

# teh231

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

notebook LM, AI podcast, virtual hosts, podcast generation, AI limitations, personal podcast, study tool, meeting briefings, search engine evolution, perplexity.ai, passkey security, two-factor authentication, device security, user education, technology adoption

## SPEAKERS

11 Labs AI, Leo Notenboom, Gary

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11 Labs AI 00:06

Music. It's the teh podcast episode number 231, with Leo notenboom of askglio.com and Gary Rosenzweig of macmost.com this week, make a podcast with AI, the future of search, pass key resistance,



Leo Notenboom 00:24

and we're back after, what was it? Two weeks, two missed weeks. Sorry about everyone, but you know, every once in a while, life rears its ugly head. And you know, the way we've prioritized things when it comes to those kind of situations, life life wins. Yep. So we have some fun stuff to talk about today. One of the things that I shared on, I think it was, my Facebook page, was that I had discovered had heard about something called notebook. Lm, yeah. And I know, Gary, you posted a video, at least to your patrons about notebook LM, as well. I had looked at the video, but I know you're well aware of what we're talking about. And the thing that just amazes the heck out of me, this is one of those situations where my comment was that I don't get blown away very often, but I got blown away. And all I really did for this, there'll be a link in the show notes. It's a it's a link to YouTube, because that's a very easy place to post some some audio. And it's a podcast style recording runs about 10 minutes that was generated 100% by AI, and all I did to generate it was take one of my articles about how you're never you're not too old to do for computing, for technology. I just copy pasted that article into a note, as they call it, in notebook, LM, and said, Okay, make me a podcast. And it did. It was just amazing how the virtual artificial hosts basically just ended up having a very, very, I'm reluctant to call it realistic, but it's pretty darn close discussion about that article. Now, my only criticism of this particular podcast episode because when I did my copy paste, I included the byline so it says, you know, it's the title of the article, and then there's by Leo notenboomboom, and then it goes into the content. The the virtual podcast hosts spent an inordinate amount of time talking me up, and that that made me uncomfortable enough that I would never do that again? Right? Every every article, if I ever do this again, I will take the byline out of whatever I post in there. But other than that, it was just amazing. So I'm kind of curious, since you have done a video on it, what your experience has been with it as well.

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Gary 03:14

Yeah, yeah, I've got a lot to say about this. Actually, it is kind of amazing. And the first time you use it, yeah, you're blown away, because there's these two hosts, two audio voices, very realistic speaking voices, but what they're saying is generated by AI as well, and they have a conversation with each other that sounds like two podcasters talking. It's incredible, because they definitely take information from the sources you give, and you can, you can give them a bunch of documents, a bunch of online articles, video, transcripts, all sorts of things. And they will kind of put it all together, like, just like if it was two real people given, like, here these seven documents. Read them, and I'll talk about them for, you know, 15 minutes. And they also grab from other sources as well. Like, I noticed



Leo Notenboom 04:04

that they were doing that, but there was just they were pulling in a little bit more than I had written. I

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Gary 04:08

gave them first my two videos I did on Mac OS Sequoia, my like, you know, big features video and my hidden secrets video. And I gave it, gave them that. And they were definitely talking they the way they mentioned a few things. It's like, oh, this goes not beyond the article or the videos in terms of the content, but just they knew a few things, like they behaved intelligently, like there were people that knew what MacOS was, and knew that people got excited about new features and stuff like that. And I also gave them, then a PDF that Apple provides, it lists all the new features and that kind of changed it a little bit. It was interesting. I did it. I tried it many times, like different variations of things, enough to start to get annoyed by these podcasters. It. It was like, it seemed to me that they wasted a lot of time talking about, like, stuff. But, you know, that's what we do. That's what regular podcasters do. So I guess it's okay. I also started to, like, get tired of their voices. I think this is, like, a huge, really cool use, but it right now, has no controls whatsoever. You give it sources, and you press go, right. If it could have like, you know, given that there's two hosts, if you could pick from a list of seven hosts and then say these two, I mean, so there's a ton of combinations all of a sudden with different voices. And if you could pick like, I want this to be really brief, or I want this to go in detail. I want this level of banter, you know, just a bunch of controls like that, just to make it more interesting, you could really do cool things in the video, I talk about using this of I try to think of regular uses for this. And like, one thing that occurred to me is, I know now in college, a lot you get a lot of articles for your class. Like, textbooks aren't as big as they were when we went to college. A lot of times. Now, you go to a class where there's no textbook, and you're just fed tons of PDFs. You know, this article, this, you know, it could be a 30 page article, and then there could be, like, this two page article, and then there's this interview with somebody, and you know, all this material, you've got all stuff that you could definitely feed in here, and it would be fascinating that, if you're in one of these classes, to be able to feed all that stuff in, say, the night before your midterm, and then, say, make a podcast for me, and then be able to listen to that podcast on based on All the material that the midterms going to be on as a as another way to study, like, when you run out of like, I've read the material, I've highlighted it all, I've taken notes.

What else can I do? Oh, let me make this podcast, and then let me sit back and listen to these podcasters discuss it like it was just on a show today, you know. So that could be, like, another really cool use for it, even like, for meeting, briefings and stuff like, Okay, we're gonna gone into a meeting at work. We're gonna be talking about these things. Let me grab these sources here, throw them into a podcast, and while I'm driving to work today, I will listen to it. Or you're heading to meet friends, and you know, oh boy, they're really gonna talk about this thing that's going on. I'm not up to speed on it, but I have 15 minutes while I walk over to meet them podcast and, you know, throw your sources in so interesting stuff, I think, I think it could be a hit, as long as Google acts quickly and adds a bunch of controls to make it better than just this one button and you get these results and that



Leo Notenboom 07:44

clearly, this is, this is demonstration technology. Oh, yeah. And there are zero controls, as you point out. And it's just you could generate one kind of thing, a podcast with two specific with two speakers that you can't control so forth, yeah, but I think that it is a wonderful harbinger of things to come. There



