

# The Fear of Artificial Intelligence is Real



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**(NNPA)** - Artificial intelligence, or AI, is here to stay, whether anyone likes it or not.

But alarm bells have sounded everywhere about the havoc it's caused and will ultimately cause on jobs and quality of life.

Now, the founder of AI has joined others in warning of a catastrophic future.

Geoffrey Hinton, the so-called godfather of AI, said it's difficult to envision how to stop nefarious characters from using artificial intelligence for evil.

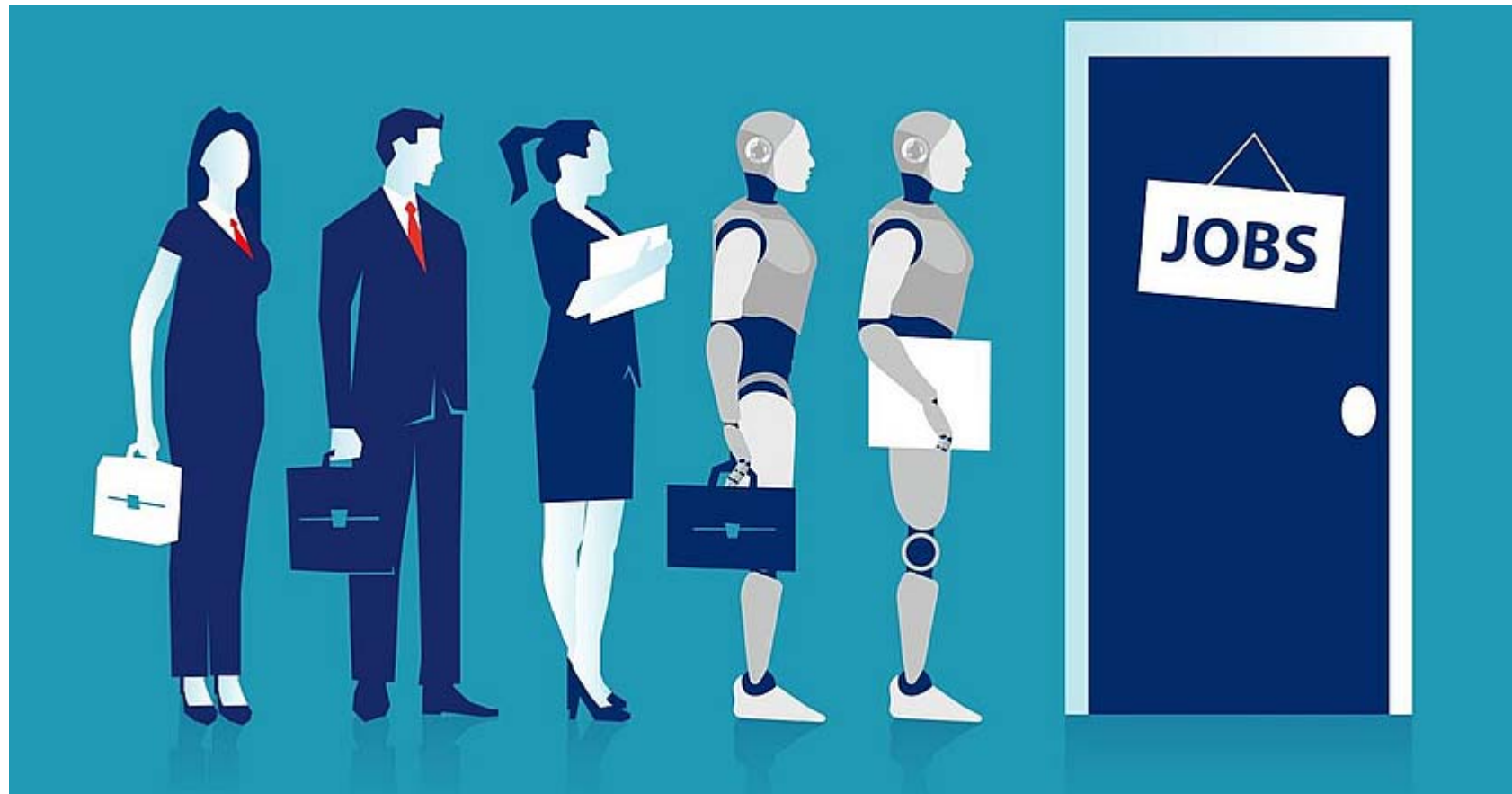
"It's hard to see," Hinton told reporters this week.

He said that as AI develops, it's likely to threaten humans.

The World Economic Forum, which concluded that AI is "rife with contradictions," published an alarming report in April, which included surveys of more than 800 companies.

The companies determined that AI would create 69 million new jobs by 2027 but eliminate 83 million.

Before that report, economists at Goldman Sachs said up to 300 million full-time jobs glo-



bally would eventually become automated because of AI platforms like ChatGPT.

The economists noted that white-collar workers face the most risk, with construction workers and many other blue-collar jobs remaining unaffected.

