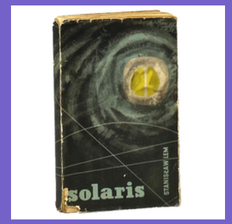
LOBSTER IN THE LOOP

2026 / 4 · English edition

This year marks 65 years since the publication of Solaris, the masterpiece by Stanisław Herman Lem, the Polish physician and Central Europe's most famous science-fiction author. The first Polish edition has been followed by hundreds of editions in many other languages, right up to the present. It remains relevant because it offered one of the earliest visions of something we now call AI. Yet the story does not present a flattering version, but an independent, resistant world of intelligence that humans can barely comprehend. It is a distinctive, uncontrollable force of consciousness that creates images and influences behavior. Two films have been made from the story; each, in its own way, conveys Lem's technically well-founded vision, even if not entirely faithfully. As the days turn wintry, it is worth picking up the book and looking forward from there, looking back from here...



INDEXES, CASES, ISSUES

Superintelligence is mandatory!

Anyone who can "read" pictures will clearly see that, although there were 34 seats around the table at Donald Trump's September 29 AI gathering, the guests who deserve our closest attention are those seated near the president. The so-called "ears," who presumably enjoy the president's greatest confidence, were billionaire technology gurus. And on the same day Trump ushered in the "era of superintelligence" in the United States by executive order. Something is happening—not something rotten in Denmark, but something certain and fast.



Donald Trump in the center; moving left, Jensen Huang (Nvidia) and Mark Zuckerberg (Meta); to his right, Elon Musk (Tesla, SpaceX) and Sundar Pichai (Google). BBC News

In late September 2026, US President Donald Trump invited the most influential executives in the artificial intelligence industry, alongside leading figures from the US government and venture capital sector, to a luncheon at the White House. A total of 34 people attended. The significance of the event went far beyond a routine consultation: the seating arrangement served as a political map of influence, showing who holds the greatest sway over US decisions concerning the future of artificial intelligence.

THOSE WITH THE MOST

Immediately beside Trump sat Elon Musk, head of Tesla and SpaceX, and Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia. Although the president's relationship with Musk had deteriorated earlier in his administration, the seating suggested that the two had repaired their relationship and that Musk was once again part of the president's inner circle.
Jensen Huang, the chip magnate supplying the computing infrastructure that powers AI, may be even more important in shaping US technology policy. The trillionaire has long argued for easing restrictions on exports of advanced AI chips to China and against strict government regulation of the AI industry.

The leaders of America's largest technology companies were also among those seated closest to the president. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella sat opposite President Trump. Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg and Google CEO Sundar Pichai were also in the central group, one seat away from the president's immediate neighbors. These companies have invested tens of billions of dollars in developing AI models, building data centers and expanding the computing capacity they require. US government decisions shaping AI's future therefore directly affect their business interests.

THOSE WITH LESS

Particularly striking was the more peripheral position of Dario Amodei (Anthropic) and Sam Altman (OpenAI), advocates of stricter regulation based on cooperation. Most tellingly, Amodei was seated near one end of the table, far from senior government officials. As was already clear, his call for regulation differs from Trump's anti-regulatory approach. The president regards preserving American technological competitiveness, rapid innovation and limiting government intervention as the guarantees of the future.
It is therefore clear that the political direction of the US administration, which sets the "AI pace," especially in innovation, prioritizes competitiveness.

SOMETHING EVERYONE AGREES ON

At the end of the meeting, participants signed a joint agreement committing themselves to internal risk-management rules to ensure the safety of their systems and to submitting their operations to external audits. This is significant because, despite disagreements over regulation, the business leaders reached common ground on certain basic safety principles.
Trump, incidentally, named the "team" the Superintelligence Force. Does Europe want something like this, and in this form?

Future Potentials Observatory

FROM COMMANDO TO THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/09/inaugurating-the-era-of-super-intelligence/

Also in September, a new US executive order (No. 14434) appeared, concerning the “era of superintelligence.” Its primary purpose is terminological and cultural: the opportunities created by AI should be discussed using different words and a different perspective. Accordingly:

- A new official term is introduced: the US executive branch must use “superintelligence” (Super Intelligence, SI) instead of “artificial intelligence” (AI), to the extent permitted by law. According to the president, the term artificial intelligence no longer adequately reflects the technology’s capabilities. Advanced systems do not merely imitate or automate human thought; they create new opportunities in science, medicine and other fields.
- SI must be used in government: federal departments and agencies must adopt the new terminology in official correspondence, communications, websites, reports and policy documents.
- Earlier documents remain unchanged: the order does not require amendments to existing laws, presidential actions, contracts, grant agreements or other previously issued documents.
- Preparation of a new legal definition: within 60 days, the president’s science and technology adviser must propose a federal legal definition of superintelligence, addressing possible changes to the current definition of AI, related legislative amendments and further implementation measures.

