

PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPEN-WEB SIGNAL READ

# Why People Resist AI

People do not mostly resist AI because they hate technology. They resist the feeling that AI is being imposed on them by institutions they do not trust, using work and resources they did not agree to give, in ways that threaten craft, truth, local control, and economic dignity.

**410**

SCREENED COMMENTS

**9**

SOURCE NOTES

**0**

PRIVATE ACCOUNTS USED

# The "hate AI" framing is too thin.

The anger is not one clean argument. It is a stack of smaller objections: consent, work, slop, infrastructure, trust, control, and the fear that human effort is being quietly repriced.

## ONE SENTENCE

**People do not mostly resist AI because they hate technology. They resist the feeling that AI is being imposed on them by institutions they do not trust, using work and resources they did not agree to give, in ways that threaten craft, truth, local control, and economic dignity.**

### What I looked at

600 public comments were collected. 410 were kept after removing noise: links, channel promos, very short replies, and obvious low-signal reactions.

### How to read this

This is a practical operator read, not academic polling. The value is the shape of the objections and the language people repeat when AI feels forced into daily life.

#### Why Artists are Fed Up with AI Art.

SamDoesArts

22

#### YouTube Is Using AI to Alter Content (and not telling us)

Rhett Shull

94

#### Why artists don't like AI (it's not just the theft)

pikat

80

#### These A.I SLOP Channels are RUINING YouTube

EntLaiser

69

#### the real problem with AI Art isn't what you think

Paul Platt

82

#### AI Slop Is Destroying The Internet

Kurzgesagt - In a Nutshell

63

# The anger stacks. It does not stay in one lane.

The largest clusters were about work and trust. Consent was less frequent by raw keyword count, but it was one of the sharpest objections when it appeared.

## 506

theme mentions across 410 screened comments

### Work, craft, and devaluation

139 mentions



34%

### Trust collapse and AI slop

137 mentions



33%

### Human meaning and capability loss

118 mentions



29%

### Corporate control and forced adoption

58 mentions



14%

### Consent and extraction

28 mentions



7%

### Hidden moderation and platform decisions

26 mentions



6%

Percentages use 410 screened comments as the denominator. Themes overlap, so totals can exceed 100%.

# Work, trust, and slop were the loudest objections.

## ● Work, craft, and devaluation

The loudest cluster was not just fear of job loss. It was fear that skill, time, taste, and authorship are being turned into cheap inputs.

"replace artists"

"time to learn"

"real content"

## ● Trust collapse and AI slop

Commenters kept describing a degraded internet: fake channels, bot comments, low-value uploads, and feeds where real work becomes harder to recognize.

"AI slop"

"bots"

"indistinguishable"

## ● Human meaning and capability loss

A large share of comments framed AI as a threat to human expression, learning, judgment, and the pride of making something by hand.

"soulless"

"human"

"learning"

# Control, consent, and hidden governance completed the pattern.

## ● Corporate control and forced adoption

People were less angry at models in isolation than at platforms choosing defaults for them: altered videos, algorithmic promotion, and no clear opt-out.

*"opt out"*

*"not telling us"*

*"dumping ground"*

## ● Consent and extraction

The comments that mentioned consent were specific: permission, compensation, copyright, and the feeling that training data was taken from people who never agreed.

*"without permission"*

*"stole my work"*

*"compensation"*

## ● Hidden moderation and platform decisions

A smaller but important cluster focused on opaque rules: AI labels, recommendation systems, policy enforcement, and disclosure.

*"recommendation"*

*"labels"*

*"policy"*

# The same resistance shows up in different public rooms.

YouTube comments made the first pattern visible. Reddit threads, commencement backlash, and local data-center fights show how the same trust problem changes language depending on the setting.

## REDDIT AND OPEN FORUMS

### **In sampled public threads, some younger workers talk like AI is arriving before they have bargaining power.**

The anxiety is less 'I refuse to learn tools' and more 'the ladder is being pulled up before I get a first rung.' The visible Gen Z thread in this scan kept returning to layoffs, pay, and who captures the productivity gain.

## COMMENCEMENT BACKLASH

### **AI optimism from elite speakers is being heard as tone-deaf career advice.**

Eric Schmidt being booed at the University of Arizona is not just a campus anecdote. As analysis, it suggests the trust gap has moved into public rituals where graduates expected recognition, not another pitch about inevitability.

