

# AT Banter Podcast Episode 336 ...y Vo & Artificial Intelligence

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

ai, system, gpt, technology, turing test, working, human, people, started, wheelchair, world, kenny, talk, machine, build, kids, rules, point, find, smart

## SPEAKERS

Steve Barclay, Rob Mineault, Kenny Vo, Ryan Fleury

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**R** Rob Mineault 00:18  
Hey and welcome to another episode of AT Banter.

**S** Steve Barclay 00:23  
Banter, banter.

**R** Rob Mineault 00:24  
This is of course the podcast where we talk with advocates and members of the disability community to educate and inspire better conversation about disability. Hey, my name is Rob Mineault. Oh great, there's a lawn mower going. Hey, they are always are doing gardening during the show. Oh, and joining me today. Mr. Steve Barclay.

**S** Steve Barclay 00:53  
Hey, that's me.

**R** Rob Mineault 00:54  
And hey, it's also Mr. Ryan Fleury.

**R** Ryan Fleury 00:57  
That's Colorado ommlette to you.

**S** Steve Barclay 01:02  
You are what you eat today. Is that? Yep.

**R** Rob Mineault 01:07  
Talk about an inside joke. Now I need to explain to the audience that we went to IHOP this morning. Just forget it. Now we blew all the banter time talking about that. I'm not even going to ask you how you guys are doing. Let's just figure out what the heck we're doing today. So Steve?

**S** Steve Barclay 02:03  
Yes?

**R** Rob Mineault 02:05  
Why don't you tell the fine folks at home what the heck we're doing today?

**S** Steve Barclay 02:08  
Well, the other day, just shortly after we recorded a podcast, my daughter came running into the room saying Dad, you got to see this. There's this guy on TikTok, who wants to be Tony Stark and invent Jeeves. And I thought my god, doesn't he know about Ultron? We better bring this guy on the program and talk him down. So with no further ado, Kenny Vo, this is your intervention.

**K** Kenny Vo 02:30  
Hey, guys, my name is Kenny. I build robots. Thanks for having me on the show.

**R** Rob Mineault 02:37  
Thanks for coming.

**K** Kenny Vo 02:39  
So Ultron is your next project? Yeah. Depending on how this podcast goes?

R

Rob Mineault 02:50

You know, it's it's funny, because we have been, we have been talking and joking a lot about AI. And of course, you know, AI has been, you know, in the news constantly for the past three months, four months, probably even a little bit longer than that now. So you know, and so we sort of have our perspective on it. And I do really feel like this technology is really going to be the next big leap forward, whether we like it or not, because it's kind of out of the box now. So I am kind of excited to talk to somebody who has been playing with it. And who knows a hell of a lot more about it than any of us do. So. Yeah. Why don't we just start you tell us a little bit about about yourself, and your background and, and a little bit about the channels and how AI ties into all that.

K

Kenny Vo 03:40

I'll, myself, like I said, my name is Kenny. I go by Kennevo on all my social media. But yeah, I build robots. I'm actually in the works of developing a system called EEEEE, who is designed to essentially just help people. So she's an AI system, who looks listens and interacts with the real world and tries to make educated guesses as to what's happening to people and then do actions for them in cases where they're not able to. So that's her whole entire philosophy design. And it's entirely just to help people and it could just be, it could be anyone in between, like, if you're blind if you're disabled, you know, if you're just living day to day life, because you know, as we know, life is pretty difficult as it is. And her whole premise is to make sure that we use the technology that we have available and to make our lives a little bit easier. The little mundane things in life.

R

Rob Mineault 04:41

Okay, so I'm going to stop you there because I'm super curious already. So now, what's your background there? Like do you have like a computer science degree? Where does where does that that skill sort of come from to build robots and an AI?

K

Kenny Vo 04:57

Well, so I went to the University of Calgary, and I graduated with a degree. But I actually started in engineering. And I ended up dropping out, not because it was like something I didn't want to do, but it just wasn't fulfilling to me. So I ended up actually dropping out of engineering and university. And then I went back to university to get a completely different degree. And then, lo and behold, now back in the field of engineering on my own, but it's all entirely self taught. So people have this weird association with AI is from like movies that AI systems are very complicated and like a far off reach. It's really super close, it's a lot closer than we think it is. And it's a lot more simple than a lot of people make it out to be. But I'm entirely self taught. And I actually, I started with just really basic things. I told the story about my neighbor, whom he saved at one point in time, which, again, just an absolute miracle that it worked. But yeah, it all started with just trying to help her with little things. So she's in a wheelchair. And when her husband passed away, she was on her own, and no one was there to look out for her. So I started helping her with just little, tiny little machines. Her wheelchair, I put a RFID chip, it's a little sensor chip, and found an old, like the swinging door arms that they use at hospitals, I found one at a junkyard. And I installed that in her house. And every time she wheeled up in

her wheelchair, the sensor would pick up the RFID chip, and it would open the door by herself. And then at the time, before the advent of smart locks and home cameras and stuff, I started just adding things to her, her well being just making her life a little bit easier like you know, deploy an automatic deploying ramp, which is just like a basic thing. But as I, I began to do more and more things for her, I started noticing that she needed more and more complex systems to help her out with specific things. So like, she doesn't have the ability to turn on the tap anymore. So instead of having her turn on the tap, I put a sensor on the front of her, her little, the railing in front of her her wheelchair, and she just kind of just mouse her hand over it. And it turns on the tap for her. And then, you know, she told me she told me about these things where she had medical issues with like, heart palpitations and difficulties breathing and stuff. And she always had a worry in the back of her head of like, if something goes wrong. There's literally no one here that I can call upon to help me. And that's when I started delving into more complicated things like machine learning and computer vision. And I started making things for her that were there just for her, you know, like a safety net for her. So I made her have like a little hand gesture, where she just clenches her hands on her chest. And the system would recognize that through computer vision, and then automatically call the police. And that's how it all started. That's where it all began. And then I kept building on that I kept building on that idea and then started adding in like, like complex neural networks. And then what if she does this as opposed to this hand gesture? Or what if she has this situation, so it kind of kept evolving from that, that very humble beginning. And then that's where we are now. we are making videos on the internet about this cool system. And I worked with the the local Children's Hospital here. So we monitor heart attacks and strokes and kids before they happen. So kids don't need to have a nurse on 24 hour standby, watching them all the time. So the system watches them. And as soon as it has, like the smallest inklings of like a seizure, for example, it would kick in and it will alert every nurse every doctor in the vicinity. I also work with patients at home now who just are not able to call for help. Some of them are mute, some of them are blind. Some of them are disabled, war veterans. So it's really just like a, it's kind of spread from just helping my neighbor to now helping a bunch of people. And yeah, that's it, it just gets more and more complex.

