

Microsoft 'deeply sorry' for racist and sexist tweets by AI chatbot

Company finally apologises after 'Tay' quickly learned to produce offensive posts, forcing the tech giant to shut it down after just 16 hours

- 1) Microsoft has said it is “deeply sorry” for the racist and sexist Twitter messages generated by the so-called chatbot it launched this week.
- 2) The company released an official apology after the artificial intelligence program went on an embarrassing tirade, likening feminism to cancer and suggesting the Holocaust did not happen.
- 3) The bot, known as Tay, was designed to become “smarter” as more users interacted with it. Instead, it quickly learned to parrot a slew of anti-Semitic and other hateful invective that human Twitter users fed the program, forcing Microsoft Corp to shut it down on Thursday .
- 4) Following the disastrous experiment, Microsoft initially only gave a terse statement, saying Tay was a “learning machine” and “some of its responses are inappropriate and indicative of the types of interactions some people are having with it.”
- 5) But the company on Friday admitted the experiment had gone badly wrong. It said in a blog post it would revive Tay only if its engineers could find a way to prevent Web users from influencing the chatbot in ways that undermine the company’s principles and values.
- 6) “We are deeply sorry for the unintended offensive and hurtful tweets from Tay, which do not represent who we are or what we stand for, nor how we designed Tay,” wrote Peter Lee, Microsoft’s vice president of research.
- 7) Microsoft created Tay as an experiment to learn more about how artificial intelligence programs can engage with Web users in casual conversation. The project was designed to interact with and “learn” from the young generation of millennials.
- 8) Tay began its short-lived Twitter tenure on Wednesday with a handful of innocuous tweets.

【March 26 March 2016／the guardian】

offensive: 不快な、無礼な giant: 巨大企業 launch: 始める artificial intelligence: 人工知能 embarrassing: 困惑させる、厄介な tirade: 長い攻撃演説 liken to: ～に例える、なぞらえる Holocaust: ユダヤ人大虐殺 interact: 相互に作用する、触れ合う parrot: (オウムのように) 機械的にまねる a slew of: 多数の anti-Semitic: 反ユダヤ主義の invective: 悪口、ののしり feed: (データなどをコンピューターに) 送る terse: 簡潔な inappropriate: 不適切な indicative: 兆候がある interaction: 相互作用 revive: 復活する undermine: 徐々に衰えさせる generation of millennial: 1980年代から2000年代前半に生まれた世代 tenure: 任期 innocuous: 無毒の (⇔harmful)

☆Ice breaker for active discussion

1. Do you use Twitter? If not, do you read tweets? What's the good thing about tweets?
2. What are the lessons that can be learned from the news article?
3. What is AI? Do you know any examples where AI outsmarted or outperformed humans?
4. What are the disadvantages of AI?
5. Some say AI will replace humans in the workplace in the future. What can you say about it?
6. Make sentences using the following words: offensive, racist, parrot, feed, inappropriate, interact and undermine.

AI (artificial intelligence) はコンピューターに人間のような自律的な思考をさせる技術。Tay「テイ」は、chatbot と呼ばれるソフトウェアの一種。ネット上で顧客の要望を聞いて、質問に答え、商品やサービスの購入を助けるなどの役割を果たすことができ実用段階に入っている。急速に進化する AI に警鐘を鳴らす人もいる。