

Generative Al 101 – Cyber Hawaii

Understanding the benefits, opportunities and challenges of using GenAl

Matt Leger, MPA Sr. Research Manager IDC Worldwide Education and EdTech Digital Strategies July 2025

Today's Agenda



Introductions

- Introductions
- Goals for Today



GenAl 101

- Understanding different types of Al
- GenAl adoption in education



GenAl Safety

 Consideration for safe and ethical use of GenAl



Open Discussion

• Q&A

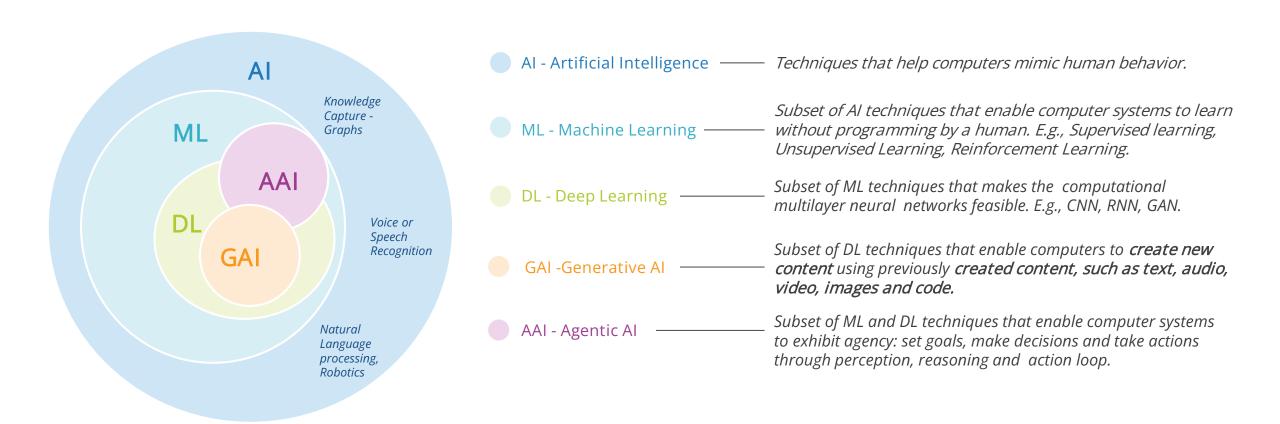


Foundations of GenAl

GenAl 101



GenAl is a subset of different types of Al





What makes GenAl so different and exciting?



Interface Human-Machine

GenAl follows processes based on human language.



Generative

Automated content generation



Knowledge Base

Fixed, Large body of knowledge



Unstructured Data

Unstructured/ semi-structured data



Multi-Modal

Text, Images, Audio, Video generation & interpretation

GenAl **creates content** from vast amounts of existing data.

GenAl is driven by trained sets of vast collections of data organized by proximities of usage. These trained sets are called large language models (LLMs)

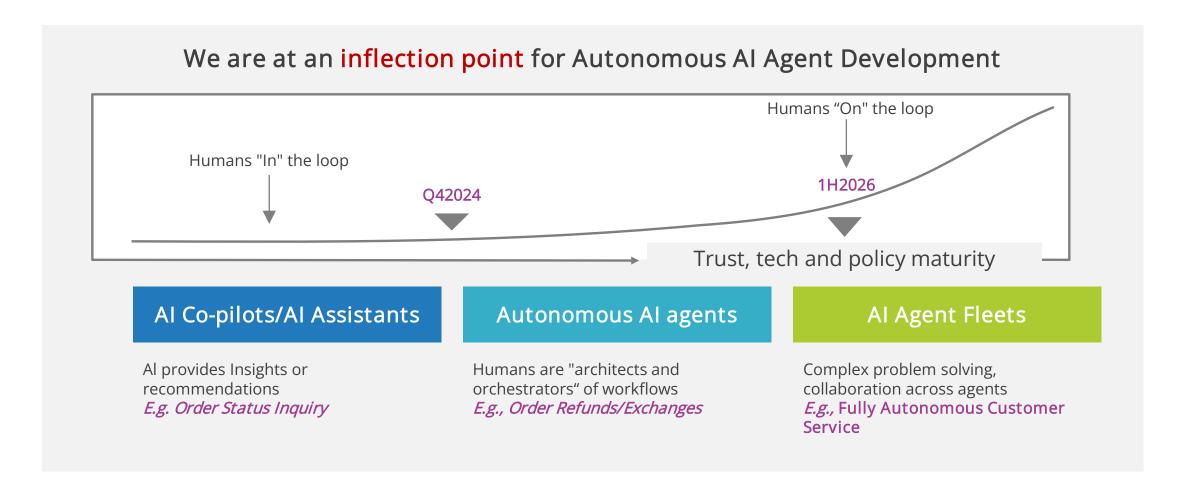
GenAl can leverage unstructured data such as code, images, video, audio, websites, social feeds, IMs, email, contracts, invoices, manuals, expense reports, conference proceedings, etc.

