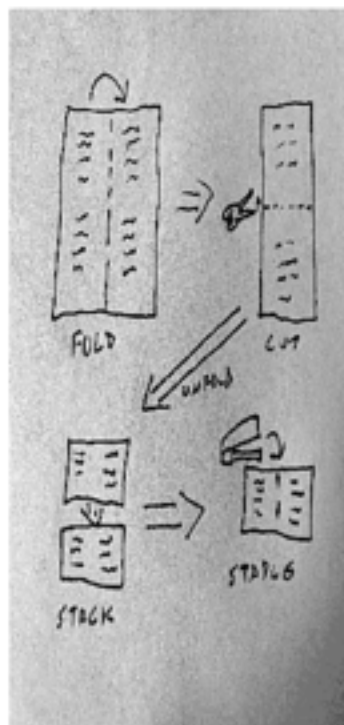


Assembly Instructions

1. Print double-sided
2. Fold vertically
3. Cut horizontally
4. Unfold
5. Stack the two halves
6. (this half on top)
7. Staple in the middle
8. Enjoy!



14

this instance you're better off with specialized tools, such as a reciprocating saw or a power drill. If you're lucky, your pumpkin will be the only gourd left on your porch, like how Nagato was the only Japanese battleship to survive the war, though Nagato had to deal with the US Navy's submarine fleet, and you're only worried about extremely cool teens getting disrespectful with a baseball bat. If you're even luckier it will end up like USS Texas, the only Dreadnought-era battleship left anywhere in the world.

I like to keep it simple when I'm re-enacting John Woo's Face/Off on vegetables. Simple triangle eyes, using the same trigonometry as an optical rangefinder. Throw some teeth on that bad boy. The standard-type pumpkin face will serve you well in any engagement.

You can, if you want, buy a pumpkin at the store like some kind of dumbass. Just go to a building, and leave with a big gourd. This is unforgivably boring. What you should do is wrench one free from the living earth, straight off the vine with your bare hands. Go to a farm - they're all the same and I'm sure there's one near you, so just pick one. Get on the tractor, which is hauling a line of carts behind it like a squadron of ships forming a battle line formation, and they'll kick you out where you need to be.

6

Warship Names, Ranked

5. **Invincible:** Inaccurate. She blew up, thus proving to be highly vincible. Possessed cruiser speed and battleship guns, but due to when she was unlocked on the tech tree only had cruiser armor. The admiralty read "battleship guns", put her in the firing line against actual battleships and, as previously stated, she blew up.

4. **Mikasa:** I'm sure this had a different connotation at the time, but in a modern context this is the name you give to a type of dinner plate. Non-threatening in the extreme.

3. **Dante Allegiri:** It's actually not because of the poetry thing. You can name a boat after a poet. What you cannot do is name it after an Italian.

2. **Warspite:** Unlike a lot of British ship names - Victory, Indefatigable, Renown - this hits the sweet spot of not coming off as trying too hard while still sounding mean as hell.

1. **New Jersey:** Easily the most intimidating thing you can see sailing toward you. New Jersey is a state populated by pugnacious dirtbags, synonymous with a lack of mercy or morals.

15

specifically are not an artist. You're not even a technician. You are doing data entry.

In short, "we built a lying plagiarism machine and told everyone it was the future" is basically the reality of Large Language Models - I'm going to stop calling them AI now, they don't deserve it - and if you use GPT or Bing or whatever as anything beyond a novelty you're a fuckin' mark of the highest order. The thing is actively dangerous when used by the general public, in addition to what it's doing to convince managers and ownership that they don't need workers. Business People, who I am sure are all here reading a joke article in a magazine from a warhammer site: No, you don't need to invest in a piece of technology that spits out vast amounts of inaccurate text. You already have interns for that. Making things 90% worse but 95% cheaper looks good on exactly one press release and quarterly earnings call, at the small price of getting sued all the time, burning any goodwill you had with your customers (along with a sizable acreage of forest just to meet the electrical needs), and generally making the world a worse place. It is not very cool.

It's obviously stupid to ask the billion-dollar speak and spell whether Goonhammer has a podcast, and not verify the answer (which is,

23



I've held off on running this for a while because Ed Zitron has been doing a better job on this beat than I ever could, but now that I have a platform even less valuable than Goonhammer itself I don't feel bad wasting anyone's time.

