

EPISODE: #010: AZA RASKIN BREAKS DOWN AI, SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS, AND BIG TECH'S RACE TO THE BOTTOM OF OUR BRAIN STEMS

Claim 1: "His father started the Macintosh project at Apple" — TRUE

Aza is the son of Jef Raskin, the human-computer interface expert known for the Macintosh project at Apple.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aza_Raskin_Wikipedia

Claim 2: "Facebook's own research showed limiting reshares would cut misinformation more than its content-moderation spend, and they declined because it hurt engagement" — PARTIALLY TRUE

The core is well-supported by the Haugen disclosures: internal staff floated killing or limiting the reshare button as a very effective, zero-staffing tool requiring no censorship, and the company did not broadly act on it. The specific "after two shares" and "tens of billions" framing is Aza's paraphrase.

Source: <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/11/reporter-details-dark-inner-workings-of-face-book/> [Harvard Gazette](#)

Claim 3: "Netflix's Reed Hastings said their competitor is sleep" — TRUE

Hastings said at Summit LA in 2017, "we actually compete with sleep," adding "And we're winning."

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/netflix-binge-watch-sleep-deprivation-703029>

Claim 4: "The Social Dilemma came out the same day as the Bay Area orange-sky wildfires" — TRUE

The Social Dilemma released on Netflix on September 9, 2020, the same day as Orange Skies Day in the San Francisco Bay Area on September 9, 2020, caused by wildfire smoke.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_Skies_Day_WikipediaWikipedia

Claim 5: "Wi-Fi routers can be turned into cameras that see bodies in the dark" — TRUE

Carnegie Mellon researchers used ordinary home Wi-Fi routers plus the DensePose model to identify human poses, and radio signals work in the dark and through small obstacles.

Source: <https://www.kaspersky.com/blog/dense-pose-recognition-from-wi-fi-signal/51216/> [Kaspersky](#)

Claim 6: "The Center for Humane Technology helped in the background on the Character AI suicide lawsuit" — TRUE

The Center for Humane Technology serves as expert consultant to the plaintiff's co-counsel in the Character.AI case, the wrongful-death suit brought by Megan Garcia after the death of her 14-year-old son.

Source: <https://www.humanetech.com/case-study/litigation-case-study-character-ai-and-google> [Center for Humane Technology](#)

Claim 7: "Amazon found every 100 milliseconds of slower load cost 1% of revenue" — TRUE Amazon's study found every 100ms of latency cost about 1% in sales, a widely cited figure originating with former engineer Greg Linden.

Source: <https://www.conductor.com/academy/page-speed-resources/faq/amazon-page-speed-study/> [Conductor](#)

Claim 8: "6G / Nokia markets the 'network as a sensor' that can detect bodies, heart rate and breathing" — TRUE

Nokia Bell Labs describes 6G's "network as a sensor," where the network detects what is present, how it moves, and can even hear a person's heartbeat or detect a fall. Note: Nokia uses sub-terahertz (90-300 GHz), slightly below true terahertz.

Source:

<https://www.nokia.com/bell-labs/research/6g-networks/6g-technologies/network-as-a-sensor/> [Nokia](#)

Claim 9: "Elephants name each other, discovered last year with AI by Joyce Poole; dolphins and parrots do the same" — TRUE

A June 2024 Nature Ecology & Evolution study, co-authored by Joyce Poole, used machine learning to show wild African elephants address each other with individually specific name-like calls, while dolphins and parrots address each other by imitating signature calls.

Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-024-02420-w> [Nature](#)

Claim 10: "Elephants name each other, discovered last year with AI by Joyce Poole; dolphins and parrots do the same" — TRUE

A June 2024 Nature Ecology & Evolution study, co-authored by Joyce Poole, used machine learning to show wild African elephants address each other with individually specific name-like calls, while dolphins and parrots address each other by imitating signature calls.

Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-024-02420-w> [Nature](#)

Claim 11: "A 1994 University of Hawaii study had dolphins 'do something new, together'" — TRUE

At the University of Hawaii's Kewalo Basin lab, dolphins given the 'tandem' and 'create' commands would self-select a novel behavior and perform it synchronously, documented in Braslau-Schneck's 1994 work.

Source: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2346519/> [PubMed Central](#)

Claim 12: "Earth Species Project released Nature LM, which can name a species it was never trained on" — TRUE

NatureLM-audio is the first large audio-language model for animal sounds, with state-of-the-art zero-shot performance, meaning it generalizes to unseen species and tasks.

Source:

<https://earthspecies.org/2024/11/11/introducing-naturelm-audio-an-audio-language-foundation-model-for-bioacoustics/> [Earthspecies](#)