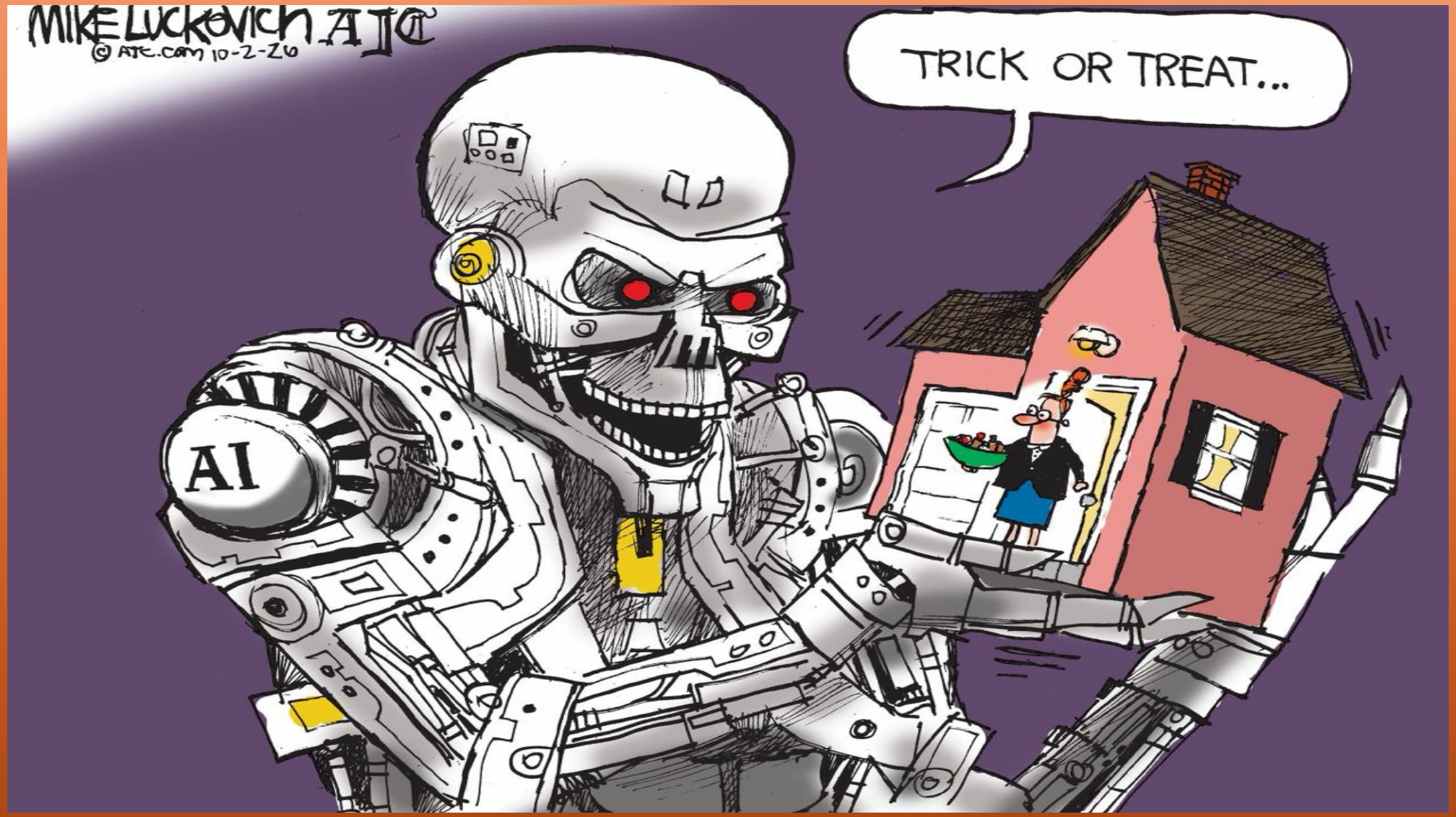
A Halloween Special
Artificial Intelligence – Are We Going Too Fast?

