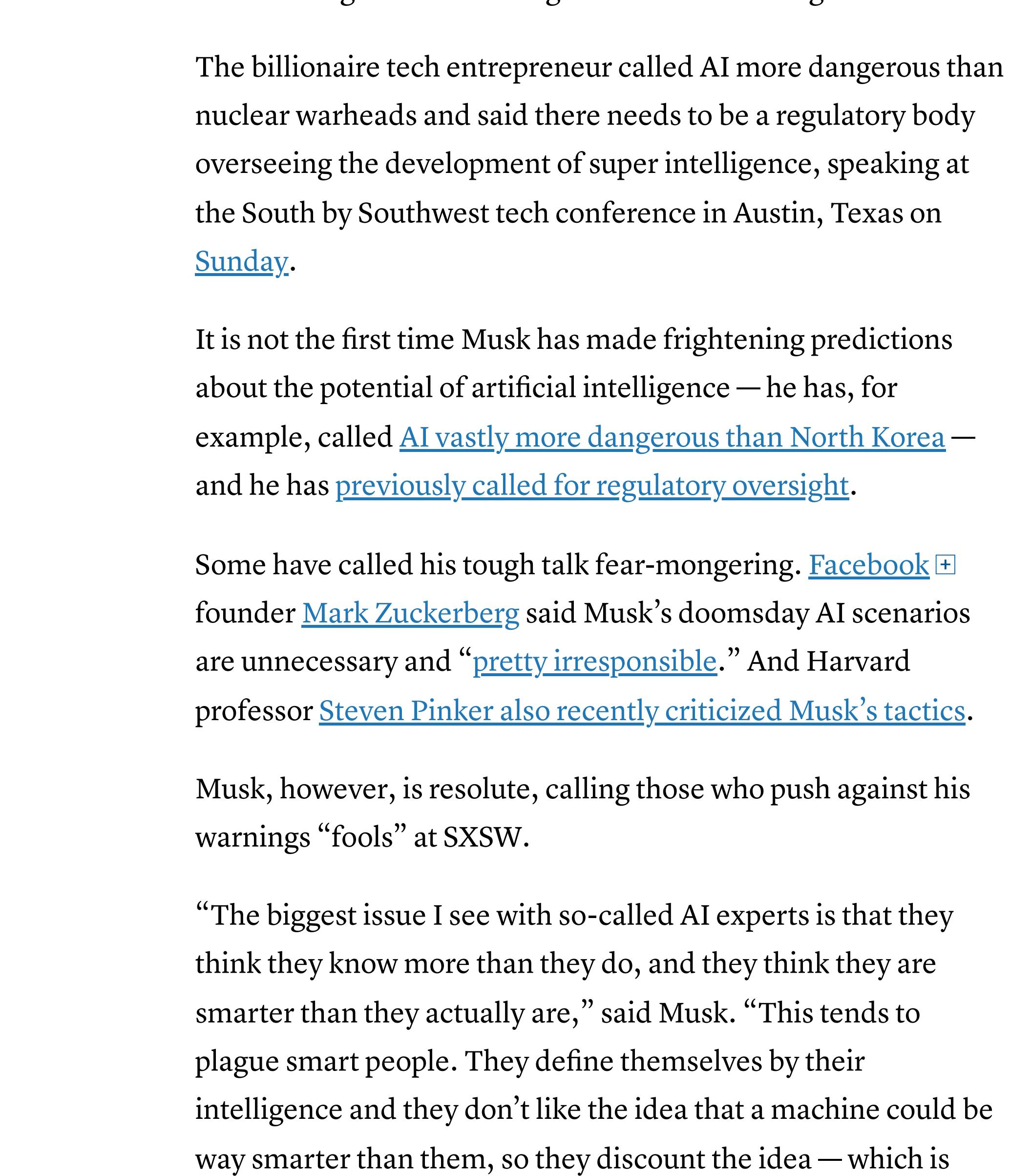


LIFE WITH A.I.

