




NAME: GriefBot by J&M 

DATE: May 17, 2026 12:53 AM


DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY
 GriefBot is a chatbot that uses digital artifacts created by a departed person in order to imitate their personality and help console grieving parties (the Survivors). That is achieved through a text conversation where GriefBot's AI will try to imitate the personality of the departed.

HUMAN VALUES 


If the Survivor controls the conversations used to train the GriefBot then they are fully in control how this technology affects their identity.

TRANSPARENCY 


We cannot be certain about what causes a certain interaction with the GriefBot to go the way it did, however on a bigger scale it will be clearly explained to the user what the GriefBot is and what the relationship is between its source data and its behavior.

IMPACT ON SOCIETY 


Many people have to experience loss of a loved one during their life time, which is often painful. People that lost a loved (survivors) one can feel alienated, alone and distanced.

STAKEHOLDERS 


- Survivor
- Departed
- Survivors relations
- Departeds relations

SUSTAINABILITY 


Since we focus on hosting the GriefBot exclusively on the user device, the energy consumption over a long period of time will not be bigger than texting with an actual person.

HATEFUL AND CRIMINAL ACTORS 


Someone could reverse-engineer the AI behind GriefBot (or it may already be open sourced) in order to create unauthorized GriefBots of living people. That GriefBot could be used for contact friends and family with malicious intent, pretending to be the victim or for guessing victim's passwords.

DATA 


We address these problems by giving control of the data to the Survivor and warning them that GriefBot will not be an exact replica of the departed and that it is only a tool to help them grief.

FUTURE 

If successful in helping people deal with their loss, the GriefBot could become a normal part of society and increase its productivity. At the same time if GriefBot is discovered to be addictive and consuming more attention than it frees the project will have to be stopped.

PRIVACY 

For the departed we will collect: text conversations, social media posts, emails, diaries and general information (age, gender, profile picture) in order to train the GriefBot. From the Survivor we will collect general information as described above, the relationship to the Departed, the GriefBot conversation history. All of these will be stored only on the Survivor's device so we cannot access them. All the data used to train the GriefBot will be destroyed afterwards.


INCLUSIVITY 

The GriefBot's personality will be heavily biased by the sources used in training it (messages, emails, posts). The Survivor will be advised to choose sources in which they like the personality of the deceased.

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HUMAN VALUES 

How is the identity of the (intended) users affected by the technology?


To help you answer this question think about sub questions like:

- If two friends use your product, how could it enhance or detract from their relationship?
- Does your product create new ways for people to interact?...

TRANSPARENCY 


Is it explained to the users/stakeholders how the technology works and how the business model works?

- Is it easy for users to find out how the technology works?
- Can a user understand or find out why your technology behaves in a certain way?
- Are the goals explained?
- Is the idea of the technology explained?
- Is the technology company transparent about the way their...

IMPACT ON SOCIETY 

What is exactly the problem? Is it really a problem? Are you sure?


Can you exactly define what the challenge is? What problem (what 'pain') does this technology want to solve? Can you make a clear definition of the problem? What 'pain' does this technology want to ease? Whose pain? Is it really a problem? For who? Will solving the problem make the world better? Are you sure? The problem definition will help you to determine...

STAKEHOLDERS 

Who are the main users/targetgroups/stakeholders for this technology? Think about the intended context by...


When thinking about the stakeholders, the most obvious one are of course the intended users, so start there. Next, list the stakeholders that are directly affected. Listing the users and directly affected stakeholders also gives an impression of the intended context of the technology.

...

SUSTAINABILITY 


In what way is the direct and indirect energy use of this technology taken into account?

One of the most prominent impacts on sustainability is energy efficiency. Consider what service you want this technology to provide and how this could be achieved with a minimal use of energy. Are improvements possible?

HATEFUL AND CRIMINAL ACTORS 

In which way can the technology be used to break the law or avoid the consequences of breaking the law?


Can you imagine ways that the technology can or will be used to break the law? Think about invading someone's privacy. Spying. Hurting people. Harassment. Steal things. Fraud/identity theft and so on. Or will people use the technology to avoid facing the consequences of breaking the law (using trackers to evade speed radars or using bitcoins to launder...)

DATA 

Are you familiar with the fundamental shortcomings and pitfalls of data and do you take this sufficiently into...


There are fundamental issues with data. For example:

- Data is always subjective;
- Data collections are never complete;
- Correlation and causation are tricky concepts;
- Data collections are often biased;...

FUTURE 


What could possibly happen with this technology in the future?

Discuss this quickly and note your first thoughts here. Think about what happens when 100 million people use your product. How could communities, habits and norms change?

PRIVACY 

Does the technology register personal data? If yes, what personal data?

If this technology registers personal data you have to be aware of privacy legislation and the concept of privacy. Think hard about this question. Remember: personal data can be interpreted in a broad way. Maybe this technology does not collect personal data, but can be used to assemble personal data. If the technology collects special personal data (like...

INCLUSIVITY 

Does this technology have a built-in bias?

Do a brainstorm. Can you find a built-in bias in this technology? Maybe because of the way the data was collected, either by personal bias, historical bias, political bias or a lack of diversity in the people responsible for the design of the technology? How do you know this is not the case? Be critical. Be aware of your own biases....

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