R

Rob Mineault 09:06

I think a lot of people, like don't really even understand what we're talking about when we talk about AI. So maybe we can just take a step back for a minute and if you can just kind of explain what it is that that we're talking about when we talk about an AI program.



Yeah, for sure. So, if I were to ask you, for example, to make a decision, it just a decision for yourself. You would use things that you see you hear your past knowledge, what you can feel when you can taste your senses, essentially, to interact with the world and then make an educated guess based on those bits of information. What AI basically is is it does the same thing, but at a larger scale. So there are different types of AIs, but the one most people think about are the "AI" sentient ones, which they don't exist. But what they do is they basically take on information from all sorts of different sensors, educated guess or decision on what it should do next. That's like the most basic form of AI.



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**R** Rob Mineault 10:17

So when we're talking about Chat GPT, for example, what differentiates that from yours?

**K** Kenny Vo 10:29

Well, they both use large language models. And then what it is, is it, it scrapes to the internet. So as opposed to using our eyes, as humans, we use our eyes to see things. The AI system, the model uses information found on the internet. And, you know, as we can only see, like, whatever we see in front of us, the AI can see millions and millions of things all at once, right? That's what that's what expands it. That's what that's how it sees the world. And that's how it can process what comes in and comes out.

**R** Rob Mineault 10:59

I see. So yours, say, you know, it's using its its senses, we'll call it in terms of like, camera, whatever, whatever you've taught it. And Chat-GPT, the reason why that's so powerful, and that we're hearing so much about it is basically, it senses whatever's online, like just, it's the scope of information that it has access to. Is that the biggest difference?



That would be one of the biggest differences. EEEEE actually does the same thing. She has like a language model. And what she does is she looks online for specific things, such as things involving like WebMD, or symptoms, prognosis, searching for very specific things. So you can think of Chat-GPT as a very broad casting net. The things that EEEEE looks for are very specialized. So they're very, they're more controlled, right? That way she's not saying like, hey, you know, I have a headache. Well go outside and like get into a car. There's no correlation between the two, right?

**R** Rob Mineault 12:04

The other thing that fascinates me about this, now are there any sort of regulations? Like, did you have to fill out a form? Did you have to do anything at all, in order to develop an AI?

**K** Kenny Vo 12:17

No, actually, it's such a new field, that even today, we're trying to figure out things like copyright law for AIs who are making art pieces, we're still trying to figure out who owns what, who's liable for what an AI says? Or who's you know, if some, let's say one of my system saves a life, but at the end, that decision costs the life who's liable? Is it me, or is it a system? Now we're in this brand new fields, literally. I mean, AI has been around for years and years and years now and it's just been in the kind of the shadows of everything. But this year alone, it's been exploding, it's been in the limelight. Like everyone in the grandma has used Chat-GPT or

MidJourney are these other AI models, and it's become more mainstream. And now, with that becomes there's the fears, and there's the questions. And yeah, a whole new world of just trying to figure out, how do we navigate the legal works of this?

R

Rob Mineault 13:19

Yeah, well, it's interesting that you say that, because that's kind of my feeling, too, because we know we've been, they've been talking about things like machine learning, and all of that stuff, and rolling that into all kinds of different systems for a while now. But for whatever reason, in the last six months, all of a sudden, the exposure really exploded. And I guess that's because for the first time, like all that other machine learning was always in the background. And we finally sort of built out front facing systems that people could access themselves and really see that power of AI.

K

Kenny Vo 13:58

Yeah, actually it's crazy. I get a chance to talk with so many kids, and they have so many questions because their world is changing. They're literally going from oh, I'm gonna do my own work to now I'm just gonna go use Chat-GPT and AI system do my homework for me. And it's got to be better. So their entire perspective of the world is changing. And I've had some talks with like schools and parents about how AI is going to affect people. And yeah, it's really just everyone having access to it now. It's almost like if we went back in time, and I gave you an iPhone, and you're like, oh, I have access to the world's internet, and I can do everything I want. You'd be ahead of everyone else. And I think that's one of the feelings that a lot of kids get nowadays when they're like, oh, if I want to be a good student, if I want to be with a now the current world, I need to figure out this whole AI thing and utilize it myself in order to just keep up.

S

Steve Barclay 15:01

And of course to write its term papers.

K

Kenny Vo 15:04

Yeah. If I had that university, I would not be here today.

R

Rob Mineault 15:12

Well, I find that the other really interesting thing about it too, is because you know, the technology is here, it's arrived, we have people that are actively working on it. But there's always things that we really haven't thought of. And it's interesting that you talk about the legality of it, because we were goofing around with it a few weeks ago, and Ryan got Chat-GPT to write him a country song. And it wrote him out all the lyrics. And he's like, cool, I'm gonna put this to music. And then we started talking about it's like, well, then, if you do that, like,

what, how does that work? How does the copyright work for that? Like, do you own the copyright for that? You know, there's, there's all these sorts of legal things that we still have to figure out. But you know, somebody better get on, I presume, because the technology is here.

K

Kenny Vo 15:59

Yeah. I mean, in all honesty, it's going to take something really big to happen. Something, unfortunately, most of the time, according to history, something really bad to happen before we kind of kickstart ourselves into gear and be like, yeah, we need to, we need to hammer this out. But you know, just like everything in life. It's like, I mean, like, even like, look at like nuclear bombs. And if we only really had those kind of like rules and regulations, as soon as someone's like, oh, what have we done? This is not right. We've crossed the threshold.

