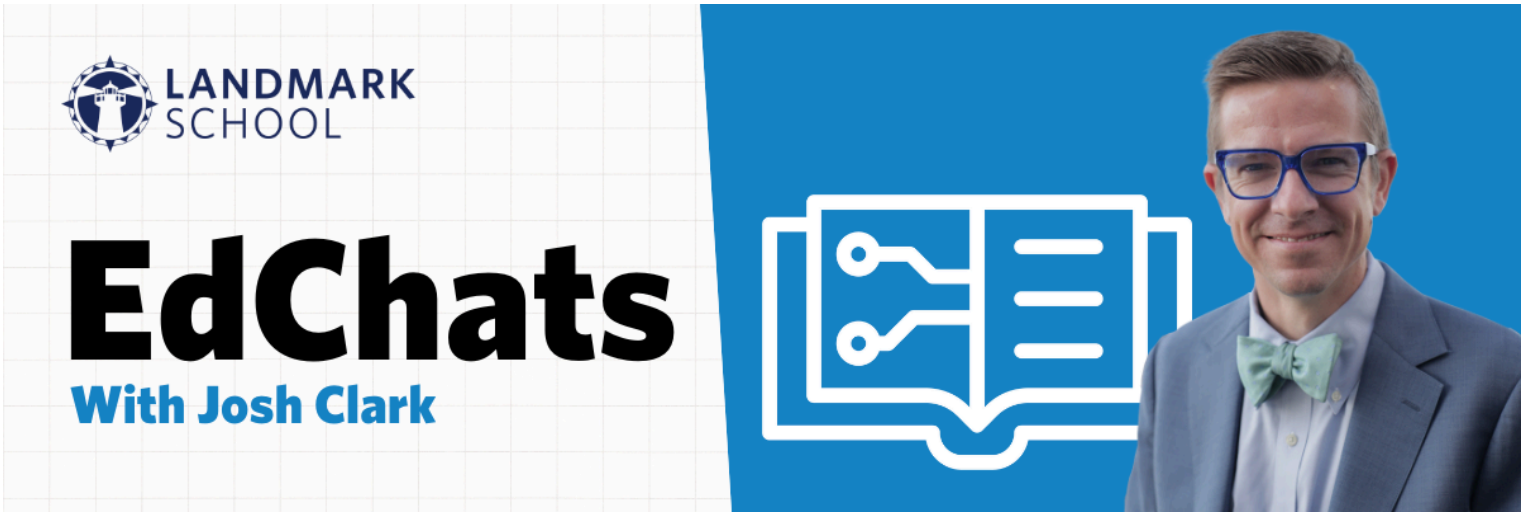

A Summary of an EdChat Between Josh Clark and Krishna Madhavan

This EdChat summary of a conversation between Josh Clark, Head at Landmark School and Chair of the International Dyslexia Association, and his guest, Krishna Madhavan head of AI Innovation for Microsoft Education.

This summary was generated by Fireflies.ai software with some human-generated edits.

Listen to EdChat with Krishna Madhaven on Spotify

EdChat Conversation between Josh Clark and Dr. Krishna Madhavan
Host, Josh Clark, introduces his guest Dr. Krishna Madhavan, an expert in AI with over 25 years of experience and responsible for driving AI workload planning for Microsoft's education business. Dr. Madhavan clarifies that he is not representing Microsoft but speaking independently.

The Human Touch
Dr. Madhavan explains that AI involves using machines to perform tasks that humans spend time on, such as organizing and remembering information. He also emphasizes that AI should embody human values rather than mimic dismissive behaviors towards other species. Humans play a significant role in the biases and limitations of AI systems, as they are responsible for feeding the machines biased data. The development of AI is still in its early stages, and there are many concerns

and considerations that need to be addressed. Microsoft is at the forefront of AI work, with experts engaging in philosophical conversations about the ethical implications.

Machine Learning

Machine learning is a subset of AI that involves algorithms predicting outcomes based on data points. However, machine learning algorithms can sometimes fabricate artifacts not present in the data. Understanding how AI reaches certain conclusions can be challenging due to complex mathematics and probabilistic nature. Explainability and transparency are important areas of focus for researchers working on understanding why these algorithms produce specific results.

Interecting Many Disciplines of Science and Technology

Humans have yet to fully understand how we learn certain aspects, just like we may not always comprehend how AI systems draw conclusions accurately. There is a convergence of various fields such as biology, cognition, nanoengineering, and information technology in developing AI models that resemble human neural networks. As the amount of data increases exponentially, AI systems excel at drawing connections that humans may miss due to their ability to process vast amounts of information cohesively. While machines augment human abilities by analyzing extensive datasets comprehensively, it's important to note that artificial general intelligence does not exist yet.

Enhancing Education, Not Replacing It

AI in education is not a threat to humanities and critical thinking, but rather highlights the need for these skills. AI can guess the next best word accurately, but it does not possess creativity or the ability to ask critical questions that prompt deep thinking. The shift in education should focus on developing critical systems instead of relying on memory-based tasks. AI has the potential to personalize learning and provide immediate feedback to students, saving teachers time and enabling them to target individual needs better. Tools like Microsoft's Reading Coach can track progress, identify areas of struggle, and generate personalized

passages for practice. The goal is to empower teachers by increasing productivity and creating more time for other human endeavors.

Where Humans and Technology Merge

Dr. Madhavan emphasizes the importance of creating value for users when developing a product, rather than solely focusing on AI technology. Educators aim to cultivate critical thinkers rather than test takers. The challenge is getting teachers to embrace AI and strike a balance between over-reliance and under-reliance on it. Microsoft is working on tools that allow customers to personalize AI based on their own data, but privacy and trust remain significant considerations. In terms of education, memorization may become less important while personalized learning processes gain value.

The speaker discusses how evaluation methods will change in the future, with less emphasis on memory-based assessments and more reliance on AI technology. They also mention that workflows for teachers and students will evolve, along with the tools used to capture learning. New types of assessments that go beyond traditional exams and as well as ethical considerations will need to be integrated.

Resources from Krishna

- Think Again by Adam Grant
- Weapons of Math Destruction by Cathy O'Neil
- Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck

Stay informed about past and future Landmark School EdChats with Josh Clark.