"Al: a blessing or curse for humanity?" | FT Tech, December 18 2023, produced by Alpha Grid

This eight-and-a-half-minute video provides some excellent, summary analysis of where AI is taking us, while also stressing that we do not really know what will happen in the future. To prepare listening to the video, read the summary of the transcript generated by GPT-4, and also review the definitions of the most unusual words and expressions used in the transcript. (The list too was compiled by GPT-4, and edited to eliminate names of persons, and other less-interesting terms.)

Prompt for GPT-4: Summarise the following text. Then take the ten most unusual words and define them:... <transcript of video pasted here>.

GPT-4 (28 December 2023): Summary

The text discusses the rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and its implications for humanity. It highlights the increasing capabilities of AI, which are beginning to rival human abilities, leading to discussions about the technological singularity. This concept, borrowed from physics, refers to a future point where AI surpasses human intelligence, making future predictions uncertain. Concerns are raised about AI's potential to disrupt jobs and societal structures, with the advent of the "economic singularity" where most jobs are automated. However, there's also optimism about AI aiding in solving complex problems like cancer and contributing to human progress. The text emphasizes the need for careful regulation and ethical considerations in AI development, ensuring control and beneficial use. The potential for humans to merge with AI, becoming transhumanists, is also discussed, suggesting an enhanced future for humanity.

List of usual words (and definitions) in the video (selected by GPT-4) and then edited.

- 1. **Wicked Problem**: A problem that is difficult or impossible to solve because of incomplete, contradictory, and changing requirements that are often difficult to recognize.
- 2. **Singularity**: In this context, refers to a hypothetical moment in time when technological growth becomes uncontrollable and irreversible, resulting in unforeseeable changes to human civilization.
- 3. **Vernor Vinge**: A retired San Diego State University professor of mathematics, computer scientist, and science fiction author known for his works on the technological singularity.
- 4. **Ransomware**: A type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.
- 5. **Off Switch**: In the context of AI and technology, this refers to a mechanism or feature that allows humans to completely shut down or deactivate an AI system or a robotic device, especially in cases where the system is malfunctioning or posing a threat.
- 6. Disruption: In a business or technological context, disruption refers to the process by which a smaller company with fewer resources is able to successfully challenge established incumbent businesses. In a broader sense, it's used to describe the effect of new technologies or methods that significantly alter the way things are done or industries operate.
- 7. **Social Contract**: A theory or model in political philosophy that typically refers to an implicit agreement among the members of a society to cooperate for social benefits. In the context of AI and automation, it implies a need for a new set of societal agreements or policies to manage the consequences of technological advancements.
- 8. **Luddite**: Originally, members of an early 19th-century workers' group who destroyed labour-saving machinery as a protest; now generally used to describe someone opposed to industrialization, automation, computerization, or new technologies in general.
- 9. **Abundance**: In the context of the text, it refers to a situation where all necessary goods and services, such as food, healthcare, and education, are plentiful and possibly free.
- 10. **Transhumanists**: Individuals who advocate for the transformation of the human condition by developing and making widely available sophisticated technologies to enhance human intellect and physiology.
- 11. **Egotism**: The practice of talking and thinking about oneself excessively because of an undue sense of self-importance.
- 12. **Prone** (to): to be inclined to do something, to behave in a certain way.
- 13. **Cognitive Stupidity**: This term refers to actions or decisions that are foolish or illogical despite being made by individuals who are generally intelligent or capable. It highlights the discrepancy between an individual's cognitive ability and their occasional irrational or poor decision-making
- 14. **Moderna**: Refers to Moderna Inc., a pharmaceutical and biotechnology company known for its mRNA-based vaccine against COVID-19.