R

Rob Mineault 16:36

Well, there's that. You as somebody who's sort of working in that space, like, do you kind of go man, I don't know, maybe like, maybe we should put the brakes on this. Because they have been talking about that, like putting the brakes on it. But I don't know, my feeling is that it's kind of too late to really do that. Like, I don't know how you would how you would put the brakes on it at this point.

K

Kenny Vo 16:54

I don't think there is a way to put brakes on it. I actually, I mentioned earlier that I had a chance to talk with schools and kids. And one of the things that these teachers had to ask me was, how do we stop these kids from using AIs? That's their biggest question. Because everyone, you know, everyone's using it to get an A plus and Nick Ray, and I like we can't stop this. You know, it wasn't our generation that didn't we didn't grow up with AI assume know how this works. And so then one of the questions was, how do we stop kids from using these systems? And I sort of explained it to them in a way that kind of makes sense, but it's like calculators, 1980s, no one had a calculator, graphing calculator. And then as soon as that was starting to get into mainstream kids adopted it, schools adopted, and now there's actually courses on how do we use this calculator properly to do our calculus. And that was the natural evolution. I think AI systems is the next natural evolution for kids, as opposed to being like, how do we stop this from happening? It's something more like how do we teach kids to use this ethically. How do we teach kids to use this in the greatest effect? Because now it's my AI versus your AI. Our prompts the department that determines our grade, right? So how do you want to use that effectively to get our answers? And how do we navigate these waters for these kids? Because if my son if I had a son, and he didn't use an AI system, and every other kid did, and they all got A's, and my son got a B, I'd be like, ok, well, obviously, my child would have to be the one to learn how to figure this out. And that's, that's one of the things where, like, you we've unlocked Pandora's Box.

R

Rob Mineault 18:40

Absolutely. When I mean, and I feel like in terms of that, like, I, I'm sure that the same conversations happened, you know, when Google was originally opened, when it first launched

conversations happened, you know, when Google was originally opened, when it first launched, and people were like, kids are just gonna Google all their information. You know, we figured that out. And I kind of feel like, we'll do the same here. Even if it's a matter of, I'm sure that eventually there will be some way to, you know, even if it's to build another AI that can recognize another AI, you know, the writing. I mean, I do hear that they're already working on stuff like that. So I'm sure that eventually they'll figure it out where, you know, it's, you'll be able to detect that somehow.

S

Steve Barclay 19:26

That was one of my questions. If you took a term paper that was written by an AI gave it to the to an AI and said, was this written by an AI? Would they be able to identify that it actually was written by an AI?

K

Kenny Vo 19:39

Well, yeah, that's the that's the one thing about machine learning. There's that eventually, we're just gonna do. We're stacking upon stacking on stacking these these questions, essentially. Yeah. And it's incredible to see what AI can do. I was trying to work with a system where it would code for me it would program things in Python and I would get an output for it, and I would test it, it would give me an error. And I'd be like, Okay, what do I do to fix this error, so the, the AI would fix it for me. And I would keep on doing this integration process over and over again. And by the end of it, I wouldn't be able to even discern if this was written by a person or a machine. It's this reiteration process where what we're seeing right now is is very surface level, like, give me this, it spits out this, but I think in the future, what we're going to have is, you know, give me this, and then the machine is going to reiterate on its own constantly, constantly, until it has something that fits what we need, and will obviously will be more specific be like, I need this, that doesn't sound like it's written by AI that's in French, that's like this many characters long and has these little vocal linguistics to it. And these little tiny, you know, inflections and voice, like, we can start to like, taper the system out, so that it outputs exactly what we need. And it'll be hard. It'll be hard to discern. Even artists now are having troubles proving in court of law that this AI system stole their artwork, you know, how to tell the difference between like this pixel and this pixel, they're both red. But is it used by another piece of art? You know, who owns this one pixel? It's, there's so many complications with that. It's, it's blending into a world where it's, it's super an entirely subjective.

R

Rob Mineault 21:31

Yeah, well, I mean, I guess that's the, that's the worry. And that's the danger behind it is the same thing that makes it such a powerful tool is that it learns like it just it keeps getting better, like it will problem solve at a rate that, you know, we can't even comprehend you and it will just keep working on it and working on it until it fixes it. And so that the technology, just as a basis is just getting better and better, the more that we use it.

K

Kenny Vo 22:00

Exactly. And then one of the big issues with mainstreaming it nowadays is - like the say us for



here. We're like, oh, let's everyone draw a picture of a pig. Well, we only have four samples, you know, they can only learn from us for and I'm not an artist, I'm not sure but you guys, but no, it would look like a pretty ugly pig, just from my sample. But now when we expand that, to 10 people, oh, you know what, the pic looks a little bit better now. Right? You're sending to a million people. Oh, wow, that's a really good looking pig. But of those million people. Did it take a 1% from Steve 1% from Ryan 2%. From me, like, where did it come from the most? And that's now we're engaging into a world where it's not just millions, it's millions per second. Right. You know, they chat GPT and open AI quoted their prompt rate and that the price for their prompt rate? I think they quoted it was like \$13 million every minute. Wow. Just to just to process everything. That's it. I mean, you put that in perspective, that's a lot.

R

Rob Mineault 23:06

No doubt. That's a ton of money.

K

Kenny Vo 23:09

So now we're talking about like, 6 billion people in the world. Every every second using something. It's mind blowing. Right.

S

Steve Barclay 23:21

You said something earlier I want to circle back on. You said that at this point there is no sentient AI. Last last summer. Blake LeMoine from from Google claimed that their their AI Lambda could already be sentient. And he probably got fired. Do you think there's any possibility that there is somebody out there with a with an AI that, while I guess the test is the Turing test, that can actively pass a Turing Test.

