GZERO AI
everything is political
Presented by: IBM

Dear Tracy,

Welcome back! This week in GZERO AI:

- Big Tech pleads with the EU
- Three Mile Island is back
- Venezuela's AI broadcasters are here
- Biden hosts UAE's Sheikh Mohamed
- Newsom's ticking clock
- **Plus:** Don't miss GZERO's livestream from the UN General Assembly today on the future of AI

Thanks so much for reading.

– The GZERO team

What We're Watching: AI election interference, Three Mile Island's second chance, When AI protects journalists, Safety officials to meet in San Francisco, US-UAE talk AI



How US adversaries are messing with the election

China, Iran, and Russia are attempting to influence Americans ahead of the US elections in November, according to intelligence officials, and they're using artificial intelligence to accomplish their goals.

Officials from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the FBI briefed reporters on their findings on Monday, and ODNI released a one-page report to the public. Russia has been the most active of the three countries, using AI tools to boost former President **Donald Trump** and denigrate Vice President **Kamala Harris**, ODNI said. The Washington Post reported that Russia has doctored Harris' speeches and used AI to "create false text, photos, video, and audio."

Iran has used AI to create fake social media posts and news articles, focusing on polarizing issues such as the Israel-Gaza war. China hasn't dipped into the election itself, but Beijing has used AI to "sow divisions on issues such as drug use, immigration, and abortion," according to the ODNI report.

The findings are consistent with a recent Microsoft report about Iran's attempts to meddle in the election, which also mentioned attempts by China and Russia to do the

same. The ODNI said that the intelligence community is going to continue monitoring foreign actors' attempts to influence the US election — especially those using AI to evoke public outrage, sow chaos, or affect the outcome of the vote.

The return of Three Mile Island

The nuclear plant on Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, home to one of the worst nuclear accidents in US history, is getting a second life, thanks to artificial intelligence.

Under a new, 20-year deal, Constellation Energy will restart the famed power plant, which closed in 2019, and sell the energy to Microsoft to fuel its data centers. This is an opportunity for the computing giant to meet its incredible demands for computer processing power required for its AI ambitions and do so with a so-called clean energy source. The White House and tech leaders recently discussed a plan to use more clean energy sources for AI data centers amid conflict between the government and private sector's AI ambitions and climate goals. Still, it could take years for the plant to get inspected, licensed, and gain federal approval from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission to restart.

The Electric Power Research Institute has estimated that data centers could consume 9% of US electricity annually by 2030, up from just 4% in 2023. In May, Microsoft also signed a deal with Brookfield Asset Management to deliver the tech company 10.5 gigawatts of new renewable energy between 2026 and 2030, a massive amount that The Verge remarked was equivalent to half of California's wind and solar capacity.

Three Mile Island's Unit 2 had a partial meltdown in 1979, but its Unit 1 was undamaged and remained operational until 2019, when it was shut down due to financial pressures. Constellation Energy told The Wall Street Journal that Unit 1 was "arguably the best-performing reactor in America." There are currently 94 active reactors in the country.

Meet Venezuela's new AI broadcasters

There's a news broadcast in Venezuela that's using artificial intelligence to do things a little differently. It's not a bid for innovation for innovation's sake, but instead for the protection of journalists behind the camera. "Before we continue, in case you haven't noticed, we want to tell you that we are not real," two AI-generated presenters tell their

audience. "Although we were generated by AI, our content is real, verified, of high quality, and created by journalists."

The broadcast, called "Venezuela Retweets," launched in response to **Nicolas Maduro's** post-election crackdown on journalists. The government has reportedly detained 16 journalists since the election on charges of "terrorism and incitement to hatred," according to CNN. The Venezuelan election in July is hotly contested with Maduro's rival, **Edmundo González**, having fled to Spain and claiming he was forced to concede in order to leave the country.

While transparency in news is an asset in countries with press freedom, it can be dangerous to those in countries antagonistic to journalists. Thus, new technology can give reporters a way to stay safe while informing the public about information that might make the government look bad.

National safety institutes — assemble!

