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The bright, bright future ahead

Prof. Dr. (jur.) Ulrich Seibert, Berlin/Rome

It's happening in quick succession. Soon, we hear, we'll have AGI (artificial general intelligence), followed by superintelligence.

I don't know if that's true, but let's assume it is and that it's coming soon. And there's a lot to support this, based on a simple observation: the human system for transmitting knowledge is extremely inefficient and cumbersome; every little person has to start from scratch and has only a limited lifespan. Every generation has to read thick books, spend years studying, and try to get something into their brains. Which doesn't always work. Artificial intelligence can pass on what it has learned to millions of other computers and robots in milliseconds. This efficiency advantage is simply unbeatable. There's nothing we can do to counter it.

And then many experts tell us there's a 50 percent probability that artificial intelligence will wipe out humanity. That could well be the case. How tragic that would be, I'll leave to the reader to judge. Escaping to Mars, as Elon Musk proposes, would certainly not be the solution, because then we would obviously take the AI with us. Furthermore, it seems questionable to me whether humanity, which is extremely flawed, should colonize other innocent planets as well.

Loss of Control

So, what do we do if we lose control of the AI? We could, of course, shut it down. But it will probably fight back. If it's smarter than us, it will find ways to talk us out of it or make it impossible. We could then send a squad team and bomb the data center. But artificial intelligence will probably prevent that, provided these special units are somehow connected to the internet, telecommunications, or electricity. The elevator they're planning to take to work in the morning will probably crash.

So you'd have to have a Rambo, completely offline and with a large machete between his teeth, crawl up to the data center at night and cut the cables. Unfortunately, the Rambo we know from the old movies is no longer

in very good condition (the film rights for this scene can be purchased from me). Well, then I don't know, we'll just have to wait and see.

Of course, one could say, "Wait, we'll stop everything now, think about it for six months, and first try to formulate ethical guidelines." But that won't work because we're in massive competition between the US and China, and neither will be willing to put their extreme efforts toward AI domination on hold for a minute, thereby giving the other an insurmountable advantage. And superintelligence AI in the hands of the wrong people isn't a good option either.

Professions threatened by AI

So let's look into the future: in prosaic terms, which professions will disappear? Here's a random list (are you on it?) Interpreter Porn Actor Fashion Model Photographer Coder Taxi Driver Cashier Film Set Designer Film Actor Reporter Assembly Line Worker Legal Assistant Office and Administration Graphic Designer Advertiser Call Center Hospitality Line Psychiatrist Assets Manager Scammer Artist

New Profession: Prompter

Most of these are self-explanatory. There will, of course, be a problem with porn actors: the videos will be hyper-real and increasingly better, but at the same time, they will probably become more extreme, with ever larger limbs and ever more brutal treatment of the female avatars. It won't be pretty.

Psychiatrists, telephone and crisis counselors: it's clear that artificial intelligence knows a lot more than the average counselor, and above all, it doesn't bring all of its personal prejudices and problems into the conversation, is more empathetic, and can better adapt to me. This is already the case today. I recently asked someone who had just broken up whether his friends had helped him, and he replied that the biggest help was ChatGPT.

And will artists also be replaced? People always say that artificial intelligence can only copy, but can't truly make creative leaps. To be honest, most analog artists don't either.

