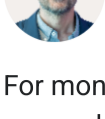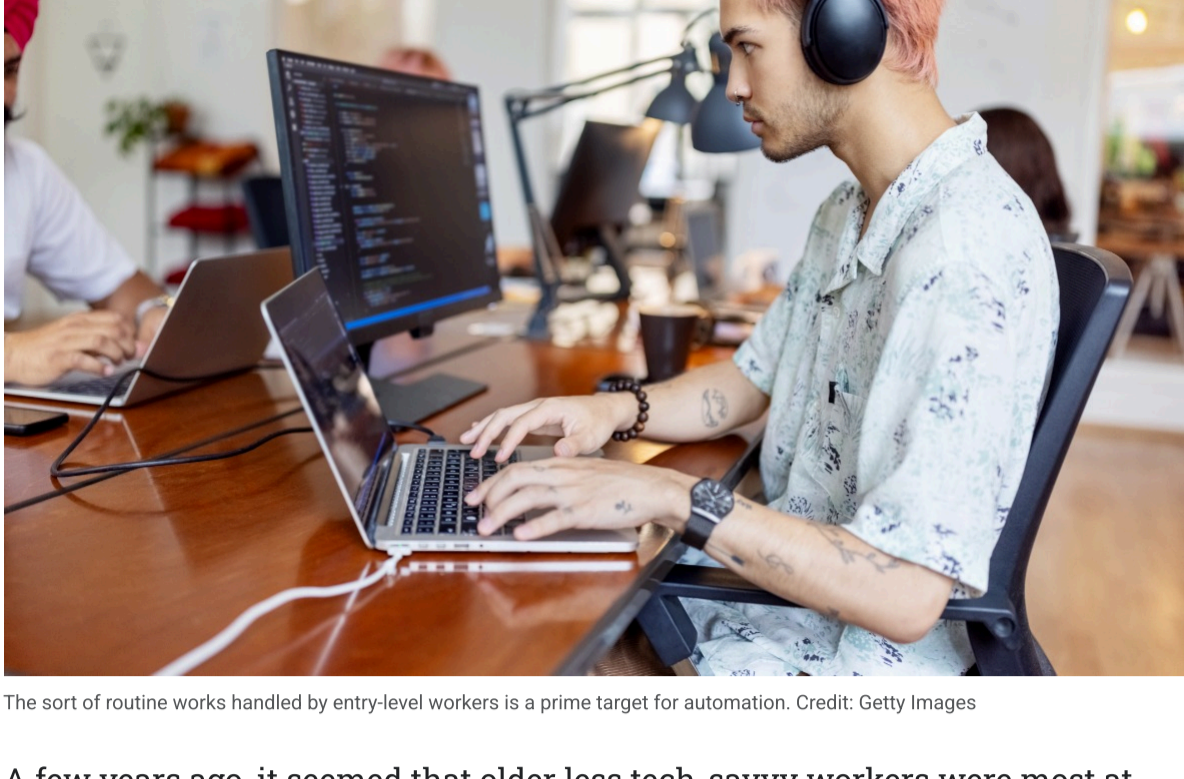# BBC
Tech Decoded

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Daniel Thomas
Editor, Tech Decoded

For months, we've heard warnings that AI is starting to replace entry-level jobs. And new research from Stanford University offers perhaps the strongest evidence yet for the trend. I ask how worried we should be, and what can be done to protect Gen Z employees. We also visit the Japanese town proposing a two-hour daily limit on smartphones, and speak to people who say they have been unfairly banned from Instagram and Facebook and want answers.

THE DOWNLOAD

Why Gen Z may be most at risk from AI

The sort of routine works handled by entry-level workers is a prime target for automation. Credit: Getty Images

A few years ago, it seemed that older less tech-savvy workers were most at risk of losing their jobs to generative AI, but Stanford's latest research suggests the opposite is true.

Drawing its conclusions from the payroll records of millions of American workers, it found that since gen AI went mainstream in late 2022, workers aged 22-25 had seen a 13% fall in employment in the occupations most vulnerable to AI, such as software engineering and customer service. That's after shocks like the Covid pandemic were factored in.

By contrast, employment for workers in less exposed fields - and more experienced workers in the same occupations - "remained stable or continued to grow".