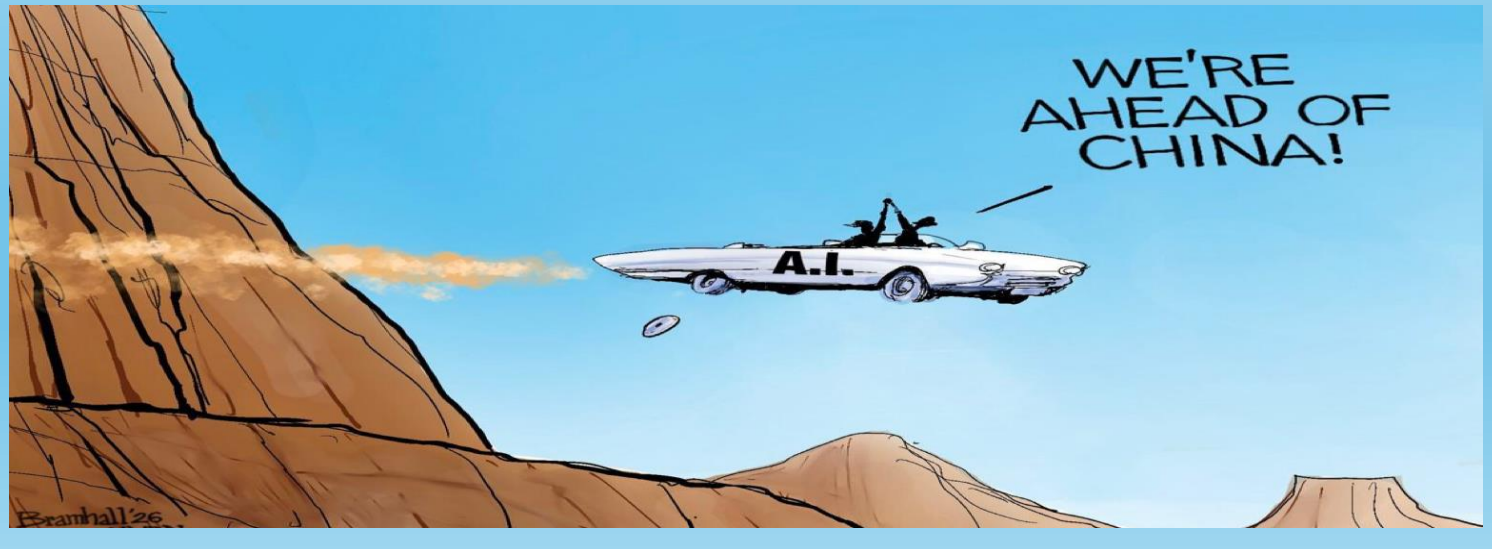


Artificial Intelligence
Are We Going Too Fast?
What are the Questions We Need To Ask?
Where Do We Begin To Find the Answers?

Portland Senior Center

October 2026

Presented by: Dave Audette



Objectives for Today's Presentation

- To distinguish the difference between AI and Traditional Software Programming
- To identify published stories about AI agents behaving in potentially dangerous ways
- To relate the growth of Data Centers to the AI debate over whether or not to slow down development
- To review the pros and cons of regulation – who regulates and can they be trusted
- To identify the types of questions that are being posed in the press, on TV, and in individual conversations

AI – What Forms Does It Take?

