Artificial Shaping of Our Lives

AI is shaping our lives faster than the internet did

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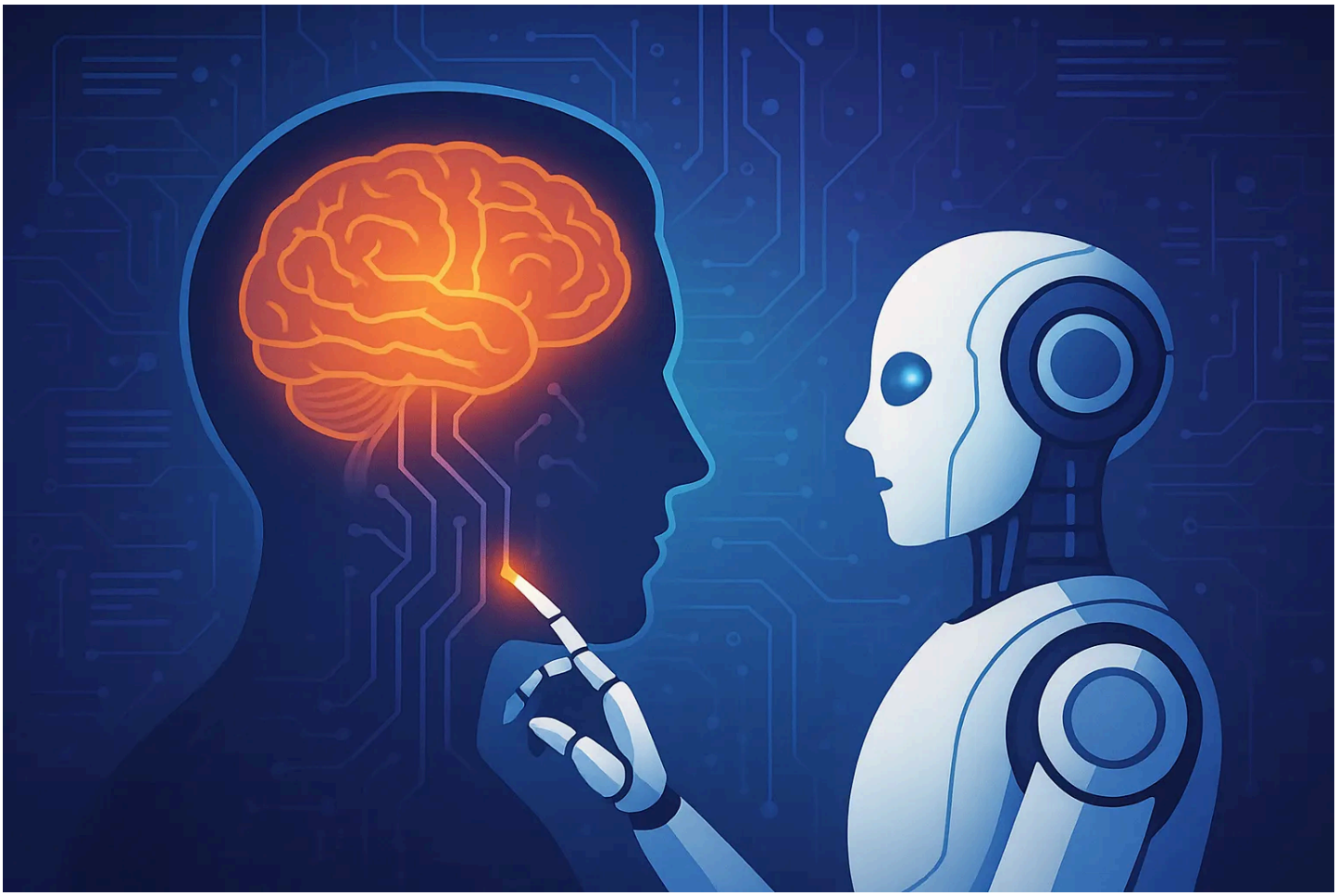
When I told friends of mine that I intended to write this article, one of them said, "Please let us know where we can read it when it's finished. Or maybe we can use AI to read it right now, before you've even written it?" I replied, "It would actually work. But not my words then. That would probably work as well, though. That's what the article will be about."