# Infrastructure and influence risk make the debate harder to manage.

## LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FIGHTS

### **Data centers turn AI from a software debate into a land, power, water, and governance debate.**

The Stratos fight in Box Elder County, Utah, shows how AI resistance changes shape when the visible object is a data center, gas generation, water rights, tax authority, or a 50-year local agreement.

## INFLUENCE-OPERATION RISK

### **There is evidence that foreign actors use AI and online platforms to amplify divisive U.S. issues, but not proof from this scan that they funded the Stratos backlash.**

Operators should separate two truths: local concerns can be legitimate on their own, and messy online conflicts around strategic infrastructure are attractive targets for outside amplification.

# AI resistance is becoming a labor, status, and infrastructure fight.

The strongest public objections are not all about model quality. They are about who gets leverage, who gets displaced, and who carries the physical cost of the AI buildout.

AI ANXIETY IS NOT THE SAME THING AS AI REJECTION.

## Some Gen Z resistance is about the first rung.

SOURCE CONTEXT: REDDIT PUBLIC THREAD

The sampled public thread does not show a simple anti-AI posture. It shows people worrying that entry-level work, training time, and career ladders are being removed before they have leverage. That makes 'learn AI' feel like a slogan unless the organization also explains how junior people will still become valuable.

INEVITABILITY IS NOT A TRUST STRATEGY.

## The Schmidt booing was a room-read failure.

SOURCE CONTEXT: AP + UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

At the University of Arizona commencement, the crowd reaction turned a pro-AI message into a symbol of elite distance. The read here is not that leaders should avoid AI. It is that people entering a weak job market do not want disruption framed as destiny while their own leverage is unclear.

# The public argument now includes physical infrastructure and narrative manipulation.

AI NOW HAS A PHYSICAL FOOTPRINT.

## The O'Leary case is Box Elder County, Utah.

SOURCE CONTEXT: BOX ELDER COUNTY, KUER, KPCW, KSL

The Stratos project in Box Elder County is being presented as an energy and data campus for AI, cloud computing, and defense operations. Local opposition is about process, power, water, air, land, taxes, and control. Calling that 'anti-tech' misses the real adoption problem.

DO NOT TURN UNCERTAINTY INTO ACCUSATION.

## Foreign amplification is a risk, not the story.

SOURCE CONTEXT: OPENAI INFLUENCE-OPERATION REPORTING + LOCAL COVERAGE OF CLAIMS

Threat reports show foreign and commercial influence operations using AI to generate posts, comments, and synthetic engagement around divisive political topics. This scan did not find public proof that foreign actors funded Stratos opposition. The correct business read is to monitor narrative manipulation without dismissing real community concerns.

# If you want adoption, reduce the feeling of imposition.

01

**Do not sell replacement first.**

Lead with ownership, leverage, and better operating capacity. Replacement language activates the strongest fear cluster.

02

**Show the consent path.**

If a workflow uses outside data, say what was used, why it is allowed, and where the boundary is.

03

**Make human control visible.**

Controls, review checkpoints, opt-outs, provenance, and visible handoff points matter more than another model benchmark.

04

**Do not feed slop economics.**

The market is tired of volume without taste. AI systems need editorial judgment, not just cheaper output.

05

**Position AI as infrastructure.**

For PPA, the stronger promise is not magic content. It is learning how the business layer works so the owner is harder to trap.

06

**Respect the physical footprint.**

AI is no longer only an app decision. Data centers, energy, water, labor, and local governance shape whether the public sees AI as useful infrastructure or extraction.

07

**Give juniors a path.**

For teams with younger workers, adoption has to include training, authorship, and visible career progression. Otherwise AI reads as a management weapon.



PPA READ

The strongest counter-position is not "AI will do everything." It is "learn the system well enough to own your operating layer." That keeps the builder in control.

# For business owners, adoption has to feel governed.

The operational answer is not to slow-walk AI. It is to make the rollout legible enough that employees, customers, and local stakeholders can see where judgment, consent, and accountability still live.

