

nixCraft

@nixCraft@mastodon.social

This chart shows the total number of Stack Overflow questions asked each month. As you can see, AI summaries in Google and AI coding tools have nearly killed the site. It is only a matter of time before the site shuts down completely. The golden age of independent news, blogs, forums, and specialized sites like Stack Overflow is over. Whether this is good or bad, only time will tell. Personally, I think we are now restricting all internet traffic to just a few Gen AI apps

data.stackexchange.com/stackov...

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nixCraft

@nixCraft

Independent sites cannot compete with companies like Google, Microsoft, or OpenAI, which have unlimited money. Even Wikipedia has mentioned this problem. They are losing a massive amount of traffic from Google. These AI apps do not give credit or send users back to the original source on the web. As a result, people are stopped from creating new Q&A or editing and adding information to Wikipedia.

12 · 0 · 0

Andrew

@fletch@mapstodon.space

@nixCraft and they don't Gen actually they regurgitate the median/average answer. So StackOverflow may die but #GenAI will need a new host to parasitise

2 · 0 · 0

Tassoman

@tassoman@orwell.fun

new websites are going to be created with generated stuff, so the thing is going to eat its own shit

1 · 0 · 0

Andrew

@fletch@mapstodon.space

@tassoman @nixCraft shit sandwiches get made every day... won't help progress the world

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random thoughts

@hittitezombie@mastodon.me.uk

@fletch @nixCraft

That's exactly why Microsoft et al. are introducing AI tools everywhere. As demonstrated, every time you paste something into Word, it's sent to Copilot LLM.

1 · 0 · 0

They are literally harvesting your data now, for training their models. That's why we're ending with an incredible surveillance status, everything we do are monitored, and sued to train models.

1 · 0 · 0

Andrew

@fletch@mapstodon.space

@hittitezombie @nixCraft my questions don't help #GenAI it needs simple clear language steps to pass off as its own

0 · 0 · 0

Craig Duncan

@craigduncan@mastodon.au

@nixCraft

Excellent ALT

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Andrei Kucharavy

@andrei_chiffa

@nixCraft @bordfunk nothing related to software is findable or debuggable without a SotA LLM at this point. Beyond value capture that already occurred, at some point we will have an implosion of complexity that will take the world's infrastructure only one without anybody knowing what to do and we will have to piece it back up together from zero.

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The Polish Dispatch

@ThePolishDispatch@mstdn.social

@nixCraft I stopped asking question at StackExchange as a boycott against their move to allow LLM scrapers ingest site content. I am still using it for finding answers, though.

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F4GRX SÃ©bastien

@f4grx@chaos.social

@nixCraft this is VERY BAD, like VERY VERY BAD. All knowledge is now controlled by a few commercial and conservative corporations.

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Volker Stolz

@fm_volker

@nixCraft The internet is just 5 LLMs, each full of garbage generated by the other 4.

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With apologies to unknown.

0 · 0 · 0

Hans-Cees

@hanscees@iej.de

@nixCraft @trendytoots what killed stackoverflow were the rude people on it imho.

0 · 0 · 0

Juanjo

@kastwey@bookstodon.es

@nixCraft I don't think we realize how dependent we are becoming. But it's very difficult to go back to how things were before when the AI models solve everything much faster and with less effort in 90% of cases.

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What I wonder is: as technology evolves, who will train the models with new responses if no one produces them? The AI itself with the product documentation? I find that difficult to imagine.

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Tor Iver Wilhelmssen

@toriver@mas.to

@kastwey @nixCraft "Solve" in the sense of being a shortcut that might give you the wrong answer. And the companies haven't started charging a profitable fee for their services yet, imagine once you are dependent on them...

1 · 0 · 0

Juanjo

@kastwey@bookstodon.es

@toriver @nixCraft 100% agree.

1 · 0 · 0

Juanjo

@kastwey@bookstodon.es

@toriver @nixCraft This is like unfair competition. We offer you something for less than it costs us, you become dependent on it, and then we raise the price. Maybe the models will start to become cheaper, which would also reduce costs in the end... but who knows... But the dependency will remain, unless equally capable and open-source models are created.

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Reset Reboot

@resetreboot@todon.nl

@kastwey @toriver @nixCraft You know what other business model works like you described?

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Drug dealers.

0 · 0 · 0

Andrea Corbellini

@andxor@mstdn.social

@nixCraft wait until people realize that AI needs sites like Stack Overflow for training

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Ivan G.

