



ICeni Newsletter March 2024

Coronavirus Impact Covid-19. We are continuing to hold our meetings online as this seems to suit everyone and saves travelling during the dark Winter months.

If you wish to join us just follow the link or paste into your browser:-
<https://meet.jit.si/IceniComputerClubMeeting> and follow instructions to allow camera and microphone access. There is nothing to download or install. We have found some problems with screen sharing on the Mac if using Firefox, but using Safari or Chrome is ok as is using Windows.

We still meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. via Jitsi.org Video conferencing.

Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 20th March 2024

Mac Evening IOS updates – Gareth.

It is some time since we had an update on MacOS so it will be interesting to learn what the current developments are. I for one know I am getting left behind and my current hardware will not be supported for much longer. What should my next jump be?

Peter

Our Last Meeting Wednesday 21st February 2024

Modern AI systems (LLMs) focusing on free/open source ones which run on home PCs rather than in the cloud. Presented by Steve.

This was the first AI meeting we've ever had to my knowledge.

This was a very detailed presentation initially based on presentation slides and was followed up by live demonstrations of some of the features.

His subtitle was “I’m Sorry Dave I can’t Do That!”

There were various myths surrounding the introduction of AI with worries about job losses and the rise of the machines. There is huge popularity for them.

The whole concept of Open AI systems was invented by Google in 2017 but they did not really do anything with it. It was made non-proprietary by Elon Musk et al and was sold out to Microsoft. MS CEO Sam Altman changed the mission to make it more commercial and annoyed a lot of people. It was released as GPT3 in 2020. It runs in the Cloud with a ChatGPT interface. It was very popular because it had a simple interface and you could interact with it like messaging on a mobile phone. It is a bit like autocomplete it will guess what the next word will be. The origin of the training data was unclear. They appeared to have stolen the Wikipedia data – without permission. Some of the data is not legitimate. Open AI is probably one of the least open of any system. There is system Google Bard now called Gemini and better one called Claude AI (French). All running in the Cloud. Most have data you can run on your own computer (except OpenAI).

Some of the early tasks given to the system were in machine translation of languages French to English for example. They can be used for coding .

Facebook have been more helpful with Llama (Llama.cpp) but you need fairly beefy computer to run it. With 70 GB of RAM to run it.

There are two components to run it – one is the software which is not too big and complicated and then there is the LLM data. Simon Willison written a lot of python routines. The models tend to be leader boards.

`ggerganov/llama.cpp` use `make`.

`>Pip install llm`.

The leaderboard can be found here.

<https://huggingface.co/spaces/lmsys/chatbot-arena-leaderboard>

Please see the interactive links in Steve's slides.

Then you get the Eliza problem from the 80's a simple system which can have a conversation with you. It is really only a trick and does not show consciousness. Another more difficult problem is Hallucination where the answer looks really convincing but what it says is simply not true. They think the computer should not be answering anything political which they call alignment. Steve would rather call it Censorship. It is overall an exciting technology and he has found it very useful. He can write his CV which he can then tweak after. It will also write code which needs checking but can save a lot of time.

Steve then demonstrated Lama.cpp on a fairly standard PC.

Quick install LRM. Download a gguf file.

- 1) port Pascal code to C – was running in five minutes.
- 2) Best Fish and Chip shop in Felixstowe. - odd menu -" Cod Scallops"
- 3) List of primes. Not entirely reliable.

You can play around , it depends on how you phrase the question. It does not always give the same answer to the same question. It does answer some things quicker than the original Wikipedia source.

Cesil computer language a type of assembler for schools.

It is not good at languages like PERL without a structured syntax.

Steve hoping to get a cheap Nvidia graphics card. AMD has 80% performance of Nvidia.

There is a recent development of groq – hardware but very expensive.

Most Apple and finest architectures are made in Taiwan.

I'm sure we shall be returning to this topic again next year.

Thanks Steve; you have whetted our appetites.

ICENI Future programme

ICENI Future Programme 2024	Title	Presenter
20 March	Mac Evening IOS updates	
17 April	Raspberry Pi and Arduino etc.	All
15 May	AGM + Extras TBA	All
19 June	Open	

This programme is open to changes as the year unfolds.

We shall need to have a committee meeting soon in order to define a new programme.

MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD ONLINE BUT STILL ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED..

Our Website and Email and Jitsi meetings

Our website URL is

<http://icenicomputerclub.org.uk>

Email to: iceni@woolridge.org.uk

The website is where you will find copies of the Newsletter from Previous years and also where you will find our Committee Members and future programme.

I am open to suggestions on what people would like to have included in the website.

JITSI Meetings

I am repeating this here from the top of the document.

If you wish to join us just follow the link or paste into your browser:-
<https://meet.jit.si/IceniComputerClubMeeting> and follow instructions to allow camera and microphone access. We have found some problems with screen sharing on the Mac if using Firefox, but using Safari or Chrome is ok as is using Windows.

There is nothing to download or install. We still meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. via Jitsi.org Video conferencing.

End