**Artificial Intelligence**

Artificial intelligence, also known as AI, is a new technology made by computer scientists, which is rapidly evolving. AI covers a wide variety of computer systems, which serve different purposes, from facial recognition to drug design, from driverless cars to world leading neural networks (such as IBM’s WATSON).

AI is all about machine learning through exposure to vast amounts of data. For example, computers can learn to recognise human faces in photos or videos through the experience of “seeing” many thousands of examples.

Artificial intelligence is a controversial topic for many reasons. What we do know is that, if used correctly, AI can greatly benefit the world.

* One of the biggest concerns raised by people is unemployment. A main goal for developing artificial intelligence is to create safe and effective task automation that humans would normally deal with. Most people who utilise artificial intelligence in commercial and workplace applications limit purpose to predictable tasks, such as assembly lines. This is because AI is not developed far enough yet to understand right or wrong, or to interpret the environment the way that humans do. As these tasks are taken over by AI, human input is rarely required, or is left to small numbers of staff. Many think this is unethical practice, but when AI is implemented to complete predictable tasks statistics show that it is safer with less error than with human systems.
* Another concern involves trust and safety. AI is a new technology, and some are not ready to accept the implementation of AI. There are several examples where, because of limited or skewed data sets used for training, the AI becomes biased and fails to act correctly. With regards to safety, some professionals argue that AI is not developed well enough to safely manage less predictable tasks. A flaw of artificial intelligence is that the technology is limited by how well the algorithms are written which control it.
* One of the biggest legal issues raised about artificial intelligence is data protection. Because AI is advancing and requires more data, it is becoming more difficult to keep within the boundaries of data protection law. One example is AI used in medicine. To “train” the AI (to make it better at decision-making) huge amounts of data including personal information is required. Transporting data through the machine or even out of the machine can cause data vulnerabilities or leaks, which break laws and potentially expose confidential information to individuals like hackers.