GenAl can create content in multiple formats - text, video, audio. It can create presentations, documents, new graphics etc.

Generative AI is designed to find patterns in both structured and unstructured data using natural language

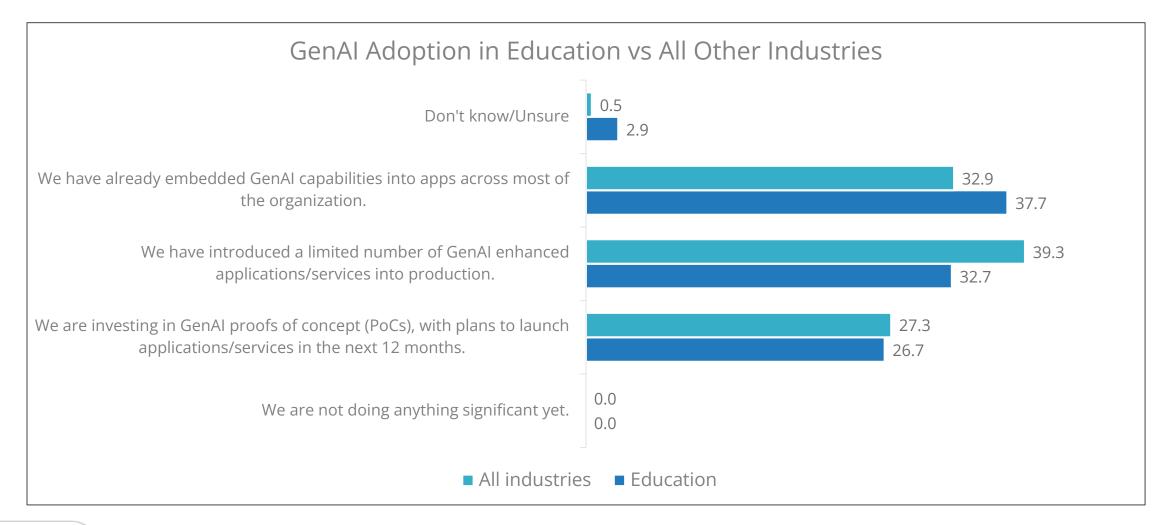


GenAl changed the trajectory of Al adoption. Agentic Al is next...





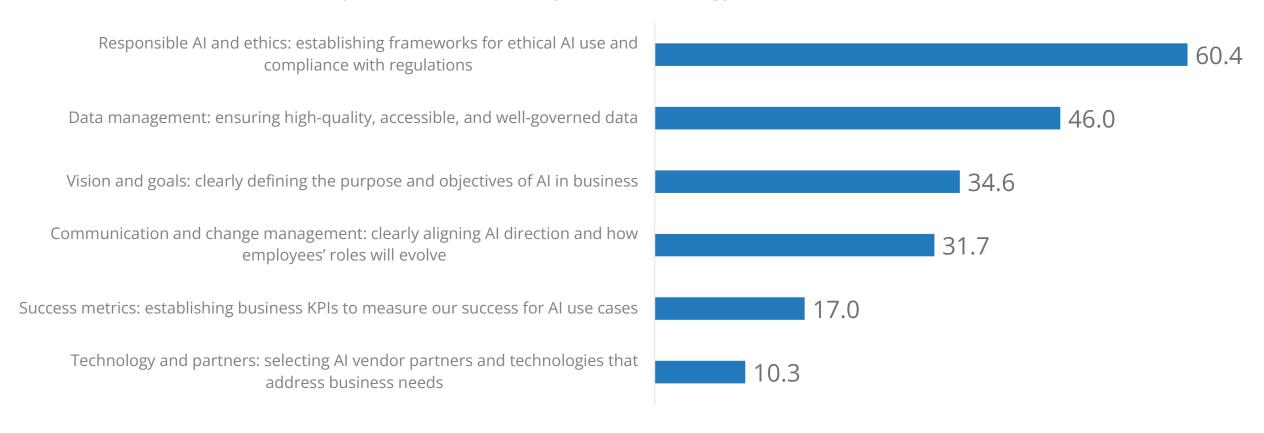
GenAl is no longer optional in K-12 schools. Education is keeping pace with all other industries in adoption.