Elon Musk: 'Mark my words — A.I. is far more dangerous than nukes'

PUBLISHED TUE, MAR 13 2018 1:22 PM EDT | UPDATED WED, MAR 14 2018 11:31 AM EDT


 Catherine Clifford
 @CATCLIFFORD
SHARE    

Elon Musk speaks onstage during SXSW

Photo by Chris Saucedo

WATCH LIVESTREAM

Prefer to Listen?

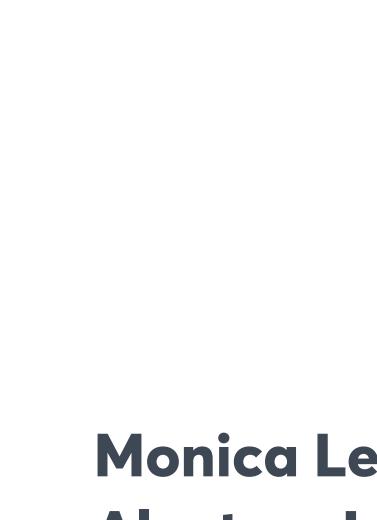
NOW

UP NEXT

Shark Tank

Shark Tank

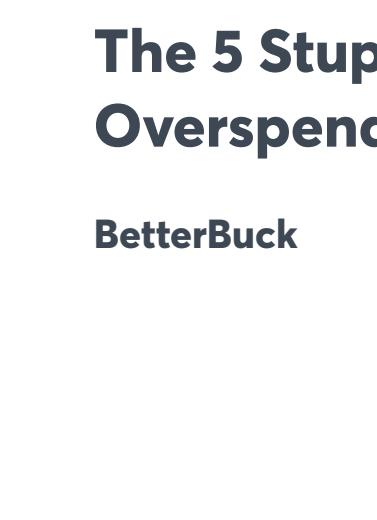
TRENDING NOW



Delta plane crashes on landing at Toronto airport, injuring at least 15



If you can answer these 5 questions about your partner, your relationship is stronger than most



To avoid 'awkward, superficial' small talk, make one little change, says communication expert



These are the two big things we're watching in the stock market in the week ahead



Do this stretch every day to keep your body young, says fitness trainer: It's the 'best for longevity'

