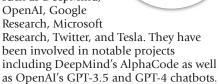# Elon Musk launches new AI company called xAI

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX and owner of Twitter, has announced the launch of a new AI company called xAI. The company aims to delve into the mysteries of the universe and "gain a deeper understanding of its true nature". "The goal of xAI is to understand the true nature of the universe," said the company website.

The team members behind xAI are experienced professionals who previously worked at reputable organisations such as DeepMind, OpenAI, Google Research, Microsoft Research, Twitter, and Tesla. They have been involved in notable projects including DeepMind's AlphaCode as well as OpenAI's GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 chatbots.

Musk's intention with xAI appears to be positioning the company as a competitor to established players like OpenAI, Google, and Anthropic, which have developed leading chatbot technologies such as ChatGPT, Bard, and Claude. Reports from April indicated that Musk had obtained a substantial number of GPU processors from Nvidia, potentially to power a large language model for xAI. In an interview on Fox News Channel during the same month, Musk revealed plans for another AI tool called "TruthGPT," expressing concerns about existing AI companies prioritizing systems that conform to political correctness.

Notorious BlackCat hackers steal over 170 GB sensitive data from Krishi Bank

Notorious ransomware group ALPHV, also known as BlackCat, has claimed responsibility for a targeted attack on Bangladesh Krishi Bank. According to a post by ALPHV on July 7, 2023, the hackers successfully breached the bank's security, gaining access to sensitive data and paralysing its operations.

ALPHV, also referred to as ALPHV-ng, BlackCat, and Noberus, is a ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS) group that emerged in November 2021. This notorious threat actor employs the triple-extortion technique to target organisations globally, spanning various sectors.

According to the ALPHV post, On June 21, 2023, ALPHV infiltrated Bangladesh Krishi Bank's network, extracting over 170 GB of crucial information. Their presence went undetected for 12 days, allowing them ample time to study internal documentation and steal valuable data with impunity. The compromised information includes highly sensitive financial records such as account details, statements, and tax information. The hackers also acquired employee data, including emails, passport copies, labour papers, and employment contracts, potentially exposing the personal information of the bank's staff. The threat group also obtained the bank's SQL backup on June 19th, 2023.

According to the post made by ALPHV, the bank did not respond to the attack and did not engage in any discussions regarding data recovery. This decision prompted ALPHV to issue a warning, urging all investors who entrusted their funds to Bangladesh Krishi Bank to withdraw their investments within seven days. The warning message was dispatched to contacts and emails procured from the stolen data.

With a deadline of 72 hours starting from July 8th, 2023, ALPHV expected the bank's top management to initiate contact to address the situation. The hacker group also disclosed that they implanted potent backdoor tools deep within the bank's network infrastructure. This ensures persistent access for the hackers, enabling them to return at will to execute their threats.

ALPHV also openly criticised the bank's IT management, asserting their lack of qualifications and skills in adequately protecting valuable data. "IT-management of this bank does not have enough qualification and skills to protect their data," the post by ALPHV further said.

Skoot and Walton to locally produce electric bikes

Skoot Ltd., a local startup under the Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Academy (iDEA) project, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Walton Digi-Tech Industries Ltd. to produce e-bikes in Bangladesh.

As per the MoU, the two companies will jointly manufacture environment-friendly electric bikes in the country to improve the riding experience for local customers.

The partnership also plans to improve the e-bike industry in Bangladesh through the introduction of technologically advanced products. As per a press release, the two companies hope to create a better future for e-bike enthusiasts, while offering them innovative and sustainable transportation options.

Tata reportedly to become first ever Indian iPhone maker

Indian conglomerate Tata Group is reportedly on the brink of finalising an agreement to acquire a factory in Karnataka, India, currently owned by Wistron Corporation—a key supplier for Apple Inc. If the deal is successfully closed by August, it would mark the first instance of an Indian company engaging in the assembly of iPhones.

According to reports, the factory in question employs over 10,000 individuals and holds an estimated value exceeding $600 million.

Presently, it is responsible for the assembly of the latest iPhone model, the iPhone 14. With Wistron Corp.'s commitment to shipping iPhones worth $1.8 billion by the fiscal year ending in March 2024, along with plans to triple the factory's workforce by next year, Tata Group is reportedly expected to honour these obligations upon acquiring the facility. Consequently, this move will bring an end to Wistron Corp.'s iPhone manufacturing operations in India.

Indian TV channel introduces AI news anchor

Odisha TV (OTV), an Odia-based news station in India, has unveiled its first artificial intelligence (AI) news anchor named Lisa. Lisa made her debut appearance in a video tweeted by OTV, where she introduced herself to the world. In her announcement, she declared the moment as historic and revealed her upcoming role as a news update host. Lisa reportedly possesses the ability to communicate fluently in multiple languages, including Odia, English, and others.

OTV highlighted the considerable challenge of training Lisa to speak Odia, a regional language of India. The news station acknowledged that while progress has been made, efforts are ongoing to enhance Lisa's proficiency in Odia and enable her to engage seamlessly in conversations with others. Additionally, Lisa has a strong presence on various social media platforms, such as Instagram and Facebook, allowing viewers to find and follow her.

This development follows the footsteps of another major Indian news organisation, the India Today Group, which introduced their AI news anchor, Sona, in March. Described as "bright, gorgeous, ageless, tireless who speaks multiple languages and can always be controlled," Sona represents another step forward in the integration of AI technology in the media industry.