

FAKES! AI Manipulates Baby Boomers' (and everyone else's) emotions

a little CRC

There is a new creeping infection in social media: Fake videos and images which are used to manipulate people. These are "AI generated" (made up by computers) and they show things that simply never happened... These are not edited photos like Uncle Charlie being deleted from the Christmas photo. The videos and images in this article didn't involve a camera or any editing at all.

To generate a fake image you simply go to the right website and type in a box "A 6 year old girl in a boat is crying and clutching her puppy dog as the flood waters rise around her." 10 seconds later a photo like the one at the bottom of this article will pop out, ready for me to start raising funds for my fake charity. Scary!

The video on the right was posted on Facebook and seems to feature a giraffe being lifted off a cliff by a crane. It received 23,000 likes and 1,900 comments:



While being able to pick out a fake video might feel good for Frank Farmer, for how much long will that be possible? It is definitely not fair to single out older generations. Every generation is falling for these manipulations and where they aren't, they soon will be.

AI image generation is at a more advanced stage than AI video generation. Even reputable news organisations have fallen for fake AI images (and many are knowingly using AI images). While early AI images had problems with fingers and other details, the time has almost passed where the flaws in the image are enough to detect a fake. With AI videos there are still many clues that you are seeing a fake. Shapes and sizes of things change in unnatural ways. This will change soon enough and then all video footage on the internet will become suspect as well.

Sometimes there is a sense of absurdity and fun behind these images, such as the (fake) image of Taylor Swift eating ice cream in front of a crying child below.



However the image on the right, and the reaction to it, starts to show you where this can go wrong ... posted after Hurricane Milton hit USA.

I could tell you how I was able to pick up this is not a real image; the biggest tell being the internal 'bullshit detector': this image is just too perfectly tailored to pull at the heart strings.

But really that would be pointless. The countdown is almost over to a time when fake images and videos will be regularly fool anyone and everyone.

This is a global problem with no known solution. The future will be wild...