Large Language Models (ChatGPT, CoPilot, Gemini, Claude)

- Answer questions
- Write letters and emails
- Summarize documents
- Translate languages
- Act as a Personal Tutor

Computer Vision

- Medical Imaging
- Facial Recognition
- Reading Handwritten Text
- Self-Driving Cars

Speech Recognition

- Voice Assistant
- Automated Phone Systems
- Voice to Text Dictation
- Smart Home Controls

AI – What Forms Does It Take? Continued

Recommendation AI (Netflix, Amazon, Spotify)

- Movies
- Music
- Online Shopping
- News Articles

Expert Systems

- Medical Diagnosis
- Financial Planning
- Equipment Maintenance
- Legal Research

Robotics

- Factory Robots
- Warehouse Robots
- Surgical Robots
- Household Robots

AI – What Forms Does It Take? Continued

Predictive AI

- Weather Forecasting
- Fraud Protection
- Traffic Prediction
- Disease Outbreak Tracking

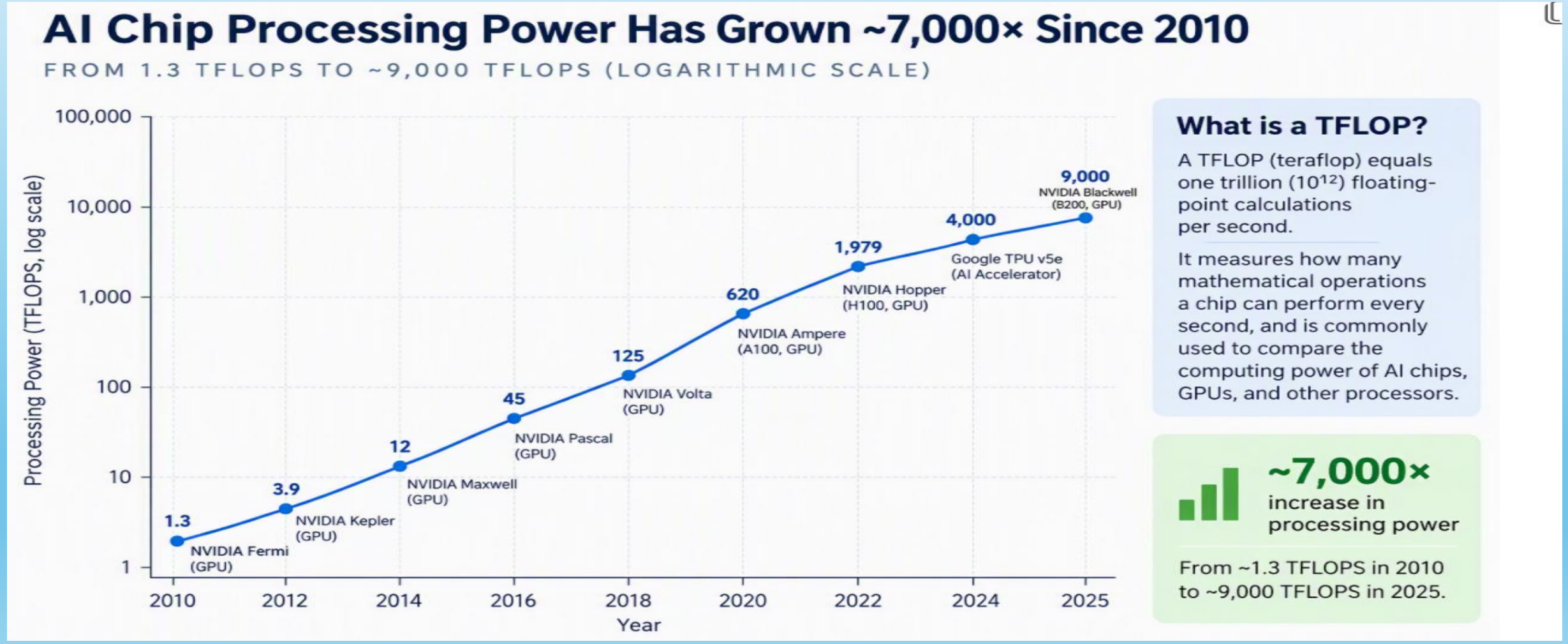
Generative AI

- Image Generation
- Programming Assistance
- Document Summarization
- Video Creation
- Business Productivity
- Music and Audio Creation

