

if their history is lost so is our ability to fully comprehend their logical nuances. This contributes to the impossibility of understanding the final workings.

Weizenbaum argued that artificial intelligence cannot make decisions which are acceptable to human beings. Instead of providing a solution to computer fallibility, as some claim, it would probably only compound many of the difficulties of computer systems. He emphasized that grandiose predictions concerning artificial intelligence often flout well-recognized principles. Even the advisory artificial intelligence systems described by Henry Thompson should be approached with caution, since human operators are wary of overriding the computer's results and tend to accept its judgements as automatically correct. The reason for this is that an employee whose decision to override a computer leads to a problem is often fired, whereas an employee who follows the advice of the computer has a convenient scapegoat in the event of error. Weizenbaum closed by pointing out that while technology has had many impressive achievements, it has also had an infinite number of unforeseen consequences; any proposal to make nuclear weapons systems more automated should be resisted on the grounds that it might have unanticipated catastrophic consequences.