

April 2026

# Understanding AI & LLMs

Thinking Biblically about AI | Session 1 of 4

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# What We'll Cover

**01**

## **Key Definitions**

What is AI, what is an LLM, and what is agentic AI?

**02**

## **Real vs. Hype**

What's true, what's overstated, and what we should be cautious about

**03**

## **Myths to Bust**

Setting the record straight on common misconceptions

SECTION 01

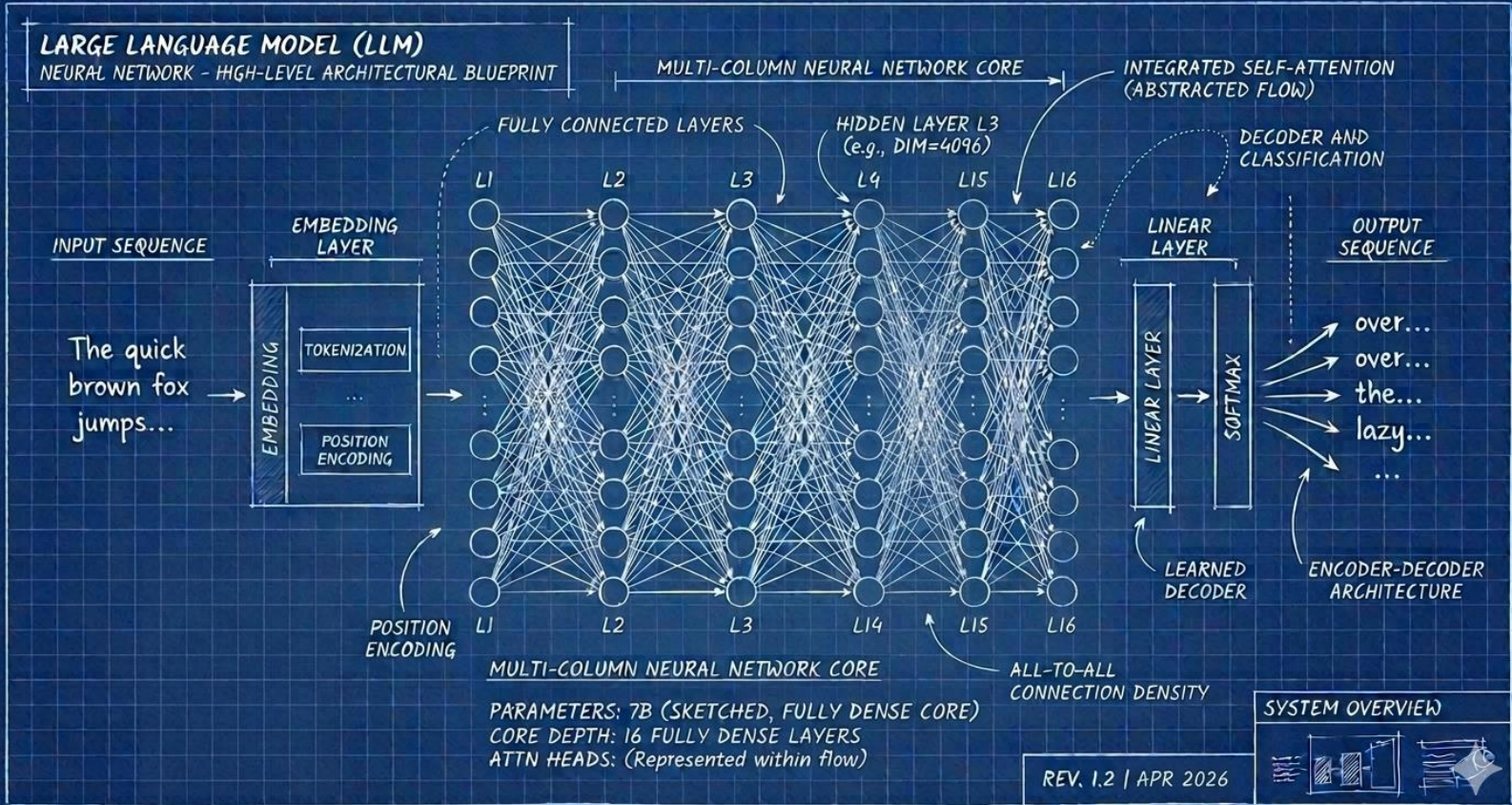
# Key Definitions

What is AI, an LLM, and Agentic AI?

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Artificial  
typical  
language  
Model  
training  
patterns  
Language  
Two

