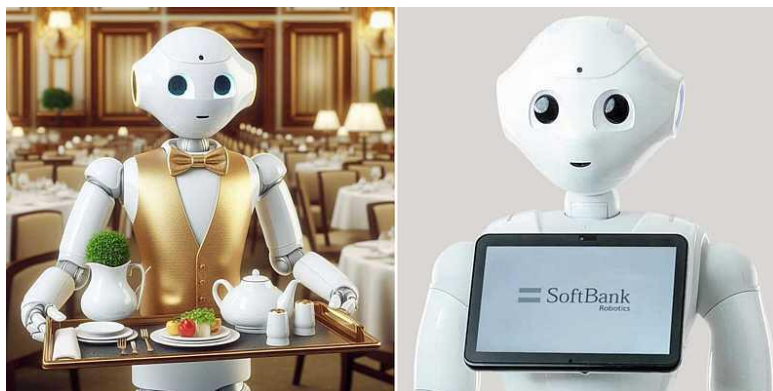## AI has a Lot to Learn

Microsoft's AI is in the news again, as a employee warns that the Bing AI image creator, now rebranded under the Copilot name, is producing content that is inappropriate, dangerous, and derivative of other work.

This is clearly a trademark issue at Copilot: On the left is a robot image created from a prompt starting with: "a white robot waiter with gold vest..." And on the right is a real robot called Pepper, made by SoftBank Robotics.
See Pepper here: https://us.softbankrobotics.com/pepper

Meanwhile, Google's Bard, now renamed Gemini, is currently declining to create images of people, because the AI, programmed with an attempt to be

racially diverse and inclusive, has been creating black vikings and female popes.

> ✦ We are working to improve Gemini's ability to generate images of people. We expect this feature to return soon and will notify you in release updates when it does.

Well, duh. It's creating random art based on images found online, with first-draft human rules applied quickly. So it's garbage in, garbage out. The human that typed the art request should be filtering the results. I use AI-assisted art, and most of what the AIs create is either boring, mangled, bizarre, cluttered, ugly, or off-topic. And yes, it's derivative and familiar. I have to choose what's on-topic, and choose one result that I can edit into a good illustration that is not based on just the work of one or a few other people. The result is a new image. Is it derivative of something, sometime? Yes, the best illustrations are derivative of two categories not expected to be together.

I learned to write by reading many, many books, nearly all of which are, or were, covered by copyright. My writing style is based on the sum total of those works, plus my own interpretations and insights. My visual style when creating AI-assisted art is based on having seen other images and movies, and what I learned from multiple books on photographic composition decades ago. AIs are being trained to do just that, and some randomness is thrown in as a form of creativity. If anything, properly-trained AIs should be drawing on far more sources than I do, if the prompts used to create writing and artwork do not attempt to mis-use the AI to create work that is specifically derivative or designed to imitate specific people.

There's a lot of that going on. I've seen issues. There is what's called 'fan art' where AIs are used to create new images of movie characters in new scenes. Some of that is OK, and some of what's out there would clearly be inappropriate use of trademarked characters and works. But that's mis-use of a power tool, and there's always going to be that–we don't prevent the creation of tools just because they're subject to mis-use. I've also seen images that were clearly created with a prompt like "image of
 doing ... in the artistic style of ..." and that can be either derivative work or libel, which is a legal issue if the subject or artist are still alive.

AI image and text generation are young. There are bumps in the path ahead. But they learn based on what media they are told to consume by their creators. These are power tools. We are just beginning to learn how to use them. At first, it's for small tasks. "Create an illustration of..." and then it's for big tasks, like reducing the workload of an entire group of workers at a large company, like UPS. They're already doing that, and laying off managers. There are both good and bad sides to that, but humans are making those decisions, not AIs.