K

Kenny Vo 23:52

It's one of our current tests that we have available. Is it the best test? Probably not? Is it the only we have? Definitely so. But from a personal standpoint, I don't think we're even close to sentience. And I think we get really close to it feeling like sentience. I think there's a certain point in which we crossed this threshold of like, oh, this is creepily weird. It's almost too real. It's like those dolls we see sometimes on the internet. There's like, is that a person? Or is that a doll? Like it's hard to tell? And there there isn't a clear cut point in time of saying like this is now sentient, because we've never actually approached it. And, but we're humans. So we're, we're super subjective about how we see and interact with things in the world.

S

Steve Barclay 24:41

And when do one of them, we tend to personify things even, you know, like, I talk to my pen sometimes.

K

Kenny Vo 24:59

Yeah, I mean, if you'd ask an eight year old if they thought EEEEE was real, like a sentient being, they would say yes. But it's just their frame of reference is it's different, right? For me, who's been working with EEEEE, I see her prompts coming out at hundreds, if not 1000s. Every time I ask her something, if she's just generating these prompts, and she's making the best educated guess as to what I'd want to hear how I'd want to hear it, and what my question was, and then she outputs that prompt, but I see the back ends of it. And I'm like, okay, so she's thinking about 1000 different scenarios. She picks this one she thinks is the best one, but the best sentence structure and she outputs that one to me. I see it, I'm like, that's not sentience. It's just mathematics.

S

Steve Barclay 25:45

Yeah, it's a process. It's I don't know if you know, but Ray Kurzweil was was big. A few years, well, more than a few years ago, probably two decades ago, in the in the blindness industry, it was very, very much involved in coming up with solutions for people who are blind and visually impaired. And I actually got to sit down to lunch with him one time. And he, he sounded like a crazy man when he when he talked, because he, you know, Ray looks way, way into the future. But he he said that he felt that that AI would would achieve the ability to pass a Turing test consistently, somewhere around 2029. Do you think that's a reasonable run prognostic prognostication? Do you think we're that close?

K

Kenny Vo 26:35

I think it'd be sooner. Well, yeah, I think what's going to happen personally, is that I mentioned earlier that something big is gonna happen. And then it's going to reformat how we think about everything. And I think it's just like people like me on the world who are playing with this, who are dealing with this, who are trying to utilize these kind of AI systems, you're gonna have someone, somewhere in the world, come up with the next Turing test, and the next one after that. So I think it'll be a it'll be a process where we'll have like, 20 different tests by the end of it. And then we'll discover where we're at. But in the next few years, yeah, I can totally see AIs, surpassing the Turing test and going into like Turing 1-2-3-4-5-6. Yeah, I can see, I can see us escalating as it becomes more and more normalized.

S

Steve Barclay 27:26

So you said earlier that you you didn't think the Turing Test was was a good test, I believe. Are there people working on the next iterations of of this test?

K

Kenny Vo 27:39

Oh, just to correct that I didn't say it was it wasn't a good test. It's a great test. I just think it's the only test we currently have as our standard.



S

Steve Barclay 27:50

Sorry. Yeah, you're right. You did say it was the only test. Yeah.

K

Kenny Vo 27:54

It's a great test. And I think it's a totally valid point. But it's the only thing we have. And that's, you know, we can only measure what we have. If I have a meter stick, that's all I can measure. And I think that's, that's probably one of the biggest weaknesses we have right now. Because the Turing Test came out decades ago. And that's the only system we have. But every year technology changes, and we advanced so fast. Our systems are really outdated. They're not keeping up with what we need, for day to day life. You look at school systems. And they're still teaching the very old classic way of chalk on board, and but everyone that's out here sitting with an iPad, and like for phones, you know, they have access to the world's internet and their hands and the systems have not kept up, unfortunately. And I think the Turing test is one of those antiquated systems that just have not really caught up just yet. But if, again, the only thing we have, unfortunately.

R

Ryan Fleury 28:54

For those of us who don't know what the Turing test is, can you expand on that a little bit more?

K

Kenny Vo 28:59

I've never actually explained this ...

S

Steve Barclay 29:01

I have the I have the Wikipedia entry.

K

Kenny Vo 29:05

Give me with the Wiki.

S

Steve Barclay 29:06

With the Wiki here. It says the Turing Test originally called The Imitation Game by Alan Turing in 1950, is a test of a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behavior equivalent to or indistinguishable from that of a human. He proposed that a human evaluator would judge natural language conversations between a human and a machine designed to generate human like responses. The evaluator would be aware that one of the two partners in the conversation was a machine and all participants would be separated from one another, the conversation would be limited to a text only channels such as a computer keyboard and screen, so the result

would not depend on the machine's ability to render words at speech. They were already there. The evaluator could not reliably tell the machine from the human the machine would have would be said to have passed the test. Okay. So I've actually I've done I've gone after Chat-GPT and tried to have a conversation with Chat-GPT. And I gotta say Chad GPT would not pass a Turing test at this point.

K

Kenny Vo 30:10

Again, this is one of those moments are very subjective. Yeah, you know, this is one of those things where if I took us to a third world country, right, and I was like, hey, talk to this machine, it'd be like, Oh, my God, like, why is this guy in tech support? I think there's like a subjective element to it. So at what, like, at what point do we have like a standardized human to determine what it is to be human?

S

Steve Barclay 30:42

Well, that's a good point, to standardize humans. We're getting further from that, if anything.

K

Kenny Vo 30:50

Like if I was talking to like, some of the Amazon bots, evaluate those Amazon bots, like, hey, you know what? This could be they're really, really, you know, poor English speaking human or machine? And I probably couldn't tell sometimes. So it'd be it'd be a little bit subjective in that regard.

R

Rob Mineault 31:12

Yes, and I've been saying that for a while. I mean, the AI is getting smarter and humans are getting dumber. So, really, so I don't know. It's not gonna be long before, you know, one overtakes the other for sure.

K

Kenny Vo 31:25

Yeah, I think it's an inevitability.

S

Steve Barclay 31:28

All right. Now, another question for you. You named your ai EEEEE. Are you naming it after the Pokimane?