Gary 08:09

is a bit of randomness in it, because I was trying it multiple times, there's a male voice and a female voice, and I noticed that sometimes it would be one of them that would be the Oh, tell you've just, you've come in here with a bunch of these video transcripts. We tell us about what you discovered, and sometimes it was the other one that went and said that kind of thing. So there is they. It is kind of like there's a setting in there that's just being randomly set. Now that could be like a manual setting. I also saw a hilarious little video. I saw it on Tiktok of somebody using this, and they didn't name that. It was notebook LM, but it's obvious from anybody that's used it, you recognize their voices. They said it was a AI, realizing that it's AI, and what obviously somebody did, well, I'd say probably there's a good chance, like 50% chance, it was faked somehow, and they just had him say whatever they wanted to say. But I think it could have actually been a regular notebook LM thing where they fed it a few articles about notebook LM in itself, and how these are AI voices that are generating this, and the podcasters start to talk about how they're not real and how they start to get philosophical about it. They have an existential crisis, an existential crisis, you know, which to like people that don't know much about AI. It all things seemed very bizarre. And it's like, yeah, they're, I pretty sure that actually, at least one of their sources is talking about the about AI and like, AI, realizing that it's AI or something like that, and they're just feeding off of it, and kind of a loop, and it's all just, you know, garbage, really, but it does sound like two podcasts, just realizing, Wait, we're not real, that kind of thing. So it's interesting, and it is interesting how self i. Like It, it like you said. It was talking you up because you mentioned the articles were for you, for me, it was mentioning how these were video transcripts that that they had as sources. Oh, yeah. So I was reading through these video transcripts. I was like, Why say that? Say I was watching a video not I was reading through these video transcripts because, you know, so, so, yeah, there's a lot of that stuff that goes on. It talks about, like, I think if you fed it like, a long PDF, there was a book chapter they would say, like. And you said, here's a book chapter, they would say, like. So, I just got finishing reading this chapter of this book, and blah, blah, blah, and then it would, it is interesting that it does that, which is kind of neat. So, yeah, it's a cool tool. I seen tools like this over the years that are cool when they first come out, and then the company fails to, like,

move them forward quickly enough to make people happy. I think if it's still the same tool in two months, then it's dead onto the next thing, if they keep pushing it forward and give you controls and all sorts of cool stuff that you can do, then it could be, it could have some legs,



Leo Notenboom 11:12

to be clear, the this, actually, this particular tool is generated podcast tool. It's a subset. In fact, it is literally just one feature of what notebook LM is attempting to do, as I understand it, the whole concept of notebook LM is that you basically dump a bunch of information into a quote, unquote notebook. The AI processes it, and you can then ask it questions or have a discussion or do anything you know, whatever you would want to do to interact with the notebook LM, to basically, presumably, enhance your understanding of all this stuff that you've just given it, the fact that they're doing this podcast. Yep, that's one additional way to do it. But like I said, it's, it's a, it's, it's a feature of the product. It is not the product itself,



Gary 12:04

right? And you could do that. You could have done that for the last year, plus with other llms like chat GBT. You could give it an article, like I did for my HOA document. It's like, it's like, 60 pages, right? Of legalese. I fed it in, and I thought this is the perfect, you know, example. And I was able to ask, then ask questions about things, right? Like, what things can I have on my balcony? Right? And it turns out there are many different sections that deal with that in many different ways, using many different types of legal terms, right? It's not just like there was a section called things on your back. You know, you can have on your back. It was all over the place, which is what prompted me to ask that question. And I was able to ask questions and, you know, get answers without having to read through or find stuff in there. And you could do that with chatgpt. This is kind of like Google realizing, hey, people who are not using AI, it's because it's this whole chat thing, right? Chat doesn't have to be the interface. Here's another way to do it, a notebook. Feed stuff into a notebook, and now you can actually it's like your own little intranet. You can search and ask questions about things. You could have it summarized. You can have any bullet list all these different things, and it's just a different way that I think some people, for some tasks, will find it much easier to deal with than the, you know, linear chat.



Leo Notenboom 13:30

Here's here's the challenge. We've talked I think I've talked about this before. One of the things I really, really want is a GPT, a large language model that's been trained on. Ask Leo content all the articles that I've written. What would it look like if I took the content of all my articles and it would be a bit of work to, you know, get it into a proper format and just dumped it into notebook? Lm, could I then start asking it questions about my own stuff, because, to be fair, in fact, I commented on this in another venue, some just earlier this week. I have absolutely written the same article twice because I forgot I wrote it right. So if instead, you know, I had this corpus of information in a tool like notebook LM or some other kind of a large language model, and could start probing it for the answers that I've already put together, that would be kind of interesting. It would also be interesting then to turn around and make that public, rather

than having a a a quote, unquote search engine search interface to the website. Have a chat interface that, and we'll talk about this in a minute too. That did a good job of not only giving you an answer, but telling you where it got the answer from.

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Gary 14:55

Yep, and there was a journalist in the last couple of weeks too. You. That set up a chat bot for their based on all their, you know, past articles, right? And I can't it's



Leo Notenboom 15:09

certainly possible it's not particularly easy, right? Now, on the other hand, notebook, LM. I mean, if it literally is just, you know, dump all your content into the LM and let it do its thing that actually is pretty easy. Yep,

