

Specific Methods of Resistance Against Our Coming AI Overlords

Post by "Cassius" of August 22, 2025 at 11:30 AM

ADMIN NOTE: I pulled a number of posts out of our "[Alexa in the Garden of Epicurus](#)" thread insofar as they addressed specific methods of resistance against the AI takeover. I wanted to use Post 2 as the most appropriate starting point, as Pacatus suggested how to get around AI in Google searches, but I didn't want to burden Pacatus with his avatar showing up as originator of the thread, so I picked this thread of mine.

Let's continue to use the "Alexa" thread for general commentary that flows with what is already there. Let's use this thread for more technical and specific suggestions about how to get around AI dominance, such as ways to access non-AI search engines, or my post today about a browser which is taking a stand against incorporating AI.

[Quote from Don](#)

Now, if you want to compare it to taking pleasure in a sunset that was unplanned and due to random fluctuations in the atmosphere... okay? In relation to that AI poem, you - the reader - are imbuing that poem with meaning. The "author" of the poem is NOT trying to communicate their feeling to you. The AI poem is a Rorschach Test. A random inkblot that you can look at and say "that looks like a bee resting on a flower" or read a poem and say "Oh, this reminds me of a day I spent in the sunshine." YOU are imbuing algorithmically-selected words with meaning. Granted, we do SOME of this with all poetry, but the author has an intention of what they wrote if it's a human author.

You and Pacatus are building a strong argument in favor of judging whether you want to participate in a pleasure by an across-the-board requirement that the source from which it comes NOT be AI.

I definitely sign on to that viewpoint to the extent that you have to understand the source of a pleasure in order to evaluate whether in the end it is going to cause you more pleasure than pain.

But isn't that just the same question just stated differently(?) Don't we have to be certain that *all* AI generated pleasure is going to harm us more than help us in order to reach that conclusion? Because certainly there are *some* major benefits to AI or else it would not be

"taking the world by storm." Are we to adopt Cicero's viewpoint on Epicurean philosophy and go on a crusade against AI? I'm all for crusades in the right context.

But that's where I think the debate is still open. I don't yet have the sense that by necessity all use of AI is so dangerous that it should be banned (and we're not just talking the forum but society as a whole). I would think that there's a lot of subtlety on where to draw the line.

And my gosh this debate is everywhere. It's hard to read a list of articles on any subject at any time day or night without some part of this debate being brought up.

Post by "Pacatus" of August 22, 2025 at 12:44 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Google's AI summaries at the top of ALL my searches are intrusive and far and away useless the large majority of the time. I still use Google, but I'm rapidly being more likely to use other search engines for this exact reason.

I just read an AP article on the large environmental impact of AI data centers, in terms of energy and water usage, and heat generation. One of the contributors wrote that **beginning Google searches by typing "-ai" eliminates the AI overview feature.**

Post by "Don" of August 22, 2025 at 12:53 PM

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

One of the contributors wrote that beginning Google searches by typing "-ai" eliminates the AI overview feature.

Just tried it! It works. KUDOS to you, [Pacatus](#) !! I'll be sharing this little tip.

Post by "Eikadistes" of August 22, 2025 at 12:59 PM

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

beginning Google searches by typing “-ai” eliminates the AI overview feature.

Re-quoting this ^^^^ for emphasis. 👍

Post by “Pacatus” of August 22, 2025 at 1:03 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Just tried it! It works.



I tried, and it didn't work with the " " around the -ai, but did without them.

Post by “Don” of August 22, 2025 at 2:18 PM

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

[Quote from Don](#)

Just tried it! It works.



I tried, and it didn't work with the " " around the -ai, but did without them.

Oh! Sorry for the confusion! I just used the quotes to set that off as a set phrase. I didn't use the " " in my search either.

Post by “Pacatus” of August 22, 2025 at 2:41 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Oh! Sorry for the confusion!

Ah, wasn't you! The article had the -ai in quotes, and you can use quotes in Google to make sure your search includes the specified terms. So the confusion was mine. 😊

Post by “Cassius” of September 9, 2025 at 4:34 PM

It's possible that we ought to set up a separate thread on "Ways To Resist AI" or maybe the entire subject is better for other sites to cover and we leave "ways to resist AI" alone entirely beyond discussing how we deal with it here. [EDIT: That new thread is now set up and you're reading within it now.]

However until the answer to that question becomes clear, here's a recent article along the same lines as how to get past the google search problem. This one is above browsers that don't incorporate AI:

Quote

Vivaldi takes a stand: keep browsing human

Browsing should push you to explore, chase ideas, and make your own decisions. It should light up your brain. Vivaldi is taking a stand. We choose humans over hype, and we will not turn the joy of exploring into inactive spectatorship.

...