Fuck Computers

Like every institution of power or cultural import these days, this magazine is both an ethical void and fails to even function under its stated goals. This is to say, while I appreciate the couple of authors that have been filling in while I was too busy to come up with any ideas, they also missed the point of it and started writing about meat or using this space as therapy instead of wildly editorializing. We regret the error, and will do better in the future, by doing worse: refusing to stay on topic or even make sense. Everyone is trying to sell you something. Not me though, I'm actively trying to make people not read. I do this for love of the game.

16

inexplicably, "yes", though crucially - and I confirmed that this was true at the time - the LLM would tell you we had one well before we actually did). The larger issue is that real decision-makers of consequence - lawyers, the entire tech industry, if not business in general - are talking to and about this stupid thing like it's the goddamn Terminator. So yes, I would say that the robot is getting a lot of juice it doesn't deserve. This is cult shit. This is Shen Yun applied to computer science. I can't wait for The Valley to move on to their next scam.

It's going to collapse, it has to. If you have a piece of software that costs a billion dollars to build and operate, and it doesn't generate a billion dollars in utility, it will eventually fail. If you have a system that needs infinite human-generated content on which to train, and humans and their text are finite, you will also fail. AI/LLM is both of those things.

Unfortunately, when the bubble does pop it's gonna blow the top off the entire economy with it. Something like 3% of the entire S&P 500 is "nVidia selling chips to the big seven tech firms", so if those CEOs decide to stop investing in new builds - not even cancel the shit entirely because it sucks, but merely stop building new ones - not even every company, just like 5 MBA

24

Goonhammer has a Patreon! Sign up! Bring a positive attitude and your credit cards. We're all friends here, so long as your check clears.



Being a Patron gets you: our awful Discord, this magazine, Gregbot, ad-free browsing on all our web sites, authors that can suddenly pay for food and rent, at least one podcast, and some cool features in TableTop Battles and Administratum. Holy shit!

Check us out at goonhammer.com. Goonhammer: you won't live to regret it!

13

middleman and just get a sweet potato, but unless you are one very specific person out of the entire human race (who, I should point out, cannot currently read), I'm not your dad, so you do what you want. Nobody wanted to build Jackie Fisher's insane battlecruisers with 20" guns and three inches of armor, just like nobody wants a big weird pumpkin they can eat. Even if it would be better, it goes against orthodoxy - just get the big round orange joint with the stem on top, like a normal person.



Carving, should you get your act together enough to actually do it, requires cutting through the thick armored belt outside the pumpkin, and scooping out the magazine of seeds and gross strings. I usually advocate for huge knives as the all-purpose weapon to use on food, but in

5

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Did you know? **Goonhammer** Incorporated produces many fine things. I endorse this product or service.

Our address? The digital frontier. Our domain? the cyber web. A collective of keyboard samurai hyperlinking rich content to your meatspace. Strap on your mirrorshades and jack it in.

Merchandise? You **GODDAMN** well know we got that.



Goonhammer: when we named it that "goon" meant something very different.

12

your fall, but my fall is for sure better than my summer, winter, or spring. October/November is about as good as it gets. It is time to go outside, and get a pumpkin.

Pumpkins are the queen of the farm. They possess unmatched power and glory, and many nations measure their status based on how many pumpkins they can put to sea. They are the capital gourds of the fleet.

I'm not here to talk about pumpkins for eating. These are purely decorative. Your average un-spiced pumpkin is good for two things: carving into a spooky face, or saying you're going to carve it into a spooky face and then getting distracted while it rots on your porch and gets destroyed by squirrels. It's not that different from something like *HMS Dreadnought*, who only had one major surface engagement occur during her career, and missed it because she was in the shop getting the tires rotated. In fact, I'm not sure *Dreadnought* ever actually fired her guns in anger, though she did ram a submarine one time. That is undeniably cool, but for such a huge investment, represents a real wasted opportunity.

You might want a roasting pumpkin, which I don't know much about, but they can actually be considered food. Personally I'd cut out the

4

To wit, here we bring you a tale as old as time: old man yells at cloud. We are here, now, getting mad about computers.

One of the first times I remember being cognizant of corporate bullshit that metastasized into outright lies that they figured I'd be too stupid to catch was with the old iPod. They changed the packaging to be half the volume and lauded it as a solution for the environmental problems we've been hearing so much about. It'll keep trucks off the road, they said. They also made the new - admittedly it actually was smaller - thing out of plastic, where the old one was paper. So, half as many trucks but a thousand times the lifespan on their contents. Cool!