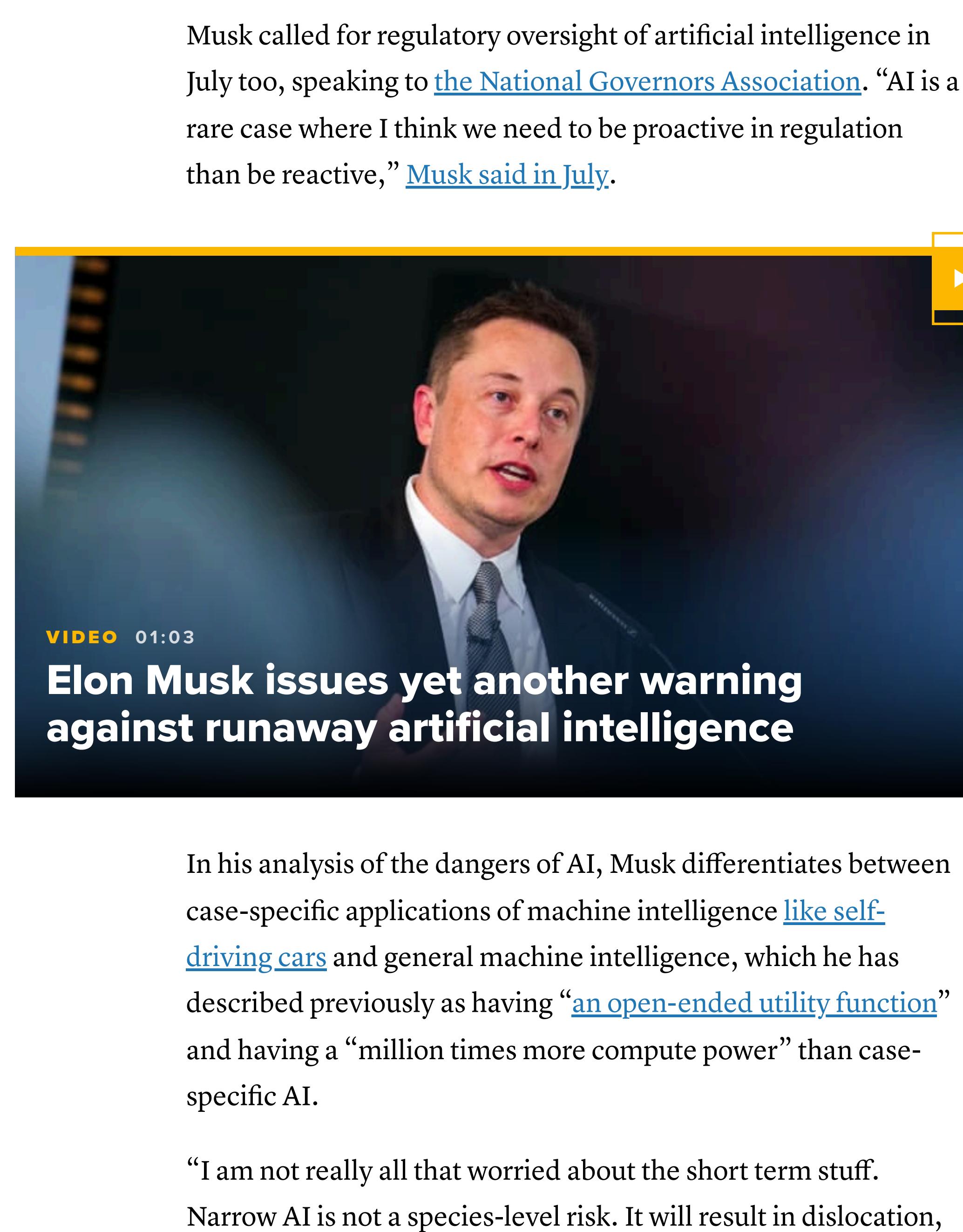
Sponsored Links by Taboola

FROM THE WEB

Monica Lewinsky's House Makes Alcatraz Looks Like A Paradise

Foodie Friend

Read More



"I am really quite close, I am very close, to the cutting edge in AI and it scares the hell out of me," said Musk. "It's capable of vastly more than almost anyone knows and the rate of improvement is exponential."

Musk pointed to machine intelligence playing the ancient Chinese strategy game Go to demonstrate rapid growth in AI's capabilities. For example, [London-based](#) company, [DeepMind](#), which was acquired by Google in 2014, developed an artificial intelligence system, [AlphaGo Zero](#), that learned to play Go without any human intervention. It learned simply from randomized play against itself. The Alphabet-owned company announced this development in a [paper published in October](#).

Musk worries AI's development will outpace our ability to manage it in a safe way.

"So the rate of improvement is really dramatic. We have to figure out some way to ensure that the advent of digital super intelligence is one which is symbiotic with humanity. I think that is the single biggest existential crisis that we face and the most pressing one."

To do this, Musk recommended the development of artificial intelligence be regulated.

"I am not normally an advocate of regulation and oversight — I think one should generally err on the side of minimizing those things — but this is a case where you have a very serious danger to the public," said Musk.

"It needs to be a public body that has insight and then oversight to confirm that everyone is developing AI safely. This is extremely important. I think the danger of AI is much greater than the danger of nuclear warheads by a lot and nobody would suggest that we allow anyone to build nuclear warheads if they want. That would be insane," he said at SXSW.

"And mark my words, AI is far more dangerous than nukes. Far. So why do we have no regulatory oversight? This is insane."

Musk called for regulatory oversight of artificial intelligence in July too, speaking to [the National Governors Association](#). "AI is a rare case where I think we need to be proactive in regulation than be reactive," [Musk said in July](#).

In his analysis of the dangers of AI, Musk differentiates between case-specific applications of machine intelligence [like self-driving cars](#) and general machine intelligence, which he has described previously as having ["an open-ended utility function"](#) and having a "million times more compute power" than case-specific AI.