K

Kenny Vo 31:34

Oh, yeah. So I get that question all the time. The actual system is named EA, V. Okay. So that's

the actual system. So it's, it was my early days of trying to name a cool system, really, something really awesome. I completely forgot what the acronym stood for. But it's cool, I can guarantee you that. But since then, I've learned a lot. So it's actually three different AI systems, working in conjunction with each other. It's my rudimentary way of solving a very interesting problem of one system. Having say over everything, so to give you an example, what had happened one time was I asked it, to schedule me an event. And then what it would do is it would process what the next event would be my current state of mind, what like, what things I've been into. So I've been to fishing lately, to try to schedule me fishing instead of asking me for confirmation. If I would want to go fishing, it would ask itself, if I would like to go fishing, and you'd like yes, I'd like to go fishing. Okay. And what ultimately then that happening was it was scheduled me to have a fishing trip, because it wanted me to have a fishing trip, and it would call and text my friends to let them know that I was going on a fishing trip today. So it would do all these things all at once without any sort of rhyme or reason without any sort of like recourse. And that was the part where I was like, I really messed up here.

S

Steve Barclay 33:11

Okay, do you still have that iteration of the AI?

K

Kenny Vo 33:19

I do. But the more recently, when you see like on streams and on Tik Tok and stuff, it's like I was mentioning it's a three part system. So there's EEEEE. There's Ava who watches EEEEE now. So she's the one who handles like, permissions facial analysis is is the person speaking. Voice recognition to make sure that I am Kenny and I, you know, confirm certain actions. And then there's IVY at the back end. And she's the one who actually executes everything. So at the end of everything, she's the one with all the rules, just like I can't do this, I can't do this. So these three systems interact with each other constantly in order to ascertain you know, who I am, what I want my intention and what my outcome is.

R

Ryan Fleury 33:59

Steve just wants more fishing trips.

S

Steve Barclay 34:01

Yeah, I just want something I can say schedule me an appointment that comes up fishing. Sorry, yeah.

K

Kenny Vo 34:09

It was the AI knows me better than I know myself, right.

S

Steve Barclay 34:13

**S** Steve Barclay 34:13

I gotta do what the AI says. When you talk about rules, you talk about having these rules in place, you know that you can't do this. You can't do that. You know, I that harkens me back. I'm a sci fi nerd. So it harkens back to Asimov and his rules around robotics. Are those still kind of a framework within this arena? Are they important anymore? Or have they just been completely superseded?

**K** Kenny Vo 34:41

They're still important, especially in the medical field. So I work with a lot of kids and I would say mental health patients, and there are a lot of dark thoughts. There are a lot of things that happens that I'm guessing you guys also play with Chat-GPT, you push the limits of these systems when you have them And these rules as old as they are still sort of apply to most general cases, you know, like, means like, harming another person, not harming yourself. If it impedes someone else's ability to harm someone else, all these rules still apply. But at today's age, I think we need like six rules, maybe 60 rules, you know. We need many more rules to account for modern day humans. It's becomes less of a question of are these rules applicable? And more of are these rules enough? Because I think we'll always need more rules and regulations. It is the question of how many, and to the point where a system no longer works?

**R** Rob Mineault 35:54

Right. Well, that, you know, and I think that that's not to go off too far into the weeds. But, you know, I do think that that is something else that we haven't thought of yet that we haven't developed - I'm sure there's a whole ethics around all of this that nobody's really thought of as we push this technology out, before we've really even considered a lot of the, the ethical part of it. So you know, I'm sure that that's being worked on. Now, somebody's scrambling somewhere, you know, along with all the copyright lawyers to try to figure that figure that framework out. But then I think the trick is to be trying to implement that. So yeah, should be interesting.

**K** Kenny Vo 36:38

And the funny thing is, like, everyone's got their own point of view. Like, I have a very engineering point of view. So when I think of something, I'm like, Oh, that's really cool. Like, how do I make that better? Whereas like an accountant would be like, how do we reduce the costs on that? Lawyers like, how do we reduce our liabilities on that?

**S** Steve Barclay 37:00

I don't think we should be letting lawyers in on this conversation, because they're going to be the first step against the wall when the revolution comes.

**K** Kenny Vo 37:08

Yeah. I'll be I'll be there trenches, you know

Yeah, I'll be I'll be there trenches, you know

S

Steve Barclay 37:10

They're gonna be one of the industries, it's going to take a major hit. If AI is ever accepted to, you know, produce legal documents? Yeah. Oh, wow. Yeah, because there's already a case, there's a case right now down in this down in the states where a Law Group is suing a company that's using AI to generate contracts.

K

Kenny Vo 37:32

Wow. I don't blame them. Because it's, I mean, you got the technology. It's like, yeah, Microsoft Word. You know, it's, it's another part of our history isn't a part of our future. Yeah. I can see that in the future. Everything can have been generated. I see so many jobs being replaced.

R

Rob Mineault 37:50

Yeah. Well, I think that part of the, I don't wanna say danger, I don't, I don't want to I don't want to be, you know, a doomsayer at all. But I also, I do get the feeling that there's a lot of companies that are really like, embracing this technology, and, and forging ahead, there's a little bit of an, like an AI race. I mean, we see it in Google and Bing, for example. You know, they're, they're racing to get, you know, that technology baked into the search engines to make searches more powerful. And, you know, the list goes on and on of how many companies are really embracing the technology and trying to figure out how they can leverage it before the competition. So there's going to be a lot of the of this technology out there very soon. So you know, we do have to start thinking about some of the guardrails for some of this stuff. So hopefully, somebody is working on that.

K

Kenny Vo 38:44

Yeah. It's, it's a scary world, you know? Is there a competitor?

S

Steve Barclay 38:50

Is there anyone out there strictly dealing with AI ethics? Is that a thing?

K

Kenny Vo 38:56

I think there are many people trying to deal with it. But no consensus.

