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## **The Role of Intellectual Property in the Age of AI Development**

In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has dramatically changed how we approach innovation and creativity. Tasks that were once thought to be the exclusive domain of human intellect—writing, composing music, designing products, and even inventing new technologies—are increasingly being handled by AI systems. This shift raises important questions about the future of intellectual property (IP) laws, which have historically protected the fruits of human labour and creativity. The more AI progresses, the less it seems that traditional IP protection is necessary or even relevant. I believe that as AI continues to evolve and surpass human creativity and innovation, the need to protect intellectual property will become obsolete. The current IP frameworks were built for a different era, and in the age of AI, they will soon become unnecessary relics of the past.

### **AI's Efficiency Outpaces Human Creativity**

One of the strongest arguments against the continued relevance of intellectual property protection in the age of AI is the sheer efficiency with which AI can produce new works, designs, and inventions. AI systems can analyse vast datasets

in a fraction of the time it would take a human, generating complex ideas, patterns, and solutions with astonishing speed. For example, AI-generated art is now competing with human-created works, and algorithms are being used to compose symphonies, write novels, and even invent new technologies. In many cases, the output of these machines rivals or surpasses what humans can do, and it happens in a fraction of the time. When AI can churn out a new song or painting in seconds or come up with a scientific breakthrough faster than any research team, the traditional idea of intellectual property—designed to protect human labour—seems almost irrelevant.

Consider the traditional process of creating something novel, like a piece of music or a technological invention. This usually involves months or years of research, refinement, and development. Human creators invest significant amounts of time, effort, and resources into bringing something new into the world. Intellectual property laws were designed to reward this kind of effort by granting creators exclusive rights to their work. But now, with AI capable of doing the same work in a fraction of the time, the justification for protecting human creators through IP laws begins to weaken. If machines can create more efficiently than humans, why do we need to protect the slower, human process?

### **The Erosion of Ownership in the AI Era**

Another important consideration is the shifting notion of ownership in a world where AI is doing much of the creating. Intellectual property laws are built on the assumption that human beings are the primary generators of new ideas and works. But what happens when AI systems are responsible for much of the innovation? Who owns the output of an AI system? Is it the person or company that designed the AI, or the AI itself? Or perhaps the entire concept of ownership becomes unnecessary when a machine is the creator. This issue is not just theoretical; AI has already been credited with inventing new technologies and creating works of art, but the question of who owns these creations remains unresolved.

In some cases, the human creator who programmed the AI may claim ownership of the AI's creations. However, as AI systems become more advanced and autonomous, they require less direct input from human programmers. At some point, an AI system may be able to create without any significant human guidance at all. When this happens, assigning ownership to a human or company seems increasingly arbitrary. Moreover, when AI is generating countless new ideas and creations every day, it becomes impractical to assign ownership to each individual piece of work. The volume and speed at which AI can produce makes the traditional IP model of exclusive ownership difficult, if not impossible, to maintain.

### **The Impracticality of Enforcing IP in an AI-Dominated World**

One of the biggest challenges to IP protection in the age of AI is the difficulty of enforcing these laws when AI is generating such a large volume of work. AI can produce new patents, artistic creations, and technological innovations at an unprecedented rate. Imagine an AI system capable of generating hundreds of unique inventions or works of art every day. Under the current intellectual property system, each of these creations would require legal protection, yet the sheer volume of output would make it nearly impossible to enforce. Monitoring, verifying, and protecting each AI-generated work would be a logistical nightmare.

Furthermore, AI can replicate existing works in ways that make it hard to tell whether the result is truly original or a derivative of previous works. AI systems can analyse millions of existing songs, images, or inventions and generate variations that are difficult to distinguish from the originals. This creates new challenges for copyright law, which is designed to protect original works from unauthorized copying. In an AI-driven world, where machines can produce endless variations on existing works, copyright laws may become obsolete. The line between original and derivative works blurs, making enforcement of intellectual property rights impractical.

In this context, traditional intellectual property laws are simply not equipped to handle the scale and speed of AI-generated creations. The current framework assumes a human pace of innovation and a manageable number of creators. However, AI disrupts this balance by creating exponentially faster and more frequently than humans ever could. As AI continues to accelerate the pace of innovation, trying to protect every new creation with IP laws becomes an exercise in futility.

### **The Power of Open Collaboration and Shared Knowledge**

As AI continues to advance, it thrives on the principles of collaboration and shared knowledge. AI systems are at their most powerful when they have access to large amounts of data and can learn from vast pools of information. In this sense, restricting access to data or AI-generated innovations through intellectual property laws is counterproductive. Rather than protecting individual pieces of intellectual property, we should embrace open-source collaboration, which allows AI systems to continuously improve and innovate at a faster rate.

For instance, some of the most significant breakthroughs in AI have come from open-source projects where researchers and developers freely share their data, models, and findings. The open AI community has flourished because collaboration fuels innovation. By contrast, locking down data or AI-generated creations with IP protections could stifle progress. Instead of slowing down innovation with intellectual property laws, we should be fostering an environment where AI-driven advancements are available to benefit society.

The notion of intellectual property is rooted in the idea of scarcity—that creative works are rare and valuable because of the effort involved in their production. However, in the age of AI, where machines can generate ideas and innovations at an unprecedented scale, creativity is no longer scarce. AI has the potential to democratize access to creativity and innovation, making it possible for more people to benefit from advancements that were once the preserve of a select few. In

this new era, collaboration and open access become more important than protecting individual intellectual property.

### **A New Model for the Future: Prioritizing Collective Progress**

As AI continues to surpass human creativity and problem-solving abilities, it is time to reconsider the entire concept of intellectual property. The original goal of IP laws was to incentivize innovation by rewarding creators for their efforts. However, if AI becomes the primary driver of innovation, it no longer makes sense to prioritize individual ownership. Rather than focusing on protecting isolated pieces of intellectual property, we should be shifting our attention to ensuring that the benefits of AI-driven innovation are distributed equitably across society.

The idea of intellectual property may have made sense in a world where human creativity was the primary engine of progress. But in an AI-dominated world, where machines are constantly generating new ideas and innovations, IP laws become less relevant. Instead of trying to protect the output of AI, we should focus on harnessing its power to solve global challenges, improve quality of life, and drive collective progress. AI has the potential to revolutionize industries, address critical problems like climate change, and improve healthcare outcomes. Protecting individual creations in such a world feels outdated when we can use AI for the greater good.

In conclusion, as AI continues to evolve and surpass human abilities, the role of intellectual property protection is becoming increasingly obsolete. AI's ability to create faster, more efficiently, and on a much larger scale than humans call into question the need for traditional IP frameworks. Ownership becomes ambiguous, enforcement becomes impractical, and the collaborative nature of AI development suggests that open access and shared knowledge are more beneficial than protecting isolated works. As we move into this new era, it's time to rethink the value of intellectual property and embrace a future where AI-driven innovation benefits society.