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Gary 15:23

indeed. And this leads to another, another kind of topic off of this is because I poked. I did post that video about using notebook LM, and all my examples were very like, personal like, actually using it as a notebook, studying for a test, educating yourself on some topic, that kind of thing. And I purposely avoided the whole idea of, like, you could take a couple things, make this podcast and then post it as a podcast for everybody else to listen to, like you were a podcast publisher, right? I purposely avoided that, because it's like, I don't think that's the use for this. The use for this is the format of podcast, but it's a personal podcast for you to listen to, not something to be published for others. And yet, I still had at least one comment that jumped right to that conclusion and declared this to be another example of, you know, a bad use of AI, with the idea being that it's just, you know, plagiarism or whatever, somebody could take somebody else's work, make a podcast off of it and publish it. And I felt a little sad about that response, because I'm trying to present a positive thing here, and just to go directly to the negative, it's like maybe I felt I wasn't quite doing my job in like, trying to present good uses for it, but it's kind of, there's a duality, I think, with a lot of this stuff. I mean, with the image generation stuff, with the video generation stuff, and all of that, no matter how many good uses there are for it, no matter how many times people just are talking about just something, you know, good that they're using it for people jump immediately to the negative uses and really thinking about it, it's not like AI is the first thing or the only thing, to have this duality, like all tools do, right? Like, plagiarism is not something that didn't exist a year ago and now suddenly it does, because there's AI. Plagiarism existed, continues to exist outside of AI, and it's, you know, totally possible for you to do it. But nobody, nobody goes and say, reads a textbook and takes notes, and then somebody says, Oh, you're just going to publish those notes, aren't you? That's plagiarism. It's like, no, no. This is my class. I'm taking a class. I'm taking notes like every other student that's ever taken this class.



Leo Notenboom 17:46

Let's also point out that it's not necessarily plagiarism. I mean, yeah, you and I are of an age to remember cliff notes, which is exactly what you just described, right? It's, it's somebody taking notes on a publication and then publishing those notes as another publication in in college we

notes on a publication and then publishing those notes as another publication in college, we had individuals who sat in class and took notes and then turned around and published those notes

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Gary 18:10

because they were good notes, yeah, the good note takers, yeah? Well, they



Leo Notenboom 18:13

were good note takers. And they were, you know, literally, this was like a small business, right? They were hiring people to do this. So, yeah,

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Gary 18:23

yeah, it's, it's just a point, but the duality is everywhere. It's like, oh, you're making, you're making, oh, you could, you could ask an AI to give you a video clip that's generated of, you know, something. It's like, immediately you can go to the Oh, you could impersonate a political figure. You can fake news, events, all this stuff. It's like, or you could generate, you know, most movies in most TV shows are fiction, right? Like the vast majority of it, are fiction. I mean, there's a huge documentary film thing, but if you go by number of views, it's mostly fiction stuff. It's art. So when you generate, use an AI to generate a fictional scene. You were generating, you were going to generate a fictional scene no matter what you did, whether you hired actors and had sets or did CGI that was manually created by artists, it hasn't changed the fact that it's fictional. The



Leo Notenboom 19:14

argument that I keep hearing, though, is that we've trained AI on existing material. Yeah, right. Somehow, you know, AI has watched all the movies or read all the books or done whatever, and people consider that to be plagiarism, and I don't think it's quite that clear cut. Yeah, I'm not saying it isn't a problem, but when you think about it, I write about technology. How do I know what I know? Well, I've read a lot. Is it plagiarism? Then when I use the knowledge that I've accumulated by reading? Is to then turn around and write something on the same topic, yeah. And I think the general, the general attitude, is, well, no, of course not. That's not plagiarism, unless, of course, you're quoting, quoting verbatim, which is but when you think about it, AI is doing exactly the same thing, sure, just at a significantly more rapid pace, if you've

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Gary 20:22

ever worked with artists in creative, like, corporate stuff, you know, like, I used to make lots of games, and I used to have artists that would draw the artwork for those games. And rare, rarely was that artwork ever drawn in a complete vacuum. I mean, occasionally, we'd have, like, some bizarre game idea, and let's create a character in the game, and that just comes out of nowhere. But a lot of times it's like, we need a bat in the game to fly around. Well, the first

thing artists would do is like, what? How exactly do bats look like? You know, like their wings. I know they got webbing, and what, you know, bring it up. Bring up some pictures. Bring up some here's some famous bats that have been in cartoons, that kind of thing. All this reference work playing cards. Oh, we need a deck of playing cards. Oh, I'm going to lock you in a room. You can't look at any playing cards, and you have to create them from scratch. No, you look at a whole bunch of different decks of playing cards, and you start to say, oh, okay, the King of Spades has these qualities. And all the decks, let me draw something that is kind of like that, that people would recognize as a king of spades, and you're always going off of that stuff, and that's what AI is doing. And certainly, if AI ever crossed the line and made it completely plagiarized, they should whoever owns it, whoever made the AI do it, or has the copyright on it should have the same consequences as if they hired an artist that did it. I also once hired, I had a website this. This is a long time ago, despite 20 years, maybe 15 years ago, and I had this website that I had, let's sit idle for years. It was a great idea, and I was gonna have a bunch of cool articles. It was a history site, and I just didn't get around to it. I complained to a friend about the fact that I just didn't have the time to write these articles on the subject, and they suggested hiring writers to do it. So I specifically did. I got somebody that that would actually work as an editor and hire writers. And my number one thing was, like, no plagiarism. This has to be original work. But of course, I have to do research right? And after they did that and they I got all these articles and I put them up on the site, I noticed a couple of typos, not typos, grammatical things, so I had somebody else outside of that say, I said, go through and look for the typos or look for the grammar mistakes, just fix it up. And they started to and they said, you know, I'm two articles in, and I've had to spell check people's names, and in doing so, I've already come across whole paragraphs of your stuff that was lifted from other sites. So even though it was my number one thing that I was trying to avoid humans still plagiarized and gave me stuff I couldn't use. That was way before ai, ai would actually do a better job, because AI would probably not lift entire paragraphs. They may or may not lift a couple words in a row or something like that, if a phrase kind of makes the most sense and it's used in a bunch of places, but I doubt it would just be pure plagiarism, at least if I had to choose now between an AI writing an article and a human writing an article, and you said you need to stake your life that there's no plagiarism in this, I Sure would not choose the human right? Human would have a certain percentage of chance that they would plagiarize, whereas I think the AI would have any chance, because it would probably just specifically not be doing that.



