



Meet your new coworker: AI

ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

SHARITAJ AZIZ HOSSAIN

A few years ago, the idea of working alongside artificial intelligence (AI) may have sounded like something out of science fiction. Today, it's a workplace reality.

AI has moved beyond backend operations to become an active workplace assistant. It now crafts Slack replies, writes emails in Gmail and Outlook, summarises meetings via Otter.ai, and generates presentations through tools like Tome, seamlessly integrating into daily workflows.

Welcome to the era of AI as your coworker.

From tool to teammate: Rethinking our relationship with AI

AI has transformed from a passive tool into an active collaborator. Unlike traditional technology that simply follows commands, today's AI tools like GPT generate ideas, suggest next steps, and complete tasks autonomously. This creates a new kind of partnership - AI handles routine work, overcomes creative blocks, and adapts to your style through interaction. The result? Faster writing, sharper analysis, and better brainstorming, all with a teammate that's always available.

That's exactly how professionals like Sanjida Ahmed at Next Ventures are experiencing it in real time. "Working in the Community and Partner Department means staying curious, agile, and connected," she says. "Whether ideating strategies or mapping out ideas with Napkin AI, building automations with N8N, or using GPT to speed up planning, these tools make my workflow easier and more efficient, allowing me to focus on fostering stronger partnerships and creating meaningful community experiences." Her experience reflects a broader truth: AI isn't here just to do our work, it's here to elevate it.

Of course, one of the biggest concerns around AI in the workplace is job displacement. That fear isn't baseless, but it's also not the full story. Rather than replacing humans, AI is often augmenting them. Think of it as the intern who

never sleeps, the analyst who works in milliseconds, or the assistant who never forgets a deadline. Used wisely, AI takes over repetitive tasks like scheduling, data sorting, or formatting presentations, freeing up time for more complex, human-centred work like strategy, creativity, and relationship building.

Blending human skills and AI fluency: The new rules of work

Tasks that once consumed hours can now be done in minutes, sometimes seconds. Writers overcome creative blocks with AI nudges. Engineers debug with copilots. Designers turn ideas into visuals with a few prompts. The future of work is less about going step by step and more about fluid collaboration between human insight and machine speed.

But to thrive in this new dynamic, we need more than just access to tools. We need a mindset shift. As Iftekhar Rahman, HR Manager at Huawei Bangladesh, puts it, "AI is not our superior; it is our next-generation assistant." He suggests that AI isn't here to dominate, it's here to support. But only if we know how to use it responsibly and effectively.

Just as we once learned Excel or Zoom, we now need to learn how to work with AI. Across the globe, organisations like Klarna and Bain are hiring prompt engineers. In Bangladesh, startups are embedding AI-literate team members into content, data, and support functions. AI fluency is no longer niche; it's the new baseline. Iftekhar cautions, "Technology may seem like a threat when we lack the knowledge to use it wisely." Embracing AI is no longer optional; it's foundational.

Yet, as machines get smarter, human strengths are becoming more essential, not less. Emotional intelligence, cultural sensitivity, storytelling, and critical judgment can't be automated. These qualities set great professionals apart, and they're also the traits that help us use AI well. Systems thinking, ethical reasoning, and adaptability aren't just "nice to haves". They're becoming core skills in the AI era.

That's why organisations are starting

to rethink hiring and training. Should prompt design be taught in onboarding? Should AI tools be introduced alongside traditional ones? Increasingly, the answer is yes. Because if we treat AI as just another tool, we miss its true potential. But if we see it, as Iftekhar suggests, as a way to "free ourselves to create greater value in our lives, our work, and our communities", then we move closer to what the future of work can truly be.

In the end, the most successful teams won't just be digital, they'll be deeply human and AI-fluent. That's the new rule of work.

New responsibilities, new ethics

Working with AI doesn't just change how we work; it transforms what we're responsible for. As AI becomes more deeply woven into everyday tasks, questions of accountability, fairness, and transparency are no longer theoretical; they're operational.

