

Ready or not. AI is on its way

By [Richard Rattue](#)

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Advancement brings new and wonderful things, but it also brings uncertainty and fear. For example, cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, have exploded into popularity, while rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and associated technologies are impacting financial services, and will continue to do so.



Richard Rattue, CEO, Compli-Serve SA

I may be a bit cynical, and am indeed an IT sceptic, but I certainly don't have my head in the sand where this is concerned. I have no doubt that technology will massively impact the administrative end of the financial services industry in years to come. Administrative tasks lend themselves particularly well to automation and thus AI that can effectively think for itself, albeit at a low level, will likely make a massive impact in this space.

Vulnerable jobs

For those of you in advisory roles that require higher cognitive thought, you are probably in a safer seat from a machine taking over for the foreseeable future, however, no doubt the day will come when we have robots and machines that are on a par with ourselves and even beyond. Some of the movies I watched many years ago predicted this and generally it did not have very pleasant results for the human race. The *Matrix Trilogy* is but one series that comes to mind.

Coming back down to earth, one can look at advances in robo-advice, cryptocurrencies and the like as new technologies that will certainly make some jobs vulnerable.

I read it is estimated that up to 40% of asset managers, by way of example, will be irrelevant in years to come, as their roles are increasingly taken over by technologies, which are able to think smarter and faster (in theory) than the human element.

My teenage daughter advised me not so long ago that one can buy-in to technology called Virality, which is an AI invented by another teenager that scans Twitter worldwide and then predicts which matters are going to trend beforehand with remarkable accuracy and of course, advertisers are very pleased to be able to use this information and pay handsomely for it. The business opportunities that will abound in this Fourth Industrial Revolution are largely going over my simple head, however, the working environment is constantly evolving, and this is not likely to stop.

Regulation and compliance

Turning attention to the regulatory and compliance space, we are unlikely to be spared in this AI onslaught as some of the more administrative tasks are going to undoubtedly become automated. Thankfully much of what we do requires higher thought and I would hope that compliance officers are safe, for now.

Regulators will have to acknowledge the fact that banks and insurers will be using blockchain secure ledgers before too long and that cryptocurrencies are becoming more mainstream by the day. Hold on tight for another exciting year ahead.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Pattue is the managing director of Compli-Serve SA

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