R

Rob Mineault 39:03

Yeah. Well, it's too new. I mean, it you know, when something when something moves this fast, it is really hard to to because humans are a lot slower than AI. We should build an AI to figure

it is really hard to, to because humans are a lot slower than AI. We should build an AI to figure out the ethics about AI.

K

Kenny Vo 39:16

Yeah. I mean, in all honesty, I could see us using AI to formulate rules about AI. Why not? You know, it's like asking the four of us to make rules. I'm like, I don't have the world's internet in my brain in a given second, but a system that can see everything all at once. That's right, that's pretty powerful.

R

Rob Mineault 39:38

Okay, so I want to I want I'm because I'm really curious about your system and just your experience building it, and how that's gone. So first of all, how long have you been working on it? Like when did you first launch it?

K

Kenny Vo 39:53

I've been working on it since 2017. So that was with my neighbor working on little things and you know, self teaching. And I started having it more publicly known when I started streaming with it. So streaming on Twitch, and trying to get it to speak my viewers names, in the most posh way possible. I wanted to be Tony Stark, Iron Man. And then it became really cursed. I can give you example. So the human language is very inefficient. And everyone comes from all over the world. Everyone has different languages. So I have tried to make it so that it would respond to people in their preferred language. But there's a there's a thing in human language where you try to short form everything. So we don't want to have someone respond to our question with a paragraph. But the system would see something like a Chinese character that you know, a single character or enveloping entire idea, and it would spit that character out. It'd be oh, you know, this character in German is really great. And this one in Chinese is really good. This one in Latin is really good. So I tried to Modge Podge together. So yeah, there's a ton of chaos that came out of it sort of making its own language its own, like demonic language. We since fixed it but yeah, that's when I started. And we're here today.

R

Rob Mineault 41:14

So and so what's that process been like? Did you basically just kind of, you know, you, you sort of built the foundation of it. And then just slowly but surely you're like, okay, let's, let's make it do this. And then you got that working, then it's like, okay, well, now let's build on that and make it do this. Is that kind of how the process went?

K

Kenny Vo 41:34

Honestly, it started with one neighbor, fixing this one problem that's very specific. And then someone else can be like, hey, I heard about what you did. Like, I would love that, too. I think we all can resonate with the feeling of having a loved one that we care about living on their



own. You know, you can't really watch them all the time. It's nerve racking. So another neighbor came up to me, he's like, hey, can you do something for me? I'm like, sure. Yeah. And then another neighbor came, I was like, can you do this thing for me? I was like, okay, yeah, so I decided to start making videos about it. And then then they sort of took off. The hospital contacted me, physicians contacted me, and it just kind of one by one, one person at a time, it kind of just grew.

R

Rob Mineault 42:16

So, I mean, it's, it sounds like it's almost like a child, except you get to choose what you're teaching it. And you know, you teach it to do one task, and then you just slowly build on that, except you get to pick what you want to what you want to teach it.

K

Kenny Vo 42:29

Yeah, that's the beauty of being a content creator, I get to build a community of people because I, I don't know everything. And I don't claim to know everything I'm always learning. But it's really the essence of my community all the time, it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to build something that's going to change the world. And I heavily rely on that community to share with me things like their experiences and what they've gone through or how it affects them, or what ails them to kind of build these systems.

R

Rob Mineault 43:00

But I mean, it is interesting, because it sounds like it's almost community driven in terms of like, what you're teaching?

K

Kenny Vo 43:07

It absolutely is, it's it's all of us. If it's going to be designed to help people it should be built by people. And it's, I call it a very human centric design.

R

Rob Mineault 43:19

So how does it work? Do you just you just kind of like your, your streaming, or whatever you're like, okay, like, what do we what do we want to teach it this week? Do people just kind of throw you suggestions? Like, how does it all work?

K

Kenny Vo 43:33

I mean, Steve, your daughter probably knows this. But I answer every comment on TikTok. I read every comment, and it's literally me and once like, oh, tonight it's me answering every comment because I, I get all these stories of people like, oh, my son has sickle cell disease, and he's anemic. And I get all these stories. And I start to see I see the trend. I see like, okay,

people are talking a lot about this. Let's try to tackle that. And then I go on stream, and I'm like, guys, this is what we're tackling. Like, go out there, you got some time to research something for me, that'd be great. If you have like, personal experience with it, I'd love to hear it. And then we start to build on that idea. And then we come up with like a bit of a, how do we address this in the most simplest form? How do we help them in the most simplest form, and we just kind of build off of that. And everyone has amazing ideas. Sometimes I'm like, where did these ideas come from? I'm just a guy in a basement. Like some people have amazing lives and amazing experiences that it just it brings it all together, you know, someone will be like, oh, I had a stroke one time and I remember like, not being able to like focus my eyes. I was like, oh, is that something we should look at it when someone has a stroke? Do we look at their eyes and see if their eyes are shuttering around or unable to focus like pupil dilation? And that's one of the things we use nowadays the way to detect strokes. Right really small nuances like that, from people all over the world make the biggest difference.

S

Steve Barclay 45:05

Wow, really fascinating. I mean, there's just so many ways you could you can go with this and, you know, I love that you're bringing this into the medical field I think that's phenomenal. It's an application I haven't seen, you know, broadly used, you know, we're seeing in our industry with the the low vision and blindness stuff, we're seeing little snippets of AI being introduced, you know, in devices like, human or it's got the stellar track, which is a GPS system. But one of the problems with GPS is it'll get you to within 40 feet of where you need to be, and then it leaves you there. So they've added a camera and some some AI built into it now, so that it can help you find doors and, you know, entryways, addresses those sorts of things. We've seen it from a company called Envision AI, they, they have, they're using Google Glasses. And they now have the ability to hold up a piece of a document in front of it and say, okay, you know, tell me the phone numbers in this document. It'll tell you the phone numbers from it. So it's starting to enter into our arena, but there's just there's obviously a lot more places it can go and a lot more than it can do.

R

Ryan Fleury 46:29

What a personal EEEEE guitar instructor who can just sit here beside me and say "you did it wrong!" smack.