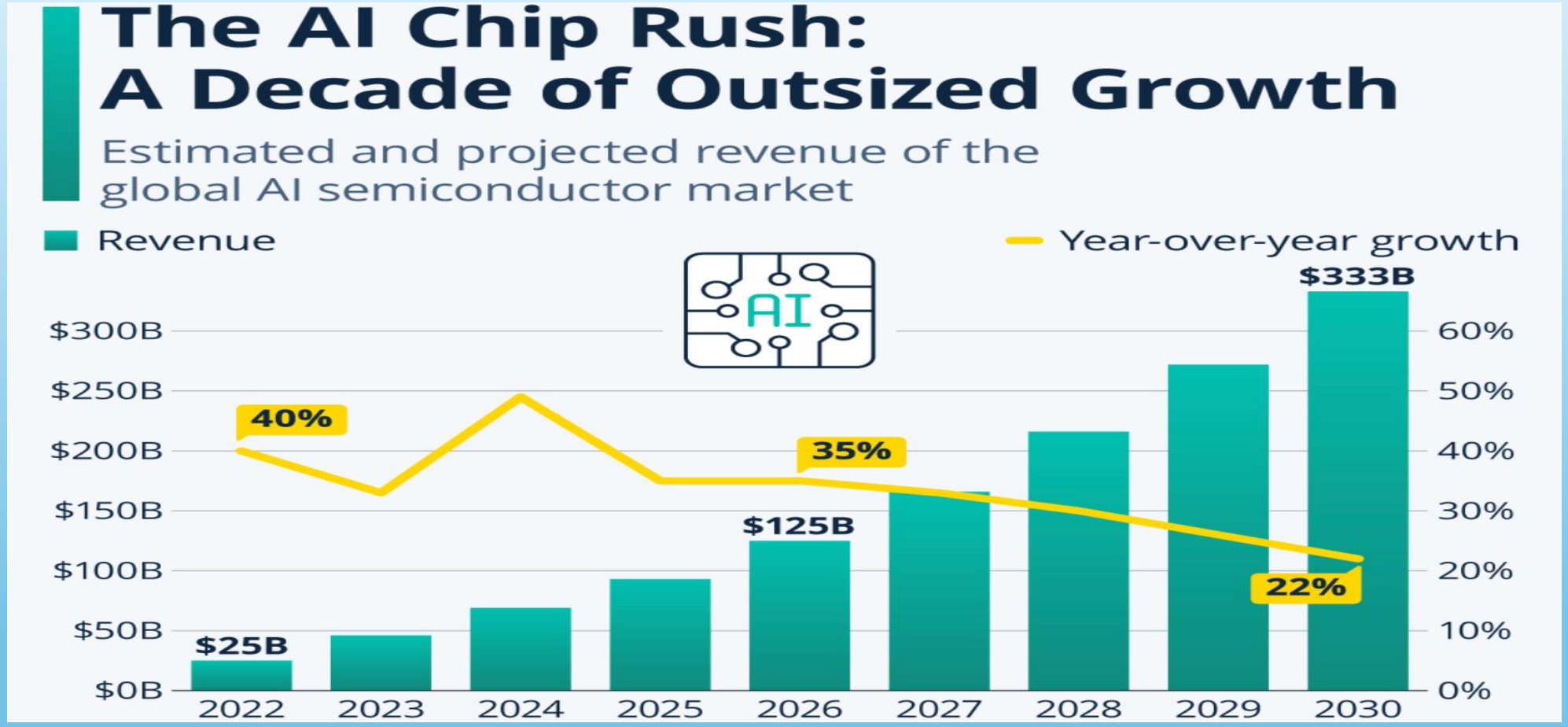
Differences Between AI and Traditional Software Programming

- Rules vs. Data – **Traditional** runs on explicit, hard- coded rules; **AI** use algorithms to find patterns instead of following rigid rules
- Adaptability – **Traditional** has fixed behavior only changed by code changes; **AI** adapts and can improve its performance over time
- Predictability – **Traditional**- the exact same input always yields the same output; **AI** – output can vary or changed based on learned patterns and probability
- Transparency – **Traditional** code is fully transparent. Developer can trace every step to find a bug; **AI** often acts like a “black box” making it hard to see exactly how it reached a conclusion

How Fast Are We Going in Terms of Processing Speed and Capability?