Future Potentials Observatory

Jobs again: career paths are being redrawn

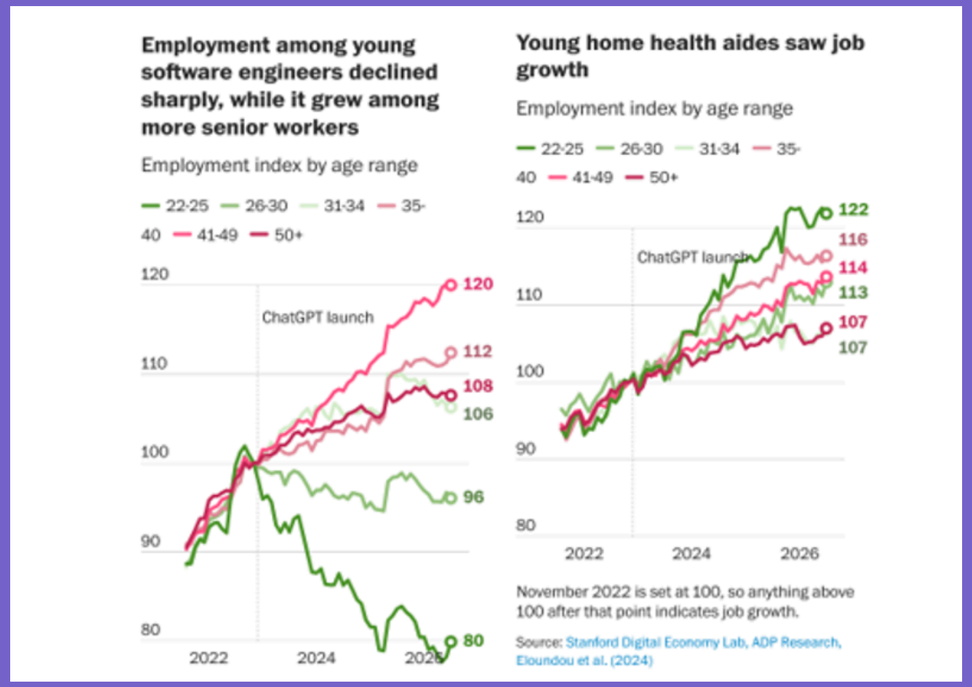
A preliminary tip: train to become a home health aide! This is among the jobs that AI is unlikely to replace to any great extent even in the medium term. At the same time, AI is fundamentally changing the familiar path of career development. One of its most important labor-market effects may not be mass layoffs but shrinking opportunities for people entering the workforce. While experienced, older professionals can work ever more efficiently with AI, young people may lose precisely the entry-level tasks through which they once acquired professional knowledge. The change does not affect all occupations equally. Some roles may decline, others may remain more resilient, and AI may even increase demand for certain jobs.

A new labor-market divide: an employment gap between experienced workers and new entrants

Imagine two software developers. One has worked in the field for ten years, designs complex systems and now oversees AI-powered tools that can find and fix software bugs overnight without human intervention. The other is a recent graduate who has submitted dozens of job applications but received no offer after several interviews.

These two situations illustrate a paradox of AI adoption: the same technology that increases experienced workers' productivity may reduce demand for newcomers. Researchers at Stanford University's Digital Economy Lab examined the trend using payroll data from HR provider ADP covering millions of US employees, and published their findings on the Canaries Dashboard.

The findings show that, since ChatGPT launched in 2022, employment has increased across all occupational groups studied when workers of all ages are considered. Among 22–25-year-olds, however, a very different picture emerges: employment has declined in occupations most exposed to AI. No comparable decline was observed among more experienced workers in those same occupations.



It is important to note that differing employment trends do not in themselves prove that AI alone caused the decline. Economic conditions, corporate cost-cutting and industry cycles may also play a role.

Why is the disappearance of entry-level tasks problematic?

In the traditional career model, newcomers learned the foundations of their profession through relatively simple, often repetitive tasks. These jobs provided not only income but also an institutionalized form of learning.

A junior programmer, for example, would fix minor bugs, handle tickets, write tests or produce simpler pieces of code. Today these are precisely the tasks at which generative AI can be especially effective.
From a company's perspective, assigning routine tasks to AI systems while retaining experienced developers who can check the results and take responsibility for the whole system may seem rational.
In the longer term, however, this may create a serious problem: if companies do not hire beginners, where will tomorrow's experienced specialists come from?
This challenge is not confined to IT. Similar mechanisms may operate in legal assistance, financial analysis, research support and administrative roles, where new entrants previously gained experience by processing documents, collecting information and preparing analyses.
The problem thus extends beyond short-term unemployment: it may also affect traditional pathways for developing future professionals and passing on knowledge.

Why might people-centered occupations prove more resilient?

