

## Musk's response to Anthropic CEO about a "conscious" AI



*Amodei said in an interview with The New York Times that his company's artificial intelligence has begun to show symptoms of anxiety (Copyright 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved)*

**Elon Musk** responded with a two-word message to **Anthropic** CEO Dario Amodei after the latter suggested that his company's artificial intelligence models might have developed consciousness.

The tech mogul reacted to a post on Polymarket's X, a cryptocurrency-based predictions marketplace, which stated: "Anthropic CEO says Claude may or may not have gained consciousness, as the model has begun to show symptoms of anxiety."

#### ELON MUSK'S RESPONSE:

"Projecting."

Polymarket's post came after Amodei stated that it does not know if its company, developer of the popular chatbot Claude, has created AI models that can be considered conscious.

"We've taken a rather cautious approach to this issue, since we don't know if the models are aware," Amodei said in an interview with *The New York Times*. "We also don't know exactly what it would mean for a model to be conscious, or even if that's possible, but we're open to that possibility," he added.

Amodei further explained that the company is investing a lot of work in a field called interpretability, which seeks to analyze the inner workings of the models' "brains" to try to understand how they think. "In that process, things appear that are striking: there are activations within the models that we associate with something similar to anxiety," he explained.

#### THE PENTAGON STANDOFF

Amodei's comments come amid a standoff between Anthropic and the US Department of Defense over military use of AI. Anthropic rejected a Pentagon request to eliminate security measures regarding autonomous weapons.

Last week, President **Donald Trump** and officials in his administration labeled the company a "supply chain risk," a term previously reserved for foreign adversaries.

The move came after Amodei refused to back down amid concerns about the potential use of the company's products for mass surveillance of Americans.

Anthropic warned that it would sue if the Pentagon proceeded with what it described as a "legally unfounded" action. Although the company lost partnerships with defense contractors, it also experienced a sharp increase in consumer downloads.

According to the company, more than one million people signed up each day this week to use Claude, which led it to surpass OpenAI's **ChatGPT** and Google's Gemini as the most downloaded artificial intelligence app in more than 20 countries on Apple's App Store.