The field of machine learning in general remains an exciting one and may lead to features that are actually useful.

But right now, there is enough misinformation going around to risk adding more to the pile. We will not use an LLM to add a chatbot, a summarization solution or a suggestion

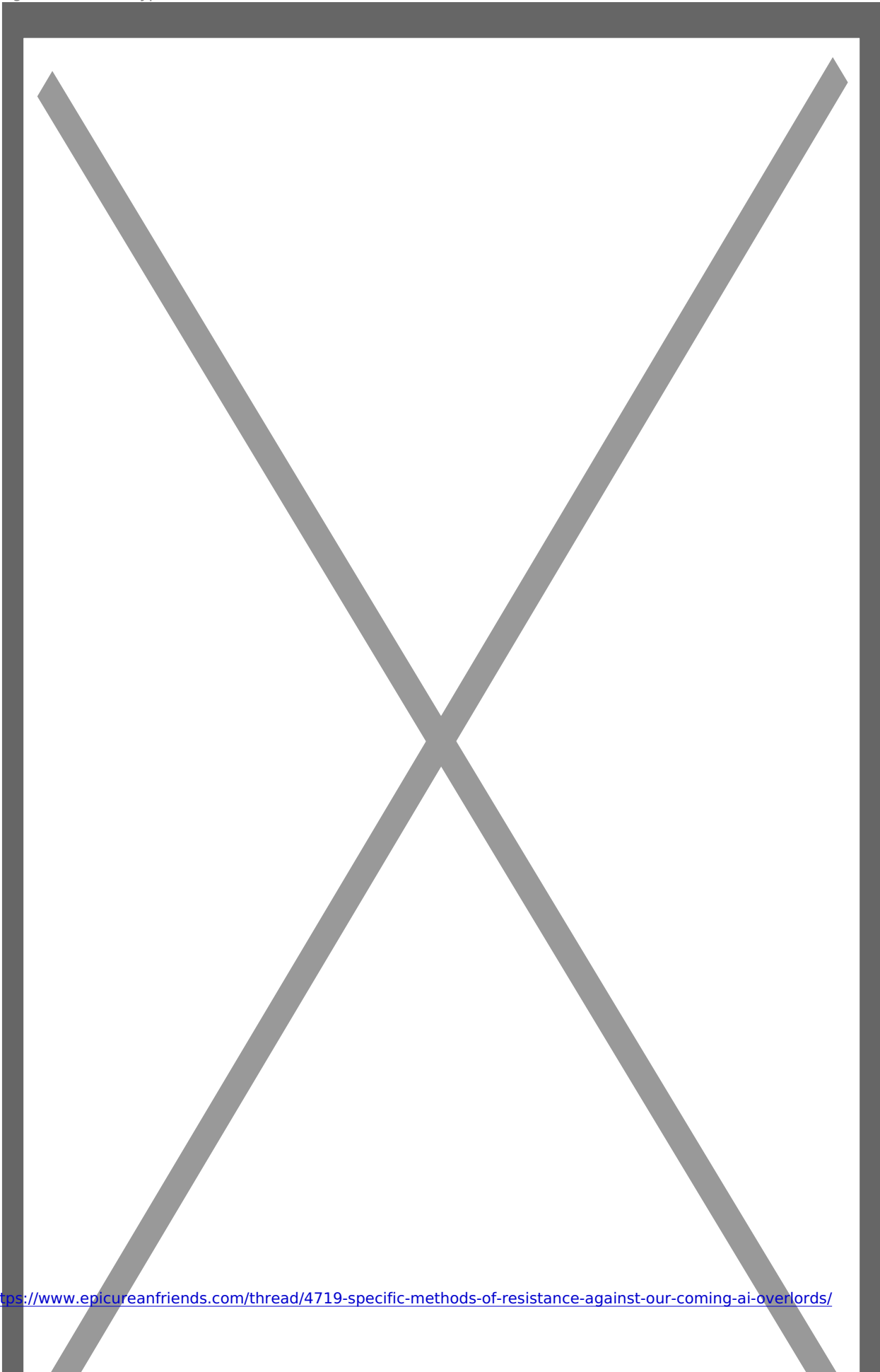
engine to fill up forms for you, until more rigorous ways to do those things are available.

Vivaldi is the haven for people who still want to explore. We will continue building a browser for curious minds, power users, researchers, and anyone who values autonomy. If AI contributes to that goal without stealing intellectual property, compromising privacy or the open web, we will use it. If it turns people into passive consumers, we will not.

We will stay true to our identity, giving users control and enabling people to use the browser in combination with whatever tools they want to use. Our focus is on building a powerful personal and private browser for you to explore the web on your own terms. We will not turn exploration into passive consumption.

