Here's why so many of us are spooked by artificial intelligence?

[N]ot everyone is ready to welcome AI with open arms. In recent years, as computer scientists have pushed the boundaries of what AI can accomplish, leading figures in technology and science have warned about the looming dangers that artificial intelligence may pose to humanity, even suggesting that AI capabilities could doom the human race.
But why are people so unnerved by the idea of AI?

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Negative feelings about AI can generally be divided into two categories: the idea that AI will become conscious and seek to destroy us, and the notion that immoral people will use AI for evil purposes.

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However, fears that AI will develop awareness and overthrow humanity are grounded in misconceptions of what AI is, [Kilian] Weinberger noted. AI operates under very specific limitations defined by the algorithms that dictate its behavior.

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The other worrisome idea — that an unscrupulous human would harness AI for harmful reasons — is, unfortunately, far more likely, Weinberger added.

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Perhaps, if people could put aside their fears of hostile AI, they would be more open to recognizing its benefits, Weinberger suggested. Enhanced image-recognition algorithms, for example, could help dermatologists identify moles that are potentially cancerous, while self-driving cars could one day reduce the number of deaths from auto accidents, many of which are caused by human error.

Read full, original post: Why Does Artificial Intelligence Scare Us So Much?