@dreamos82@mastodon.world

@nixCraft am i wrong or they made an agreement with open ai? I think that many people were disappointed by it. Even because in thisway stackoverflow willingly decided to give their own data to openai models.

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Lot of people deleted their account for this reason. So...

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draNgNon

@draNgNon@hachyderm.io

@dreamos82 @nixCraft that is what I recollect, and when I'm reading the replies here

1 · 0 · 0

Ivan G.

@dreamos82@mastodon.world

@draNgNon @nixCraft yeah it is the same reason why I was reading replies. Anyway they made the agreement in 2024, and looking at the chart the decline started around 2020, when chatgpt was not existing yet

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Gazumi

@Gazumi@mstdn.social

@nixCraft AI seeking to "liberate" workers and services.

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da_kink

@da_kink@defcon.social

@nixCraft I find it telling that the biggest drop seems to coincide with the policy change of meta.stackexchange.com/questio...

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Speculation: Moderation lessened, AI slop got introduced and people lessened their trust in the site.

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Meta Stack Exchange

Moderation Strike: Stack Overflo...

Update On August 2nd, 2023, negotiations bet...

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Alberto Cottica

@alberto_cottica@mastodon.green

@nixCraft impressive. Is there a long read anywhere?

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Gjalt-Jorn Peters

@matherion@mastodon.nl

@alberto_cottica @nixCraft Also depressive 🙄

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Alberto Cottica

@alberto_cottica@mastodon.green

@matherion no argument. How are you faring in 2026? @nixCraft

0 · 0 · 0

Klaus Frank

@agawata338@chaos.social

@nixCraft It's not "a few Gen AI apps", it's "a few US Gen AI Corporations", and any region outside of the US would be wise making efforts to counter the influence of these companies. I'm sorry to say this, but we're bound for an era of insularity. The rest of the world can't trust the US anymore. US oligarchs rule now.

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Dmian

@dmian

@nixCraft It's not "a few Gen AI apps", it's "a few US Gen AI Corporations", and any region outside of the US would be wise making efforts to counter the influence of these companies. I'm sorry to say this, but we're bound for an era of insularity. The rest of the world can't trust the US anymore. US oligarchs rule now.

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Scott Melker

@Thewolffallstreetbiz360

@nixCraft This isn't just decline, it's enclosure. AI tools absorbed sites like Stack Overflow, answer without sending traffic back, and centralize knowledge. Convenient now, but bad for the open web long-term. If this topic resonates and you'd like to exchange ideas or explore opportunities, you can find me on Telegram, username on my Bio.

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Ursidino/The Bjornsdottirs

@ellenor2000@mastodon.top

@Thewolffallstreetbiz360 @nixCraft Telegram is also a walled garden. Do you have XMPP? #lang_en

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Patrick Schmitz

@schmitzel76@mstdn.social

@nixCraft well, it started before AI. Stack overflow was very hard trying to kill itself.

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jonolet

@jonolet

@schmitzel76 @nixCraft agreed. The decline in this graph is accelerated by the launch of ChatGPT (late 2022), but at that point it's already almost half of its peak in 2017

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NeonArtival

@NeonArtival@defcon.social

@nixCraft well, it started before AI. Stack overflow was very hard trying to kill itself.

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dallo

@ppouet.chapril.org

@nixCraft

Free monica

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accountalreadynuse

@accountalreadynuse

@nixCraft The problem is much much larger. All AI tools simply regurgitate what's already on the independent sites. If these sites shut down, there will be no more new information, and we will all be stuck in 2025 forever

2 · 0 · 0

the dude

@txalvita@neopaquita.es

@accountalreadynuse @nixCraft

I don't think so. When these sites shut down, then you have to pay for new information to the tech depts of the majors.

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accountalreadynuse

@txalvita@neopaquita.es

@txalvita @nixCraft Unfortunately these will be staffed with incompetent slop-dependent cheap-labour no-goods

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the dude

@txalvita@neopaquita.es

@accountalreadynuse @nixCraft

When Quality is important to the majors?

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It's only matters money.

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Graham Perrin

@grahamperrin@bsd.cafe

@nixCraft thanks. Wow. Also ...