## **Adoption is now a legitimacy problem.**

Capability alone will not carry AI into a business. People need to understand who benefits, who reviews the work, who owns the data, and what happens to the humans who used to do the task.

## **The strongest AI operators will be translators.**

Owners who can connect model capability to plain business outcomes, policy, training, and customer trust will move faster than owners who only chase tools.

## **The rollout has to protect trust before speed.**

A small, transparent workflow that people understand can outperform a larger automation that triggers fear, confusion, or quiet sabotage.

# This is a useful signal, not a universal claim.

Unauthenticated public YouTube comments were collected with yt-dlp and screened to remove links, promo posts, empty replies, and ultra-short reactions. The second pass added public Reddit threads, local reporting, official project pages, and public event coverage as directional open-web signals, with nine source notes listed for traceability.



This is a directional artifact, not a statistically representative survey.



Theme counts overlap because one comment can express more than one objection.



No private comments, cookies, accounts, or age-gated videos were used.



Short quoted fragments are anonymized comment language, not endorsements.



The foreign-influence section is a risk frame, not a claim that any named local campaign was foreign-funded.

# Public sources used as context checks.

These sources support event details, project geography, public debate context, and influence-operation risk framing. The audience interpretation remains this report's own open-web signal read.

## AP News

AI commencement backlash, including Eric Schmidt at University of Arizona

[apnews.com/article/ai-college-commencement-anxiety-boo-35aec9bac660eae05c5b8d392db2cac](https://apnews.com/article/ai-college-commencement-anxiety-boo-35aec9bac660eae05c5b8d392db2cac)

## University of Arizona

Official 2026 commencement speaker page

[commencement.arizona.edu/2026-commencement](https://commencement.arizona.edu/2026-commencement)

## Box Elder County

Stratos project FAQ and local process notes

[www.boxeldercountyut.gov/661/Stratos-Page-FAQ-Page](http://www.boxeldercountyut.gov/661/Stratos-Page-FAQ-Page)

## Utah Governor's Office

Stratos Project Area FAQ

[governor.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/FAQ-on-Stratos-Project.pdf](https://governor.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/FAQ-on-Stratos-Project.pdf)

## KUER

Local coverage of the May 4, 2026 Box Elder County meeting

[www.kuer.org/politics-government/2026-05-04/box-elder-signs-off-on-contentious-data-center-citing-property-rights-and-zoning](https://www.kuer.org/politics-government/2026-05-04/box-elder-signs-off-on-contentious-data-center-citing-property-rights-and-zoning)

# Local coverage and platform-threat context.

## KPCW

O'Leary and MIDA announcement of the Stratos project area

[www.kpcw.org/state-regional/2026-04-24/mida-shark-tank-kevin-o'leary-announce-new-data-center-project-area](http://www.kpcw.org/state-regional/2026-04-24/mida-shark-tank-kevin-o'leary-announce-new-data-center-project-area)

## KSL

Local coverage of O'Leary's claims about foreign-linked opposition and online attacks

[www.ksl.com/article/box-elder-county-data-center-debate-intensifies-as-foes-supporters-trade-barbs/51496721](http://www.ksl.com/article/box-elder-county-data-center-debate-intensifies-as-foes-supporters-trade-barbs/51496721)

## OpenAI

Covert influence operations using AI-generated content and synthetic engagement

[openai.com/index/disrupting-deceptive-uses-of-ai-by-covert-influence-operations/](http://openai.com/index/disrupting-deceptive-uses-of-ai-by-covert-influence-operations/)

## Reddit

Open thread on Gen Z worker anxiety and AI rollouts

[www.reddit.com/r/technology/comments/1si20pk/gen\\_z\\_workers\\_are\\_so\\_fearful\\_ai\\_will\\_take\\_their/](http://www.reddit.com/r/technology/comments/1si20pk/gen_z_workers_are_so_fearful_ai_will_take_their/)

# What this means for business owners and operators.

The future of AI will not be decided only by model capability. It will be decided by whether operators can make AI feel governed, useful, and economically fair.

## BOTTOM LINE

# AI adoption is a legitimacy problem before it is a capability problem.

Builders who explain the consent boundary, keep humans visibly in control, protect the junior path, and respect AI's physical footprint will be easier to trust than builders who sell replacement and speed alone.