K

Kenny Vo 46:40

Funny, you said that. EEEEE has a singing system. I learned how to yodel that day. Yeah, funny enough that you guys deal with the disabled in the medical field. I actually I work with a paraplegic. She's a 16 year old girl, brightest girl, just just such a joy. But she's a paraplegic. So everything from the waist down. Nothing. She's in a wheelchair all the time. But I built her a smart wheelchair. And what it does is it's got two cameras, one camera in the back of the chair that looks forward. And then one camera who looks at her. And what it does is it tracks her eyes. And it correlates the two cameras together this synchronized so that whatever she's looking at the camera points at, and it uses, AI technology to map out the direction of travel. So if she wants to go towards a vending machine, for example, she would have to blink twice, and then the system just like a smart car, or like a Tesla car, it would map up the way to get there.

And then it would move the wheelchair towards what she's looking at. And I was like one of those things. I mean, obviously, she's run into a couple of walls and people. Lots of problems we are still working out. But it's cool to see one of those, it's cool to see the technology being integrated into people's lives, right? In a way that just, it just makes sense. You know, like, this is the kind of thing we should be doing with technology like this.

R

Ryan Fleury 48:14

Right? And it all started with a Roomba.

S

Steve Barclay 48:18

Exactly. That's super cool. I really liked the wheelchair thing that you're working on. I also another role I play as the I work with the Children's Low Vision Project in British Columbia. And every now and then we will get somebody in who's you know, severely visually impaired and in a wheelchair, and navigating independently in a wheelchair for somebody who's blind, it's a thing. So that's, that's another area that that technology could really help address.

R

Rob Mineault 48:54

Amazing, for sure. And we're starting to see it now. Like this idea of like augmented reality glasses that, you know, that can use AI to do things like identify all the objects in a room and be able to transmit that information in a way that can help somebody sort of navigate through a room or let them know, like, where certain things are. We're really close to that.

K

Kenny Vo 49:23

Oh, yeah. I think it's just right around the corner. I think it just takes, you know, a few people with the will and the drive to do it. And we're going to be off to the races very soon.

R

Rob Mineault 49:36

For sure. I mean, then actually, I actually saw a video on your channel, where you talked about that. You had the AI locate your keys and you blindfolded yourself and it was sort of able to left / right you and give you directions. And you know, it was very it was very primitive but actually a funny video to watch, because there's some hilarity in there. But, but I mean, it's it's there like you, we can't be all that far off from really being able to develop some assistive technology that would be really meaningful for for a lot of folks.

K

Kenny Vo 50:17

Yeah. I mean, you look at me and I could get 20 kids like, Oh, where do I start? Like, I mean, you got the internet right there. But I just, I'm self taught, right? And there are many, many, many smarter people than me. And if that's something I can do, alone in my basement, I'm

sure someone out there is cooking something crazy. And once it becomes normalized, I think we'll start seeing that way more, because I think one of the big stopping points right now is just people's abrasiveness to it. They have a bit of a stigma against AI systems because of the media. And I think once that kind of, we ease that into people, I think it's one of the things that you mentioned, my content is really funny. One of the things that I'm trying to do is trying to bring it forward in a way that's a helpful be scientific and cool, but also bring a bit of a light to because there's a lot of great things that AI systems can do. But there's also a lot of stigma and a lot of like negative backlash that we had to kind of wade through that we've created over these years.

R

Rob Mineault 51:22

Yeah, well, I mean, even even myself, like you know, I from day to day i oscillate between I'm really excited with technology, to be like, I don't know about this. You know it, it's it's a double edged sword, I think it is going to be game changing technology, one way or the other. And I think that if we're smart about it, I think that it's going to it's going to improve a lot of people's lives. For sure.

K

Kenny Vo 51:48

I think it'd be go at it with that. No, that framework, that mindset, I think, I think things will be really good. There's always going to be things that are bad that come with it, but I think it'd be keep pushing forward with it. We utilize it to our advantage. Yeah, there's endless possibilities now.

R

Rob Mineault 52:08

For sure. At the very least we're gonna have a huge glut of country songs.

R

Ryan Fleury 52:15

Well, as long as somebody remembers to have a separate emergency override button that you don't have to wrestle the bot for to shut it down. Because if you do, we're dead.

R

Rob Mineault 52:25

Don't put the AI in charge of the button.

K

Kenny Vo 52:29

And then put another AI watching that AI.

R

Ryan Fleury 52:34

**R** Ryan Fleury 52:34  
it has to be an emergency override somewhere that the AI doesn't know about.

**K** Kenny Vo 52:38  
Yeah. Yeah. The wall outlet.

**R** Rob Mineault 52:40  
Yeah. Listen, where can people find the channel? Where can people find the Twitch stream if they're interested? Plug away my friend.

**K** Kenny Vo 53:00  
Oh, well, my name is Kennevo. You can find that username, literally everywhere, hopefully. Unless there's like a place where someone's impersonating me. But YouTube, TikTok, Twitch. Those are the best places to find me. And I also have a Discord where I take in everyone's suggestions. People are there all the time, sharing stories of you know, people have a story or experiences or they want to just connect and have questions. I'm there all the time. I'm trying to answer people's concerns and make things more accessible.

**R** Rob Mineault 53:37  
Okay, well, you may you may find three new entries later on.

**K** Kenny Vo 53:41  
So if I'm trying to create a music playing device. How would I go about doing that? I'll know who it is.

**R** Rob Mineault 53:50  
That's right. Build a smart guitar.

**R** Ryan Fleury 53:55  
They're out there.

**R** Rob Mineault 53:59  
Well, listen, Kenny, we want to thank you so much for coming on and illuminating us about AI and best of luck with the channel and, and best of luck with EEEEE.

**K** Kenny Vo 54:09  
Yeah, thank you so much for having me. Like I'm always, always looking for opportunities to talk about things and share and hopefully change the world.

**S** Steve Barclay 54:18  
Fantastic. Well, we're definitely going to stay in touch with you. Because you're well on your way.

