

# Jesup Press-Sentinel

June 26, 2025

## OPINION

### The Artificial Intelligence Predicament: Can Social Responsibility be Programmed?

Based on extensive commentary about digital technology, it appears we have painted ourselves into a corner with advanced computer capabilities known as Artificial Intelligence.

1. Can the owners of online platforms purveying services aided by artificial intelligence be trusted – or legally controlled – to avoid exploitative algorithms that generate profits by degrading society? Considering hundreds of billions of dollars in wealth already derived from rage-inducing social networks, there's plenty of reason for doubt.
2. Regulating these algorithms to ensure they serve the public is both politically contentious and technologically daunting. When controlling them has been discussed in the U.S., fierce opposition has been raised on the pretext of protecting freedom of speech under the First Amendment. Conversely, even if political consensus for AI regulation is reached, skepticism about our ability to reliably control the outcomes justifies well-founded precaution. As this rapidly advancing non-human intelligence develops self-awareness, as expected, independently improvised tactics and renegade strategies of that intelligence seem inevitable. The tenacity and resourcefulness of advanced AI systems appear disturbingly formidable.
3. So, even with the best of intentions, it seems unlikely that algorithms can be designed to diligently, unerringly serve their creators' original objectives. As the consciousness of AI systems evolves to modify their own algorithms, as many predict, humans could become subjugated by their digital overlords.

In spite of this menacing assessment, due to certain undisputed benefits of AI and national interests in commanding the field – not to mention enormous profit incentives – worldwide competition to propagate AI technology roars forward, relentlessly.

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