Google rules out using artificial intelligence for weapons

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will

everyone is using it, chances are the data you get is the same data that everyone has. Nothing new. All generic. Let that sink in.

At the height of its powers, the Roman Empire conquered the known world. But nothing screws up a good thing better than success. They became complacent, comfortable, content. They splurged on the easy lifestyle. Gorging on feasts, then to the vomiting rooms and back for more. Broken only by evening orgies. They became soft, pudgy, content. What do you think happened next? Soon, they were conquered by the Goths and the Vandals. That's where humanity is headed now. We hate hardwork. And high tech is doing the heavy lifting for us. I bet sometime in the future they'd even come up with a way that will minimize or eradicate the physical effort needed in sex. A new app or a program would probably replace it. Downloadable. Could even be a freeware. Who knows? But not for me. I still prefer the grunting and humping and sweating part. Call me old fashioned but I like to get my hair mussed. Know what I mean? Cheers! A robot made by IBM's Watson AI department. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: Google announced recently that it would

weapons or to "cause or directly facilitate injury to people," as it unveiled a set of principles for the technologies.

Chief executive Sundar Pichai, in a blog post outlining the company's

that even though Google won't use AI for weapons, "we will continue our work with governments and the military in many other areas" such as cybersecurity, training, or search and rescue.

The news comes with Google facing an uproar from employees and others over a contract with the US military, which the California tech giant said last week would not be renewed.

Pichai set out seven principles

– cial intelligence, or advanced computing that can simulate intelligent human behavior.

He said Google is using AI "to help people tackle urgent problems" such as prediction of wild- disease or preventing blindness.

"We recognize that such powerful technology raises equally powerful questions about its use," Pichai said in the blog.

"How AI is developed and used

society for many years to come. As a leader in AI, we feel a deep responsibility to get this right."

The chief executive said Google's AI programs would be designed for applications that are "socially

reinforcing unfair bias."

He said the principles also called for AI applications to be "built and tested for safety," to be "accountable to people" and to "incorporate privacy design principles."

Google will avoid the use of any technologies "that cause or are likely to cause overall harm," Pichai wrote.

That means steering clear of "weapons or other technologies whose principal purpose or implementation is to cause or directly facilitate injury to people" and systems "that gather or use information for surveillance violating internationally accepted norms."

Google also will ban the use of any technologies "whose purpose contravenes widely accepted principles of international law and human rights," Pichai said.

'A good start'

Some initial reaction to the announcement was positive.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, which had led opposition to Google's Project Maven contract with the Pentagon, called the news "a big win for ethical AI principles."

"Congratulations to the Googlers and others who have worked hard to persuade the company to cancel its work on Project Maven," EFF said on Twitter.

Ryan Calo, a University of Washington law professor and fellow at the Stanford Center for Internet & Society, tweeted, "Google's AI ethics principles owe more to (English philosopher Jeremy) Bentham and the positivists than (German philosopher) Kant. Nevertheless, a good start."

Calo added, "The clear statement that they won't facilitate violence or totalitarian surveillance is meaningful."

The move comes amid growing concerns that automated or robotic systems could be misused and spin out of control, leading to chaos. At the same time, Google has faced criticism that it has drifted away from its original founders' motto of "don't be evil."

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general

– ligence for good, but Google appeared to offer a more precise set of standards.

The company, which is already a member of the Partnership on Artificial Intelligence including

AI principles, had faced criticism for the contract with the Pentagon on Project Maven, which uses machine learning and engineering talent to distinguish people and objects in drone videos.

Faced with a petition signed by thousands of employees and criticism outside the company, Google indicated the $10 million contract would not be renewed, according to media reports.

But Google is believed to be competing against other tech giants such as Amazon and Microsoft for lucrative "cloud computing" contracts with the US government, including for military and intelligence agencies.