

A Summary of the Presentation of a Native/Indigenous Perspective on Artificial Intelligence

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The development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) is largely determined by the culture creating it. AI in and of itself is neutral, but depending on the creating culture can have helpful balancing properties or can lead to further imbalance and problems. AI is roughly defined in terms of any technology where computers mimic human intelligence, often by determining patterns from huge amounts of data. AI is as old as the human animal. Pre-colonial Indigenous cultures created and utilized AI in accordance with their environment and nature- using the scientific method to gather data, to understand, and then creating technology that would work best for their specific needs. These Indigenous cultures used AI, created from an Earth centric model, to perform tasks that helped the tribe without harming their environment. There was a true balance to how AI was developed and used. Current modern dominant culture AI is crafted from a human centric model, bringing in problematic issues right from the start and that the modern culture is trying to figure how to rectify.

An example of Indigenous AI is the creation and use of pre- colonial animal traps. Indigenous animal traps come in many forms. The main principle of them is to function independent

of human intervention. Traps are set and instinctively snap shut when prey is within grasp. Large amounts of data went into making these traps and the traps are designed in a way that they will shift and change depending on how the environment they are in changes. Tribes studied the patterns of animal migration and set traps in appropriate locations. They studied the balance of how many animals to trap and left it in synch with nature. It was a careful study on many fronts that compiled data over generations and looked generations ahead. AI, in this way, is a tool to support the tribe, other species, and the environment.

Current modern dominant culture AI is based on some of these principles. It also uses large data sets and it has a purpose of performing tasks for humans with little to no intervention from them. This form of AI though is human centric and from a creator/coder making key decisions- not based on the highest and best good and comfort zone of humanity, not based on tenets found in nature, and not based on care for the environment- for other objectives are in place. This sets up problems right from the start. Then there is the application and use of this form of AI. Modern dominant culture AI tends to overrun humans, creating imbalances

and problems across the landscape for humans and all the human animal is involved with. For example, with any tool, there is an energy exchange when a human holds a piece of equipment. The human learns from the technology and the technology learns from the human. In the way modern AI is crafted and applied, the human animal begins to slip into an addictive component when using this form of AI. This kind of relationship between humans and AI begins to alter the human animal. Humans, other species, and the Earth itself begin to suffer as things get more out of balance with a human centric version of AI.

AI is a neutral piece of technology and can be a useful tool but it must come from a good place and follow a good path. Using pre-colonial Indigenous science in developing modern AI allows for the correct balance in the AI/human relationship. AI cannot simply overrun humans or the consequences can roll out to be quite problematic. An Earth centric development and application of AI has been effectively in use for thousands of years in multiple ways by Indigenous cultures. This model can be followed moving into the future.