But what happens when the AI gets it wrong? Who takes the blame? How do we make sure algorithmic decisions don't unintentionally reinforce bias or exclude diverse perspectives? These are no longer philosophical debates. They're the new fault lines of professional ethics.

And then there's etiquette in the AI age. If your AI coworker can summarise an entire meeting in seconds, should you still send that lengthy follow-up email? If a teammate uses GPT to deliver work faster, do you need to adopt similar tools just to keep pace?

Milky Mahmud, co-founder and COO of Shaigoj Limited, notes, "Leaders can't afford to stay vague about AI usage anymore." There's a growing need for clear norms: disclose when AI contributed to a deliverable, ensure human review for anything AI-generated, and distinguish between tasks where automation helps and where it harms.

Take hiring decisions or legal reviews, for example. AI can assist, but Milky stresses that "not every task should be automated". These sensitive areas still demand the kind of human judgment and nuance no algorithm can replicate.

Similarly, within teams, boundaries matter. In content, AI might support early drafts or idea generation, but the final message? That should always come from people who understand voice, tone, and context.

At an individual level, working with AI responsibly means more than just prompting well; it means prompting ethically. Structuring inputs carefully, verifying outputs, and avoiding shortcuts that might compromise integrity are now essential habits. If you're using AI to write a report, for instance, fact-checking and transparency around co-authorship aren't optional; they're part of the new professional standard.

Milky adds, "We're not just adopting new tools; we're building a new culture around how we work with them." That culture includes the expectation that humans stay in the loop, especially where judgment, empathy, or accountability are at stake.

But responsibility doesn't end with workers or companies. Are AI developers doing enough? While OpenAI, Google, and Microsoft have all published AI ethics principles, enforcement varies. Transparency around training data, model limitations, and inherent biases is still often lacking. As AI ethicist Timmit Geburu has pointed out, AI tends to reproduce power structures unless meaningful accountability is built in.

The future is collaborative

Ultimately, ethics in the age of AI isn't just about what the technology can do. It's about the culture, choices, and systems we build around it. Because in the end, it's not the algorithm that's responsible, it's us.

The question isn't whether AI will be your coworker. It already is. The real question is: Will you treat it like a competitor or a collaborator? Like any team member, AI has strengths and limitations. It thrives on clarity, context, and data. It falters in ambiguity, emotion, and ethics. But when paired with the best of human talent, it unlocks possibilities we've only begun to explore.

Meta hires ChatGPT co-creator as SUPERINTELLIGENCE CHIEF SCIENTIST

NEXT STEP DESK

Meta has appointed Shengjia Zhao, one of the creators of ChatGPT, as Chief Scientist of its new Superintelligence Lab. Zhao, previously a research scientist at OpenAI, played a key role in developing ChatGPT, GPT-4, and several other AI models. He will now lead research at Meta's specialised AI unit, working directly with CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Meta's Chief AI Officer Alexandr Wang.

Meta's newly formed Superintelligence Lab, led by executives including former Scale AI CEO Alexandr Wang and ex-GitHub CEO Nat Friedman, will oversee multiple teams developing foundation models. The lab's primary focus involves creating more advanced AI systems, with particular emphasis on artificial general intelligence - AI capable of human-level cognitive abilities. Meta intends to make much of this research available as open-source technology.

Regarding the new hiring, Zuckerberg stated Zhao would set the research direction for the lab, particularly in developing AI reasoning models - an area where Meta currently lags behind competitors. The appointment comes as Meta ramps up hiring from competitors, offering large pay packages to attract top AI talent. Several researchers from OpenAI, Google DeepMind, and other firms have recently joined Meta's AI teams.

Running on empty? How to recharge before burnout hits

NEXT STEP DESK

Burnout doesn't always announce itself dramatically. It creeps in slowly. Maybe it's the Sunday morning dread, the constant fatigue, or the sense that even simple tasks feel heavy. If you're feeling drained but aren't ready to walk away, don't panic. You can course-correct before you hit full burnout.