Because they require physical presence, shared experience and learning, trust, empathy (not merely "flattery") and direct responsibility. Home care is a good example: demand for young entrants is actually increasing in this field. An AI system may help plan an elderly person's daily care routine, organize health information or flag certain risks. But it cannot (yet) physically lift a patient, comfort them or safely accompany them to the bathroom. Similar reasoning may apply to electricians, plumbers, nurses, certain teachers and other professionals whose work requires direct human presence.
This does not, of course, mean these occupations will remain unchanged. AI may transform many of their individual tasks. Replacing an entire job, however, can be far harder than automating a well-documented routine task performed digitally.

A key determinant of labor-market resilience may therefore be how much an occupation depends on knowledge that is difficult to formalize, and how much it requires human judgment, trust or physical action.

New opportunities may also open up for young people

Artificial intelligence changes not only employment conditions but can also lower the barriers to starting a business. Previously, creating a digital product or service often required a developer, designer, marketer and administrative support. Today a single entrepreneur can use AI tools to carry out several of these tasks, at least in the early stages. A 23-year-old can now develop a product, launch a service or reach an international market that once would have required substantially more capital and organizational resources.
Entrepreneurship, however, cannot be regarded as a universal solution to the shortage of entry-level jobs. Not everyone wants to or can start a business, and this alone does not solve the societal challenge of acquiring professional experience.

Stanford Digital Economy Lab – Canaries Dashboard
OpenAI – AI Jobs Transition Framework
Goldman Sachs – Is AI Impacting Global Labor Markets?
Schools Week – A brit pedagógusok AI-használatáról szóló felmérésSchools Week – Survey of AI use among British teachers

Future Potentials Observatory

Another global report—this time on how humans are enabled to cooperate with the “machine”

The eighth Global Skills Report (2026), issued by Coursera and Udemy, draws on the largest database of university learners yet, encompassing data from 300 million students this year.

This year’s key messages are:

1. AI adoption is proceeding much faster than the necessary workforce preparation

Nearly three-quarters of organizations have already adopted or piloted AI, yet only 18% reported that most of their employees had undergone AI-related retraining or upskilling during the previous year.
A similar gap is evident in education. More than 95% of surveyed students and educators use AI, while only 26% of educators say their institution has a formal policy governing its use.

2. AI skills and human skills are increasingly interconnected

Learning data suggest that people do not acquire AI competencies in isolation, but integrate them with their existing skills. Areas such as
- AI literacy,
- prompting,
- generative AI,
- AI agents,

- LLM applications,
- and AI product strategy

are regularly combined with human skills such as innovation, critical thinking and judgment, and complex problem-solving.

3. Critical thinking is becoming a central skill of the AI era

Critical thinking and judgment top the report's list of human skills. Enrollments in programs developing critical thinking rose 107% in one year. Interest in complex problem-solving grew even faster, by 126%. Ethics and governance also rank highly, meaning the leadership and accountability capabilities needed for responsible AI use.

The ten leading human skill areas identified by the report are:

1. critical thinking and judgment;
2. ethics and governance;
3. complex problem-solving;
4. stakeholder alignment and influence;
5. cross-functional leadership and collaboration;
6. people leadership and management;
7. data storytelling;
8. strategic thinking and decision-making;
9. adaptability and resilience;
10. innovation and ideation.

4. AI learning is moving from general knowledge toward applied and specialized expertise

The subjects attracting the greatest interest in the data are:
AI security: +665%
Agentic workflows: +546%
Generative AI: +132%
This suggests that learners' interests are shifting beyond general AI knowledge toward building, connecting, securing and governing AI systems and integrating them into specific workflows.

5. Verified skills and microcredentials are gaining value

An important finding for institutions is the growing value of verifiable skills. Enrollments in microcredential programs rose by 33% overall in one year. For AI-related microcredentials, the increase was 122%. This suggests that learners increasingly value not only acquiring AI knowledge but also obtaining proof of it that employers can understand and recognize.
Amodei's central message, in his own words: "We need to slow down the pace at which AI models' capabilities are developed. Progress will still seem fast, and we must use the time gained wisely." This marks a major shift for Amodei, who previously maintained that Anthropic could build carefully and still win in the market—now he says the entire industry must slow down.
This year's Global Skills Report also introduced a new Index, which we will cover in the next issue of Hamár Homár.

Future Potentials Observatory

AI DISCLOSURE

In producing HAMÁRHOMÁR / Lobster in the Loop, artificial intelligence tools play a strictly supplementary role, limited to specified tasks.
Areas of use: data collection and cross-checking sources; text extraction and summarization. Platforms used:

- ChatGPT Pro,
- Claude Fable 5,
- Gemini 3 Pro,
- Genspark Pro,
- Consensus Pro,
- Perplexity,
- DeepL.

Key elements of the editorial process do not rely on artificial intelligence tools. These are:

- selection of topics and development of ideas,
- verification and interpretation of sources, texts and data,
- language and stylistic editing,
- and final editing and proofreading.