Leo Notenboom 23:51

It would probably not as well written as a human, but nonetheless, it would be,



Gary 23:55

or chance of being as well written, I would say,



Leo Notenboom 24:00

right, and that, I think, is going to improve over time. I mean that much we know as AI mentors, it's going to get better,



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Gary 24:06

I know, and they're ones, they're already specializing, like I've already heard from several people, that Claude is great for writing, yeah, and it's better than it may not have all the answers, and it may not be able to explain things like chatgpt does or draw on as many data sources, but for actually crafting written word Claude is better. So I know people that will ask chatgpt for an explanation and then feed that into Claude to be rewritten, and that's how they get, like really nicely written things. So, but I think there'll be specialization like that. Yeah,



Leo Notenboom 24:42

that's interesting. I hadn't thought about doing that. I know that there are differences. I regularly play with both chat GPT and Claude and a couple of others. I keep coming back to chat GPT for various reasons. But, yeah, yep,

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Gary 24:57

cool. All right,



Leo Notenboom 24:59

it. So we're going to continue in this vein a little bit again. You and I have been around that we have seen the evolution of search. I remember that back in the day it was, you know, Yahoo had this directory that we were all scrambling to get into, and then that became AltaVista search, where they actually had search results that were based on, you know, better stuff than just being listed in directory. And of course, Google came along, and they did all sorts of different things to try and display the most relative, the most reasonable content for whatever it is you are looking for based on a number of criteria. Obviously, that have changed over the years. You know, as AST spammers and others have come along to try and game the system. Whether or not Google is still at its peak, I don't think it is. I think the you know, the results haven't been as great lately, and there's a lot of complaint about the number of ads that are being shown in the search results. It's an article not that long ago about how I'm now using Kaji, K, A, G, i.com as an active pay for it that you know has no ads does good results. I'm really happy with it. And if you're just looking for a plain decent search engine that actually gives me some good results. However, I have found for what, for me, will probably be the next step in that path from Yahoo to AltaVista to Google to perplexity.ai. I've started using it not just as a search engine. It's a fine search engine. It'll, you know, find the things I want to find. It's more what Google was trying to be, or is trying to be by providing answers. And the more I've thrown at it, the more impressed I've become. And when I say more, what I started doing with perplexity is, rather than, again, we've been doing the search engine thing for so long, we tend to think of keywords and phrases. If I want to look up a specific thing, I will think about what are the words that would give me that specific thing. Google has gotten better about inferring intent from the written, you know, from writing a sentence. But ultimately, perplexity, what I'm doing now is I am just writing full on sentences that tell asks. You know what is? Let's see. Give me an example here, I did, oh, I did explain pass keys to me, like I'm five or Well, I had one this afternoon. Where is the interior microphone in a Tesla Model S, because I was doing something with the phone in my car, and I had no idea where the actual microphone is because it wasn't, wasn't visible. I've, let's see. Oh, somebody asked me a question, so I've downloaded Revo,



free and installer. However, the program I'm trying to delete does not show up in refreshing the installer list. What do I do here? I just copy pasted that into perplexity, and it gave me an answer, step by step, things to look at, things to do. It was incredibly, incredibly impressive. Now it's absolutely the case that it is not going to be 100% correct in all cases, but in terms of pointing me in a direction, it is, it's, I've It's been phenomenal. It's been really, really fascinating to play with my canonical example that I actually took some screenshots for it. I'll see if I can't get those included in the in the show notes. I was playing with a project where I was essentially installing a large language model on my machine. I've got a local now. I now have a local large language model, so it's very private, it's fast. It's all happening on my machine. Text, pretty cool. But in the process of doing so, I ran into what is, you know, an error of some sort, and this is all Linux based. So in true Linux fashion, the error is long, dense, complicated, and has lots of things I've never heard of. So, you know, I wonder what happens if I just copy paste this error message into perplexity. Okay? And I did. That's all I did. I just took this very random collection of Linux style error message, like four or five lines worth of stuff, and perplexity came back. Oh yeah. It looks like it's having problems finding very. This. Here are the steps you can try to fix it. It might be this. So do that might be this. So do that it might be this. So do that. And indeed, it was the second one that it pointed me at that solved this particular problem, the fact that it was able to do that quickly, like within seconds, copy paste. I didn't even have a question. Just copy pasted the message, the error message, into it was so incredibly useful that, yeah, that's, that's where I'm spending a lot of my time now, when I'm doing searches or what I'm trying to get answers for things, yep, I'm still using Kaji for, you know, plain old searches where I know I've got a keyword and I need to find out or whatever. But when it comes to the more abstract things, which ultimately is what I think we are really thinking when we are searching, it basically eliminates the step of having to say, Okay, here's what I'm looking for. What are the right keywords? Enter those keywords now we just say, What am I looking for? I fed in somehow, and it comes up with answers. It's very, very impressive, and I'm going to be playing a lot with it.

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Gary 31:16

Yeah, no, that's I've heard of it before, and it's interesting. I definitely find myself just going to AI in general, more for answers than for search engines. I mean, it's disappointing that chat GPT doesn't have you know current stuff. So having something like, you know more that's more like a search engine. I also, I yeah, I think having something where you get an answer if there's an answer, and get links if there are links, and not have to decide ahead of time which one you want. And a lot of people may not know what they want, right? Just because you you know the question doesn't mean you know if the answer is better served by here's a web page or a video, or, here's a paragraph you know, of text you may not know that and or you may not want to devote the brainpower to figuring that out. So having some search engine AI stuff is, I think, the future



Leo Notenboom 32:14

I mentioned earlier I was going to talk about citations, and this is the point where I was going to do that, because one of the things that kind of hit and miss across some of the other AIS, but perplexity is definitely as part of its answers. Yeah, I see them. It's sprinkled with footnotes, and those footnotes reference these links, which it collects, I think, at the bottom, or something like

that. And it gives you the opportunity to go investigate some more of the things that it found along the way. My only complaint is that I haven't seen my own website referenced as a source yet. Oh, the

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Gary 32:47

only I just did a search for perplexity and show me a what is a good source for video tutorials for Mac users. Oh, cool. And first it said YouTube. Fair enough, right? And the second it said Mac most, and then it had the citation. And the citation was a Reddit post where Mac most, where that question was asked, and MacMost was mentioned twice. So that was nice, fascinating.



