Three unusual uses for AI

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So much of what we see in the news about artificial intelligence is negative. From unwarranted fears about artificial intelligence overthrowing humanity or the more practical fear of AI displacing certain jobs, people are worried about how the implementation of AI will affect our lives now that it's clear it's here to stay. But believe it or not, AI is doing much more good than harm. Here are three of the more unusual ways that AI is affecting the world for good.

Endangered species tracking and preservation

Preserving endangered species is a top concern for wildlife researchers. They rely heavily on tracking devices to keep tabs on endangered species but it simply isn't practical to place a GPS tracker on every specimen. Now, researchers are using artificial intelligence systems to assist in their effort. From a single photograph uploaded by an expert, AI can recognize the species of the animal, estimate its age, identify its gender, and track its habitat range. This information is vital to researchers trying to preserve endangered species.

Search and rescue efforts

When a natural disaster hits, many people become trapped and some even die waiting for rescuers to locate them. Humans can scan drone footage to look for signs of trapped survivors but AI can do it much faster and more efficiently and can free up humans to focus on the actual rescuing.

Curing paralysis

In 2004, Nathan Copeland was involved in a car accident that took away his ability to feel or move his legs or lower arms. Now, thanks to AI, he has been outfitted with a robotic arm that the can control with his mind. Not only that, he was able to sense when researchers touched his robotic arm.

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