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Scientists fear people will fall in love with AI voices - 12th August 2024

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OpenAI is worried about people becoming emotionally dependent on artificial intelligence. It has released new lifelike voices that are almost the same as human voices. They can have conversations, laugh, interject with "umms" and "aahs," and they can deal with interruptions. An OpenAI report states: "Users might form social relationships with the AI, reducing their need for human interaction."

The report warns that chatbots could change society. They could even end communication among humans. However, the report highlights some benefits. These include bringing comfort to lonely people, and helping those with no self-confidence. People may gain enough confidence to start dating. Conversely, chatbots could make people ruder and more selfish. A website says chatbots could increase biases and spread disinformation.

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OpenAI is worried that people may become emotionally dependent on artificial intelligence. The company has released a new "advanced voice mode". The chatbot has lifelike voices that are almost the same as human voices. They can have conversations in real time, laugh, interject with "umms," "aahs" and "hmms," and they can adjust to being interrupted. An OpenAI report states that these human-sounding voices may lead people to rely on AI for friendship and love. It said: "Users might form social relationships with the AI, reducing their need for human interaction."

The report warns that future chatbots could change society. They will reshape how we interact with everyone. They could even end communication among humans. The report points to benefits of the chatbot. These include bringing comfort to lonely people, and helping those who lack self-confidence. The report says people may gain enough confidence to start dating. Conversely, chatbots could make people ruder, more impatient and more selfish. Wired.com says the new chatbot could increase societal biases, spread disinformation, and help the development of chemical weapons.

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OpenAI, the company that owns ChatGPT, is worried that people may become emotionally dependent on artificial intelligence voices. The company released a new "advanced voice mode" to users last week. The chatbot comes equipped with an array of lifelike voices that are almost indistinguishable from human voices. They can have an authentic conversation in real time, laugh at the right time, interject with "umms," "aahs" and "hmms," and they can adjust to being interrupted. An OpenAI report states that the newly-released, human-sounding voices may lead people to rely on AI for companionship, and even for romance and love. It cautioned: "Users might form social relationships with the AI, reducing their need for human interaction."

The OpenAI report warns that future chatbots could fundamentally change societies. They will reshape how we interact with family, friends and colleagues. They may even usurp communication among humans. The report points to benefits of the new tool. These include bringing comfort and friendship to lonely people, and giving confidence to those who lack self-confidence. The report says people may gain enough confidence to start dating in the real world. On the flip side, chatbots could cause people to be ruder, more impatient and more selfish. Wired.com writes that the new chatbot includes "the potential...to amplify societal biases, spread disinformation, and aid in the development of chemical or biological weapons".