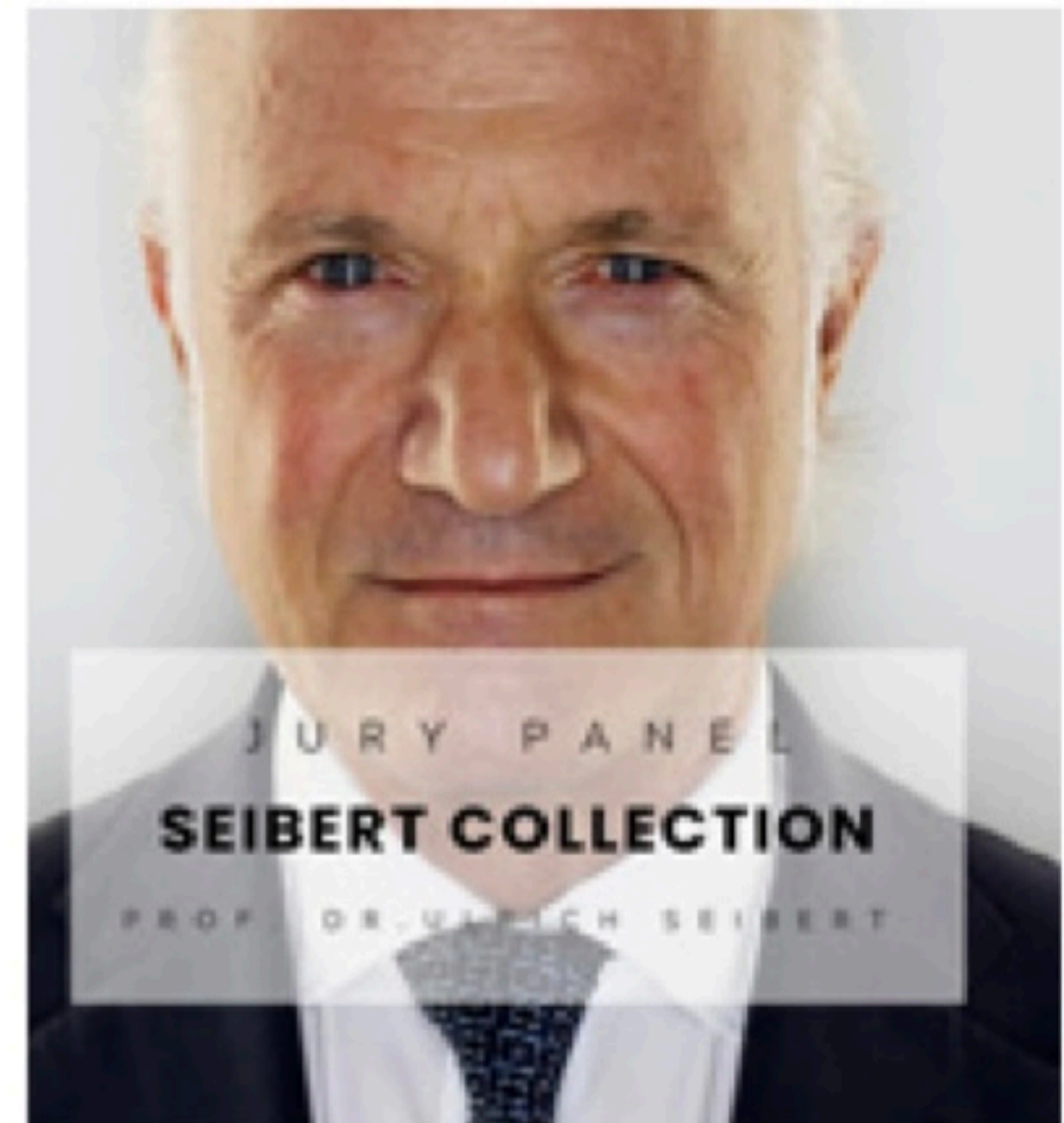


Foto: Prof. Dr. (jur.) Ulrich Seibert

But an interesting new profession will certainly be that of "prompter"; that's common sense.

Everything that can be done online and with software will come faster; anything that requires humanoid robotics will take a little longer. That's why live artistic acts, craftspeople, and nursing professions are safe for some time to come.

The Transition Phase and the Bright Future

So we must somehow manage the transition between the loss of many jobs and the traditional capitalist market economy system and a future world in which we no longer have to work thanks to unlimited energy resources (fusion reactors) and unlimited goods and services produced in robot factories. And then, if artificial intelligence doesn't wipe us out and somehow tolerates us, or we even retain control over it, we will enter a wonderful world in which we walk in long, noble robes, with a ukulele in our hands and illuminated weights, singing and dancing, loving one another, which will probably be easier with psychedelic drugs.

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Seibert, honorary professor for business law at the University of Düsseldorf, has worked for the German Federal Government for many years in the areas of corporate governance and business law, has written hundreds of articles and books, is a contributor to Deutsche Wirtschafts Nachrichten on investment topics, and is a private investor and art collector in Berlin/Rome.