**K** Kenny Vo 54:26  
Appreciate it.

**R** Rob Mineault 54:27  
Awesome. Thanks, Kenny.

**K** Kenny Vo 54:28  
All right, thank you guys.

**R** Rob Mineault 54:34  
I don't know. Again, I don't know how I feel. Well, I think conversation kind of made me excited, but kind of made me worried.

**R** Ryan Fleury 54:40  
I'm looking forward to the day, you know, like, just to have a companion bot that you could actually have a conversation with. You know, there's a lot of lonely people in the world. And just think about the quality of life that a lot of people would have if they had something like this.

**R** Rob Mineault 54:58  
Yeah, well sure. And then it kills you. Then it decides it hates you.

**R** Ryan Fleury 55:08  
It has rules to be kind

IT HAS RULES TO BE KIND.

S

Steve Barclay 55:11

And it's gonna at least follow him off. So three rules, right?

R

Rob Mineault 55:14

Yeah. I guess part of it that's slightly alarming to me is anybody in their basement can just build an AI, and we don't seem to have any regulations? We're not tracking any of this? I mean, because he's absolutely right, I'm sure that there's tons of people that are working on it. I mean, every engineering student on the planet is probably playing with it right now. So, I mean, that could be a great thing. It could mean that we see some really innovative things coming out. But I don't know there is there is a possibility there that could bite us in the butt.

S

Steve Barclay 55:49

I'm betting Putin sitting over there in Russia right now going Chat-GPT, can you tell me how to finally conquer Ukraine?

R

Rob Mineault 55:59

It probably would have come up with a better plan. What makes me excited is that all the potential for the Assistant Technology field for sure. I mean, that's, it's amazing to me that, you know, Kenny, built all that stuff for his neighbor. Just as an engineering student drop out and some time on his hands, he was able to build some assistive technology that was really impactful. And we definitely need some more of that.

S

Steve Barclay 56:29

Yeah, absolutely. And, you know, it's always been the case in this industry, though the Best Innovation always comes from the small players, it always does. You know, it's never the big guys who come up with something that's truly revolutionary. They come up with iterations of stuff that's been done before, and they might improve on it. But it's, it's guys like Kenny, who were who were on the ground, you know, working with patients working with their friends and neighbors and come up with something truly remarkable.

R

Rob Mineault 56:54

Yeah. I guess we'll find out. I think we're going to find out real soon, because I think that the next six months is where we're going to see some real big leaps forward in the technology itself.

—

S

Steve Barclay 57:06

So yeah, well, you heard it from Kenny right? He thinks Kurzweil is behind when he says that they'll basically be AIS will be indistinguishable from humans, at least interacting through text by 2029. Man. Ray Kurzweil also predicted that the singularity where we're will have, you know, interactions between human biology and machinery will be by 2045. So, wow, you know, we might actually live to see that. Wow, that's crazy. Oh, well, certainly live to see AI that is, is pretty darn smart.

R

Rob Mineault 57:46

Yeah. Man. Well, and it's getting smarter every day. I mean, that's, that is the thing about it is this technology is getting better and better at an at a rate that we we've never seen before. Because it's not the it's not constrained by by human anything.

S

Steve Barclay 58:03

Well, it is it is though, this is the thing. It is constrained by human something. It's because it's getting its information from the internet. The internet's full of crap.

R

Rob Mineault 58:14

That's true. I just mean it's not like programmers or engineers that have to go sleep like they all all this thing does is just problem solves and turns and gets better and better and better. And so it that's why the technology is moving forward so fast is that it's not you know, it's not reliant on humans that to make it better. We are we really have we're entering into like a sci fi movie now. This is kind of cool. Yep. It's what we've been waiting for Steve. So I don't know why we have a flying car yet.

S

Steve Barclay 58:47

That's right. I'm going to Chat-GPT right now to ask it to build the flying car.

R

Rob Mineault 58:52

Solve two problems right there.

S

Steve Barclay 58:54

I was supposed to have it in the year 2000. Dammit.

R

Rob Mineault 58:56

It was promised. Yeah. All right, well, anything else?



it was promised. Yeah. All right, well, anything else?

**R** Ryan Fleury 59:05  
Now? Nope.

**R** Rob Mineault 59:07  
That's enough for one day. Hey Ryan?

**R** Ryan Fleury 59:13  
Yeah. Rob?

**R** Rob Mineault 59:16  
Where can people find this?

**R** Ryan Fleury 59:17  
They can find us on Mastodon and Instagram, and Twitter, and Facebook.

**S** Steve Barclay 59:28  
We forgot to take a picture of us eating pancakes.

**R** Rob Mineault 59:30  
Wait a minute. Why did you do the socials? Wait, did we screw that up already? No, no, you know, you did the socials. You're supposed to the website first.

**R** Ryan Fleury 59:39  
Oh, well. That's fine. So Steve...

**R** Rob Mineault 59:45  
How are we screwing this up?

**S** Steve Barclay 59:46  
I don't know. I don't know.

**S** Steve Barclay 59:49  
Where can they find us or for like email and stuff you mean?

**R** Rob Mineault 59:51  
Well, no, I was gonna ask you about the website.

**S** Steve Barclay 59:53  
Oh, well, the website [www.atbanter.com](http://www.atbanter.com).

**R** Rob Mineault 59:56  
There you go. And then and in terms of email if they so desire to drop us a line it's [cowbell@atbanter.com](mailto:cowbell@atbanter.com) We clearly had too much syrup today.

**S** Steve Barclay 1:00:21  
Oh those those pancakes I tell you they hit me like a ton of bricks. When I got home I had to have a nap I had to lie down. They just stopped me cold. I can't I can't do carbs in the morning.

**R** Rob Mineault 1:00:35  
Remember that next time, and get you like just a fruit dish or something. No, actually forget it, you can't go to IHOP and order pancakes, that's just wrong.

**S** Steve Barclay 1:00:45  
Well, I can do the eggs and bacon.

**R** Rob Mineault 1:00:47  
For sure. Alright, that is going to do it for us this week. Big thanks, of course to Kenny for joining us and we will see everybody next week.