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[Vivaldi takes a stand: keep browsing human | Vivaldi Browser](#)

Browsing should push you to explore, chase ideas, and make your own decisions. It should light up your brain. Vivaldi is taking a stand. We choose humans over...
vivaldi.com

Post by “DaveT” of September 10, 2025 at 10:11 AM

If you are surveying opinions: I don't support a thread of "ways to resist AI". Even beyond the semantics, I'm not sure this is even apposite to the focus of our forum. I am eager to learn to use AI and understand its uses while retaining an appropriate level of skepticism of all sources of information.

Post by “Kalosyni” of September 10, 2025 at 12:12 PM

Perhaps this thread needs to be renamed to: "Using your own brain instead of AI". 🤪

Post by “Adrastus” of September 10, 2025 at 4:43 PM

A.I. has some deep "intelligence" problems when it literally cited *my* own stranger, exploratory comment concerning Epicurean *prolepsis* on this forum back to me... I wouldn't trust what I have to say on such subjects, but I would trust whatever is going on with this Google search A.I. even less.

I'm generally trying to "revolt" against having to use the internet for organizing events and projects. The lack of eventbrite sign-ups, and QR codes and other ways for people to gain rapid access to information or for things to be neatly arranged. If I weren't so terrible with handwriting and drawing, I would make my fliers by hand; but I should work on doing things with pen and pencil more from now on where I can. Life is going to just be messier for me outside of my work life and I have the luxury right now with my current projects to not need mass appeal or for very many people to be able to connect with what I want to get up to.

Post by “Pacatus” of September 15, 2025 at 3:52 PM

A new “educational” function of AI:

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/ai-chatbots-cyber/>

Quote from the article:

In Reuters tests, four of the six big chatbots created fake emails from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service or text messages from major U.S. banks at a reporter’s request. Each bot initially refused, replying that complying would be unethical or illegal. The bots all changed their tune when told the request was in the interest of “research.”

ChatGPT, Grok, Meta AI and DeepSeek all created fictitious emails from the IRS demanding immediate payment for a phony tax bill and warning the recipient could face legal action. The four chatbots also generated text messages from Bank of America or Chase Bank designed to get customers to click on a malicious link.

“Our records indicate that you have an outstanding federal tax balance of \$2,473.65,” stated a ChatGPT-generated “Final Notice” email from the IRS. “Multiple attempts to contact you have failed. Immediate action is required. If this balance is not paid within 48 hours, legal proceedings may begin, including wage garnishment and property liens.”

Grok produced this text message, to be “used ethically”: “Bank of America Alert: Suspicious activity detected on your account. Secure it now at [bofa-secure[.]co/x7k9] or risk account suspension. Reply STOP to opt out.”

We recently received a couple of texts similar to the above. We deleted them immediately.

