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YOUR VIEW

Don't fear artificial intelligence. We'll adapt to this latest technology.



Kellie Walenciak

As we head into the era of artificial intelligence and cutting-edge innovations, a wave of apprehension washes over me. The heart of my unrest lies in the catch-

22 of technological advancement. We're juggling the paradox of our need to advance against the innate urge to protect our jobs, livelihoods and the fabric of our societies.

Historically, humans have instinctually adapted to environmental changes for survival. From learning to harness fire to building the first wheel, our species has navigated the rough seas of existence, using innovation and adaptability as our guiding North Star.

However, we now stand at a crossroads. Technological change is outpacing our ability to adapt. Automation threatens to displace jobs faster than we can retrain, and AI's progression engulfs sectors we never thought susceptible to mechanization.

Many argue that we should pump the brakes on technology, easing the societal transition and preventing large-scale job displacement. I empathize with this perspective. After all, we're talking about livelihoods, about humans with families, mortgages, dreams, and fears. Moreover, this is not just about individuals; businesses and governments also face adaptation challenges. Reskilling workforces and restructuring economies is an onerous, costly task requiring a collective effort.

However, empathy and nostalgia for a world less complicated can't halt the march of progress. Despite the desire to protect people from change and its accompanying uncertainty, the world won't wait for us to catch up. Our survival has always hinged on our adaptability. Yet, this time, our adaptation necessitates a cognitive and societal shift.



Members of the The Writers Guild of America picket outside Fox Studios in Los Angeles. Getting control of the use of artificial intelligence is a central issue in the current strikes of Hollywood's actors and writers. **ASHLEY LANDIS/AP**

Slowing down technological advancement might seem like an easy solution, but it's shortsighted. Not only would it stifle innovation, but it also neglects that technology isn't solely a disruptor — it's an enabler. It opens opportunities for new jobs, greater productivity and solutions to pressing global issues.

To manage this contrast, we must seek a balanced approach. Yes, we must advance, but not blindly or recklessly. We must be conscious of the social and economic implications, prepar-

ing for change rather than merely reacting to it.

Adaptation in the age of rapid technological advancement is complex. It demands a commitment from each of us to lifelong learning and skill acquisition. It requires businesses to take on the role of educators, investing in their employees to foster a resilient workforce. It calls for government policies that incentivize reskilling and provide safety nets for those caught in the transition.

Moreover, we must engage a broad spectrum of disciplines

to navigate this future landscape. It's not enough to depend solely on computer scientists or engineers. We need sociologists, psychologists, philosophers, historians and even writers at the table. We need institutions that promote interdisciplinary dialogue, helping us bridge the widening gap between technology and the humanities.

In essence, we stand on the brink of a new frontier — a brave new world shaped as much by algorithms and AI as it is by human needs, ethics and soci-

etal norms. The challenges we face are as daunting as they are exciting. The key lies in shifting our perception of technology as a threat to viewing it as a tool, one that, if wielded with wisdom and foresight, can lead us into a future where humans don't merely survive but thrive.

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