

SENIOR FELLOWS AND FRIENDS

Alert. Relaxed. Collegial.



Recap of 6/27/24 Session: David Bray on Leadership Responsibility in the GenAI Era

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

While writing this recap, I visited David's bio on the Stimson Center site. One sentence made me laugh out loud: "David's passions include complicated, near-impossible missions involving humans and technology in challenging circumstances." If our somewhat daunting session had been a photo, that would have been the caption!

We were looking at slides for much of the session. Simultaneously, we enjoyed a robust discussion with David because his mindset is human-centered: he is exceptional at pacing and "translating" so that others can understand. We learned that:

- When you say "AI," that's like saying "all fruits and vegetables – you have to be specific"
- Large language models and machine learning are not new
- What is fairly new is the combination of massive compute power + massive data
- Generative AI (GenAI) is just doing pattern matching – if the future is different from the past, it won't work

- GenAI is adding to earlier information challenges that haven't been resolved.
- Data is NOT "the new oil" (it's still there after it's used) and it is not to be hoarded – it is a form of voice. Therefore, AI needs to be done with the public.
- It's necessary to adopt a "caveat internet" attitude right now because of the magnitude of some GenAI abuses. "Right now, GenAI is a lot like Napster was."

Two examples of the latter included [1] How easy it is to create and submit for insurance reimbursement multiple fake records of medical treatment, including fake X-rays, some of which are not rejected by fraud screening, and [2] The complete overwhelm of the FCC's system for receiving public comments on proposed regulation during David's tenure as CIO at the Federal Communications Commission. This is one of the reasons why David is looking at generative AI abuses that run counter to civil norms. Possible remedies could include the development of codes of conduct, professional licensure, and a "bill of rights" to be free of AI abuse.

Bottom line: Are we doomed? No – we have navigated fraught territory before.

Two of our participants, a chief data scientist whose company transforms underutilized talent intelligence data into personalized career pathways for graduates and Veterans and a senior NIH technical editor and content strategist, weighed in to remind us that positive, constructive activities are occurring as well. As with most new technology, it is a mixed bag.

Please access the slides by going to:

https://mcusercontent.com/203a04fc81077b7257d268747/files/7463bac1-0b40-af71-89b9-4a7a784b1db9/dbray_slides_june2024_sff_dbray_event.pdf

Participant affiliations

ASPA National Capital Area Chapter

AstrumU

Charlestown, RI Town Council, Retired

Department of the Navy, Retired

George Mason University, Professor Emerita of Systems

Engineering and Operations Research

Maximus Aidvantage

National Institutes of Health

The Stimson Center

Texas Tech University

People joined from Lubbock, TX, Bellevue, WA, Colorado Springs, CO, and the DC/MD/VA Metro Area.

Each time, we begin with a round of introductions to warm up the space. Afterward, participants are sent a “Who was in the room” message to facilitate ongoing connection. Please consider joining us in the future.

Sincerely,
Kitty Wooley

