

AI Impact on Employment

Proposal to Develop a Technical Report in INCITS AI Technical Committee

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To: NIST RFI on 'Developing a Federal AI Standards Engagement Plan'

Submitted by: James Schoening, InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS), Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technical Committee (TC). James.schoening@ieee.org

Overview

A proposal to develop a Technical Report entitled, 'AI Impact on Employment' is advancing within INCITS AI TC and could use NIST engagement.

Scope

This technical report will address societal concerns that artificial intelligence technologies could:

- a. Eliminate large numbers of existing jobs
- b. Cause a permanent and substantial reduction in total available jobs
- c. Cause a portion of the workforce to be unable to outperform AI in any type of job and therefore unable to find any job, even with retraining.

Project Need

There are significant societal concerns on these topics. Some are likely valid, some may be misperceived, and for some, it may be too early to conclude anything (but certain things could be watched for). There are many media articles on these topics, which often lack economic rigor. At least 100 such media articles will be reviewed and tabulated to show the extent of this societal concern. This report will use economic rigor and consensus to arrive at conclusions that can be understood and accepted by all stakeholders, including the media, business, government, and the public.

Stakeholders of Technical Report

Media: Write about economically justified predictions and use economic rationale in proposing solutions.

Business: Make decisions based on economic rationale. Innovate and invest based on economic rigor.

Government: Recognize economically justified predictions and seek solutions based on economic rationale. Avoid unintended consequences. Gain public trust in embracing AI development. Use sound economics to maintain AI advantage over adversaries.

Public: Prepare for economically justified predictions, such as the need for adopting a system for lifelong learning. Gain trust in business and government aggressive adoption of AI Technology. Gain the benefits of economic growth and improved quality of life from AI adoption.

Next Standards Steps

1. NIST could engage in vetting this proposal within INCITS AI Technical Committee, and could seek an experienced economics writer to help author it. (The author of this RFI submission is the proposed Technical Editor.) It is on the agenda for 19 June 2019 and may be ready for approval by 24 July 2019.
2. NIST could help determine if this draft Technical Report, as it matures and gains consensus, should be kept in the US INCITS AI TC or proposed as a New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) to ISO/IEC-SC42 Artificial Intelligence.