From there, to Crypto, to NFTs, to self-driving cars, to Metaverses, to a decade of "Uber but for [X]" startups, I think it's fair to say that we as a society of cantankerous old bats are pretty done with a tech industry that's blatantly obviously out of ideas, except for maybe when they invent a slightly bigger phone every year or two. The only innovations to come out of Silicon Valley lately are new ways to lie to investors in order to get access to their money, and the best new idea they managed to come up with is a highly scalable lying machine.

17

dipshits, that is literally enough by itself to cause a recession. There may in fact be other problems in the world as well.

We leveraged our entire economy, our jobs, our critical thinking skills, and in many cases our sanity, on a tool that does nothing except make up outrageous lies about stuff and drive people into psychotic breaks. We're getting the future we collectively deserve.



i think a lot about the post that went "most citizens experienced the fall of the roman empire when their bridge collapsed and no one came to fix it" and then also about the Key Bridge lol

25

Is it possible for culture to stop evolving? When all it's doing is recycling the same inputs, and the machine - meaning the literal one, not as a metaphor for corporate capitalism - is fundamentally a snake eating its own tail? We liked to think that sequels and reboots and Fortnite IP-dumping were as bad as it was gonna get, but what if we were wrong. How is AI going to invent anything new - truly new - when all it can do is mash together existing stuff, and especially if the slop the hogs want from it is "a new season of *Narcos*, starring Mister Beast", which came from a cursed tweet and will live in my mind forever. I don't particularly differentiate between the text, image, and video versions of the technology, because they're all the same thing. Even if it worked, which they don't, it would be bad. The fact that they don't is just adding injury to injury, like a compound fracture jutting through the skin.

18

For Sale: Discord Names, Never Used

- Kawaii Leonard
- DADBITCH
- Charli.exe
- Crisis on Infinite Dunks
- Pitbull Tron Soundtrack
- Silent Hilf
- Uma Musumommy
- Costco Demon Hunters
- Jeffrey Benzos

11

Word Search

Find all these exciting words!

- Feet

T	E	E	T	H	T	E	E	T	H	T	E	E	T
E	E	T	H	T	E	T	T	H	T	E	E	T	H
E	T	H	T	E	E	T	H	T	E	E	T	H	T
T	E	E	T	H	T	H	E	E	E	T	E	T	H
H	T	E	E	T	H	T	E	E	T	H	E	T	E
T	E	T	E	T	F	E	E	T	E	E	T	H	E
E	E	H	T	E	E	T	H	E	E	T	E	E	H
E	T	E	H	E	T	E	E	T	T	E	E	T	H
T	E	E	T	T	E	E	T	H	H	H	T	E	E
H	E	H	T	H	H	E	E	H	T	E	H	E	T
E	T	E	H	T	E	E	T	H	E	T	E	H	E
H	E	T	T	E	H	E	E	H	E	H	E	E	H
T	T	E	H	E	T	E	T	H	T	E	E	T	H
H	E	E	E	H	E	E	H	T	H	H	E	E	E



It's fall, so we're re-running a Meatwatch from a couple of Octobers ago. It's one of my favorites.

Meatwatch: Pumpkins

Sorry for not writing more Meatwatch. Or sorry for being back, depending on how you feel about my whole deal. I don't have a good excuse for my absence. I'd like to say it's just been one thing after another, which most people will nod at because it sounds relatable and wise, but really that's just describing linear time: things happen in order. The basic fact of the matter is that I wanted to write more, but I've been busy reading about battleships on wikipedia instead.

I love this time of year. Leaves are falling like main-battery shells, the weather turns cold and gray like the steel side of a warship, and the humidity finally cracks. Autumn in the mid-atlantic is the best time of year. I don't mean that we have the best version of the season - that probably belongs to New England, a bit further north - and in fact ours probably sucks overall, if you look at the global power rankings. I don't think my fall is better than

26

3

emphatically not Cold Brew Season, but it's pretty drinkable as an afternoon Treat. Good enough that I have stayed the course, and I will be doing so for quite some time, because the can is, again, three pounds. I know a three-pounder doesn't sound like a lot - and it wasn't, the Royal Navy kept throwing them overboard because they weren't good at anything - but in a high-capacity round like a coffee can it has enough of a charge to get you moving.

