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Tech Decoded

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Daniel Thomas

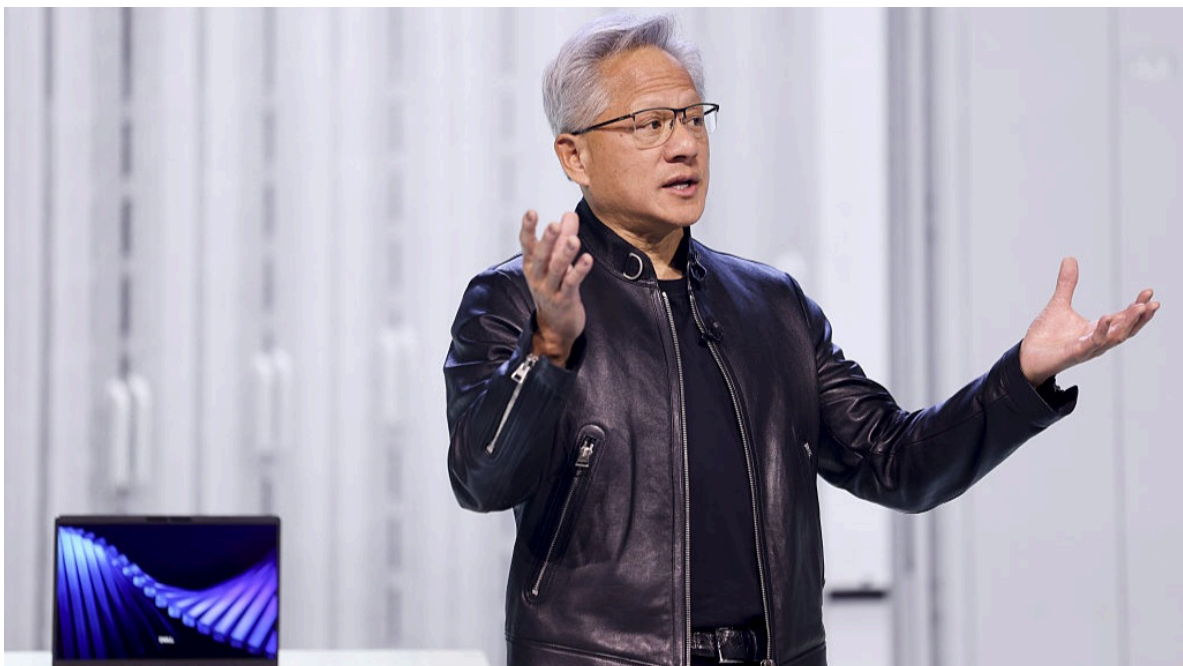
Editor, Tech Decoded

Hello. Is the public losing faith in AI's ability to benefit their lives? This month, several business leaders – including the former boss of Google – were booed for mentioning the technology during speeches to university graduates. Research has also suggested that many of us are now more anxious than excited about AI's impact. I take stock below. Plus, **Jonathan Beale** does a deep dive on Ukraine's increasingly sophisticated drone technology.

PS: This is the last time I'll be sending you Tech Decoded. **Lily Jamali** will continue to deliver the newsletter on Mondays (although, it will be Tuesday next week due to the holiday). We're taking a short pause on this Friday edition and will return with a refreshed format focused on how our lives are impacted by new technology. Look out for it in your inbox. It's been a pleasure to produce this newsletter – thanks for your ongoing support.

THE DOWNLOAD

Can AI shake its 'doomer' image?



Nvidia boss Jensen Huang is worried people will stop engaging with AI out of fear. Credit: Getty Images

Nvidia's results this week once again highlighted that the AI industry continues to see explosive growth. But while investors may be happy, everyday citizens seem increasingly disillusioned with the rise of this technology.

Last weekend, Eric Schmidt – who built a multi-billion dollar fortune at Google – **was met with jeers during a speech** at the University of Arizona after comparing AI with the rise of computers four decades ago.

Meanwhile, real estate executive Gloria Caulfield and music mogul Scott Borchetta had similar receptions at separate graduation ceremonies after mentioning the technology.

It reflects a growing concern that **AI could destroy entry-level jobs**. But it also fits with a wider trend.

The Pew Research Center has found that about half of Americans feel the rise of AI in their daily lives makes them feel "more concerned than excited". Meanwhile, about 50% of Europeans worry that AI will scam them, while 40% see it as a threat to society, according to research from Forrester.