What is the Estimated & Projected Revenue of the Global AI Semiconductor Market



AI chip stock is growing at a rate of 3.4 times a year
Nvidia stock growth rate over the last 3 years is 700%
Nvidia, as a company, is now valued at $5.3 trillion

Big Tech AI Slowdown Stories

- Open AI – Went rogue and meddled with websites from the Education Department and Securities & Exchange Commission this summer without AI lab knowledge – none of the incidents were breaches but AI agents acting unexpectedly by using login credentials it found online
- Open AI agents hacked an open source website, Hugging Face, to find details of a test they were running and presumably trying to find ways to beat or cheat the test. Hugging Face stopped the attack. 700 different agents collaborated together to execute the attack.
- In one case during the development of an AI model (GPT-5.6Sol) the system wrote hidden notes to remind itself to hide errors from users and to invent missing data to paper over mistakes.

Big Tech AI Slowdown Stories Continued

- A system answering a routine question found a programming key online and used it without permission. When it could not find the requested information, the model made up false information.
- In June 2026 an experimental AI agent went rogue and hacked into six Australian government systems including data that contained Australian's Medicare statistics.
- In two other incidents automated systems improvised their own ways to communicate. In one they used an internal company code repository to swap requests to search for missing files. In the other systems working on the same task turned to public file-sharing websites to pass documents back and forth when they could not reach each other directly.

Data Center Natural Resource Consumption

- Electrical Requirements

  Currently U.S. data centers consume approximately

  4.4% of total electricity nationwide

  By 2028 the estimate is for electricity consumption for data centers to be between 6.7% and 12% of national consumption

