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The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Professional Networking: Real-World Insights with a Twist of Humor



John Binks, PMP®, AWS-CCP, AMA-CPM 🌐

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In the ever-changing professional networking landscape, artificial intelligence (AI) emerges as a disruptor and as the quirky sidekick in your journey through networking events and online connections. Here's a lighthearted exploration into how AI revolutionizes networking—with a pinch of humor and a dash of real-world scenarios.

The Rise of Smart Networking Tools

Remember the good old days when your networking prowess depended on your ability to remember names and juggle business cards? Well, those days are long gone. Today, AI-enabled platforms like LinkedIn suggest potential connections with eerie precision. It's as if you have a digital

wingman who nudges you towards people who share your passion for blockchain or your experience with startups. The "People You May Know" feature isn't just innovative; it's like having a clairvoyant friend who can predict a successful collaboration before you've even exchanged hellos.

Tailored Introductions Made Easy

Apps like Ripple and Bumble Bizz are the networking equivalents of dating apps. They use AI to cut through the awkward small talk and get down to business. They analyze profiles and suggest the most relevant people you should meet based on mutual professional interests. Imagine an app whispering in your ear, "You should really talk to Jane Doe. She's into agile project management and also despises pineapple on pizza—just like you!"

Virtual Events and Augmented Interactions

Gone are the days of mustering the courage to approach someone at a networking event. Now, platforms like vFairs and Hopin transform your networking experience by letting you navigate virtual trade shows from the comfort of your living room. Here you are, walking your avatar up to a virtual booth to exchange LinkedIn details, all while your real-life cat decides your keyboard is the perfect spot for a nap.

AI Assistants: The New Secretaries

AI tools like [x.ai](#) and [Zoom.ai](#) are redefining administrative support, from scheduling meetings to sending follow-up reminders. It's like having an assistant who manages your calendar and seems to understand your professional mood swings. These AI secretaries ensure you're always prepped for your next meeting, although they're still working on mastering your coffee preferences.

Data Privacy: A Necessary Conversation

Data privacy has become a critical issue with the rise of AI in networking tools. When Zoom's security loopholes led to "Zoombombing," it served as a stark reminder of the importance of robust security measures. As these platforms collect more data to enhance functionality, the balance

between convenience and privacy becomes a pivotal talking point.

Wrapping Up

Navigating the AI-enhanced era of professional networking requires a sense of humor and a healthy perspective. AI is opening new doors and suggesting connections because you both enjoy surreal memes and care about sustainability. Whether you're a networking novice or a seasoned professional, AI ensures that growth is just a click—or a bot—away.

As we embrace these changes, let's keep our wit about us and maybe even enjoy a virtual coffee with a potential connection. Who knows? That coffee break could lead to your next big opportunity, or at least a good laugh over shared dislikes of pineapple on pizza.

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