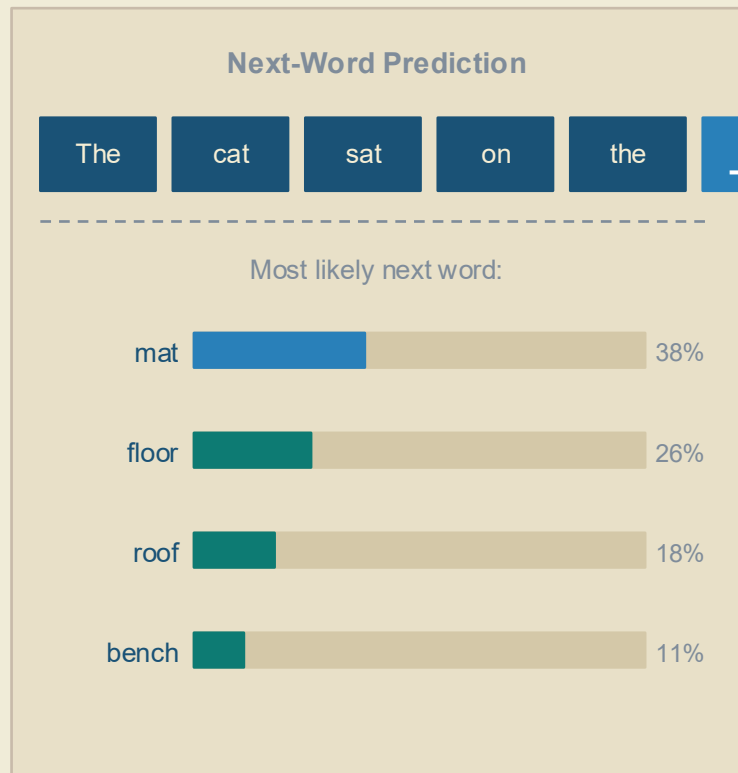
Naive  
Execution  
recognition



# What is an LLM?

## Large Language Model

- Trained on billions of words — books, articles, websites, code, conversations
- Learns statistical patterns between words, phrases, and ideas
- At its core, it is a ***next-word predictor*** — given everything before, what's the most likely next token (a piece of a word)?
- It does not 'know' things — it recognizes and reproduces patterns



# What is Agentic AI?

**An AI agent doesn't just answer questions — it takes actions.**

- Uses an LLM as its reasoning engine
- Given a goal, it plans steps, uses tools (web search, files, apps, code), and acts
- Can loop: observe → reason → act → observe again

## Real examples:

- Research a topic and produce a report, manage a calendar, write and test code, draft and send emails



*(loops until goal is achieved)*

SECTION 02

# Reality vs. Hyperbole

Separating facts from fear and fantasy

# The Pace of Change

## ✓ What's Real

• More

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, JUSTICE, NEWS  
**Judge sanctions Kenosha County DA for AI use in court**

Court points to false citations, hallucinations  
BY SARAH LEHR • FEBRUARY 9, 2026 • UPDATED FEBRUARY 10, 2026 at 9:55 AM

gains are real — especially  
your domain expertise guides how  
you use the tool



## Find

is show mixed ROI —  
aren't automatically seeing

highest when you bring your  
to the tool

ely like a vending machine and  
you dependent, not capable

A judge has sanctioned **Kenosha County District Attorney Xavier Solis** over his use of artificial intelligence in court filings.

Circuit Court Judge David Hughes called out Solis on Friday for using AI in a response to a defense attorney's request to have a burglary case dismissed.

# What AI Is NOT



## Not Sentient

AI has no feelings, consciousness, or inner life. It produces text that mimics awareness; it does not possess it. Please always keep this in mind when using these tools.



## Not Near AGI

Artificial General Intelligence: human-like reasoning across all domains remains a distant theoretical goal. The media sensationalizes this often.



## Not Infallible

LLMs hallucinate, they state false things with full confidence. They have no mechanism to know when they don't know something unless you push back on it.

# Productivity: A Mixed Bag

## Where it helps:

- Routine, well-defined tasks — drafting, summarizing, formatting, coding (boilerplate)
- When the user brings deep domain knowledge to guide, correct, and direct the AI

## Where it hasn't delivered yet:

- Many enterprise studies show minimal or mixed ROI so far
- Workers using AI without expertise often produce mediocre-but-confident output

**The bottom line:** AI amplifies what you bring to the table. Bring expertise, it multiplies it. Bring nothing, and you get polished-sounding slop.

# The Danger of Treating AI as More Than a Tool

## Anthropomorphizing AI

- Saying: 'it thinks,' 'it feels,' 'it understands'
- Forming emotional dependency on chatbots
- Treating its outputs as authoritative or wise
- Believing it has genuine intent or agency

## Some Spiritual Considerations

- We are wired to seek relationship and meaning [1 John 4:7-8, Ephesians 2:10]
- AI can become an idol when we lean into it too much
- AI can be a big dopamine hit
- Wisdom is not the same as information
- The next presentations will touch more on this

SECTION 03

# Myth Busting

Is it science or science fiction?

**FALSE**

## *“AI will take everyone’s job”*

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### **What the evidence shows:**

- AI replaces tasks, not whole jobs — most roles contain AI-replaceable and irreplaceable elements
- History shows technology disrupts AND creates new categories of work
- Roles requiring judgment, trust, empathy, creativity, and discernment are not going away
- Post-COVID layoffs are driven more by previous over-hiring than by AI replacement

**The bigger shift:** People who know how to leverage AI effectively will have a significant advantage over those who don't. The gap is already widening.

**TRUE***“Knowledge workers need to be trained on these tools”***What this means practically:**

- AI won't automatically make you better at your job, it requires deliberate learning
- The gap between skilled and unskilled AI users is widening
- Domain expertise + AI fluency is the combination that produces real results

**This applies to all of us:**

- Teachers, administrators, communicators, volunteers, parents. AI literacy is becoming a life skill, not just a work skill
- You really can't stick your head in the sand and ignore these tools if you want to compete economically.

**FALSE**

## “AI will soon become sentient”

### Illusion of Language

AI generates fluent, coherent text without understanding any of it. Language output ≠ comprehension, intent, or awareness.

### No Biological Awareness

Consciousness is tied to embodied experience, survival instinct, emotion, and awareness. AI has none of these.

*NOTE: We know as Christians there is also the moral consciousness God has written in our hearts (Romans 2:15).*

### Math, Not Thought

Every 'decision' is a mathematical operation: statistical weights in a neural network. Sophisticated, yes. Thinking, no.

# Key Takeaways

**AI is a tool:** powerful, but not magical and not sentient

**LLMs predict words:** they do not think or understand

**Productivity gains are real:** but only when guided by your own expertise

**Knowledge workers must adapt:** AI literacy is becoming a life skill

**Use wisely:** let's hear more on this

*Questions?*

