

Man v. Machine: Is Your Job at Risk?

Thanks to machine learning, computers are increasingly able to see and understand the world more like humans and to “think for themselves”. That means they’re also capable of taking over more and more of our jobs. This has many people worried about their future. But while it’s true that machines are faster, error-free, and unbiased, it doesn’t mean that they’re better than us at everything.

Let’s chart it out. When it comes to handling these jobs, which brain wins: machine or human?

Job	Machine or Man?	Why?
Driver	Machine	They’re proving to be safer. In 2016, Google’s self-driving cars logged 636,000 miles and only required 124 human interventions. A 2016 Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study found the national crash rate is higher than the crash rate for self-driving cars.
Cashier	Machine	Repetitive, predictable jobs are more at risk. In 2016, a cell phone store in Tokyo was staffed entirely with robots ¹ , and the CEO of Taco Bell’s parent company said machines could replace human workers in ten years ² .
Therapist	Man	The emotional life and relationship building skills required for success, like empathy, active listening, and the ability to give another person advice, are outside of AI’s scope currently.
Writer, artist, musician	Man	Creative jobs are safe...for now. Google’s Project Magenta is working to create art and music using AI, though it’s positioned as a tool to help artists and musicians rather than replace them.
Doctor	Machine and Man	ML is proving to be very good at analyzing patient data and providing routine diagnoses. Humans are still needed to treat emergencies, provide complex diagnoses, and do a long list of other tasks that robots can’t yet.
Commerce marketer	Machine and Man	ML can automate ad delivery and bidding, not to mention personalize ads at a global scale. But to develop the creative itself, humans still need to provide the imaginative ideas and business savvy that bring great campaigns to life.

Want more? Check out The Smart Marketer’s Guide to Machine Learning.

¹<https://www.wired.com/2017/08/robots-will-not-take-your-job/>

²<http://www.businessinsider.com/jobs-at-risk-of-being-replaced-by-robots-2017-3>