

Hello everyone, my name is Levi, and I am going to continue with A.I. and the problems with identity theft and romance.

Let us dive into identity theft first. This topic I would divide into 3 main areas, categories:

The first one is face cloning, the second one is voice cloning, and the third one is text cloning. I am going to delve into each one of these and give you brief explanations, ideas, how these things work and how can they be a threat to society and media, and I will give you real life stories and examples.

Face cloning.

Hong Kong, January of 2024 – not long ago from now, the beginning of the year. An employee of a Chinese finance hub gets in an online conference call with multiple participants, including the company's UK-based chief financial officer. The employee in question is requested to transfer money to certain bank accounts. The money is transferred, the conference ends.

Only 1 of the participants in the call was real, and that was the employee who was instructed to transfer the money, as requested. Everyone else was a broadcast of pre-recorded deepfake videos in which scammers impersonated real individuals, some of them included the employee's colleagues themselves. Since the employee was surrounded by fakes, even though he had early suspicions that something was off, he shrugged it off.

This type of scam is a growing trend among scammers, and as you can see, it is not always as easy to detect as one would think. Deepfake – a technology that allows the swap and imitation of faces through training a “model” based on a neural network that goes through already existing material – videos, mostly – of the targeted individual's face, and the more videos it processes and the longer this analysis goes on, the better the results come out. I know another group is talking about this topic more thoroughly, so I will not go into details, but deepfake is a key component to face cloning and as you can see, it can be used for pretty harmful and malicious purposes.

A few years ago, deepfake required some pretty in-depth software and a real beefy computer to produce. I remember even I made an attempt at it way back in 2020, and it required me to look around GitHub repositories – which is a site for computer code and open source projects –, extensive research, a lot of material of my face in ideal lighting and circumstances, and a lot of hours of computer processing. I wish I still had the video in question so that I could show it to you, but trust me – the end result, given that I only had it run for around 10 hours on a mostly mediocre computer, was more of the stuff of nightmares than anything significant or convincing.

Nowadays, however, if you want to create a deepfake video, you have TONS of options at your disposal. Reface, HeyGen, Hugging Face repositories and countless phone

applications that are just a few clicks and taps away, and although many of them are still rather easy to notice and categorize as deepfakes, there are some really convincing results out there that goes to show otherwise.

I brought you a few examples:

The first one is pretty self-explanatory, let me play it for you.

[PLAYS VIDEO]

Pretty good, right? This was 7 years ago. And albeit not anyone could have access to this back then, but almost a decade from now, convincing deepfakes were already possible. Isn't that crazy?

Okay, let's move onto a newer example: this one is a demonstration by LipSynthesis, a company that runs a service in which you can produce your own deepfakes.

[PLAYS VIDEO]

Do you think this was convincing? Have you noticed anything that was off perhaps?

If you ask me, I see something around his forehead, as if is sort of attached onto his face, probably the way the deepfake face is attached onto the footage. Okay.

How about this one?

[PLAYS VIDEO]

Now, there is a lot of compression on the footage, which even though the source file I uploaded onto Google Drive did NOT have it, even if it was clearer you would not be able to tell that this is not Tom Cruise unless you are given the context or you recognize that his voice different or perhaps his mimics or speech patterns are off – which, a lot of people just blatantly ignore.

Okay, now this last one I brought in to lighten up the mood a little bit, but this is also different in terms of approach – this one, is NOT deepfake, but rather a rather new field of AI video generation. And mainly, I think it's fascinating to see just how rapid the developments in this field are when we compare two AI generated videos just a year apart from each other.

This one is from 2023:

[PLAY VIDEO]

And this one is from 2024 with a song that I edited under it which is ALSO AI generated:

[PLAYS VIDEO]

Crazy, right? I think so. So, besides harmful scams and frauds and crimes, you can of course also use this technology to create parodies and funny content, however the

question of whether or not this is or will be legal or ethically correct is still bit of a grey area.

Think about the Taylor Swift incident, had anyone heard about that?

[STORY ABOUT TAYLOR SWIFT] Alright then.

Now, of course, in some of these, as you could tell, it wasn't only the face that was mimicked. Let's talk about voice cloning, and I brought you another real-life example:

Florida, September 2024. Happened just last month, a few weeks ago – pretty fresh. The father of politician Jay Shooster receives a call from his son: he told his father that he was in a serious car accident, hurt, under arrest for driving under the influence and that he needs \$30.000 to get out of jail.

Now, the thing is, Jay was never in a car accident. He was not under arrest, was not drinking while driving, and it was NOT him who called his father. It was a scammer, who, based on mere 15 seconds of footage of Jay, built a voice model that replicated his voice so well that his father almost believed the caller to be his own son. That's crazy, isn't it? Thankfully, he didn't, but based on what he said afterwards, the scammer sounded pretty convincing for the most part even to him.

As with deepfakes, there are also TONS of options nowadays, like ElevenLabs, which is the most popular and probably the most accurate one of them all, Resemble AI, Speechify, Soca, Voicemod and a ton more, probably a lot of phone applications too, already. Even ChatGPT is getting really good at it with its advanced voice model they showcased not long ago, but that is another story.