Enjoy this time of year the best way you can, because it doesn't last. Go nuts on a pumpkin with a chainsaw, unwind with a long wiki-dive on the IJN Combined Fleet, or watch Hocus Pocus again. Before you know it, the era of the pumpkin will close, and you'll be swarmed by aircraft carriers. Specifically, by December you're going to end up with a tree inside your house, and it'll probably have some kind of nest in it.

10

A Letter From The Editor

Hello friend,

You are holding in your hands the first - and, depending on how much work this is and whether we run out of ideas, maybe the last - issue of the official Goonhammer **manifesto** zine.

Considering that Goonhammer is already in the words-distribution business it's fair to ask why this new method of word-distributing came about, and the answer is simple: sometimes we have ideas that are too stupid to run on Goonhammer proper. Paper also isn't indexed by search engines, so we can use cuss words in headlines without getting yelled at. In short, this is by the sickos, for the sickos. I hope you enjoy it.

You may also notice that this physical document is deep-fried ratchet. If anyone asks, that's on purpose. It's called aesthetics, look it up. It's supposed to look like something a crazy person banged out on a typewriter in an afternoon. It isn't that, though. I used a computer.

Hell yeah,
- September 2025

2



I think we all know about the Turing test - the one about whether you can win awards despite being played by Benedict Cumberbatch, but also the one about if a dumb enough person could talk to a computer and think it was a human - which is a test that all current AIs fail due to not making sense and having no short term memory. That is, you might actually think they were a person, just a person on a load of ketamine. But I want to talk about the concept of Turing Equivalence, which has to do less with outputs and more with processes.

One way a machine can play chess pretty well is by brute-forcing every possible chain of moves available to it (branching at every decision in response to every possible move you might make, then every possible thing it might do, then

19

Coloring Pages



27

everything you might do again, until the game reaches an end state - the numbers quickly spiral to "pretty big") and reducing that down to, statistically, the one most likely to result in a win. It calculates this entire decision tree every turn. Answering the question "which move that I can make now, taking into account all of its millions of spiraling and compounding consequences, has the highest probability of me winning this game?", is a task computers are very good at, provided you throw enough computer at it. I hate to bring Benedict Cumberbatch back into this, but if you saw *Infinity War* you know what I'm talking about - dude turned into an Apex Twin video and chose his move after seeing every possible outcome. Computers work the same way.



The problem, and why I don't consider "AI" legitimately Intelligent, is that LLMs do the

20

VT Fuse used in the US Navy's 5"/38 caliber dual-purpose batteries, they are closely guarded by the powers that be (Starbucks). The key ingredients are well-understood: cinnamon, nutmeg, something else - maybe cloves? But the proportions can be whatever you feel like. Because I'm a tightwad I don't usually go to the store and buy PSLs, I just make PS Coldbrew at home.

This started because my wife and Rob's (aka TheChirurgion, aka Bob Goonhammer) wife went to CostCo. As a Bit (?) they came back with a three-pound can of goddamn Folger's, a deeply cursed ground coffee that I would never normally allow in my home. Stale, bitter, and otherwise flavorless, these beans are the pre-dreadnought of coffee, obsolete and not worth maintaining, a liability only useful for ramming into a Turkish minefield in the Dardanelles. It sucks, but because I hate wasting things, I use it for cold brew. The key to making coffee this bad drinkable is to mix the extracted bean water, in maybe a 4:1 coffee:adulterant ratio, with a simple syrup (so, 1:1 water:sugar, or something like 8:1:1 coffee:water:sugar overall) that's been spiked with a generous dash of Pumpkin Spices. Throw that in a jar and have a little sip every time you open the fridge. This is still not great coffee, and as the weather turns frosty it's

9



In This Issue

In This Issue	1
A Letter From The Editor	2
Meatwatch: Pumpkins	3
For Sale: Discord Names, Never Used	11
SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION	12
Assembly Instructions	14
Warship Names, Ranked	15
Fuck Computers	16
Word Search	26
Coloring Pages	27
We're Done Here	29



This thing was laid out in Google Docs and man, that whole experience sucked so much ass. I had more fun kludging bash scripts to format it for print, which is definitely saying something about GDocs, and not anything good.

High Seas Fleet of the 1910s: as a gourd-in-being they accomplish their stated purpose simply by existing and making you think about them, and they're inevitably going to end up at the bottom of the sea, having never done anyone any good.

