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Getting started with AI

The Buzzword Glossary #1

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This glossary demystifies the key terms you'll encounter in the world of AI, providing simple, clear definitions to help you speak the language with confidence.

- **Agent:** An autonomous AI program that can plan and execute a series of steps to achieve a specific goal. Unlike a simple chatbot, an agent can use external tools, access the internet, and work independently to complete complex tasks.
- **Algorithm:** A set of rules or instructions that a computer follows to solve a problem or complete a task. In AI, this is the core logic that enables the system to learn and make decisions.
- **Chatbot:** An AI program designed to simulate human conversation, either through text or voice.
- **Embedded AI:** AI features that are integrated directly into everyday software applications, such as word processors or design tools.
- **Fine-Tuning:** The process of taking a pre-trained AI model and training it further on a smaller, more specific dataset to specialize its capabilities for a particular task.
- **Generative AI:** A category of AI that creates new content, such as text, images, or audio, in response to a user's prompt. This is what powers tools like ChatGPT and image generators.
- **Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT):** A specific type of large language model (LLM) that is highly skilled at generating human-like text. The "GPT" in ChatGPT stands for this.
- **Hallucination:** A term for when an AI generates false, misleading, or nonsensical information.
- **Inference:** The process of using a pre-trained AI model to generate a new output based on a new input (your prompt).
- **Large Language Model (LLM):** A type of AI model that has been trained on a massive amount of text data to understand and generate human-like language.
- **Machine Learning:** A subfield of AI focused on building systems that can learn from data without being explicitly programmed.
- **Prompt:** The input or instruction you give to an AI to generate a response. A good prompt is a key to getting a good output.
- **Training:** The process of teaching an AI model by feeding it a large dataset. This is where the model learns patterns and builds its knowledge.
- **Training Data:** The large collection of data—such as text, images, and audio—used to train an AI model.