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James Clark: Chat GPT is the future of politics

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Chat GPT is a chatbot that was launched with relatively little fanfare on the 30th of November 2022. It is a generative pre-trained transformer utilising supervised and reinforcement learning.

So what? Within 5 days it had been used a million times and was described by Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, Space X and Twitter, as "...scary good. We are not far from dangerously strong AI". Google's response is to bring forward the launch of their own similar product Bard. Microsoft went one better, licensing the system and integrating it into search engine Bing and explorer Edge. But what is it?

ChatGPT is a language model developed by OpenAI, a leading AI research organization. It was built using cutting-edge deep learning techniques, including transformer architecture and large-scale pre-training on a massive amount of text data. This allowed the model to learn patterns in language and to generate text that is coherent and contextually appropriate.

The model was trained on a diverse range of texts, including news articles, fiction, and conversation, to ensure that it can generate text for a wide range of use cases. ChatGPT has been fine-tuned for specific tasks, such as question-answering and text generation, making it a highly versatile language model that is capable of providing accurate and informative responses to a wide range of queries.

The obvious question for ConHome readers: can it be utilised in the political sphere and what can we expect to see over the short, medium, and long terms? The ChatGPT system, as a language model, can influence politics in several ways.

Firstly, it can assist politicians in the creation of their speeches, press releases, and policy proposals by generating coherent and well-crafted text. This can help them to communicate their ideas and positions effectively, making it easier for them to connect with voters and gain their support.

Additionally, ChatGPT can be used to simulate political debates and discussions. For example, it can generate responses to potential questions and objections, allowing politicians to better prepare for public speaking engagements and media interviews. This can help them to sharpen their arguments and improve their messaging, making them better equipped to defend their positions and win support.

Finally, ChatGPT is able to analyze vast amounts of data and information, such as polling data and social media trends. This can help politicians to better understand the issues that are important to voters and to craft policies that are more in line with public opinion. By so doing, ChatGPT can help to ensure that politics is more responsive to the needs and concerns of citizens, helping to build trust and support for political leaders and parties.

As the model itself quickly points out to users, it is not connected to the internet and does therefore not have access to information outside of its parameters. Essentially it learns to recognise patterns of language but does not understand the words as a human would. That does not mean that it can not produce eerily helpful information with only the most cursory probing.

With parliamentary seat selections and readoptions taking place over the next few months, will we begin to witness hybrid speeches, written not by speech writers or coaches and candidates but by algorithms? Immediately available to the discerning candidate – a hustings speech for a Conservative Party parliamentary selection:

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to be here today, speaking to you as a candidate for the Conservative Party parliamentary selection. I believe that I am the best candidate for this role because of my experience, my passion for public service, and my commitment to the values of the Conservative Party.

As many of you know, I have spent my entire career working in public service, both at the local and national levels. I have a deep understanding of the challenges facing our communities and I am committed to working tirelessly to find solutions that will make a positive difference in people's lives.

As a member of the Conservative Party, I believe in the importance of strong, stable government that delivers for the people. I believe in the importance of a strong economy that creates jobs, supports families, and provides opportunities for all. And I believe in the importance of a strong society that protects our national security, ensures that we live in a safe and secure country, and values the contributions of all members of our community.

I know that many of you are concerned about the future of our country and the challenges that we face. But I believe that together, we can overcome these challenges and build a brighter future for all. I believe that we can do this by working together, listening to each other, and by putting the needs of our communities first.

In this election, I will be fighting for a better future for our country. I will be fighting for a stronger economy that creates jobs, supports families, and provides opportunities for all. I will be fighting for a stronger society that protects our national security, ensures that we live in a safe and secure country, and values the contributions of all members of our community.

And I will be fighting for a brighter future for all, one where we work together to overcome the challenges that we face and build a country that we can all be proud of.

Thank you for your time today and I look forward to the opportunity to represent you as your Conservative Party candidate."

With a little tinkering and more expert use of the model, it's not unthinkable that an AI team member could draft reports and suggest policies, using real-world data to hypothesise solutions to issues that would take a team of dedicated researchers months. Every Association could have this sort of processing power for free or relatively cheaply at the touch of a button.

Why have humans – who need sleep and make mistakes – when we could have computer models which simulate the very best of us able to operate 24/7? A serious discussion will be needed exploring all dimensions of the use of this sort of technology and how we as a society want to utilise it before it becomes ubiquitous, and we can't tell difference between a person and a program.

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