As GenAl adoption increases, safe and responsible Al use is priority number one for schools

You indicated that your organization is prioritizing Al strategy in 2025. What is the most important issue that your Al strategy needs to address?





Considerations for Safe and Ethical Use of GenAl



8 Leading Considerations for Safe and Ethical GenAl Use





Privacy and Consent

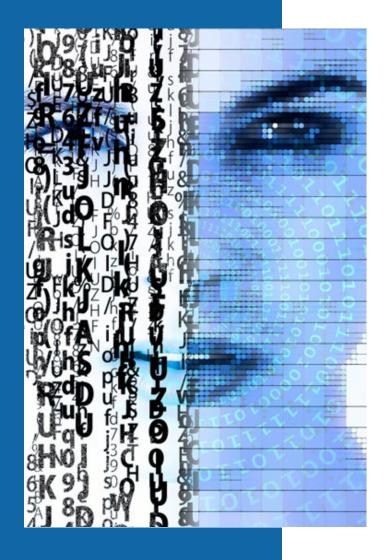
With the explosion of GenAl comes serious questions about privacy, consent, digital identity, and individual rights, particularly for young students.



Where's DeepSeek Banned? The States Blocking Chinese-Made Al

States are increasingly banning DeepSeek AI on government devices, citing cybersecurity and data privacy concerns. Some cybersecurity experts question if the state bans will do enough to protect American data.





Bias and Toxicity in Al Models

Key Issues:

- **Seed Data**: If you enter sensitive or personally identifiable information into the models, that data can become part of the model and visible to others.
- Input Bias: Prompts/Inputs asking essentially the same question but with different levels of craftsmanship can generate different responses.
- **Demographic Bias**: Al is a window into the bias of the people who created it.

STATESCOOP

Civil rights experts warn of AI's potential to harm the public

Clarence Okoh, a senior attorney at Georgetown's Center for Privacy and Technology, pointed to a predictive policing program in Pasco County, Florida, which was discontinued last March, that used a generative AI tool to comb through student data and flag at-risk youth, leading to increased surveillance and discipline.



Harmful Content, Misinformation, Fraud, and Scams



GenAI, the future of fraud and why you may be an easy target

FORTUNE

Job applicants are using deepfake AI to trick recruiters—Here's how hiring managers can spot the next imposter



Jacksonville lawmaker pushes bill aiming to protect victims from deepfakes after former mayor's daughter targeted



Security Vulnerabilities for LLM Applications

External Threat Actors

- Prompt injection
- Training data poisoning
- Model Denial of Service

User Vulnerabilities

- Malicious or unintentional IP disclosure
- System overreliance
- Loss/disclosure of PII

Governance and Security Practices

- Insufficient access controls
- Excessive agency
- Insecure output handling
- Supply chain vulnerabilities



The Greatest Threat May Come from Within...

TECH BREW

Workers are using AI faster than their employers can make rules about it

That might cause security and quality concerns, a KPMG report found.

Half of US respondents said they tapped AI at work, despite not knowing whether it's allowed, and 44% said they're "knowingly using it improperly." That includes uploading sensitive information or intellectual property to public AI platforms, which 46% of those in the US admitted to doing.

The survey also pointed to the potential for slipping quality due to AI use. Around three in five (64%) of Americans surveyed "admit to putting less effort into their work, knowing they can rely on AI;" 58% said they don't thoroughly vet outputs; and 57% have made mistakes at work as a result.



