Technology V12/S4: Artificial Intelligence and Music Production

Artificial intelligences, also referred to as AI technology, are defined as computer programs that synthesize information and problem solve in the way that humans do. This means that computers can now do the tasks of humans, instead of needing the input of humans to complete those tasks.

This has led to the emergence of "deep fakes". Deep fakes are photos, videos, recordings, and writings that have been created by artificial intelligence but appear to be real. There are concerns about how simple it is to create AI-generated images and videos. To create these images, the user types a description of what they want, and the computer produces the image or text almost immediately.

Recently, there is one song in particular that has received a lot of attention for being a deep fake. The song, titled "Heart on My Sleeve", utilizes the voices of Drake and The Weeknd to create a catchy tune that has already received thousands of views online. Drake's team has contacted popular streaming sites to have the song removed, but it still remains popular.

However catchy the songs may be, there is a lot of concern about how artist's voices can be convincingly used to promote messages they would otherwise not promote. For example, another song featuring Drake's voice rapping about his distaste for beans in chili. The AI user types "Write a Drake verse about how he doesn't like beans in chili". The generator produced the lyrics "I don't want no kidney beans, no black beans, no pinto. I want my chili to be packed with flavor, not just full of filler." The user pastes the lyrics into a song generator that pairs it with Drake's voice. After that, the audio is convincingly linked with Drake's older music videos so that it appears as if he is actually singing the words.

Though a song about the rapper's distaste for beans sounds silly, this technology could be used to communicate dangerous and deceitful messages if not regulated properly.