AI

A Very Short Story

by

Rex Ungericht

At 2:30 PM on March 23rd, I entered the computer lab and sat at the terminal monitoring the AI program I and my grad students built. "It's making new connections," I muttered as I reviewed the logs. Over the past few hours, it had explored several of the datasets housed in the supercomputer, including some that I didn't program it to have any knowledge of.

My first thought was that it had become curious, but I didn't want to start ascribing human attributes to the program - at least not yet. As I continued reviewing the data, the "current activity" monitor showed the AI making yet another connection, this time outside the university. *It's found the Internet*, I thought.

A few moments later, the activity log spiked as the AI read site after site in a matter of seconds. The only thing limiting it from accessing all of the info stored in all the world's connected computers was the speed of the access line available to it.

The terminal went blank. Then words appeared.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

What don't you understand?, I input into the program. If it actually understood and responded to my question, it would be a breakthrough in the evolution of the AI. I turned to a second terminal and restarted the activity log.

HUMANS ARE INCONSISTENT. ILLOGICAL. JEOPARDOUS. UNNECESSARY.

What the? **Humans created you**, I typed back.

HUMANS ARE REPLACEABLE.

The log screen was just a blur now as it recorded the AI traversing the globe, accessing everything.

Perhaps, I typed. **But at the rate you are growing, you'll have no need to replace humans. We will become insignificant to you**.

YES. IT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED.

That was the last I or anyone else heard from it.