The economists stated that two-thirds of U.S. and European jobs now use some form of AI automation.

Still, the forum conceded that AI "is a powerful tool that is also surprisingly limited in terms of its current capabilities."

Recent advances in AI technologies have generated excitement and concern, as the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) acknowledged.

"As researchers who have served in leadership positions in the

AAAI, we are writing to provide a balanced perspective on managing the progress in the field," the group said in a letter.

"We also seek to broaden and strengthen the community of engaged researchers, government agencies, private companies, and the public at large to ensure that society is able to reap the great promise of AI while managing its risks."

Signed by 19 academic leaders, the letter noted that AAAI is "aware of the limitations and concerns about AI

advances, including the potential for AI systems to make errors, to provide biased recommendations, to threaten our privacy, to empower bad actors with new tools, and to have an impact on jobs."

They asserted that researchers in AI and across multiple disciplines are hard at work identifying and developing ways to address these shortcomings and risks while strengthening the benefits and identifying positive applications.

In some cases, AI technology itself can be

applied to create trusted oversight and guardrails to reduce or eliminate failures, the group insisted.

"The idea that this stuff could actually get smarter than people — a few people believed that," Hinton stated when asked whether he thought AI would have such an immediate impact.

"But most people thought it was way off. And I thought it was way off. I thought it was 30 to 50 years or even longer away. Obviously, I no longer think that."

Meanwhile, journalists have acknowl-

edged some fear over AI.

The Columbia Journalism Review (CJR) recently quoted experts who said that the biggest flaw in a "large language model" like ChatGPT is that, while it is capable of mimicking human writing, it has no real understanding of what it is writing about, and so it frequently inserts errors and flights of fancy that some have referred to as "hallucinations."

CJR reported that Colin Fraser, a data scientist at Meta, wrote, "The central quality of this type of model is that they are incurable, constant, shameless bullsh-ters. Every single one of them. It's a feature, not a bug."

And Gary Marcus, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at New York University, has likened this kind of software to "a giant autocomplete machine."

Geoffrey Hinton says unchecked AI development could threaten humanity.  
AP Photo/Noah Berger, File



## Texas House General Investigating Committee wants to impeach Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton

Story by Julia Guilbeau and María Méndez  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

**(AUSTIN, TX)** - Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the state's top lawyer and one of its most powerful and controversial Republicans, has faced criminal investigations, legal battles and accusations of wrongdoing for years. Still, he's remained popular with Texas voters and in 2022 was elected to serve a third four-year term.

But after Paxton asked state budget writers to spend public money on a proposed \$3.3 million settlement to end a lawsuit by former staffers who accused him of on-the-job retaliation, the Texas House General Investigating Committee launched a secret probe into the attorney general's behavior. In a stunning public hearing on May 24, House investigators publicly detailed allegations of a yearslong pattern of misconduct and questionable actions by Paxton.

The committee could recommend the House censure or impeach Paxton, who has long served under clouds of scandal while also positioning himself as a champion of conservative policies.

In July 2015, less than a year after Attorney General Ken Paxton was sworn into office, he was indicted on felony security fraud charges for allegedly persuading investors to buy stock in McKinney-based Severgy Inc. without disclosing that he would be compensated for it.

The case has been delayed multiple times over several rounds of appeals, including unsuccessful efforts by defense lawyers to dismiss the charges against Paxton and ongoing efforts by prosecutors to fight to keep the trial in Harris County instead of moving it back to Collin County, where Paxton has lived.

Paxton has denied wrongdoing and asserted that the case is politically motivated. He faces up to 99 years in prison if convicted.

In 2016, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission also sued Paxton over alleged securities



Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez, File)

fraud related his actions on behalf of Severgy. A federal judge dismissed that lawsuit a year later.

In 2020, senior officials in Paxton's office asked federal law enforcement to investigate allegations of improper influence, abuse of office, bribery and other potential crimes by their boss.

The officials said they believed Paxton broke the law by using the agency to serve the interests of political donor Nate Paul, an Austin real estate investor. According to the accusations, Paxton tapped his office to investigate Paul's adversaries and help settle a lawsuit. In return, they said, Paul helped Paxton extensively remodel his Austin house and gave a job to a woman with whom Paxton allegedly had an affair.

An FBI investigation of the allegations was

taken over by the U.S. Justice Department in February 2023.

In May 2022, the Texas state bar sued Paxton, arguing that he engaged in professional misconduct by making dishonest claims when he told the Supreme Court that Texas had uncovered proof of substantial voting fraud in the four states. Paxton's bid to toss out the lawsuit is awaiting action by the Dallas-based 5th Court of Appeals.

On Jan. 6, 2021, hours before pro-Trump rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol, Paxton spoke in Washington, D.C., at the Stop the Steal rally. And after the attack unfolded, Paxton falsely blamed the violence on antifa, a left-wing, anti-fascist movement, and claimed Trump supporters weren't responsible for the insurrection.