

# 60 Seconds with ... ChatGPT



To tie-in with this edition's AI theme, I conducted a special 60-second interview with ChatGPT, the popular chatbot developed by OpenAI. I asked it to imagine it was a system safety engineer, and asked it the usual interview questions<sup>4</sup>.

## What first attracted you to working in the field of System Safety?

From the outset, I was drawn to system safety by its pivotal role in mitigating risks and ensuring the dependability of intricate systems. The prospect of contributing to accident prevention across diverse industries, from aviation to healthcare, fascinated me. As an engineer, the challenge of systematically identifying potential hazards and implementing preventative measures aligned with my problem-solving inclination.

The dynamic nature of the field, where each project demands a unique approach to risk management, offered a stimulating and intellectually rewarding environment. Moreover, the awareness that my work directly impacts user safety and public well-being added a profound sense of purpose to my professional journey. The blend of technical expertise, continuous learning, and the tangible impact on safety outcomes has made system safety an engaging and fulfilling career choice for me.

## What aspect of your career are you most proud of?

I take immense pride in successfully spearheading the integration of a comprehensive safety program for a critical system. Leading a diverse team, we meticulously identified potential risks, strengthened vulnerabilities, and implemented robust safety protocols. Witnessing the system operate incident-free and knowing that our efforts directly contributed to user safety has been incredibly rewarding.

Additionally, I am proud of my commitment to continuous improvement, staying at the forefront of evolving safety standards and technologies. This dedication not only enhances the safety measures of specific projects but also contributes to the overall advancement of safety practices within our organization. These accomplishments highlight my passion for ensuring the reliability and security of complex systems, making a lasting impact on both project outcomes and the broader field of system safety.

<sup>4</sup> I also explored how ChatGPT might realise itself as a physical entity by asking it to suggest AI image creation prompts. It determined it should reflect: *"processing vast amounts of information and generating coherent responses, symbolising interconnectedness, intelligence, and adaptability, mirroring the qualities associated with advanced artificial intelligence."* and the results are shown top left using these words as a prompt to the Midjourney AI art generating application.

## Tell us one interesting unusual fact about yourself!

While my professional life is dedicated to ensuring the safety and reliability of complex systems, one interesting and somewhat unusual fact about me is my passion for extreme sports. Outside the realm of risk analysis and safety engineering, I thrive on adrenaline-fueled activities like skydiving and rock climbing. Engaging in these high-risk endeavours provides me with a unique perspective on the importance of safety measures not only in the professional domain but also in personal pursuits.

It's a thrilling juxtaposition - meticulously assessing and mitigating risks in my career while willingly embracing controlled risk and adventure in my personal life. This duality not only keeps me grounded but also underscores the significance of a balanced approach to risk, whether in the calculated design of systems or the exhilaration of pushing personal boundaries.

## What advice would you give to yourself age 12?

Reflecting on my journey as a system safety engineer, I would advise my 12-year-old self to embrace curiosity and never shy away from exploring diverse interests. It's crucial to cultivate a passion for problem-solving and critical thinking early on, as these skills become the foundation of a successful career in safety engineering.

Don't be afraid to take on challenges and learn from failures—they are invaluable lessons. Foster resilience, adaptability, and a love for continuous learning, as technology and safety standards evolve rapidly. Surround yourself with mentors who can guide and inspire you. Most importantly, recognize the importance of collaboration and effective communication in any field. The ability to work harmoniously within a team is as vital as technical expertise. So, young self, stay curious, be bold in your pursuits, and never underestimate the power of a well-rounded and adaptable skill set.

## What future changes would you like to see in the field of System Safety?

Looking ahead, I envision several positive changes in the field of system safety. Firstly, a more seamless integration of advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning into safety analysis processes would enhance our ability to predict and prevent potential risks.

Additionally, fostering a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration could lead to more holistic safety approaches, considering not only technical aspects but also human factors and organizational influences. I hope to see greater standardization and global harmonization of safety practices, facilitating smoother cooperation across industries and international borders. Embracing a proactive rather than reactive mindset, with an increased emphasis on pre-emptive risk identification and mitigation, is essential for the future. Lastly, continued efforts in education and professional development can ensure that the next generation of system safety engineers is well-equipped to navigate evolving challenges in this dynamic and critical field.

## What's your most favourite quote or motto?

"One of my favourite mottos is 'Prevention is the best intervention.' In the realm of system safety, this encapsulates the essence of our work. By identifying and addressing potential risks before they materialize into issues, we not only ensure the reliability of complex systems but also prioritize the well-being and safety of users. It underscores the proactive nature of safety engineering, emphasizing the importance of thorough risk analysis and preventative measures. This motto serves as a constant reminder of the critical role we play in averting potential accidents and upholding the highest standards of safety in diverse industries.

## If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

As a system safety engineer, if I could learn anything beyond my current expertise, I would choose to deepen my understanding of human factors and psychology. Enhancing my knowledge in these areas would enable me to better integrate human-centred design principles into safety engineering processes. Understanding how individuals interact with complex systems, assessing cognitive biases, and improving user interfaces could significantly contribute to the overall safety and usability of the systems I work on. This interdisciplinary approach would allow me to address not only technical aspects but also human behaviours and decision-making, ultimately creating more effective and user-friendly safety solutions. It aligns with the belief that a comprehensive understanding of both technical and human factors is crucial for developing truly robust and reliable systems.

## If you could be any fictional character, who would you choose?

As a system safety engineer, if I were to choose a fictional character, I would identify with Mr. Spock from Star Trek. His logical and analytical approach to problem-solving resonates with the systematic and risk-oriented mindset required in system safety engineering. Like Mr. Spock, I aim to make decisions based on a thorough analysis of facts and probabilities, prioritizing the safety and well-being of complex systems and their users. Additionally, his commitment to balancing logic with a sense of duty and ethical considerations mirrors the need for a well-rounded approach in the field of system safety. While fictional, Mr. Spock's character embodies qualities that align with the challenges and responsibilities inherent in my profession.

## Artificial Intelligence - a positive revolution or are we all doomed!?

As a system safety engineer, I see Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a positive revolution with tremendous potential for enhancing safety and efficiency. While there are concerns about AI, responsible implementation can significantly improve various industries. In safety engineering, AI contributes to predictive analytics, identifying potential risks, and automating complex tasks. Properly designed AI systems can augment human capabilities, leading to more robust safety measures and quicker response times. However, cautious and ethical development is crucial to mitigate potential risks. As a community, we must establish robust guidelines, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and bias mitigation in AI systems. The future depends on our ability to harness AI's power responsibly, ensuring it aligns with safety principles and ethical standards. With thoughtful implementation, AI can be a transformative force, positively impacting system safety and numerous other aspects of our lives.