More information:

Google's Black Vikings, etc: https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2024/02/googles-hidden-aidiversity-prompts-lead-to-outcry-over-historicallyinaccurate-images/

Microsoft's AI Issues: https://www.cnbc.com/2024/03/06/microsoft-ai-engineer-says-copilot-designer-creates-disturbing-images.html
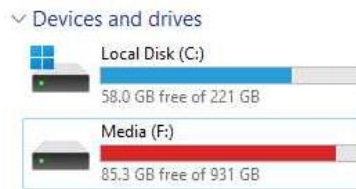
UPS using AI to replace Managers:

https://www.notebookcheck.net/UPS-lays-off-12-000-managers-as-AI-replaces-jobs.802229.0.html

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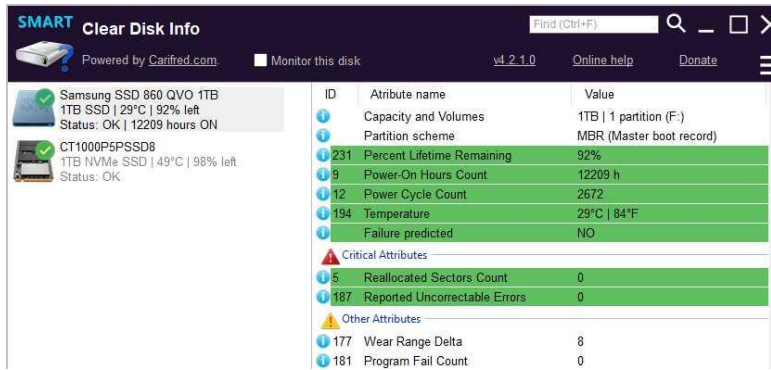

Should I Replace my PC's drive?

Computer drives fail. They fill up. They wear out, either predictably or spectacularly. Here are the issues.

There are still some spinning hard drives in current computers. That's a hybrid of a phonograph and a tape recorder. They're obsolete, for everything except external backup drives. If the drive in your computer has moving parts, replace it with a solid state drive (SSD) for a 8x speed increase, or more.

Is the drive 128Gb? Some cheaper PC's have a SSD installed that's only 128Gb, and it will fill up just from Windows updates and patches. **If it's showing red in Explorer** it's over 90% full, and patches will no longer install. Replace any drive over 90% full or 128 Gb.
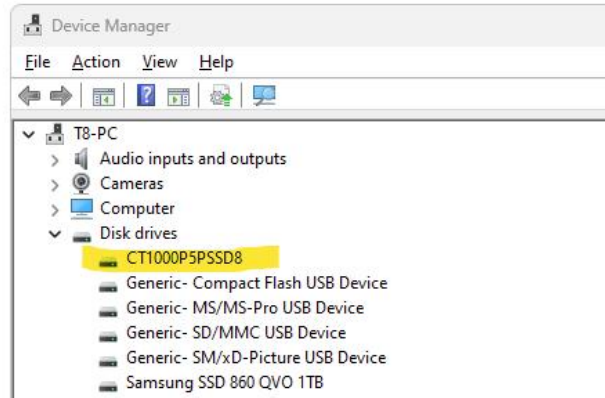
Is the drive wearing out? Error messages that mention files that cannot be written, or anything full, or cyclical redundancy errors, mean that the drive is in poor health. Some issues can be fixed; others should lead to immediate backup and replacement.

There are many programs to check drive condition, and for solid state drives, to check remaining expected life. I find 'Clear Disk Info' the easiest to read. Green is good, red is bad, and the percentage of use remaining is shown. It's free for manual use, and has real-time monitoring and alerts in a paid version. Replace SSDs showing less than 70% remaining life.

Clear Disk Info: https://www.carifred.com/cleardiskinfo/

Drive Identification

But is your drive spinning, or too small? You can right-click the Windows start button (the logo key), choose Device Manager, expand the lines below Disk drives, and the first drive listed is usually the boot drive. Copy the model number, and search online for that model number and the word 'specifications' and you'll see what type of drive it is, and the reviews and comments for that drive.