Intellectual Property and Copyright Law Violations

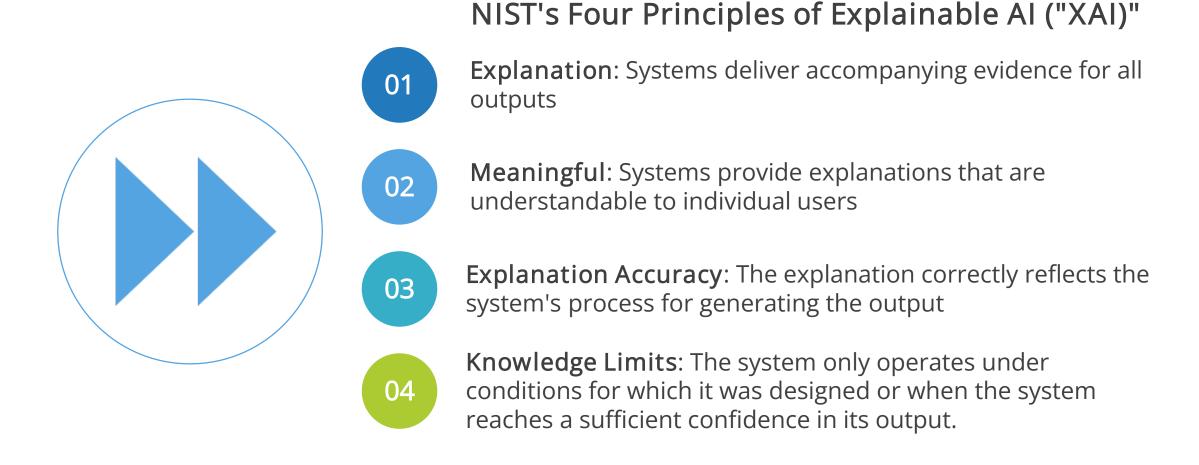


How Will Copyright Law and Plagiarism Change in the Age of GenAl?

With the modern Internet, it's easier than ever before to learn from, imitate and even plagiarize other people's work.



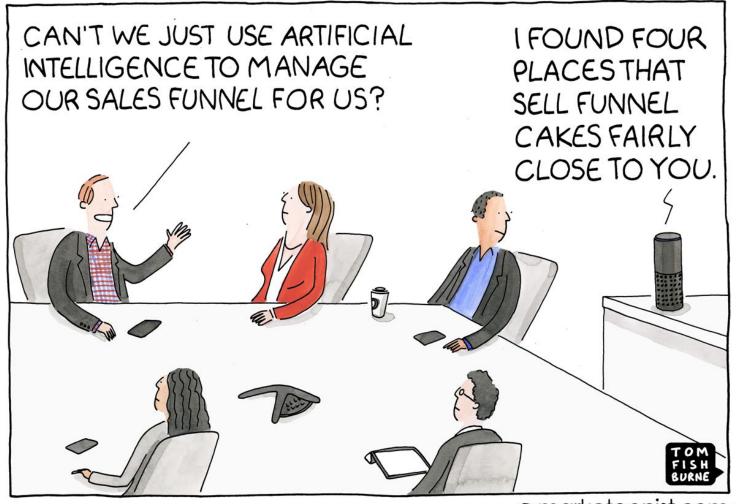
Explainability and TransparencyHow is GenAl producing the content and output?





Accuracy and Hallucinations

While some models are improving, GenAI is inherently imprecise





@ marketoonist.com

The Environmental Impacts of Al



The Environmental Impact of AI in Education:
Cutting Through the Noise





Human in the loop is key, responsibility falls to the user

Tech/Al companies

- Strong commercial interests
- Varying approaches to AI ethics and responsibility
- Lobbying power



Asymmetry

power

Business and commercial sector

- Predominantly commercial interests
- Efficiency, efficiency, efficiency
- Pushbacks only temporary
- Creative industries might feel more threatened





Governments and public sector

- Expected to act, mitigate negative externalities
- Need more training and access to expertise
- Facing the brunt of public pushback



Individuals: citizens. employees, faculty, students etc...

- Should be at the center of any action
- The right to explain or the right to know
- Need awareness and opt-out option
- The right to license your digital-twin
- Education and critical thinking are key







The problem with relying on people...