Leo Notenboom 33:12

Yep, yep. Well, I mean, you know, I'm going to have to ask it the right questions to get the answer. Yeah,

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Gary 33:18

yeah. I guess that's a challenge is so try to get perplexity to reference your own site, like ask it such a pointed question that you, you know, you get yourself cited as a source. One



Leo Notenboom 33:33

of the other things that I've done, and I think it was perplexity that I did this with, is I just wanted to see if this would work. I said, Okay, using only content from the site, Ask leo.com



Leo Notenboom 33:51

answer this question,



Leo Notenboom 33:53

and it didn't, which I thought was weird, yeah, but then I simply rephrased the question, essentially. I flipped it around. Here's my question, use only content from Ask leo.com to answer it. Oh and poof, there it was. You know, it did a fine job of, you know, finding content from my site to answer the question. So again, what we were talking about earlier with notebook LM, this is getting close to being able to say, Yeah, this is how you ask questions of your own site, yep,

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Gary 34:33

yep. And I can't wait for that to get closer to actually happening, because I don't like being the intermediary between the information I've published and people asking questions. I like

creating the content, sure, and I like it when somebody asks something or discusses something, and that prompts me to make new content. What I don't like is when I made a video for. Months ago, somebody asked me a question, and I say, I have a video here, or maybe I just, you know, could say, you do this, this, and this, I have more information in this video here. The thing is, is, then I realized, Oh, I just spent several minutes being a search engine for that person. That's not good use of my time. I'd rather have a search engine or, you know, an AI, right? Do that for me? Have somebody be able to ask that at my site and that, have that AI. Do that work for me again? It's still my content. It's still, I'm still creating the content. I'm just not connecting the people to the right spot in the right video anymore.



Leo Notenboom 35:40

It's funny because I've made the comment before that I am both a search engine for my own site and a translator for my own site. By that, I mean, you know, questions come in and they use whatever terminology they think is appropriate, that is often not correct or not correct, in the sense that searching for that terminology won't get you the answer you really want, even though the answer is there. So a lot of what I do is translate what they've asked into what the site expects to get them the answer they're looking for. Yeah, I



Gary 36:13

need not. Lea Oh, I was gonna say I not. Not only do I need something for my site where it's like a chatbot that works for Mac most that can answer questions. I need another one, or maybe a few of them, that actually answer comments at YouTube for me. And the way, the reason I need several of them is because I get several types of questions, like, one type will be an earnest question, oh, I'm trying to do this my Mac. How can I do this? And an answer to the person that needs help with something, or, you know, wants to know how to do something. The other thing is snide comments and remarks have nothing really to do with me, but have to do with like, Why did Apple do this? Or why doesn't Apple do that? And, you know, I try to ignore them, but I would be great to have a chat bot that also worked for Mac most, that would go on and just have the patience to explain to those people, you know why? Oh, this is why it's this is why it's hard to have software and operating systems and and, yes, Windows has this and Mac doesn't. There are 1000s of features that Mac has that Windows doesn't. Windows has that Mac doesn't.



Leo Notenboom 37:17


I've given up trying to, trying to, that's why I want to respond to it specifically. Well, even then, I think a chat box wouldn't really accomplish a whole lot, because what I find is that most of the people who are complaining in that manner are not open to an explanation. They just want to vent, and that's fine. The ones that, and you've probably seen this on my Facebook page. The ones that I do have a little fun with are the ones that try to insult me or just make snide comments about what I've done, and I will give them a snarky answer, and then I will screen cap it and put it over on my Facebook page. Yeah, I got to do more. It doesn't change them. It's not, you know, it's not making them feel any better, but it's entertaining the people who are who are paying attention, yeah,

 Gary 38:08

my favorite thing right now, and it's happening particularly right now, because Apple just introduced Mac OS Sequoia, which has window tiling in it, which is a long requested feature of many Mac users, but has been part of Windows for a long time, right? And so that means people find, well, people who have been complaining for many years that you can't do that on Mac without adding third party apps, now have a final round of being able to say that Apple should Apple finally is catching up with Windows. And my response, I try not to do this. I try to just ignore it, but every couple, every once in a while, I just have to respond. It's like, so do you think Apple should not have added this? You know, is my response. Should they not have added it? Because if your answer is no, they shouldn't have added it, well, why you said this is useful. So they probably should have. And if you and if you agree that they should have added it, well, they added it so I don't understand what your comment is about. You know, it's an answer that doesn't have anything back from them. And the other thing is that people saying, with the same window tiling feature, oh, now they're just copying windows. They're not innovating. And my answer to that is, lot of people been asking for window tiling for years. Should Apple have ignored them?

 Leo Notenboom 39:27


And what else should they have done?

 Gary 39:29

Yeah, should they just have ignored you? I mean, it's innovation is great. You know? What else is great is listening to users and what they want and providing them with those tools.

 Leo Notenboom 39:41


Imitation is the sincerest form of, I mean, both ways, for decades,

 Gary 39:46

yeah. What do you in other words, the whole thing is, what are you complaining about? Exactly, yes. Anyway,

 Leo Notenboom 39:51

they fixed my problem. Now I can't complain anymore. That's why I'm complaining. Yeah, yeah. So that was, you know, like I said, there's, there's. Much going on in search right now, and I've just, I wanted to share the the great experience I'm having with perplexity. So,

