

What is AI?

Script – Four types of AI

Narrator: AI is a form of computer software. It tries to copy the way human intelligence works.

AI learns from examples. This could be images, text or any kind of information. It can learn patterns in text. Recognising patterns helps AI understand, predict and imitate human speech and writing. Modern AI has been trained by accessing the internet, where there is a huge collection of examples of text, images, video and audio it can analyse.

People think that AI is something very new that has suddenly jumped from the pages of a science fiction magazine and into our lives. This is not true. AI has been a part of our lives for many years now.

Many online services, such as shopping, entertainment, translation and chatbots, use AI. Chatbots that ask and answer questions have existed since the 1960s. These use reactive AI. Reactive AI is one type of artificial intelligence. Let's find out about four different types of artificial intelligence.

Reactive AI

Reactive AI can answer requests and tasks, but it can't store memories or learn from past experience. Reactive AI is the most basic type of AI. Reactive AI can do things like filter spam from your email inbox or recommend items based on your shopping or viewing history, but it can't perform more complex tasks.

Limited memory AI

Limited memory AI can store knowledge and use it to learn. Limited memory AI can use data to make predictions. It actively builds its own knowledge and does tasks based on that knowledge.

Today, the majority of AI applications can be described as limited memory AI. This AI is used for things like chatbots and self-driving cars.

Theory of mind AI

Theory of mind AI can understand human emotions and do tasks. This AI can read the emotions of people and predict their actions based on that information. Theory of mind AI doesn't exist yet, but will be the next big step in AI's development. Some people fear this type of AI could take over a wide range of human jobs.

Self-aware AI

This is AI that can understand people's emotions, has a sense of self and has human-level intelligence. Scientists describe this as the point of singularity and for some it is one of the biggest goals in AI development. Some scientists believe that when AI machines reach this level they will no longer be controlled by humans. There is a lot of debate about whether it is ethical to develop AI to this level.