

# Leading AI researcher gives sobering warning about OpenAI's AGI ambitions

Article

**The news:** Eliezer Yudkowsky, a founder in the field of artificial general intelligence (AGI) research, is saying to “shut it all down.”

- Yudkowsky, co-founder of the **Machine Intelligence Research Institute**, says the letter urging a six-month moratorium on training AI models more powerful than **GPT-4** doesn't go nearly far enough, per [Time](#).
- He said he's joined by others in the AI field who have privately concluded that **the most likely result of building an AGI is that literally everyone on Earth will die** and that it's "the obvious thing that would happen."

**The problem:** Companies like **OpenAI** and **DeepMind** are going [full throttle on developing AGI](#)—systems that surpass human intelligence—but no one understands how current advanced AI models work.

- **University of California, Berkeley**, professor of computer science **Stuart Russell** said he [asked Microsoft whether GPT-4 has internal goals](#) of its own that it's pursuing. The response was: "We haven't the faintest idea."
- A truly **safe AGI might be impossible unless its inner workings can be explained** and aligned with human values.
- Strained global diplomacy and a [tech arms race between the US and China](#) might make **an international agreement to halt advanced model training a long shot**.

**Do we need AGI?** [Widespread workforce disruption](#) and human extinction are high-stakes consequences for a technology that we probably don't need.

- Humans are skilled generalist thinkers, and thanks to evolution, we could collectively get even smarter with more investments made in human learning as opposed to machine learning.
- The gaps in our intellectual capabilities involve difficulties in solving specific problems like climate change, disease, and space travel.
- Instead of building AGI, humans could put **more resources into small, focused AI models adept at specific use cases** like [discovery of new drugs](#) and materials while ensuring we maintain control over AI.

## Demographic Profile of US Adults Who Trust vs. Do Not Trust Generative AI, Feb 2023

% of respondents in each group

	Very trustworthy	Not at all trustworthy	In-between/ undecided
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	40%	53%	53%
Male	60%	47%	47%
<b>Age</b>			
Gen Z adults (18-26)	16%	11%	13%
Millennials (27-42)	47%	29%	29%
Gen X (43-58)	24%	23%	25%
Baby boomers (59-77)	13%	37%	33%
<b>Education level</b>			
Less than college	64%	63%	66%
Bachelor's degree	19%	22%	22%
Postgraduate degree	17%	14%	12%
<b>Residence</b>			
Urban	48%	22%	27%
Suburban	33%	48%	48%
Rural	19%	30%	25%

Source: Morning Consult as cited in company blog, Feb 22, 2023

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