 Gary 40:05

yeah, cool. I'm going to try using it a lot this week and see how it changes things for me. So this is, this is an interesting topic we probably, I wish we had, I wish we had a tool where I could ask, what was the first time we said the word pass keys in this podcast. I'm going to guess it was probably three years ago, okay, maybe longer, and pass keys became a big topic for a little while, because no more need for passwords. Matter of fact, that was what most headlines when pass keys were introduced. It said passwords are going to be obsolete soon. We won't have to worry about passwords passkeys going to replace them. So here we are. It's near the end of 2024, and have pass keys replace passwords. No, not at all. They are round. People are using them. I'm using them for a few things, but they really haven't, kind of destroyed passwords and taken over, Despite some obvious advantages over passwords. And it kind of is. It's really interesting because I saw my first article, and I'll link to it here. There's a link in the notes at that, because they have problems too. I mean, one of the things is, is that a lot of regular users just don't understand them, but they understand passwords, so they're going to stick with passwords. And as a you know somebody who advises people on security, I have a hard time telling somebody hey, I Hey. You understand passwords. Great. You even understand you should have a random, unique, long password for different accounts. Now, even though you don't understand pass keys, you should switch to them. I have a hard time saying that. Telling somebody to switch to a technology they don't understand when they are it's only really going to be fractionally better security wise, than what they mastered already. That's like, I think one of the main reasons it hasn't spread very far is is that another problem is there's tons of problems. Like, I have not to this day, done a tutorial on passkeys when they started. Like, the first couple companies introduced passkeys. I guess the first browsers announced support for passkeys. I put on my list, my list of videos to do passkeys. It's still sitting there on the list. I haven't done a video on it. One of the reasons is, is because the obvious way to do a video on it is to go to a site that supports passkeys and say, let's create a new user account, but instead of using a password, we're going to use a passkey, and then I'll show you how to be able to log on. However, I don't know if any sites actually do that, still, all these years later, you have to have an account first, and then you can generate a passkey.



Leo Notenboom 42:57

Well, that's kind of how pass keys work,



Gary 43:02

yes, which makes it so hard to demonstrate, plus the fact that how you generate that passkey is different. Sure, just about every site they there is no stand like a password. At least you can go and say, create a new account, enter your email address or ID, enter the password you want to use. And now there's some sites that will, you know, have a verification thing, but it's it's easy to understand. And you go to this other site, and it's different colors and different fonts and all that, but it's the same thing pass keys. It's like, oh, okay, in this site, you go to your settings and your accounts and security. And then there's that thing here, and they call it verified security pass key, you know? And it's like, All right, so now I've taught you how to do it@whatever.com right? That's not going to help you at any other site, because it's going to be different. So it's been hard to explain, it's been hard to explain why it's better than passwords, and actually it's only if you're using passwords correctly and intelligently. It's really hard to justify that passkeys are better. Most people still have problems with passwords, using weak ones and falling for phishing attacks, things like that, in which case passkeys are so much

better, yes, but those are the exact people that are going to if you're having trouble with passwords, jumping all the way to pass keys. Is, that's the solution. Is, is a tough one. You know? It's like saying, Oh, you need to get from point A to point B, and you don't know how to ride a bike. Well, let me teach you how to drive a car. You know, it's like, maybe first, you know, learn how to ride a bike, that kind of thing.



Leo Notenboom 44:43

I think the scenarios that are easiest to at least describe conceptually are those where, okay, this website doesn't use passwords. Period, yeah, how do you sign in? How do you create a password? A pass key. And I think that once you walk through the bat enough times right in enough enough different scenarios, then I think it starts to become clear. But yeah, it's really, really hard.



Gary 45:13

I find the sites that the sites that people are using pass keys with now are the sites that make it so easy to do that there really aren't any steps like there are sites or services, you know what, because apps and there's other things where you there's simply a button that says, Yeah, I want a passkey for this site instead of a password. And you press that button, and and the next thing you know, your password manager is actually saying, Oh, do you want to save this passkey? And you just log on to the site. It's like, oh, yes, that is what I want to do. And you click that, and then that's it. You're done. You're done. You go to the site later, and then you kind of forget. And months and months later, if you want to really think about it, you'll notice, hey, I haven't entered a password or clicked a button to log into that site for a long time, because the past is doing it for you.



Leo Notenboom 46:08

In theory, it's not never, it's never that transparent, right? I mean, what you just described can be explained by just remember me. What I think is more interesting is that without remember me, then you know, instead of being asked to enter your password, or, do you know, jump through some other hoop, you're asked to unlock your device, right? You're asked to show your face or your fingerprint or enter your PIN, and it doesn't matter what site you're going to, all the pass keys are hidden behind that same device on lock.



Gary 46:42

I think the difference is, and I experienced this, but a lot of things that I log on to, maybe once a month, the you end up at the site or opening the app, and you have a screen saying you are logged out, right? You need to log in. And then the first step you do initiates the the password manager, right, where you know that, you know does face ID or you know, key or whatever, and then it does all the rest for you. But you were like, I am logged out. What do I need to do? Think, I click that login. Oh, and then it's prompting me to do this, whereas with pass keys, it's like, one less step is the pass keys there. So anyway, it's, I mean, it's not that pass keys are bad. Pass keys are good. They're very good. I mean, they passwords have a range. Is the thing.

You could be using the same technology a password to log on to a site, and Person A could be doing it very insecurely by using a dictionary word, and it's the same one that they use for a whole bunch of sites. And Person B, using the same tech, could be using a unique long password for that site, and the technology on the site's exactly the same. No matter which one you choose. Pass keys don't have that option. You can't use a pass key poorly. You probably can. There's probably some way. It's unlikely you're going to be able to use a passkey poorly. You can use a password poorly very easily.



Leo Notenboom 48:09

The way to use a passkey poorly is to is to have poor security for your device. Yeah, yeah. That's That's true. And if your unlock code for your phone is 1234, then you know that's not secure for any number of reasons, and indeed, pass keys then fall into that same bucket.



Gary 48:29

But even I would say it's not as bad, because still, the vast majority of account break ins are done remotely, right? They don't even know where you are, let alone have physical access to your device, and a weak password makes you vulnerable to millions of different people trying to break into your account all over the world. Whereas a a weak pass key with a weak pass or not a pass keys are always strong, but a weak passcode on your phone, right, only makes you susceptible to people that can physically take the device away from you exactly. So it's, it's still, it's bad. And I still, I argue. I was in an argument with somebody this very week who insisted that they wanted no pass key, no passcode on their device. They i It's not never in a situation where somebody could take the device away from me. Wow, really bad. And I was like, yeah, it's just you don't want to do it. You don't want to do it. And I actually got to the point where, if they had responded one more time in the debate, I was going to say, like, I washed my hands of this, because I'm not going to tell you, advise you a way to weaken your security to that level. You're going to have to ask



Leo Notenboom 49:39

somebody else memory conference you and I went to many years ago. Oh, yeah, I know what you're gonna talk about. Yeah, somebody, somebody basically asked everybody to to hold up their phone and chastised everybody who didn't have a lock code on their phone, because it was that. That's a problem.



