**I'm a high-school student who wants to be a coder. I'm betting some of my peers will rely too much on AI.**

As told to [Tim Paradis](https://www.businessinsider.com/author/tim-paradis)



Joshua Karoly, a high-school senior, hopes that if others rely too much on artificial intelligence, he'll still be able to have a career in tech. Courtesy Karoly Family

* High-school senior Joshua Karoly aims for a tech career despite AI's rise.
* Karoly began coding in second grade and has developed skills through self-learning.
* He believes AI's limitations will create opportunities for those with strong coding skills.

*Joshua Karoly is a 17-year-old high school senior who lives near Sacramento, California, and wants to pursue a career as a software developer. He hopes that as more people rely on artificial intelligence, he can use his coding skills to land a job despite the technology taking on more work inside companies.**The following has been edited for brevity and clarity.*

When I was in second grade, I started [programming with Scratch](https://www.businessinsider.com/google-deepmind-research-scientist-coding-not-dead-ai-education-2025-5), which is super basic block-based programming. I realized I could make games from this. I was like, "That's awesome. I love games." Then, I got a book about Python at the library, and I would type in the code from there and was like, "Whoa, I drew a square and made a button that I can click." Then I moved on to Khan Academy.

I've been working my way up from there in terms of complexity. A lot of this was during distance-learning during COVID. When I was supposed to be paying attention in class, I was programming. That's where I got a lot of my experience. It was very nerdy behavior.

**AI might fix one thing, then break something else**

When you're a kid, people always ask you, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I was interested in computers. So, since the second grade, I would say, "I want to be a programmer."

As to AI, I knew neural networks existed for a while because I've seen people do cool things. Back before OpenAI was very big, they had a song generator that made songs in the styles of classical composers and stuff. I thought that was the coolest thing ever.

At the same time, because of how AI is trained, it's made to give you output that looks as accurate as possible, even when it's wrong. A lot of the time, it will tell you for sure that it works, and it looks like it will, but it doesn't, or it works somewhat.

So, I spend a lot of spend a lot of time debugging AI code, which has been my experience with it. I have been using it now and then to debug my own code or help get an idea of how to figure something out, but generally, I don't find this code to be the highest quality.

At the beginning of the summer, I did a game jam, which is where you spend a week making a game. I kept having a problem where the code I wrote wasn't quite detecting where something was. I fed it to the AI, and it was like, "Oh, your problem is this."

It gave me back code, and that was not my problem. I kept asking it over and over again, trying to help it out, and it didn't help me. I eventually had to figure it out myself, hours later.

You can get pretty far with [just vibe coding](https://www.businessinsider.com/vibe-coding-limits-use-cases-software-companies-airtable-redis-2025-7), but usually it gets more complicated. As a project gets bigger and bigger, it gets more convoluted as to what the AI can work on. It might fix one thing and then break something else. That can create problems because when your project gets bigger, AI can only focus on one thing. It's even hard for humans, at least for me. I'm just a teenager.

**I'm hoping other young people will focus too much on AI**

I'm still not really worried about some big AI supercomputer taking over everything or taking potential jobs. It might play a role in how those jobs are carried out. Maybe there will be [less of them](https://www.businessinsider.com/americas-biggest-employers-facing-great-shrinking-corporations-ai-2025-8).

AI has given me some second thoughts, but there are already so many workers in programming that I don't know about job security.

I'm sort of hoping that everybody else my age will focus more on AI than they should. So when the bubble bursts a little bit, or maybe when there are jobs AI can't do as well, then I'll be the guy for the job because I know how to deal with it.

I've only been on this earth for 17 years, and I'm not so great at predicting the future yet. I'm kind of hoping that as people keep relying on AI, people who don't rely on AI will also be important.

I can still use AI as a tool. I've done it, but I try not to rely on it like a lot of people do. For example, in classes, a lot of people use AI, so they don't really know how to do the thing without it.

AI still isn't so good at reasoning. It has a long way to go before it starts replacing larger chunks of work I'd like to do or that most programmers do.

The ultimate dream is to run my own company and be my own boss. I enjoy building things of all sorts, especially with code, because it's abstract. The future isn't stagnant. It's not going to stay the way it is now.

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