The Biden administration announced that it will host a global safety summit on artificial intelligence on Nov. 20-21 in San Francisco. The International Network of AI Safety Institutes, which was formed at the AI Safety Summit in Seoul in May, will bring together safety experts from each member country's AI safety institute. The current member countries are Australia, Canada, the European Union, France, Japan, Kenya, Singapore, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The aim? "Strengthening international collaboration on AI safety is critical to harnessing AI technology to solve the world's greatest challenges," Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** said in a statement.

Commerce Secretary **Gina Raimondo**, co-hosting the event with Blinken, said that the US is committed to "pulling every lever" on AI regulation. "That includes close, thoughtful coordination with our allies and like-minded partners."

Biden and Sheikh Mohamed talk AI

US President **Joe Biden** met with United Arab Emirates President **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan** on Monday to discuss artificial intelligence. In his first visit to the US in

seven years, the UAE's leader asked Biden for better access to US technology to fuel his country's AI ambitions.

The Gulf states have a strained relationship with the US because they're seen as playing both sides of the US-China war for AI dominance. They're subject to export restrictions on chips, for instance, out of fears they could be a pass-through for Chinese firms.

That said, it seems that the UAE is leaning heavily toward US allegiance. In April, Microsoft announced it would invest $1.5 billion in G42, a leading artificial intelligence holding company based in Abu Dhabi. The deal was largely brokered by the Biden administration to beat back China's influence in the UAE.

White House officials said that after the meeting, Biden directed senior officials to begin drafting a memorandum of understanding for future collaboration on artificial intelligence with the UAE.



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GZERO Exclusive: What the UN sees in AI



In a United Nations event called the Summit of the Future over the weekend, a panel of experts discussed their newly released report on artificial intelligence governance, titled "Governing AI for Humanity." The panel, chaired by Eurasia Group and GZERO Media founder and President **Ian Bremmer**, included **Carme Artigas**, former Spanish secretary of state for digitalization and AI; **Vilas Dhar** of the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation; **Jian Wang**, Alibaba's CTO; **Volker Türk**, the UN high commissioner for human rights; **Alondra Nelson** from the Institute for Advanced Study; and **James Manyika**, senior vice president of research, technology, and society at Google.

Bremmer said that one of his earliest conversations with **António Guterres**, the UN secretary-general, told him that his two biggest priorities were stopping the charge of climate change and dealing with the consequences and opportunities of disruptive technology. (Watch Bremmer's recent interview with Guterres about AI here.)

Due to its complex nature and ever-changing technology, Türk said it was a "minor miracle" that the report was completed. He cautioned that the biggest challenge with AI governance is loss of control, noting "Once the genie is out of the body, how do you control the genie?"

The panel discussed its recommendations in the report, which include a global fund for

AI, an AI office within the secretariat, and an international scientific panel on AI. Artigas noted that the group stopped short of recommending a brand-new UN agency on artificial intelligence and felt they had the existing frameworks to accomplish their goals.

Google's Manyika stressed the importance of building trust in AI. "If this technology's going to have the impact that we think it's gonna have, the public has to trust it, the public has to feel that we and everybody else that's developing, deploying, and using it is held accountable," he said. "We have a profound responsibility."

The group looked ahead to the Global Digital Compact and the Pact of the Future, UN proposals adopted at the Summit of the Future, which call for enhanced international governance of artificial intelligence in ways that are "human-centric," respect human rights, and advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. During the panel conversation, Manyika also cited research from the International Telecommunication Union that found that most of the SDGs could be achieved with help from AI. Bremmer and Co. said that the focus of AI governance shouldn't just be how to rein in the technology – though that's a huge part – but also how to use the technology to help society move forward.

From our friends at Semafor:

What Connects Artificial Intelligence, the 2024 US Presidential Election, and Silicon Valley?

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Meta and Co. ask EU to sync on AI laws



Last week, a group of technology companies wrote an open letter to European Union leaders urging the continent to fix its "inconsistent regulatory decision making" on artificial intelligence. The companies, Meta, Ericsson, and Spotify, wrote that "Europe has become less competitive and less innovative compared to other regions and it now risks falling further behind in the AI era."