Gary 49:57

Yeah, it's a problem. And I think it's even. And I mean, even the whole idea of it's a computer, and it's a desktop computer, and it's in your house. And so, you know, I mean, there still are you, if you a lot of people have safes in their house, and you could ask yourself, Well, why do you even lock the safe? It's in your house, right? You know, somebody would have to break into your house to even open the door of the safe, yet we still lock the safes. Why? Because somebody could break into the house. Somebody could break in and they could do it. I'm not talking about, you know, a guy in a mask with a crowbar. There are ways to social engineer,

social engineer yourself into the house too, probably even more common. And so you, you put your you know, document, your important documents, in a safe, and you have a combo on it. Same thing with your computer, except your stage is probably hidden away somewhere. Your computer's probably sitting out there on display, easy for anybody to grab, and there's just too much important stuff on that computer to not have a passcode, to not spend the time, to just enter in a short passcode that since you're going to do it every day, you're going to be super fast at doing it. And then there are alternatives, like I even suggested it's like, if you really want to do that, here's what you do. You can buy a keyboard from Apple. It's got Touch ID on it because they said they had an iMac. So I said, just get the touch ID keyboard for your Mac now you won't have to enter your passcode very often at all. You just have this you know, you put your finger there. There you go. There's your solution for your real problem, which is you don't want to be inconvenienced



Leo Notenboom 51:34

by the passcode. ID would be even less or even more convenient, because there's almost nothing you have to do other than look at your device. Yeah? Well, they, they



Gary 51:45

don't have that for Macs, for phones, of course, for phones, yeah, for phones, no for phones. It's ridiculous, yeah. So it's even more ridiculous argument.



Leo Notenboom 51:55

Face ID works on Windows too, although I've never done it myself. I think the real problem with Windows specifically is that there's so many different camera technologies that they're having to deal with or to so when it comes to pass keys, the good news is that you if, when it's properly set up, you don't have to have a password period. What that means, of course, is that, you know, key loggers have nothing to log, right? Yeah, phishing sites have nothing to fish, yeah. You know, it basically is so, so good for protecting you from these kind of remote, remote attacks, yep. However, the question that I get probably the most often, is, okay, great. I've set up a passkey on my account, on my phone. I lose my phone. How do I get into my account?



Leo Notenboom 52:54

What a lot of people it's and I,



Leo Notenboom 52:58

I don't want to blame people, because it is a difficult concept. It is a new concept that is on us to explain as best we can. But the bottom line is that there's always another way to sign in. Think about it. When you got that phone anew, when you got that phone for the first time, you didn't have a passkey on that phone for your account. How did you get the passkey on that phone? You logged in some other way. Now that can be maybe they sent an email to an



appropriate account with a code that you had to enter, or they texted you a code, or they did something else, none of it involving passwords, all of it somewhat less convenient, but they bootstrapped the process of authenticating who you are, at which point they could then say, okay, great, we've authenticated you. Hey, do you want to set up a passkey on this device and you're done? You're back, right? Regardless of all of your other devices and all of your other authentication technologies. The other piece that I don't think gets enough press is when you lose your phone if you have device specific pass keys. In other words, if you are not using a password manager to keep pass keys the same, use the same pass key on across multiple devices. You have the opportunity to go to the service once you've signed in again successfully, and say, You know what, disable the pass key on my my my phone, the phone that I lost, so that even if somebody a has your phone, B breaks into your phone, and C tries to go to the account for which you have a password or a pass key. They can't, because you remotely disable the pass key that I mean, there's so much goodness there, so to to bring things. A. Go full circle. I'm not going to try and read this on, on, you know, for the podcast, but I asked perplexity.ai to explain pass keys to me like I'm five. And it did a nice job. It's not going to be complete. And of course, you know, when you're using simple technology. It's not going to be pedantically absolutely on point, but it's a great little explainer. So I've got a link to that in the show notes. I went ahead and just posted it onto the Ask Leo Facebook page so that everybody could see it. It just again, it's it's not that difficult a concept. It's just a different concept. And the for all of the articles that I've been writing lately on pass keys, I've basically been closing with for one thing, this isn't going to happen quickly, right? I mean, this is going to be a multi year change. Um, think about how long it took two factor to kick in, but it is coming, and it is more secure, even if you don't understand how it is more secure, learn about it, take the time to get comfortable with it, maybe even experiment with it on an account you don't care about before you start using it on your primary accounts and and watch for folks like us to be continually trying to do a better job of explaining it in ways that make it not just understandable, but actually desirable? Yeah,

G

Gary 56:43

I think it would, yeah, it would help if the things were more consistent. That's the problem.



Leo Notenboom 56:48

There's always that. But let's face it again, that's why, I think that's one of the reasons two factor took a while, too, is there's so many different ways you could do two factor, some be different interfaces, so many different times that it pops up. So yeah, it's not like we've not been here before. We just know that, because we've been here before. Yeah, this is going to take, well, yeah, um, if they're going to complain, let's us complain. Get off my alarm. So one of the comments that I get frequently, and it's a if, in my case, it's a generic comment, somebody will complain about something, about Windows, for example, they'll say, you know, such and such doesn't work the way it should work. And therefore all of Windows is wrapped, um, it's, it's actually has a name. I was looking this up when I was, when I was making notes for this the fallacy of composition, assuming that something that is true of a part of a whole must also be true of the whole. So if this feature in Windows File Explorer annoys you, then all of Windows must be annoying. That's not for example, don't let little bugs, little issues, get in the way of enjoying the whole thing behind them that, like I said, I find that incredibly frustrating when it

comes across. Obviously, I generally don't express that frustration. That's what this segment is for, but, yeah, it's definitely one of those things that comes up. And I'm sure you encounter it as well.