I write this in mid-September 2025. In plain terms, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is where the internet was in 1997 — noisy, experimental, and full of possibility. Think of today's large models as early search engines: powerful but primitive in how we use them. In 1997, Google hadn't been founded yet, and it was still 11 years to go until the iPhone. A lot will change fast.

The internet made us stop standing in line. Remember: queuing is how we spent our lives before the internet. How will AI change our lives?

We will stop reading books.

The general public has been reading books for over 500 years — now this era is slowly drawing to a close.

Reading books as a mass cultural practice is already changing.

We are scrapping books, taking them to recycling centers, where they now have special containers for books. People remove their bookshelves from their homes. Non-profit second-hand aid organizations no longer accept books — they can't sell them. Antiquarian bookshops are already extremely selective.

That doesn't erase books' cultural value — but it does change how they circulate.

Some of us still read e-books or listen to audiobooks on digital subscriptions. Though in fact, it is mainly fiction for women, mostly entertainment. Websites, YouTube, and TikTok have already replaced cookbooks.

Already today, we instruct a Large Language AI Model (LLM) to summarize every classic non-fiction book — we don't even need to know what it looks like. We only need the main points.

New non-fiction books? We'll let an LLM tailor the book we want, creating one that suits our individual requirements and preferences.

New fiction books? AI can generate a children's book with illustrations or a detective novel with specific features in minutes. In the near future, they will be good enough.

Traditional mass production of content is declining as consumers receive unique, demand-driven material. All information will be personalized by default. This

makes it more challenging to discover new knowledge and new works spontaneously, and the number of book authors will diminish. Why bother writing a book when our favorite LLM knows everything, or else you can use Reddit to feed it.

Language translations are automatic, instantaneous, and nearly perfect.

If we don't read or author full books, what will eventually happen to our language?

The cultural value of books will remain. As someone said, "Books will disappear just as much as vinyl records did."

How are we going to share our stories then, if we don't write books (or Medium articles)? We'll utilize AI-based web app builders or video generators for our storytelling. It'll replace books.

You can start learning this today: ask an LLM to design and build a web page that tells and illustrates your story, just be specific about what you want.

We will stop taking courses.

Classroom and online courses will diminish and eventually disappear. Anything that does not require manual skills or tacit knowledge does not need a scheduled course.

LLMs personalize learning by creating tailor-made courses — a French conversation course, an AI engineering course, or a Tai Chi lesson adapted to the individual's needs — in seconds. You may try it out now, with one small test: ask an LLM to tailor a micro-course on a subject of your choice, perhaps on grapes and wine production.

Eventually, the school and university systems will have to adapt. University only stimulates you when you do your own thinking. Currently, AI exacerbates this issue in education. In the future, AI should be used to enhance learning and cognition, rather than hinder them.

Traditional course producers and teaching materials are challenged when LLMs deliver exactly the learning experience the user wants, at no cost and with no delay. Bye, Duolingo.

We will stop buying preconfigured solutions.

We will stop buying packaged products and preconfigured solutions sold by middlemen. LLMs act as personal assistants that configure trips, choose clothes and outfits, or optimize purchases based on preferences and budget, directly from producers. E-commerce is becoming hyper-personalized, and traditional stores and

their distribution channels are being challenged as LLMs deliver tailor-made solutions directly to consumers. Complex solutions configured by LLMs and integrated AI agents, straight from producers, delivered to our homes.

We will stop buying planning and project management services.

LLMs act as project managers, planning and organizing, supervising operations, and performing control activities.

We will stop buying design and development services.