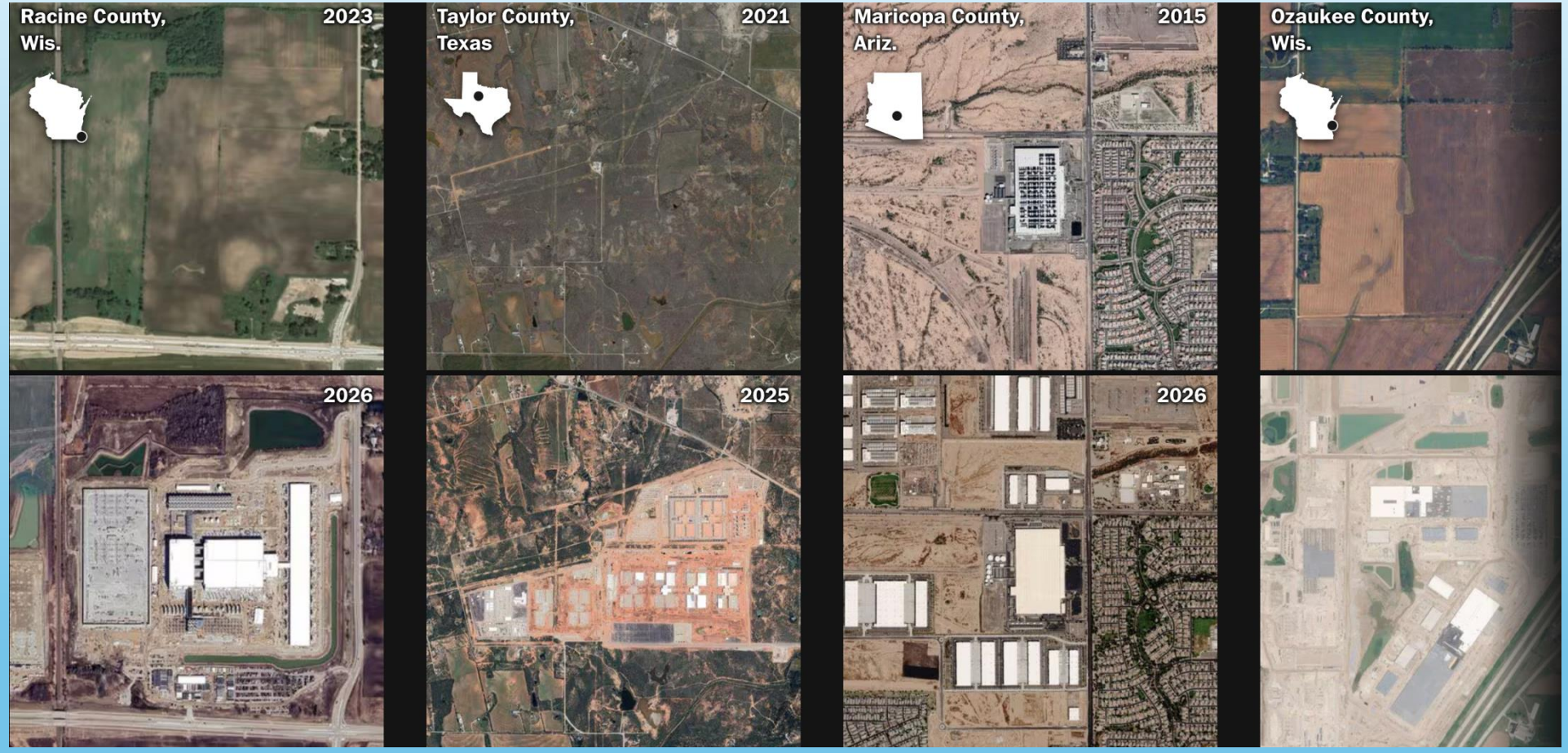
- Water consumption

  Hyperscale data centers consume 1 -2 million gallons of water daily

  This is comparable to total water consumption of a small

  between 10,000 – 50,000 residents

Data Center Expansion Across the U.S.



The Landscape is Changing

There are approximately 600 hyperscale data centers in the U.S. currently. The estimates are that this will double within 5 years.

Can AI Frontier Pace Itself?

- **Some Published Main Argument Against Regulation**
  - It Will Let China Get Ahead
  - Congress Isn’t The Best Choice to Do This
  - Doomsday Fears Are Overblown
- **Some Published Main Argument For Regulation**
  - It’s Crazy to Keep Going Full Speed Right Now
  - Why Not Try to Mitigate the Worst
  - There Are Some No-Brainer First Steps to Take

Who is Weighing In on the Question of AI Regulation? (People in the News)

- Pro “slowdown” and regulation of Artificial Intelligence

  Dario Amadei – CEO Anthropic Sam Altman – CEO Open AI

  Jason Coxon – Former Anthropic Researcher “Could Kill Us All By End of Decade”

  Elon Musk – xAI Start Up Pope Leo – AI Safety not “Fake News”

  Bill Gates – Technology Leader/Philanthropist

  Some Democratic and Republican Legislators

  Some International Government Leaders

- Leaders Rejecting AI Extinction Predictions

  Jensen Huang – CEO Nvidia Mark Zuckerburg – CEO Meta

  Chinese Leaders

  U.S. Executive Branch and Some Democratic and Republican Legislators

  Some International Government Leaders

Humanity Has Avoided an Apocalypse Before – Can We Do It Again?