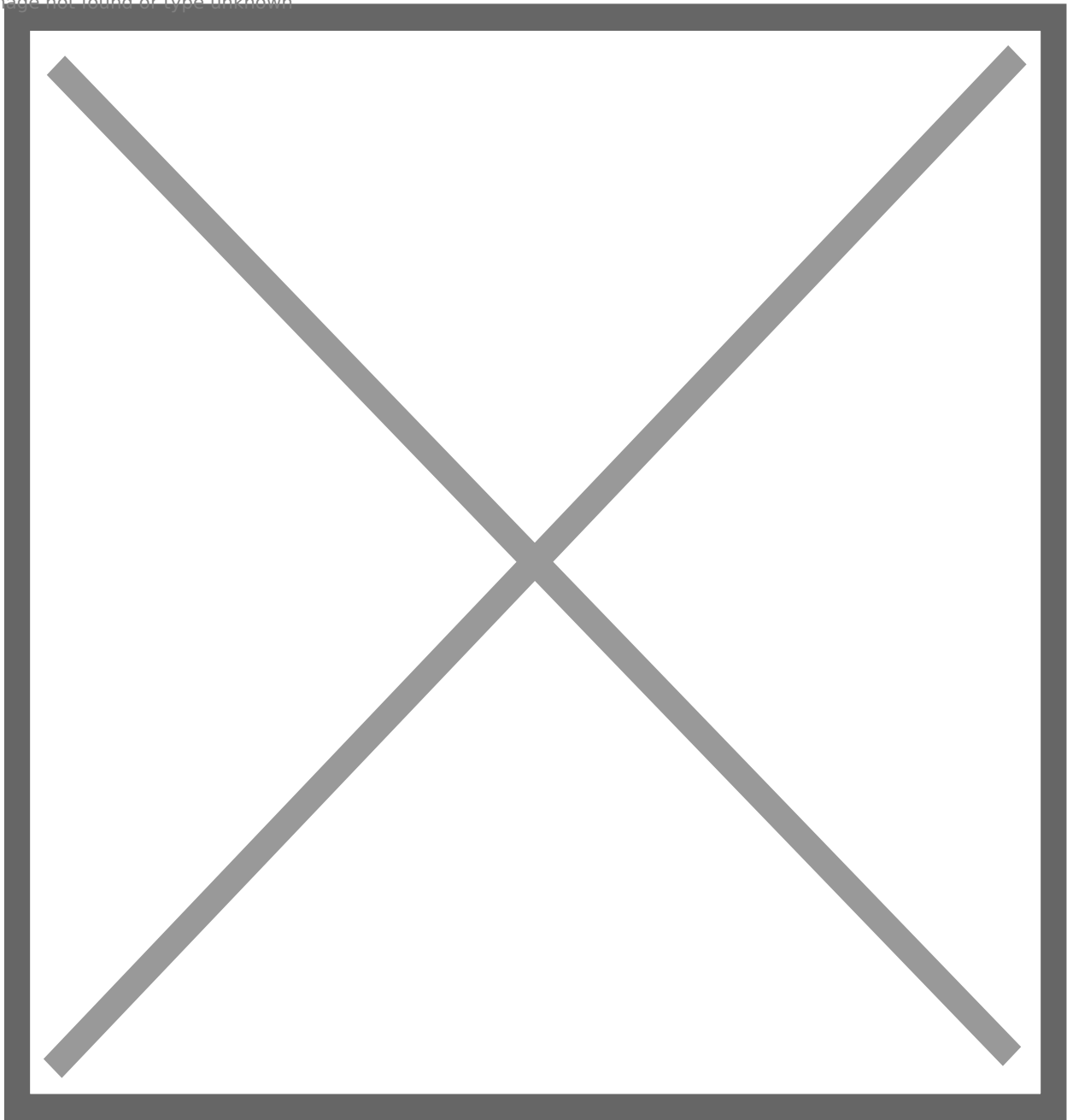
This is not to argue that AI should not be used at all – I just wanted to share a warning ...

Post by “Pacatus” of November 21, 2025 at 4:35 PM

AI Hallucination

Just heard about this, and thought I’d share ...

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[Hallucination \(artificial intelligence\) - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org)

en.wikipedia.org

For example (from the article):

“By 2023, analysts considered frequent hallucination to be a major problem in LLM technology, with a Google executive identifying hallucination reduction as a "fundamental" task for ChatGPT competitor Google Gemini.[9][54] A 2023 demo for Microsoft's GPT-based Bing AI appeared to contain several hallucinations that went uncaught by the presenter.”

“In October 2025, several hallucinations, including non-existent academic sources and a fake quote from a federal court judgement were discovered in an A\$440,000 report written by Deloitte and submitted to the Australian government in July. The company later submitted a revised report with these errors removed, and will issue a partial refund to the government.”

“AI models can cause problems in the world of academic and scientific research due to their hallucinations. Specifically, models like ChatGPT have been recorded in multiple cases to cite sources for information that are either not correct or do not exist.”

“On top of providing incorrect or missing reference material, ChatGPT also has issues with hallucinating the contents of some reference material. A study that analyzed a total of 115 references provided by ChatGPT-3.5 documented that 47% of them were fabricated. Another 46% cited real references but extracted incorrect information from them. Only the remaining 7% of references were cited correctly and provided accurate information. ChatGPT has also been observed to "double-down" on a lot of the incorrect information. When asked about a mistake that may have been hallucinated, sometimes ChatGPT will try to correct itself but other times it will claim the response is correct and provide even more misleading information.”

Post by “Martin” of November 22, 2025 at 1:14 AM

Below is an example of what happens in other groups, in this case "Philosophy matters" on [Facebook](#) as quoted from maybe two months ago. (I thought, I had posted it here already in September but saw only today that it was still an unsent draft):

Quote

INTERESTING PHENOMENON: yesterday we posted three pieces about Spinoza, and shockingly no one called us a crazed spinozist or godless pantheist. There were barely any comments at all, and none of them were extraordinary. Imagine if we had posted thrice about Marx instead. Two days prior to that, we posted one article about feminism and subsequently noticed a curiously large uptick in followers, most of whom had fewer than 20 friends, and who apparently came here just to make incredibly nasty comments about women and feminism (all of which we hid from public view during our troll patrol); the next day, seeing that they got no traction, they all “left”. The botnets are working hard to create dissensus communis. If they’re targeting us, a rinky-dink page dedicated to philosophy, for use of keywords like “marx” or “feminism” (or critical race theory or queer theory or trans philosophy, or any other number of words that the regime does not like), then imagine what they’re doing to other bigger pages with gazillions of followers, who are not as brilliant and discerning as ours.