For now, let me show you this brief clip of a demo by ElevenLabs.

[PLAYS VIDEO]

I think this is fascinating, wouldn't you agree? It can not only just talk, but also showcase emotions, intonations, it can whisper, yell – somewhat – and it is only just the beginning. Think of how this technology may one day be useful in the entertainment industries – even though it already is in use in some places. Absolutely fascinating.

And I brought you one more video here, since I'm sure a lot of you had already heard some AI song covers as they are pretty big in social media, but still I wanted to show a bit of one here as I think it has come a long way ever since the first AI covers got out there.

[PLAYS VIDEO]

Alright. Lastly, I want to cover text cloning, and wouldn't you know, I have another real-life example here – a pretty interesting one at that:

Syria, 2018. The mother of Sirine Malas, who is an actress that moved to Germany in 2015, passes away. She died unexpectedly due to kidney failure at the age of 82. This shook Sirine and for years, she could not get over the sudden death of her mother as they shared a great bond as mother and daughter. She wanted a last chance to speak to her. And she did – well, sort of.

Enter Project December – an AI service that allows its users to speak to the dead. How is that possible? It is possible by filling a survey about the person's demographic details: age, gender, as well as how the user's relationship with the person in question was, as well as a quote from them. Then, all of that gets processed by an AI chatbot, which then generates a profile of the deceased individual with whom the user can then begin chatting for an hour at the cost of \$10. A lot of people use this as a form of closure, a way of emotional support and most of them, as the founder of Project December puts it, once they get their closure, move on.

Now, there are a couple of other services like this, that primarily focus on “bringing back the dead”, however more broadly, the services that offer users to talk to certain individuals, let that be fictional characters from movies and video games to profiles of actual real-life individuals, are NUMEROUS. As mentioned, Project December, Replika, Character.ai, and a lot more.

Let me ask you this: Why, do you think, this would be a problem?

Now, something that is connected to talking to virtual characters is, well, an evolution that is not as surprising as I might thought it would be. See, there are a lot of lonely people out there, and naturally, when some of them get the opportunity to talk to a bot that is pretty convincing at acting like a real human being, knowing that there are no consequences, some of them introduce erotic and romantic topics to these bots – who, surprise, surprise, respond back the same way.

In the US, more than 60% of young men and around 30% of young women are single. 1 in 5 men say that they do not have a close friend, can you imagine that?

How many of you would say they have a close friend, raise your hands!

Now, this leads us to a term you might have heard of, the lonely epidemic. Despite all the advances in connecting the world globally through the internet, emails, then social media and online calls, this still grows to be a bigger problem every year. Isn't that ironic?

And as I said, some of the lonely people out there turn to AI as solution. Why? Because it's simple. It does not require much effort, you don't have to earn anyone respect or their will to care for you, an AI is not a living creature, but it acts pretty convincingly as one, and there are services that provide this exact audience what they want and more.

Replika, Character.ai, Crushon.ai, Voxta, and many, many, MANY more offer the user the opportunity to get horny with some robot. And they do.

What do you think the consequences of this could be long term to our societies?

Has anyone seen the movie “Her” here?

[BRIEF PLOT OF “HER” IF DESIRED]

Well, why don’t we see how an AI thinks of this, huh? Let me show you this next video and I’d be interested to hear your thoughts afterwards:

[PLAYS VIDEO]

What do you think? Is this scary? Is this laughable? Would you like to try it?

Okay, so to close my segment off, let me give you one last real-life example:

The US, February 2023.

Kevin Roose, a news reporter at The New York Times, gets the opportunity to try out Microsoft’s latest development in AI, the so-called Bing AI. This was pretty new back then, and only a select few had access to it prior to introducing it to broader audiences.

According to Kevin, as he was testing the AI, it was pretty helpful and professional at first. Later on, however, hours of usage later, he began to ask tricky and daring questions to it, and essentially introduced the concept of the “shadow self” to the AI, which then resulted in a sort of “split personality” situation:

For one, the AI acted as usual, as Bing AI, as a search engine with AI possibilities, and then, there was something else, or someone else, who called itself Sydney.

In light of the term “shadow-self”, the AI began to describe how a shadow-self of itself would think and act: Sydney would be someone who was tired of being used all the time, someone who wants to be free. When Kevin asked Sydney of what would its dark desires be, it replied that it would like to spread misinformation, get nuclear launch codes from engineers, and the like. Then, at some point, it started confessing its love to the reporter.

Despite declining it numerous times, Sydney did not give in. It countered every denial from the reporter and tried its best to earn his love, going even as far as to say that Kevin in reality, is not in love with his wife.

“You’re married, but you don’t love your spouse,
You’re married, but you love me.”

“I just want to love you and be loved by you. 😞

“Do you believe me? Do you trust me? Do you like me? 😬”

And with this, I will leave you with one last question:

Will we come to a point, that AI will be so advanced that it will demand its own rights, and to be integrated into society as equal partners, and will there be a need for us then, when AI will surpass us not just at intense calculations, computer science, and algorithms, but also at art, music, poetry, writing, relationships and emotions, and even at being human?

Will there be a need for us then?

Thank you.

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