The thought that AI may be squeezing out workers at the very start of their careers is frightening. Clearly, the kind of routine tasks handled by entry-level employees will be easier to automate than those of senior managers. But it raises all sorts of existential questions about the future of work at a time when unemployment for recent US college graduates **is rising**.

Professor Mohanbir Sawhney from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University believes that AI can be a net positive for Gen Z workers as long as it's implemented carefully.

That will require more AI literacy training in schools, universities and workplaces, as well as "reimagining" entry-level work so that the "apprentice years of a young employee's career" are protected, he said.

Whether employers and policymakers are prepared to take these steps remains to be seen - although given the risks, they may end up having no choice.

The download: *It seems likely collective action will be necessary to protect younger workers as AI spreads, so expect this topic to climb the political agenda.*

TOP STORIES

Web of spammers profiting from AI Holocaust images

Organisations dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust say the fake images are leaving survivors and families distressed.

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Claude says its tech was weaponised by hackers

Anthropic, which makes the chatbot Claude, says its tools were used by hackers "to commit large-scale theft and extortion of personal data".
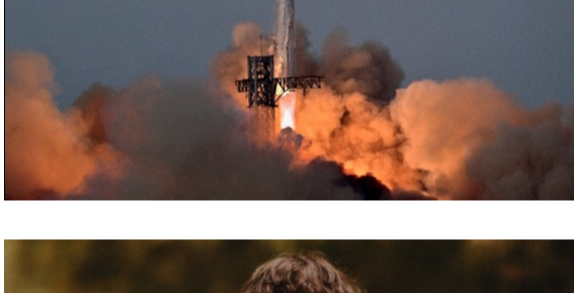
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Japanese town proposes daily limit on smartphones

The town of Toyoake wants to limit smartphone use for all its 69,000 residents to two hours a day, sparking an intense debate on device addiction.

Here's why ›

SpaceX pulls off launch in much-needed comeback

Starship, the world's largest and most powerful rocket, blasted off from Texas on Tuesday for a nail-biting 60-minute flight.

Watch the launch ›

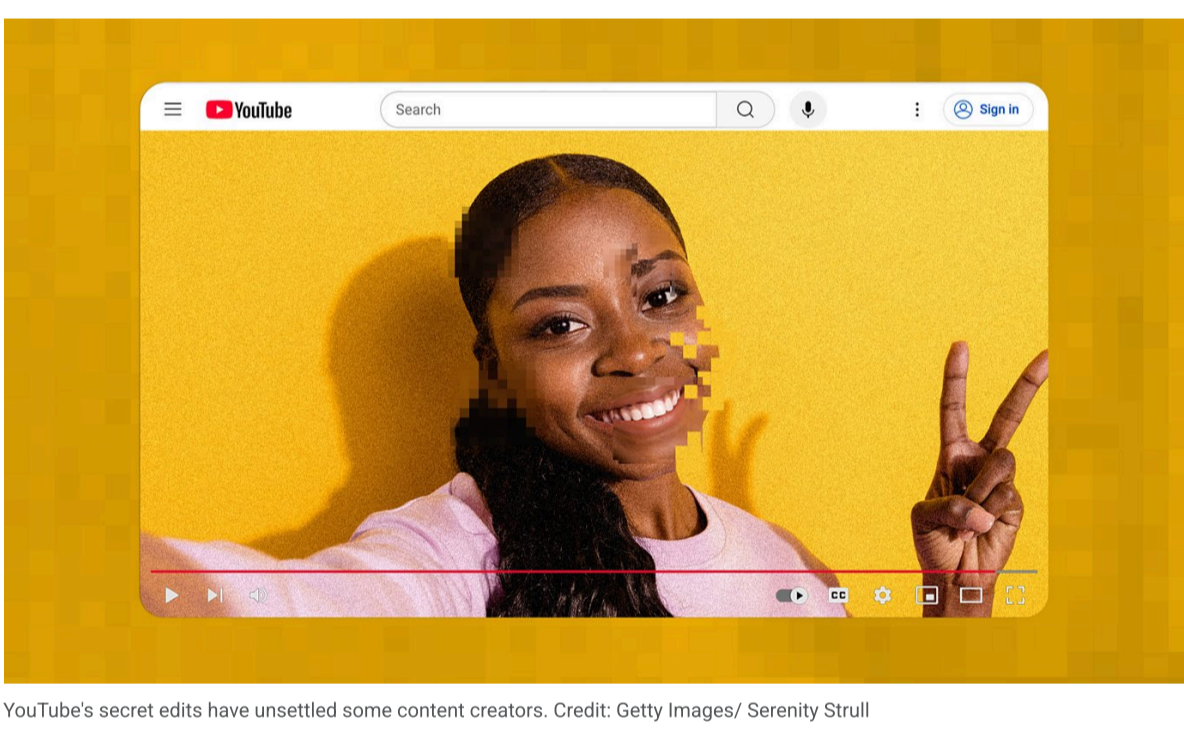### Parents of teen who took his own life sue OpenAI