The letter focuses on open-source and multimodal artificial intelligence models, both priorities of Meta. Llama 3, the Facebook parent company's top model, is one of the most powerful open-source models on the market.

Scott Wallsten, president of the Technology Policy Institute, was confused by the letter's vagueness. Still, he pointed out that Meta was the only big name in AI to sign it, particularly because of the focus on open-source — no Microsoft, OpenAI, Anthropic, or Google. "They're not saying that they oppose regulation. They're saying that it's inconsistent across the EU — and they don't elaborate on that at all." He said there are now three EU-wide regulations that will affect AI companies — the Digital Networks Act,

the Digital Services Act, and the new AI Act — but the letter doesn't clarify how they're at odds.

But there are also hints that the critique is aimed at enforcement of the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, the European data privacy laws. "In recent times, regulatory decision making has become fragmented and unpredictable, while interventions by the European Data Protection Authorities have created huge uncertainty about what kinds of data can be used to train AI models," the letter says.

"The problem, as I understand it, is the GDPR doesn't take a clear view on the legality of web scraping, so different EU data protection authorities [such as in the Netherlands and France] have each come to their own, slightly different conclusions," said **Nick Reiners**, senior analyst for geo-technology at Eurasia Group, pointing at possible contradictions in the law. Plus, Reiners noted, Meta agreed to stop training its AI systems on EU data following a request from Ireland's data protection authority. (Meta's European headquarters, like those of many tech companies, are in Ireland.)

Reading between the lines, perhaps Meta wants to use data from Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp users in Europe to train its Llama models and have run into roadblocks in the law.

The letter is a pressure campaign with few specifics, a generalized complaint about how Europe has regulated largely foreign technology companies. If the signatories want real action, perhaps they should spell out where the laws clash and what can be done to fix them.

Livestream today at 5:30 p.m. ET — Live from the United Nations: Securing Our Digital Future



Don't miss our live discussion from inside UN headquarters today at 5:30 p.m. ET! At the UN General Assembly this week, artificial intelligence is of course a key focus. Our expert panel will discuss how technology — in particular artificial intelligence — can serve as a tool for growth and progress if it truly works for everyone. We'll feature conversations with heads of state and UN officials including Deputy Secretary General **Amina Mohammed** and USG **Guy Ryder** who spearheaded Summit of the Future.

Folly Bah Thibault, journalist and senior presenter for Al-Jazeera English, moderates the discussion, produced in partnership between the UN's Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF'd) and GZERO Media's Global Stage series, sponsored by Microsoft. The speakers include:

- **Brad Smith**, vice chair and president, Microsoft
- **Ian Bremmer,** president and founder, Eurasia Group and GZERO Media
- **Kristalina Georgieva**, managing director, IMF
- **Petr Pavel**, president of the Czech Republic
- **Guy Ryder,** under-secretary-general for Policy, EOSG
- **Amina Mohammed**, deputy secretary-general, United Nations
- **Talal Al Kaissi**, acting group chief global affairs officer, G42
- **Anne Witkowsky,** assistant secretary of state, bureau of conflict and stabilization

operations

- **Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu,** executive secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development

Watch live at 5:30 p.m. ET on GZERO or join us on LinkedIn here.

Hard Numbers: Alibaba's models, Palantir's contract, Newsom's deadline, Vietnam's fab plan, AI museum



100: Alibaba, the Chinese tech giant, launched more than 100 new open-source AI models, collectively known as Qwen 2.5. Many of the models have specific design purposes, such as for automobiles or science research. Alibaba's models are free to use, but the company sells its cloud services and support to fellow businesses.

