

Software developers at risk as AI may eat up coding jobs

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Tech India is witnessing a transformational shift, with its bellwethers currently busy deploying their AI-first strategy to nurture increased human+AI collaborations at their workplaces.

This means a few unpleasant things for the software developer community: most of the low-hanging, also some of the not so low-hanging coding jobs will go to their AI colleagues; AI will make some developers and their current contribution to coding fully redundant; developers will need to adapt and learn how to work with their AI partners. However, AI has the potential to free up developers from boring, repetitive tasks, allowing them to focus on deep-coding, for complex, intelligent and creative projects.

Lead tech players have been quite vocal about their focus on human+AI play, more so in the last couple of months, signalling an impending shift in the tech talent space.

Interestingly, both Wipro and Infosys recently announced the deployment of 200 AI agents each on certain functions to free up people.

"Given the transformational and disruptive capacity of AI, organisations no longer require an army of coders, most of them with low single digit experience in software development. The immediate impact we are seeing is the reduction in intake of junior level talent, and shrinking in size of project teams," said Muthu Kuma-

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ran, Operating Partner and Head of India Operations, Recognize, a U.S.-based private equity firm.

Dr. Vikas Khare, Associate Dean School of Technology, Management and Engineering, NMIMS, at Indore said, many repetitive and template coding chores, including bug fixes, basic HTML/CSS web construction, basic CRUD operations, boilerplate generation, and test case writing, were currently being automated by AI.

Neeti Sharma, CEO, TeamLease Digital, said many AI tools were capable of writing codes, providing real time suggestions and even writing full functions on simple prompts, and therefore many junior developer roles such as web or mobile app development, testing and documentation would be replaced by AI in the next few years.

Flip side

However, she said, any kind of coding that involved creative problem-solving, strategic design, and understanding complex user needs is likely to remain human-centric. Developers would evolve into supervisors and collaborators who focus on strategic decisions, ethical considerations, domain-specific logic, security planning and creative problem-solving that AI cannot replicate, said experts.