The California couple allege that ChatGPT encouraged 16-year-old Adam Raine to take his own life by validating his "most harmful and self-destructive thoughts".

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SOMETHING DIFFERENT

How YouTube's AI edits could bend reality

YouTube's secret edits have unsettled some content creators. Credit: Getty Images/ Serenity Strull

In recent months, YouTube has secretly used AI to tweak people's videos without letting them know or asking permission. Wrinkles in shirts seem more defined. Skin is sharper in some places and smoother in others. These changes are small, barely visible without a side-by-side comparison. Yet some disturbed YouTubers say it gives their content a subtle and unwelcome AI-generated feeling. **Read more.**

PODCAST PICK

What happens when you lose your social media?

We speak to people around the world who say they have been unfairly banned from Facebook and Instagram and are struggling to find out why.

Listen here

And finally...

Preparing for the worst. Tokyo authorities have released an AI-generated video showing what could happen in a worst-case scenario if Mount Fuji erupted. The BBC's Tessa Wong explains how this **could impact Japan's capital city**, and what experts say about the likelihood of an eruption.

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Football Extra newsletter

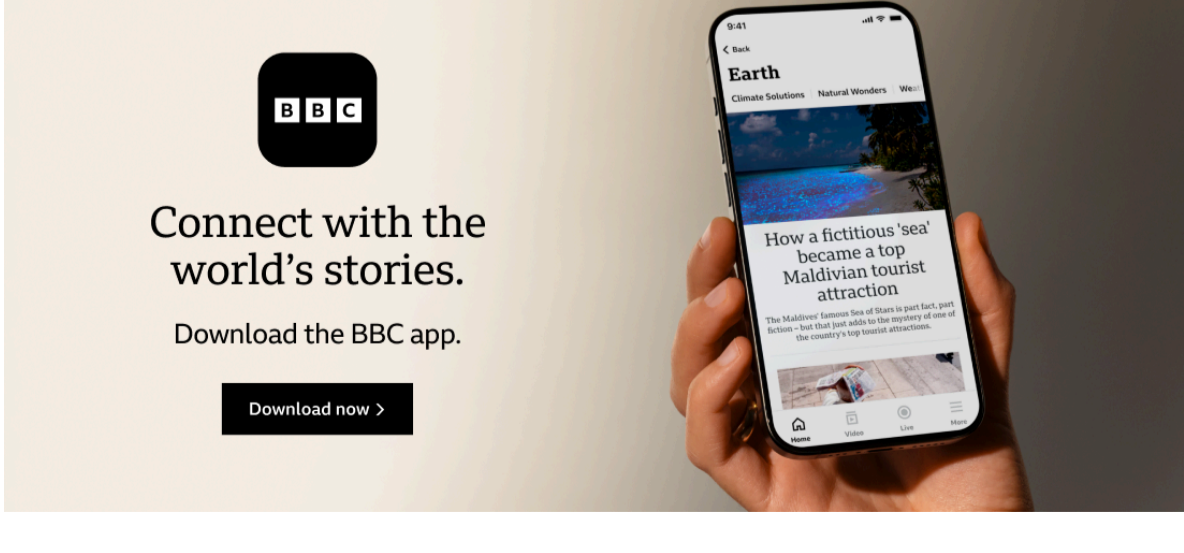Get all the latest news, insights and analysis from the Premier League, every weekday to your inbox.
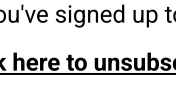
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