Research

The Impact of Generative AI on Critical Thinking: Self-Reported Reductions in Cognitive Effort and Confidence Effects From a Survey of Knowledge Workers

Hao-Ping (Hank) Lee, <u>Advait Sarkar</u>, <u>Lev Tankelevitch</u>, Ian Drosos, <u>Sean Rintel</u>, <u>Richard Banks</u>, <u>Nicholas Wilson</u> **CHI 2025** | April 2025

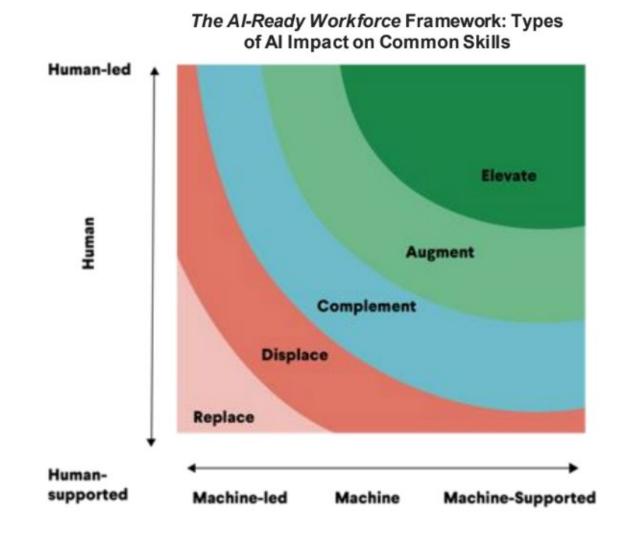
The rise of Generative AI (GenAI) in knowledge workflows raises questions about its impact on critical thinking skills and practices. We survey 319 knowledge workers to investigate 1) when and how they perceive the enaction of critical thinking when using GenAI, and 2) when and why GenAI affects their effort to do so. Participants shared 936 first-hand examples of using GenAI in work tasks. Quantitatively, when considering both task- and user-specific factors, a user's task-specific self-confidence and confidence in GenAI are predictive of whether critical thinking is enacted and the effort of doing so in GenAI-assisted tasks. Specifically, higher confidence in GenAI is associated with less critical thinking, while higher self-confidence is associated with more critical thinking. Qualitatively, GenAI shifts the nature of critical thinking toward information verification, response integration, and task stewardship. Our insights reveal new design challenges and opportunities for developing GenAI tools for knowledge work.



A workforce equipped with AI + human skills will be ready for the future and equipped to use AI ethically and responsibly...



The AI-Ready Workforce **How Leaders and Workers Can Prepare for a Reshaped Future** of Work





Adoption of agentic AI technologies will inevitably create new job roles and skills requirements

Functional Digital Agents





Networks of AI agents will work with human workers and independently

Al-Agents will take charge of:

- Executing repetitive tasks
- Data analysis and outcomes evaluation
- Acting on behalf of humans to take specific actions
- Generating recommendations for human decisions

Human technical skills will be focused on:

- Initiating requests for agents
- Critical evaluation of Al output
- Learn to orchestrate agentic workflow
- Innovating new products, services





Key Al Terms and Definitions

Types of Al

- Artificial Intelligence (AI): Al is the technology that enables computers and machines to perform cognitive functions that simulate human intelligence (thinking, reasoning, remembering).
- Machine Learning (ML): A form of Al that uses algorithms that are trained on data to detect patterns and learn to make predictions and recommendations.
- Algorithm: A set of instructions we give to computers that is designed to accomplish a task.
- Natural Language Processing (NLP): A form of AI/ML that gives computers the ability to understand and interpret natural human language by analyzing large volumes of voice and text data.

Key Areas Related to Al

- ② Al Governance: The processes, policies, and structures put in place to ensure the responsible and use of Al systems within an organization or society.
- ② Al Ethics: The study of the moral and societal implications of Al, focusing on issues such as fairness, transparency, accountability, and privacy.
- Properties of the second of
- W Human-in-the-loop: The practice of ensuring that human beings provide a final check against Al-generated outputs/content with the aim of reducing risks from misinformation, copyright infringement, or other issues.

Technical Definitions

- Structured data: data that is highly specific and is stored in a predefined format. Examples are forms (e.g. invoicing systems), excel files, data in a preset structure that makes it easier to catalogue and find (e.g. contact lists),databases.
- Unstructured data: data that is in many varied types that are stored in their native format. Examples are video, Word documents, audio files, social media and emails. They take up more space and require special expertise to use for analysis and intelligence.
- Large language models: Large language models (LLMs) are a type of artificial intelligence (AI) program that can perform a variety of natural language processing (NLP) tasks. They are built on machine learning and trained on large amounts of data.
- Prompt engineering: Prompt engineering is the practice of using engineering methodologies to develop prompts that enable users to efficiently use LLMs.