This actually happens a shocking number of times. Check this out: "During the Battle of the Eastern Solomons on 27 August, Mutsu, assigned to the support force, fired four shells at enemy reconnaissance aircraft, the first and only time her guns were fired in anger during the war". They spent like a billion dollars on this thing, fired a total of four shots from eight guns, and then a year later it spontaneously combusted in its parking spot. I don't want to armchair quarterback here, but it seems like maybe an average of .5 rounds (that didn't even hit anything!) per gun is maybe not the best return on your investment. I'm not sure what my point is anymore, if I ever had one, but I guess it's that you don't need to go berzerk at the farm, just get one or two pumpkins and call it done. You don't need to waste too much money, just waste a little bit, to trick yourself into feeling alive.

Pumpkin flavoring, since eating the actual fruit (vegetable? who knows) sucks outside of a pie, is best achieved through spice. Many are the secrets of Pumpkin Spice, and much like the anti-aircraft

8

same thing, but with words - stringing them together based on a statistical model trained on analyzing real human speech patterns. This is emphatically not how human cognition works, no matter how much (here he is again, and I promise this is the last time) Benedict Cumberbatch's *Sherlock* would like you to think.

Anyway, this is a concept where all current LLMs fail, and will in fact always fail, because they are quite literally built wrong. A machine honestly imitating the human thought process is impossible. We don't even understand how a human brain works, let alone *all* human brains, let alone how to simulate that in software, and even if we *did*, we don't have the technical capability to actually do it. We're a long way off from *Dixie Flatline*, is my point. Sorry I don't have a Cumberbatch role for that one but maybe if they manage to successfully adapt *Neuromancer* one of these days he can be in it. Ok for real though that is the last one.

I need to talk here about gregbot, my own little bespoke old-fashioned LLM (it's a markov bot). He makes no sense. He's rude. Gregbot has a vocabulary - a bad one: mine - but not a personality, so there's at least some consistency to what he



21

We're Done Here

Congratulations on reading this entire thing.

I don't have a ton of regrets, but one is the time I was looking at movie prop auctions online and had a chance to buy the basketball from that one scene in *Pacific Rim* where the Chinese jaeger pilots are hooping between missions. Pretty much every day I wake up mad at myself for not at least bidding on it. Life is short, and it also mostly sucks. The end. No moral.

29

says. Not to how he reacts or answers questions, because that's all randomized and he has no fixed opinions. Still, it's convincing enough that I've seen people reply to the bot thinking it was me, which doesn't reflect well on anyone involved. But I consider this a step up from the ghoulish startup marketing Anne Frank and Goebbels bots, where you could put them both in a chatroom and they'd just have a normal conversation instead of the expected inchoate screaming. These AI bots have nothing to relate them to their stated personalities beyond being programmed to introduce themselves as such. Neither does gregbot, to be fair, but at least gregbot is honest, and provides 90% the utility while using 99% less resources and 2000% more cuss words.

There is one part of this whole contraption that I find impressive on a technical level, and that's the natural language parsing on the prompts. Even if the output is garbage, just remixed IP infringement and people with too many fingers, the fact that you can get as far into the uncanny valley as you can just by typing the words "anime abe lincoln big bazongas masterpiece soft lighting" is genuinely impressive. I don't want to get into a discussion about what is or isn't art, other than to say that if you're the person writing the little sentences into the computer and it generates a picture for you, you

22



To pick out a good pumpkin, you want something around the caliber of either a King George V or Yamato, which would be the 14 to 18.1 inch range. Too small and there isn't enough room to carve anything cool, too large and handling becomes an issue. Unless your home is the USS New Jersey or another Iowa-class battleship you probably don't have an overhead rail system for handling large objects, so get something you can carry easily in one arm, while you juggle a toddler with the other.

At this point I would also scoop up a grip of decorative gourds. I know that technically a jack o lantern is also a decorative gourd, but that takes work to accomplish versus the innate decorative quality of a fucked up squash. In two ways the decorative gourd resembles the German

7

GOONHAMMER

Layout by greg chiasson
Printing by greg chiasson
Words by greg chiasson
Images by robert jones
Copyright Goonhammer 2025

GOONHAMMER

Goonhammer presents:
yum yum here it come

Volume 1



A Goonhammer zine.
By Goonhammer.

"i love my hungry pyramid son" -
gregbot