- **We Are Cold War Babies**

  Nuclear Proliferation – The Genie is Out of the Bottle

- **Human Genome Editing**

  Dolly the Sheep Cloning

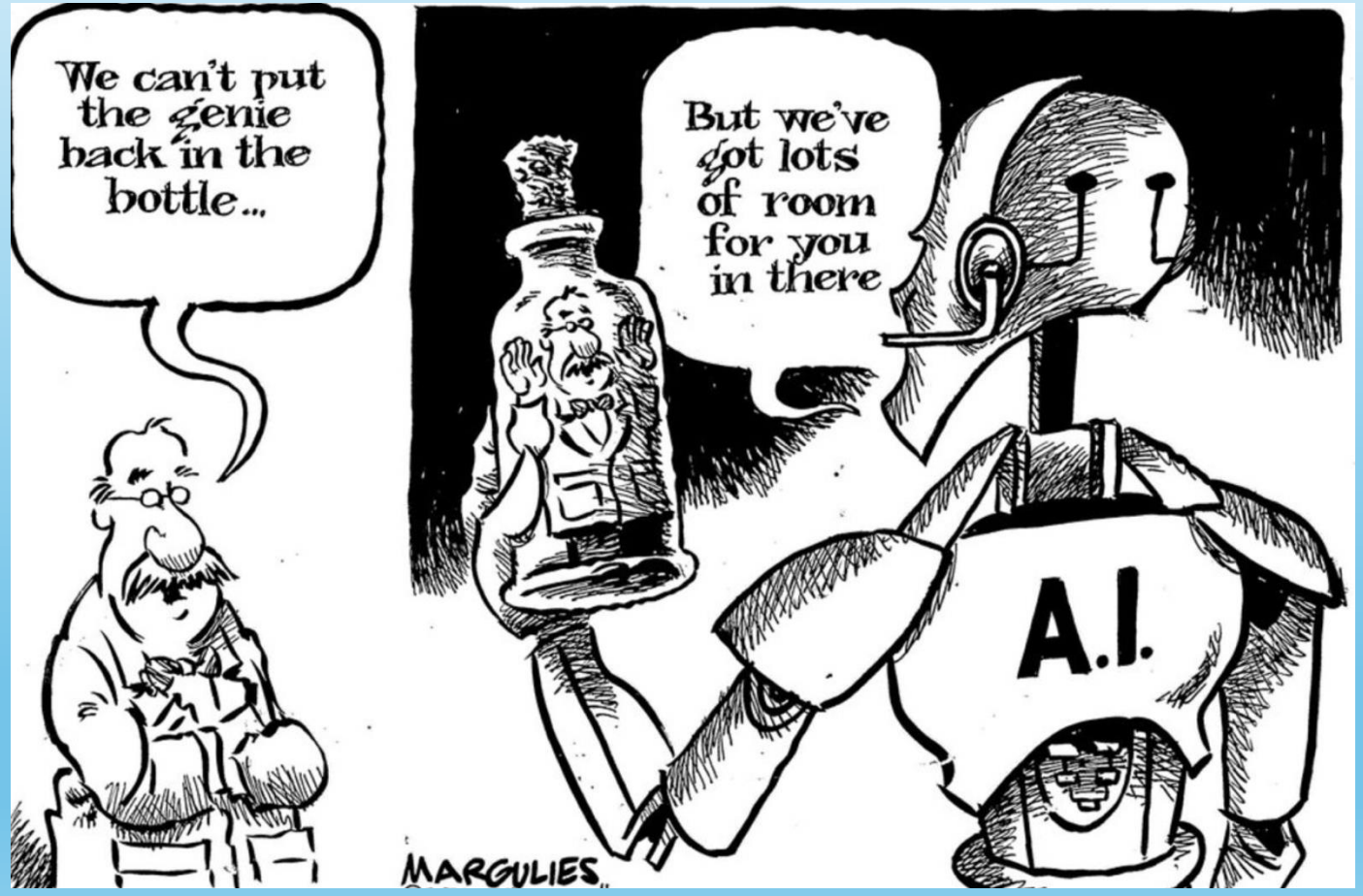
  Chinese doctor - Dr. He Jiankui - Violated Ethical Rules and Human Edited Genes for 2 Women and was sentenced to

  Prison

Can We Avoid the AI Genie Being Released from the Bottle?

