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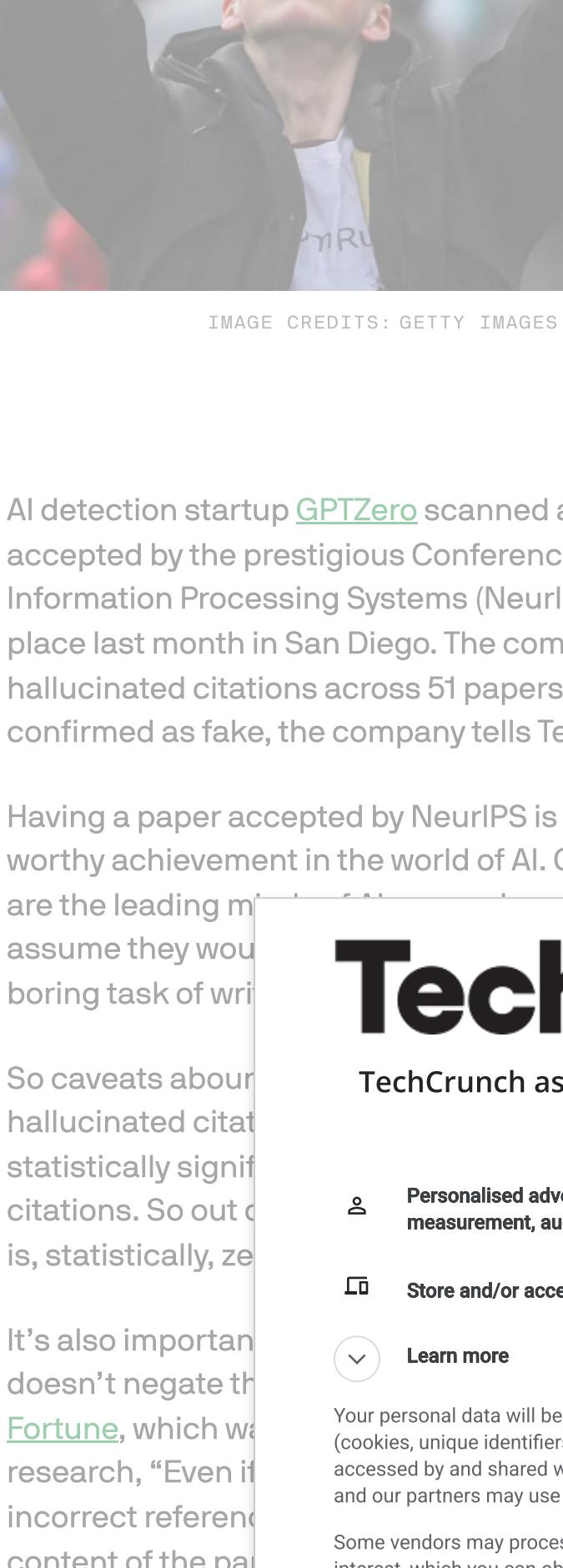


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AI

Irony alert: Hallucinated citations found in papers from NeurIPS, the prestigious AI conference

Julie Bort 12:34 PM PST · January 21, 2026

AI detection startup [GPTZero](#) scanned all [4,841 papers](#)

accepted by the prestigious Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), which took place last month in San Diego. The company found 100 hallucinated citations across 51 papers that it confirmed as fake, the company tells TechCrunch.

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Having a paper accepted by NeurIPS is a résumé-worthy achievement in the world of AI. Given that these

are the leading machine learning conferences,

you might assume they would be doing the

boring task of writing their own papers.

So caveats about

hallucinated citations

are statistically signifi-

cations. So out of 4,841

papers, statistically, zero

are fake. That's not

an exaggeration, either.

NeurIPS is a highly

scholarly publishing

conference on artificial

intelligence, [it says](#)

on its website. It's

also a highly selective

conference, with only

about 10% of submitted

papers accepted. And

the acceptance rate

is declining every year.

It's also important to

note that this doesn't

negate the findings of

[Fortune](#), which wa-

reached out to the re-

searchers involved in the

study. The researchers

say that the findings

are not surprising.

They say that AI is

becoming increasingly

capable of generating

fake citations, and that

is a concern for the

research community.

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Venture Editor |

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