G

Gary 58:20

Oh yeah, definitely. All the time, just picking out one specific little thing. Like, even with the new stuff, like the new stuff, MacOS, Sequoia people saying that, you know, such and such feature, these couple features aren't useful to them, so the entire thing's not useful to them, right? And then I was like, well, there's all these other features, none of those are useful to you. And actually, that brings me to mind, which basically, you know, I'm glad we had this segment, because I feel it's a little different that most, the most, the main body of our podcast, we like to justify ourselves. We say, This is why I feel this way, and this is why, as a technology expert, this is blah, blah, blah, but I think here we don't need to. We could just say, like, I I'm bothered by Luddites, right? I see it, especially during update time and the new operating systems come out, people saying they don't want to upgrade. They just are going to stay with whatever it is they're they're using and and it bugs me. There's a reason why the the motto for Mac most is get the most from your Mac. And that's when somebody says, How do I how do I do something that, like I get less from it, like, not upgrading? I say, Yeah, I can't really help you there. I'm all about getting the most from your back. If you want to get less from it. That's not me. Talk to somebody else maybe,



Leo Notenboom 59:50

yep. So I'm glad we added this segment too. I find it very therapeutic. Yeah. On the flip side, any cool? Well, so one of the things we started watching. So I think I mentioned maybe I didn't, I finally got around to reactivating my Apple TV subscription, because we'd reached critical mass of the number of things pending on Apple TV. So, you know, we went through Foundation, went through a couple of other things I've been waiting for. We started in on silo. Yeah, Silo. Have you watched it?

G

Gary 1:00:26

I watched the is it the second season that's out now? Or second season's just coming out? Yeah, okay. I watched the first season and I read the books. Ah, okay,



Leo Notenboom 1:00:35

so my wife read the books Apparently, some time ago, but I haven't. I'm coming in this completely, you know, completely clean, and I am really enjoying it. It's well, it seems to be well written, well paced. It's, it's in kind of a, I want to say it's, it's some new, interesting concepts. But the, the other thing that I walked away with from the very first episode is it's also got Fallout vibes, in the sense that, you know, the silo makes me, reminds me a lot of you know how the folks in in Fallout are, are surviving their nuclear catastrophe or their apocalypse. So anyway, I'm enjoying it. I'm looking forward to Season Two showing up on here, showing up on Apple TV or silhouette. Did you watch Fallout, by the way?

G

Gary 1:01:27

Yes, okay, yeah, that was good. I like that. And, yeah, very different views of the apocalypse. Of course I liked, I liked fallouts more humorous sometimes view of things. And I also and for silo, one of the things I really liked about it that I was concerned about because read the books, there's a lot of character work in the books where it's not a traditional here's the main character. It's almost first person with this main character. We're just going to go through this. There are a lot of different characters, and it the books were like that, and then I was like, Oh, they're going to change it for TV. And they don't, they do a great job, because they hire some great actors in the show, some really good, top name actors that are in there, that are do a great job of of embodying these characters from the book, just like the you know, the book did. So anyway, so that's so mind is actually a book, a new book. Sometimes I like to read fresh, new sci fi. I go back and forth between, like, really old sci fi, like, I think I took talked about a book from the 50s just a few months ago. And here's a book from this year called some desperate glory by Emily Tesh uh really, really enjoyed this pure sci fi book about definitely the the far future and earth and other civilizations, and how a pretty unique take on on like a future that I really hadn't seen in in other books, and it had an really enjoyable lead character too. So definitely check that as it giving a lot of attention this book, too, among those that like fresh do sci fi, I



Leo Notenboom 1:03:22

have to add it to my list of things to check out. Yep,



Leo Notenboom 1:03:26

on terms of, you know, talking about ourselves, uh, blatant self promotion. The article I'd like to point people at this week is, what's the difference between One Drive, Google Drive and similar services? It's Ask leo.com/ 174112, obviously, I've done a lot of writing about OneDrive in recent months. Not only do I have a course on OneDrive, but I've written a number of articles because of some of the quirks and even bad decisions in the design of OneDrive. But the fact is, you don't have to use OneDrive. There's a lot of other alternatives to OneDrive, and in fact, even in the comments to the original article, I'm finding out, you know, a few more that I might end up looking into on my machine. Specifically, I have OneDrive, I have Dropbox, I have Google Drive, I have proton drive, I have iCloud. And you know, that's just, that's just me being me. But any one of those, you know, they're all trying to sort of solve the same problem in with, you know, a little, some differences around the edges, and, of course, different pricing models and such. So anyway, I go through the major players and try and give some idea of exactly, you know, what is the difference between them all, and which one might be right for you? Ask leo.com/ 174112, what's the difference between OneDrive and Google Drive and some owner services? Cool? I've of course,

G

Gary 1:04:51

been doing tons of videos on the new features of Mac OS and iOS for the new releases. So I'll point to one of those 50. 18 new hidden features in iOS, 18 cool,



Leo Notenboom 1:05:05

yeah, well,



Leo Notenboom 1:05:06

we're back, and good episode. So as always, that does us for yet another week. We will hopefully be here again next week. I think we will be as always. Thanks for listening, folks, and we will see you again real soon. Bye, bye, bye.

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11 Labs AI 1:05:24

The show notes for this week are at [teh.podcast.com/teh 231](http://teh.podcast.com/teh-231) if you have a comment or question for us, be sure to leave it on the show notes page. The teh podcast is hosted by Leo Notenboom of [askglio.com](http://askglio.com) and Gary Rosenzweig of [macmost.com](http://macmost.com) and edited by Connie Delaney. I'm your synthetic announcer, Bill from [elevenlabs.com](http://elevenlabs.com) thanks again for listening, and we'll see you here real soon. You