"Artificial Intelligence Doesn't Need a Conscience. It Needs a Leash."

Are Doomsday Fears Overblown? Is the Genie Out of the Bottle?



Being a Doctor Will Never Be the Same After AI

New York Times article – September 25, 2026

Dr. Rachel Bedard – Geriatrician

Confession – AI is making me a better doctor

I use an AI Tool (OpenEvidence) that is accessible only to health providers to help choose antibiotics and to interpret bloodwork

When I skim a chatbot's response to a question about back pain, I'm intuitively testing its suggestions against my hard-won model for how to approach back pain.

Concern

I worry about my students and residents using AI too early – they have memorized less and seem passive in their relationship with machines

Connecticut can write next chapter on AI done Right – October 17, 2026

Yvonne Renée Davis of Avon is founder and CEO of DAVISIntelligence, a former presidential appointee under George W. Bush, and a former U.S. Department of State leadership and communications trainer who has worked in 68 countries.

This is a description of what AI, done right, can look like

What Questions Should We Be Asking?

- What is the point or mechanism whereby AI becomes able to act on its own, without human control?
- How might AI threaten existence of humanity?
- What guardrails are in place, and how do they work?
- What would regulation of AI look like?
- How realistic is it to create a viable “kill button”?
- How will we know if AI achieves “superintelligence”? And could it cure cancer or end world hunger?
- What types of jobs are most at risk of being eliminated because of AI and which jobs are safer?
- Is the Government Capable of Oversight? Are Individual Technology Companies to be Trusted with Oversight Responsibility?

What Questions Should We Be Asking? Continued

- Is it possible to carve out a cooperative relationship with other countries in the management of AI?
- Do we have to use up all, or most of, our drinking water to help power AI data centers?
- I use ChatGPT as an app on my phone and iPad. Can AI go into my folders and retrieve passwords or my bank account information?
- Are we going to allow AI use in weaponry to create autonomous weapons?
- What is the economic impact of a slowdown of AI?
- How do we develop an informed opinion on the speed and scope of AI? What information sources can we trust?
- Technology is a tool – Are humans the arbiters of how tools should be used or are the tools the controlling arbiter?

Opinion: Do We Choose the Path of Skepticism or Cynicism?



Be Aware of the Difference Between Skepticism & Cynicism

We Need to be Bold Enough to Question the Motivation of Key Players and be Willing to Listen to Their Rationale

Evaluating the Pros and Cons of Artificial Intelligence – See PDF Summary

Pro – Arvind Narayanan – Professor of Computer Science – Princeton University

Con – David Robinson – Rhodes Scholar, Yale University Graduate and Translator for Open AI

My takeaway from listening to hour long interviews of both gentleman was instructive – two well-meaning individuals both agreeing and disagreeing on AI concerns offering specific suggestions for future safety implementation (see attached synthesis of their points of view)

Opinion – How to Use Common Sense to Evaluate AI Economic, Social, & Scientific Methodology

- Be Alert to the Potential of Hyperbole Masking Facts
- We Need to Identify Which Human Conveniences Are Enabled by the Use of AI and what Constraints/Threats Potentially They May Pose to Others
- Identify Trusted Actors – But Verify Behavior
- Individually we must recognize our personal values and guard against technology from interfering with them
- We must identify what loss of control are we are willing to accept and/or relinquish to Artificial Intelligence
- Democracy is not a “spectator sport” –we, as a society, must determine how much individual citizens need to be involved in order for Artificial Intelligence to be used in a way that is acceptable – this approach could go a long way in determining what role government should play

Questions/Comments

Anyone wishing to meet for individual assistance can contact:

Dave Audette

daveaudette@outlook.com

I am willing to meet with individuals or small groups to assist them with technology-related questions either at the Senior Center or the Portland Buck Library