# Microsoft patent could let AI rewrite online broadcasts

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Microsoft patent could let AI rewrite online broadcasts

The proposed technology could change a speaker's words and mouth movements within seconds, raising questions about whether online audiences will still be able to trust what they see and hear.

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Source: Unsplash (Voyage Pro)

Microsoft has filed a patent for new technology that uses artificial intelligence to rewrite what someone says during livestreams. The technology can even alter the person's face to make the change appear authentic.

The proposed technology would monitor speech during a live event and identify words to remove or replace. Generative AI would create the new audio, then change the speaker's mouth movements to match. Viewers could receive the altered broadcast within roughly one to ten seconds.

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ICYMI - Microsoft files a patent for AI that can rewrite what people say in real time during livestreams.

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The changes could be based on preset rules or the personal profile of each viewer. As a result, two people watching the same event could hear different versions of what was said.

Microsoft says the technology could translate a broadcast into another language. It could remove filler words such as "um," correct mispronunciations or filter language considered offensive. Replacement words could even be selected through an internet search.

The filing identifies lectures and television programs as possible uses. The patent could also be applied to other events streamed live online, like sporting events or presentations.

However, the same technology could make it difficult for online audiences to know whether what they're seeing is real.

Changing the audio while altering the speaker's face could make an edited statement appear natural, and the application does not require on-screen warnings that the broadcast has been modified.

Personalized filtering could also produce conflicting accounts of the same event. A political speech could be softened for one viewer while certain words are removed for someone else. A speaker could then face public backlash over language created by software rather than what the speaker actually said.

Microsoft's filing contemplates keeping the original video and audio as a "ground truth" record. Preserving an unedited copy, however, would not necessarily tell viewers whether the live version they received had been altered.

The filing remains a patent application for now. Microsoft has not announced a product or confirmed plans to release the technology, and a patent examiner has raised objections to the claims, which the company may address as the application moves forward.

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