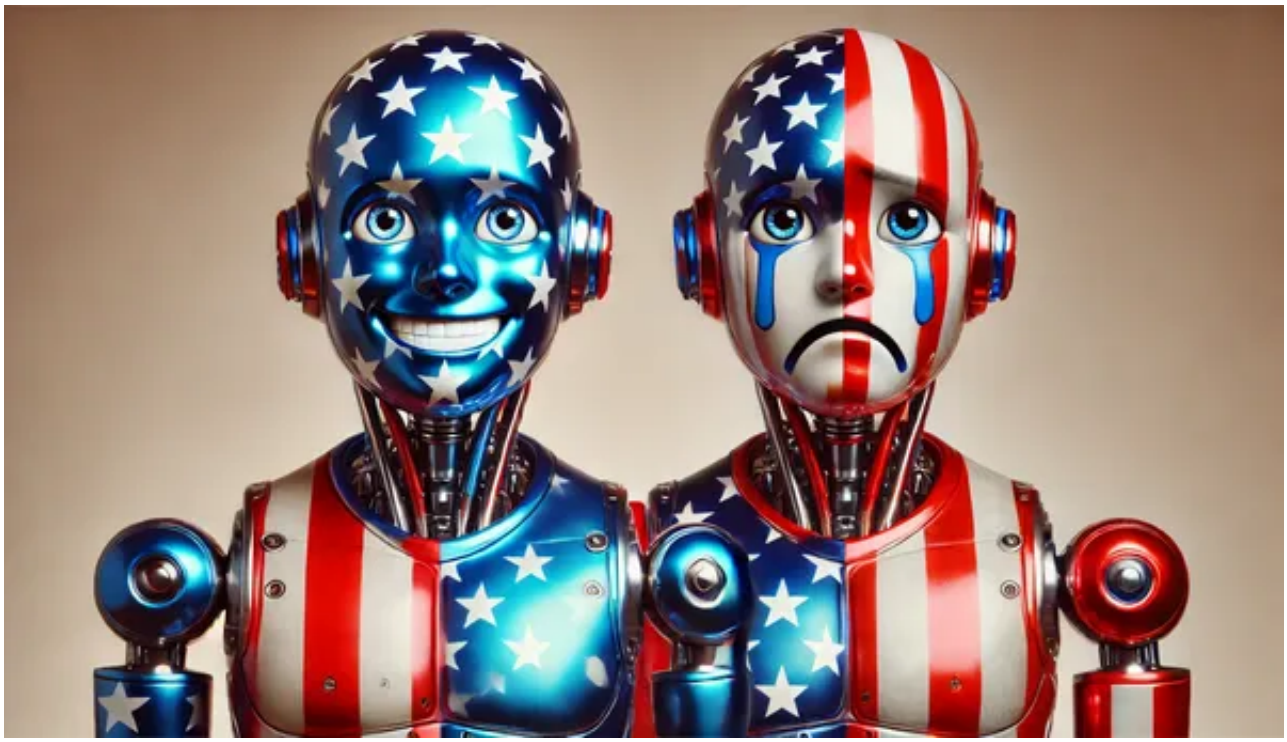
100 million: Palantir has won a $100 million US defense contract to give military

personnel advanced visualizations of battlefields in real time across different computers. The company will use intelligence data and computer vision technology to make digital replicas of battlefields for real-time decision making.

6: California Gov. **Gavin Newsom** has six days left to sign SB 1047, the California AI safety bill. He hasn't signaled whether he's going to sign it yet, but he recently signed a pair of bills into law that protect performers from artificial intelligence recreations being made without their permission. However, he has said that he's concerned about the "chilling effect" the bill could have on the state's tech industry.

1: Vietnam said it's aiming to build one semiconductor fabrication plant and 10 packaging plants in the country by 2030. To help, it'll launch a fund to help foreign investors with taxes on the projects. The country is seeking to evolve from a manufacturing economy to include more high-tech industries such as chip making.**1: Refik Anadol**, the keynote artist for the UN General Assembly, has announced he will open the world's first AI museum, DataLand in Los Angeles in 2025. Anadol's piece"Large Nature Model" is on display at UNGA this week. In an interview with GZERO, Anadol explained how he used AI to turn over a million pictures of coral to turn into an immersive, infinite, "AI sculpture." The AI even creates smells, check it out.

From the gallery



Each week, we'll feature a specimen of generative AI — some good, some bad, and some with too many fingers or teeth. This week: A new survey from Pew Research Center found that Americans are overwhelmingly concerned about the impact of AI on elections. 39% of Americans said that AI will mostly be used for bad purposes in the presidential election, while only 5% said it'll mostly be used for good.

This edition of GZERO AI was written by Scott Nover and edited by Tracy Moran.

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