



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – July 19, 2024

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“Be careful what you hear about somebody, you might be hearing it from the problem.” – Jody Henderson

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The Chief's Desk

Note: Yes, I was working with some AI stuff last night. No, I did not hit the button that shut down the world. How would you like to be the person that has to explain the “glitch” that shut things down globally to your boss???

While at the AFCA/AFDA conference this week I took an opportunity to sit in on a class taught by a couple folks from Amazon about AI. This follows a class at Harvard taught by an MIT professor regarding AI and AI tools. Prior to these programs, I was a bit standoff-ish regarding AI solutions. However, I'm starting to come around to the idea that AI may be a good tool in a number of different ways. I think the main thing I took away from the Harvard class is that AI is a tool, not a monster robot ready to take over the world. In simple terms, AI is inputs and outputs not necessarily something running rogue on its own, nor can it provide complete solutions for any one person.

Quiet honestly, our new move-up module is a form of AI.

I spoke with Jonah this morning a little about AI as he was fixing my computer. He and I agree that some potential AI solutions could benefit our organization.

So, I thought I'd give AI a shot for The Review this week. I wanted to try Grammarly, but our IT security systems are locked down pretty tight, so I couldn't load the app thing on my computer Thursday night. However, I was able to use the app for ChatGPT. To that end, I asked it three questions regarding how AI could help the fire service be more effective. Below are the questions, along with the un-edited AI responses. Honestly, I'm not overly impressed as I think there are a number of areas in which AI could help us both internally and externally that are not mentioned in the AI responses.

(Update, Jonah loaded it for me this morning, but I chose not to change what I already have ready to go.)

Q 1. How can AI help the fire service?

AI can assist the fire service in numerous ways, including:

1. Predictive analytics: AI can help predict the likelihood of fires based on various factors such as weather, historical data, and demographic information. This can help fire departments allocate resources and plan for emergency responses.
2. Monitoring: AI-based sensors can be deployed in buildings and forests to monitor conditions and detect potential fire hazards. This can help fire departments respond quickly before a fire gets out of control.

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Upcoming Events:

July 22: Interviews, Board meeting
July 23: New FF Interviews
July 24: New FF Interviews
July 25: PV Department Head Meeting

Board Meeting:

Board Meeting: July 22
CAFMA – 1700-1830

What we know about the computer update glitch disrupting systems around the world

By: Bobby Allyn, Brian Mann, Bill Chappell, Fatima Al-Kassab

A technological meltdown left employees of airlines, banks, hospitals and emergency services around the world staring at the dreaded “blue screen of death” on Friday as their computers went inert in what is being described as a historic outage.

“This is basically what we were all worried about with Y2K, except it's actually happened this time,” internet security analyst Troy Hunt said via X.

From continent to continent, Microsoft users reported being suddenly knocked offline, and the culprit was determined to be cybersecurity company CrowdStrike, which says one of its routine software updates malfunctioned.

“CrowdStrike is actively working with customers impacted by a defect found in a single content update for Windows hosts,” the company said in a statement.

Customers using Mac and Linux operating systems were not affected, CrowdStrike said.

When the faulty update crashed computer systems, scores of airport travelers were stranded, hospital appointments were delayed and live news broadcasts were cut short.

How big is the outage?

It is massive, far-reaching and sudden.

Some computer problems cascade, creating ripples of failures. But in this case, the flaw permeated Microsoft systems worldwide nearly immediately. The company says its Windows 365 Cloud PCs, apps and services were affected.

Microsoft remains the dominant desktop operating system worldwide, with more than 72% market share, according to the Statcounter website. The CrowdStrike problem does not directly affect all of those machines: its security software is mainly used by businesses and large organizations. The company says its customers include 43 U.S. states and nearly 300 companies in the Fortune 500.

3. Decision support: AI-powered decision support systems can help firefighters make better decisions during emergencies. For example, AI can provide real-time data about fire behavior, smoke movement, and other critical factors that can help firefighters devise effective strategies to contain and extinguish fires.

4. Communication: AI-powered communication systems can help firefighters communicate more effectively with each other and with other emergency services. This can enhance coordination and improve response times.

5. Training: AI can be used to simulate various fire scenarios and help firefighters train for emergencies. This can help them develop the skills and knowledge necessary to respond effectively to real-world situations.

Q 2. How can AI help fire department administrative operations?

AI can assist fire department administrative operations in numerous ways, including:

1. Resource allocation: AI can help optimize the deployment of fire department resources such as personnel, equipment, and vehicles. It can analyze historical response data, demographic information, and other factors to determine the ideal allocation of resources.

2. Data analysis: AI can be used to analyze data collected by fire departments, such as incident response times, call volumes, and budgetary information. This can help identify trends, optimize processes, and identify areas for improvement.

3. Predictive maintenance: AI can be used to analyze data from fire department equipment and predict when maintenance will be required. This can help prevent breakdowns and ensure that equipment is always in optimal condition.

4. Risk management: AI can be used to analyze risks associated with firefighting operations, such as potential property damage or health and safety hazards. This can help fire departments take proactive measures to mitigate risks and prevent accidents.

5. Performance evaluation: AI can be used to analyze the performance of fire department personnel. This can help identify areas where training or improvement is needed, leading to better outcomes in emergency situations.

Q 3. How can AI help with fire prevention?

AI can help with fire prevention in a number of ways, including:

1. Early Detection: AI can help detect fire hazards early by monitoring buildings, structures, or forests for any unusual changes in temperature, humidity, or air quality. This can alert authorities to potentially hazardous conditions before a fire starts.

2. Risk Assessment: AI can analyze data to identify high-risk areas and vulnerable populations that need more fire prevention resources. AI can also integrate data from different sources such as climate, geography, land use and building codes, to identify potential hazards.

3. Fire Risk Mitigation: AI can track data, including fire history, environmental factors, and human behavior, to determine the most effective way to mitigate fire risks. This can involve implementing targeted public education campaigns or recommending changes to building codes and zoning regulations.

4. Smoke Detection: AI can detect smoke and alert authorities via sensors connected to smart homes, building automation systems, or smoke detection cameras. This enables a faster response to fire emergencies.

5. Fire Simulation: AI can simulate different fire scenarios in virtual environments to help fire service providers practice and develop their firefighting and prevention procedures in response to specific situations.

By leveraging AI solutions, fire prevention can become more efficient and proactive. AI is a powerful tool that is applicable in fire prevention, assisting authorities, organizations, and communities in preventing disastrous fire emergencies.

More to come on AI solutions for our profession and agency as we continue to explore options.
