

Annals of Emerging Technologies in Computing (AETiC)

Print ISSN: 2516-0281

Volume #9

Issue #3

Online ISSN: 2516-029X

July 1, 2025

Editorial

Dear Reader,

In 1976, I was among the first students in my school to undertake a formal qualification in computer studies. Then, one of the central societal questions posed to us was: “What will people do when computers have taken over all the jobs?” Almost five decades later, in 2025, the question remains strikingly relevant. Although the job market has undergone significant changes, we have not yet reached a point where computers have caused widespread unemployment. Nonetheless, developments demonstrate that computing and its allied technologies are exerting a profound and growing influence on the nature of work and society.

One recent article I encountered examined the safety and viability of robotaxis. These autonomous vehicles rely on an array of sophisticated sensors to collect real-time data, which is processed rapidly to make decisions that enable safe navigation and timely arrival at destinations. I was reminded of my PhD research, completed in 1992, titled “Multi-Sensor Robotic Control System”. At the time, my robot used only a few sensors and, on a good day, could navigate a room without incident. I continue to be amazed by the progress made in both sensor technology and computational power throughout my academic career.

Only yesterday, I visited a friend (significantly older than myself!) who had been admitted to the hospital as an emergency patient. He was astonished by how much the doctors were able to deduce about his condition using computers, integrating the results of medical tests with his historical records. “They seemed to know everything about me”, he said. He was happy when he was told he could go home. He was delighted to use the hospital’s Wi-Fi and his smartphone to video call his wife and ask her to come and get him. For him, the computer revolution had transformed not only his hospital experience but also the way he communicates with loved ones while there.

Later this month, I will travel to Vietnam to participate in a collaborative project with students from my university. We have coordinated the entire trip (including flights, accommodation, and ground transport) online, using messaging platforms such as WhatsApp and Microsoft Teams, and paying through digital systems. This is the world in which these students have grown up: digital, interconnected, and increasingly shaped by automation. Yet, some of them are now struggling to secure employment in their chosen field. Entry-level roles are being redefined or displaced, with fewer staff required as organisations deploy generative AI tools to carry out tasks more efficiently. Some students are beginning to echo the question I first heard nearly fifty years ago: “What will I do now that computers have taken over all the jobs?”. My response remains the same: Computers have not and will not replace all jobs.

However, the kinds of jobs we do and the ways we interact with technology will continue to evolve. As academics, researchers, and practitioners in computing, we have a responsibility to help younger generations navigate this shifting landscape. That means not only imparting technical knowledge, but also fostering adaptability, ethical awareness, and the creative capacity to shape technologies for the benefit of society.

With best wishes,

Professor Andrew Ware,
On behalf of the Editorial Board,
Annals of Emerging Technologies in Computing (AETiC).