"I am not really all that worried about the short term stuff. Narrow AI is not a species-level risk. It will result in dislocation, in lost jobs, and better weapons risk and that kind of thing, but it is not fundamental species level risk, whereas digital super intelligence is," explained Musk.

"So it is really all about laying the groundwork to make sure that if humanity collectively decides that creating digital super intelligence is the right move, then we should do so very very carefully — very very carefully. This is the most important thing that we could possibly do."

Still, Musk is in the business of artificial intelligence with his venture [Neuralink](#), a company working to create a [way to connect the brain with machine intelligence](#).

Musk hopes "that we are able to achieve a symbiosis" with artificial intelligence: "We do want a close coupling between collective human intelligence and digital intelligence, and Neuralink is trying to help in that regard by trying a high bandwidth interface between AI and the human brain," he said.

See also:

[Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg: Elon Musk's doomsday AI predictions are pretty irresponsible](#)

[Elon Musk responds to Harvard professor Steven Pinker's comments on A.I.: 'Humanity is in deep trouble'](#)

[Elon Musk: 'Robots will be able to do everything better than us'](#)

[Like this story? Like CNBC Make It on Facebook.](#)

"I am not really all that worried about the short term stuff. Narrow AI is not a species-level risk. It will result in dislocation, in lost jobs, and better weapons risk and that kind of thing, but it is not fundamental species level risk, whereas digital super intelligence is," explained Musk.

"So it is really all about laying the groundwork to make sure that if humanity collectively decides that creating digital super intelligence is the right move, then we should do so very very carefully — very very carefully. This is the most important thing that we could possibly do."

Still, Musk is in the business of artificial intelligence with his venture [Neuralink](#), a company working to create a [way to connect the brain with machine intelligence](#).

Musk hopes "that we are able to achieve a symbiosis" with artificial intelligence: "We do want a close coupling between collective human intelligence and digital intelligence, and Neuralink is trying to help in that regard by trying a high bandwidth interface between AI and the human brain," he said.

See also:

[Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg: Elon Musk's doomsday AI predictions are pretty irresponsible](#)

[Elon Musk responds to Harvard professor Steven Pinker's comments on A.I.: 'Humanity is in deep trouble'](#)

[Elon Musk: 'Robots will be able to do everything better than us'](#)

[Like this story? Like CNBC Make It on Facebook.](#)

News Tips

Got a confidential news tip? We want to hear from you.

GET IN TOUCH

PLEASE CONTACT US

"I am not really all that worried about the short term stuff. Narrow AI is not a species-level risk. It will result in dislocation, in lost jobs, and better weapons risk and that kind of thing, but it is not fundamental species level risk, whereas digital super intelligence is," explained Musk.

"So it is really all about laying the groundwork to make sure that if humanity collectively decides that creating digital super intelligence is the right move, then we should do so very very carefully — very very carefully. This is the most important thing that we could possibly do."

Still, Musk is in the business of artificial intelligence with his venture [Neuralink](#), a company working to create a [way to connect the brain with machine intelligence](#).

Musk hopes "that we are able to achieve a symbiosis" with artificial intelligence: "We do want a close coupling between collective human intelligence and digital intelligence, and Neuralink is trying to help in that regard by trying a high bandwidth interface between AI and the human brain," he said.

See also:

[Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg: Elon Musk's doomsday AI predictions are pretty irresponsible](#)

[Elon Musk responds to Harvard professor Steven Pinker's comments on A.I.: 'Humanity is in deep trouble'](#)

[Elon Musk: 'Robots will be able to do everything better than us'](#)

[Like this story? Like CNBC Make It on Facebook.](#)

Advertise With Us

GET IN TOUCH

PLEASE CONTACT US

Privacy Policy

[CNBC Privacy Policy](#) | [CNBC Terms of Service](#)

Market Data Terms of Use

[CNBC Market Data Terms of Use](#)Data also provided by [Refinitiv](#)

Data is a real-time snapshot. Data is delayed at least 15 minutes. Global Business and Financial News, Stock Quotes, and Market Data and Analysis

Data is provided by [Refinitiv](#)Data is provided by [Refinitiv</](#)