First, know that exhaustion isn't a personal failure but rather, it's your body waving a red flag. As such, pushing through isn't sustainable. Identify what's draining you. Is it the volume of work, the lack of recognition, or feeling out of control of your schedule? From there, tackle the root cause and respond accordingly.

The next step is to reclaim your small pockets of energy. Block out 'focus time' to protect your working hours. Limit email checks to a few set times each day. These micro-adjustments create space for clear thinking and reduce the sense of being constantly 'on' at work.

Another thing you can do is redefine what 'good enough' looks like. Ask yourself, "What's the minimum viable version of this task?" Could a quick email replace a full



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

report? Could a shorter presentation still get the message across? Focus on what actually moves the needle.

Remember, small wins matter. Try starting your day with something you can finish quickly, for example, clearing one to-do or sending that email you've been avoiding. These tiny victories build momentum when motivation is low.

Don't forget to recharge outside of work. When your whole identity revolves around your job, burnout hits harder. Reconnect with hobbies,

even 20 minutes of reading, drawing, or walking without your phone can help you feel like yourself again.

If things still feel off, talk to your manager. Keep it constructive: "I'm committed to the role, but to keep performing well, I need to adjust X." A good manager would rather support you now than risk losing you later.

Burnout is real. But it's not inevitable. Slow down, reset, and give yourself space to sustain your momentum over the long haul.



JOBS SPOTLIGHT



Save the Children

Manager, Finance
Deadline: August 3

Eligibility:
• Prior experience in Finance, including 3 years in a management position.
Minimum experience: 7 years



British Council

Head, English & School Education

Deadline: August 17

Eligibility:
• English teaching qualification with a postgraduate qualification in a related field and/or Diploma ELT (TEFL-Q).
Minimum experience: N/A



BRAC Bank PLC

Officer/Associate Manager, Trade Operations

Deadline: July 31

Eligibility:
• Bachelor's/Master's degree from a reputed university with a satisfactory academic record. Degree in Business Administration, Economics, Bank Management, or a related field is preferred.
Minimum experience: 2-4 years

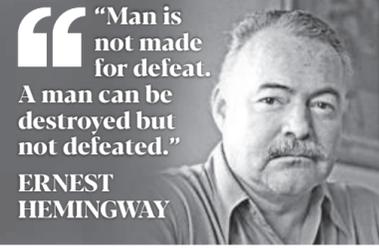
Aga Khan Academy Dhaka

Lead Visual Arts Teacher

Deadline: July 31

Eligibility:
• Bachelor's/Master's degree in an education-related field, with professional teaching qualification.
Minimum experience: N/A

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



Google's AI search summaries are reducing website clicks, study finds

NEXT STEP DESK

Google's AI-generated search summaries, part of its 'AI Overviews' feature, are significantly decreasing click-through rates to external websites, according to a new study by the Pew Research Center, a US-based think tank.

The research, based on 900 US adults' search behaviours, reveals that users click on traditional website links just 8% of the time when these AI overviews appear, which is nearly half the 15% click-through rate for standard search results.

The study, conducted on March 2025, revealed these key findings: Only 1% of users clicked on sources cited within AI summaries themselves; 26% ended their browsing session entirely after seeing an AI summary (vs 16% for regular results); and that AI summaries appear in 18% of searches overall, but much more frequently for long queries (53% for 10+ words vs 8% for 1-2 words) and questions (60% when starting with "who," "what," etc.).

According to the study, Wikipedia, YouTube, and Reddit dominate as sources, appearing in 15% of AI summaries and 17% of standard results. Government websites appear more in summaries (6% vs 2%), while news sites maintain equal presence (5%). Most summaries (88%) cite three or more sources and average 67 words, though lengths vary widely.

With 58% of users encountering at least one summary during the study period, the research suggests that Google Search's AI integration is fundamentally reshaping online information consumption habits.

