative solutions that have a direct impact on revenue.

The startup serves two main types of clients: corporations with large marketing teams, including mobile manufacturers, consumer goods companies, food delivery firms, sports teams, and mobile gaming companies; and business professionals such as realtors, mortgage agents, insurance agents, and enterprise SaaS sales representatives.

In the AI video generator market, Gan.ai competes with other players like Runway ML. While some startups in this space focus on fully generating synthetic avatar videos, Gan.ai differentiates itself by working on real videos and changing key variables within them. This approach presents unique challenges, as even a small variance in voice or lip movement can be easily noticed. However, Gan.ai has developed efficient training methods that require only two minutes of data to train each speaker, compared to the longer training times required by some competitors.

With the new funding, Gan.ai plans to invest in research and development to enhance its offerings further. The startup also intends to expand its "U.S. go-to-market" team and establish partnerships with additional consumer brands. The ultimate goal is to make the video creation process instant, real-time, and widely accessible, akin to how mail-merge works with text.





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