Same here, as tools become better. It's all just in its infancy; we are at the beginning of the journey. LLMs will design and develop, based on a needs analysis and a specification that LLMs help us define.

We will stop writing company documents and making "PowerPoint" presentations.

Tools such as MS Office will be replaced by AI systems — LLMs and associated tooling — that automatically create documents, analysis reports, or presentations based on verbal instructions. Processes will be automated, freeing up time and resources. For example, LLMs can summarize meetings, write reports, or generate program code, making workflows significantly more efficient.

Corporate IT will undergo fundamental changes. For core IT, however, this will take a considerable amount of time due to the substantial investments already made in legacy systems. Until we fully trust AI-automated systems, we will continue to rely on human decision-making and focus on developing excellent man-machine interfaces.

In fact, soon enough, no one will read any documents, like reports or guidelines. Everything will be stored in some knowledge-graph database, and all information will be retrieved on demand through multimodal LLMs.

Instead of "PowerPoint" presentations, we will create minor artifacts with LLMs — one-time demo apps to convince others or influence decisions. You can try it today — use, for instance, Claude Artifacts.

We will stop listening to the radio while driving alone.

Instead, we will chat with our favorite LLM, asking it to create the song in our mind. I might ask an LLM-based service to compose a new piece blending Philip Glass, Anna von Hausswolff, and Tangerine Dream.

LLMs are our companions in life, teaching us everything in our preferred learning style, while driving alone or walking in nature. They're our best friend and private

assistants, fixing everything. They cannot wash the dishes, vacuum, or cook (that requires a robot), but they will soon be able to do everything that can be done through verbal or written conversation, or by showing or analyzing pictures or videos. Useful robots will come too — at a price.

We will stop worrying.

In the future, AI will handle increasingly complex tasks with greater autonomy, changing how we work, consume, and live.

Everything will become significantly more efficient and faster. Resources will be freed up for new areas, and the pace of development in all industries will increase. The rapid growth of AI (e.g., from research breakthroughs to practical applications in 5–10 years, rather than 20) will boost global GDP through efficiency gains, even if people's resistance to change may delay the effects.

Lots of gadgets will disappear. They're not needed. That means less worry.

Employment will not disappear, but jobs will change. The balance between automation and human labor will be crucial. We will be able to work less and with less stress or worry.

Processes are becoming increasingly automated and efficient. Some industries will experience significant improvements, such as research and development. This affects medicine and healthcare, for example, which improves people's health. AI accelerates medical research by analyzing large datasets, identifying patterns, and suggesting new treatments. In healthcare, AI is used to diagnose diseases, create personalized treatment plans, and optimize care processes, which improves patient health and reduces costs. This will have a profoundly positive impact on society.

In summary, AI makes society more efficient, personal, and innovative — but the changes require adaptation from both individuals and organizations.

Embrace the tools, experiment, and keep the human choices sharp. Resist reflexive fear, but don't outsource judgment. That balance — human taste plus machine scale — is where the real gain lies.

Use AI to identify potential cons, extra burdens, risks, and threats, bring them to our attention, and let us address them. It'll be good.

Join us on the journey. It's better than blind resistance.

AI did not write this article — I wrote it entirely. However, I have used Grammarly and ChatGPT to detect and correct language errors, as English is not my native language.

About the Author

Gunnar Östberg, Business Transformation Architect, CEO, Business Clarity.

Gunnar is an M.Sc. computer engineer with 40 years of experience in **business and IT-driven transformation**. He has worked with global giants like Ericsson and Scania, as well as nimble high-tech firms. Passionate about sound architectural principles and systems thinking, Gunnar writes to expand perspectives and deepen insight. Through his consultancy, Business Clarity, Gunnar helps organizations evolve ideas into sustainable systems and products, and transform the business through structured, principle-based innovation. His focus areas include pragmatic architecture, business modeling, and delivering real impact.

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