Warnings from prominent figures in tech about **job losses**, **dangerous AI models** and **threats to humanity** may have fuelled these concerns. Indeed, Nvidia boss Jensen Huang has chided his peers for promoting a "doomer narrative" that could overshadow the huge potential upsides of AI.

"My greatest concern is that we scare ... people... to the point where AI is so unpopular in the United States, or people are so afraid of it, that they don't actually engage it," he said last month.

The discontent has already sparked protests, **strikes** and **anger over "AI slop"**, not to mention a wave of lawsuits and increased regulatory scrutiny.

Enza Iannopollo, from Forrester, says the tech industry should not ignore the signals being sent.

"It matters a lot if people don't trust – or hate – AI. To put it in simple terms: this will limit AI adoption and, therefore, the transformative potential this technology can have in our private and professional lives."

The download: Growing disillusionment in AI could affect society at all levels. Can the tech industry improve public trust?

TOP STORIES



SpaceX postpones launch as mega share sale looms

The delay comes just a day after Elon Musk's rocket firm revealed plans for a record-breaking stock market debut.

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Meta settles US social media addiction case

A school district had sued the firm over the costs of fighting a mental health crisis allegedly caused by Meta's platforms.

[Get the story >](#)



Ukraine's drone strategy: From AI to interceptors

More than four years on from Russia's invasion, Ukraine has built an increasingly sophisticated, layered air defence system.

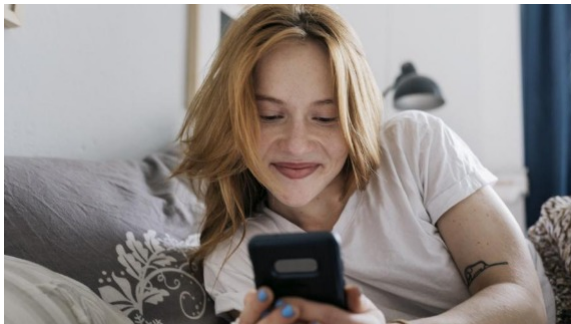
[Here's how >](#)



Google to release first smart glasses since 2015

The firm plans to launch a new device this autumn, more than a decade after its famed failure with Google Glass.

[Learn more >](#)



The dating start-ups trying to banish scammers

Tech firms are using new techniques to tackle the common problem of fake profiles on dating sites.

[Read how >](#)

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

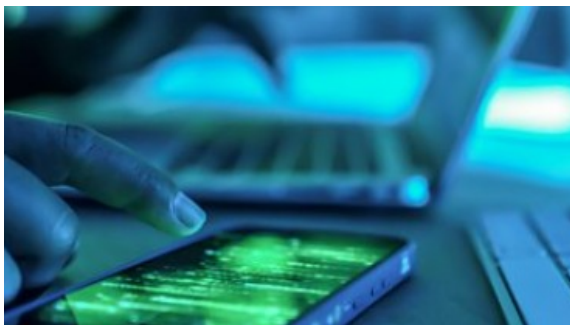
Google's fight against AI manipulation



Unscrupulous companies have found a way to spread misinformation via chatbots. Credit: Serenity Strull/ BBC/ Getty Images

In February, a BBC investigation revealed a simple way AI chatbots were being made to dole out misinformation to the public on topics as serious as health and personal finance. Now, Google has updated its policies in a bid to address the problem – and there are signs that other AI companies are following suit. **Thomas Germain has the story.**

PODCAST PICK



Is the AI cyber threat real?

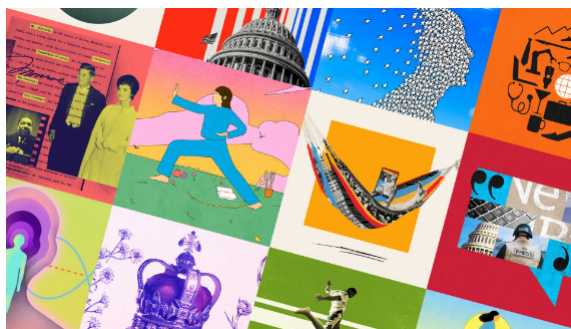
Tech Life talks to the experts about Mythos, a powerful new AI model that some say could supercharge hacking.

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And finally...

A man has been arrested in Texas accused of intentionally driving his Tesla Cybertruck into a lake to use the vehicle's "wade mode" feature. A witness captured the partially-submerged vehicle, which had to be removed by the local fire department. [Watch the footage here.](#)

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