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Stack Overflow's decline — Eric Holscher (2025-01-21) <ericholscher.com/blog/2025/01/21/>

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The Pulse #134: Stack overflow is almost dead (Gergely Orosz, 2025-05-15) <newsletter.pragmaticengineer.c...> @gergelyorosz

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A new era of Stack Overflow - Stack Overflow (2025-12-30) <stackoverflow.blog/2025/12/30/>

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Monthly questions asked on StackOverflow

Peak in 2014-2017

COVID-19 starts

ChatGPT launches

Eric Holscher

Stack Overflow's decline

The volume of questions asked on StackOverflow started to fall q...

#StackOverflow

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Em

@emma@mathstodon.xyz

@nixCraft Are the various Stack Exchange sites archived anywhere? This is an incredible resource that we're on the brink of losing to 🤖 chatbots 🤖

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Christian Gudrian

@cgudrian@social.tchncs.de

@nixCraft AI chatbots kill their own future training data. The Stagnation of knowledge as begun.

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FDev

@fishingdev@me.fishingdev.com

@nixCraft video killed the radio star...

0 · 0 · 0

a2800276

@a2800276@social.cologne

@nixCraft [citation needed]

0 · 0 · 0

2c

@Qbitzerre@unbound.social

@nixCraft so it consumes itself to stagnation. Societal intellectual cannibalism.

0 · 0 · 0

stefan (stefbun)

@stefan@akko.lightnovel-dungeon.de

@nixCraft yeah consolidation of information / power. great news (for the shareholders)

0 · 0 · 0

Carsten Hoffmann

@morl99@hessen.social

@nixCraft while you have a point, what you write dos not apply in full intent to all of them. ChatGPT for example gives citations and links to web findings so the user can jump to the original content when performing web research.

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TITINoNero

@77nn@goto.77nn.it

@nixCraft

Of course there's no game. But do Google and a community of, just to say one, programmers or people passionate about anything, really need to measure the same metrics? All went to shit when said communities sold their soul to VCs since they only know the metric of money.

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I personally see the future with a flourishing of small (probably hyperfocused) communities run for the knowledge and experience sharing and not for profit.

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lazyraccoon

@lazyraccoon@tooot.im

@nixCraft perhaps that is the exact solution - legislation that forces all search based LLMs to provide hits, include commercial content or exposure provided by said website mandatory, or maybe just direct compensation in a b2b model. This data could be used in a class action lawsuit.

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Jens Oliver Meiert

@j9t@mas.to

@nixCraft, they have unlimited money *and still* they steal and are "allowed to steal" the training data from everyone else (which is all of us).

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Seen from a property perspective, what we permit here is scandalous. Uninhibited information exploitation for uninhibited wealth extraction.

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And then, we do care—act—about so little that we cannot say we wouldn't be part of the problem. We're sheep being sold our own wool to.

0 · 0 · 0

rob

@robchapman@ohai.social

@nixCraft I was watching a video the other day, and the creator while carrying out a technical process, turned around and said "while I do this, I'll let ChatGPT summarise the method" then read out a method... instead of reading the passage from the technical manual, and citing the author. I guess the point I'm trying to make is that it's not just websites, many people now lazily rely on LLMs as their primary source of information

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Alexa Devreux-Swift

@alexadeswift@lgbtqia.space

@nixCraft

I read Wikipedia an awf/ful lot at work, and for search use either DuckDuckGo or Qwant. I listen to local radio, when I purchase digital media I will often purchase physical media as well and stream from a provider that returns the largest amount of any provider back to the artist.

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There are 8 billion of us and only a few big tech companies. And the ONLY money big tech has, is the money WE decide to give them. If we don't give them any, then they will cease to be big tech. Just look back to Netscape and AOL who once dominated for examples.

1 · 0 · 0

Max Lee

@the_moep@mastodon.de

@alexadeswift

the ONLY money big tech has, is the money WE decide to give them.

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While I agree in general with your post this is just wrong, they don't make money off of us. (Unless you are a bank/venture capitalist/oil prince)

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I you as an individual really want stop giving them money you have to completely disconnect from capitalist society which is illegal in most countries (because you have to pay taxes) hence the only solution left is a political one unfortunately.

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Alexa Devreux-Swift

@alexadeswift@lgbtqia.space

@the_moep

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Late stage capitalism is most definitely an issue, along with the very substantial tax breaks and other tax reduction schemes these companies engage in.

@nixCraft

0



danyal barakah
@tanyel_brkah



4h

@nixCraft it's really hard to have such conversations when still those companies are the ones running social media. we have to unlearn old media use methods, let's all run towards independent sites 🙌🔥

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