

# Reflection - Assignment #4

My inspiration for this project was completely through passion, and what I recently found through my Twitter algorithm in the past week. I have gotten really into this topic recently, and I have realized that the primary reason for the dislike and bad word of mouth for AI is its company and the data being farmed. However, when these Large Language Models are running completely on-device and can be accessed even while flight mode is turned on, the focus completely shifts to the beneficial aspects. I have recommended my closest friends and family to switch over as soon as possible, as I believe that locally running open-source models is the future of moving against these companies that charge above \$20/month for a slightly better version. Another reason for my choosing of this topic was that we are usually blind to the beauties of things common to us in our everyday life, and the deeper I dove into this rabbit hole of learning about locally running LLM's on our daily devices the more I realized how incredibly powerful the brick in your hand really is. A design choice I made for this project was delaying doing the project myself so that I could research as much as I could before I went through with it myself. Once I'm done with fully implementing this website with all the features I might need in the future, I want to start locally running LLM's on my Mac as well. I have discovered and explored multiple ways that I can do this, including Ollama and LM Studio. According to my research, Ollama is primarily supposed to be used in the terminal whereas LM Studio includes a polished GUI which includes a built-in browser and has support for windows which Ollama. I digress, but my main

concern at hand here was making sure that the information I put forth on the website was as accurate as possible to sway the non-believers into realizing the true wonders of artificial intelligence in today's times and how we can keep our data safe to ourselves instead of unintentionally selling it off to companies in the Bay Area that keep getting richer off of us not being mindful enough.

Interestingly enough, I noticed that PewDiePie, a YouTuber which I watched growing up was also on this bandwagon which confirmed the question in my head: why are more people not realizing the benefits of this? I want to reiterate that making your own local app with LLMEval is definitely overkill and not worth it, but that I only realized this when I dove deep into the topic to find the app called 'Locally AI.' The reason I was even interested in this topic in the first place was to make it so that I could add my locally-running AI as a shortcut onto the lock screen so that I was not opening the Gemini app to ask it where ramen noodles originated from. Fortunately, Locally AI does the exact feature that I was going to implement myself, which took a huge load off my back. The most optimal setup for me would include buying a headless Mac mini which runs 24x7 so that I can host my local LLM's with no trouble and access them through my phone through Tailscale. A question I am struggling with currently is this: if I am too worried about being left behind with the new AI movement, does that warrant me any happiness? A conversation with a friend revealed that I am truly interested in new developments because they get me excited each time. However, a quintessential skill I need to practice and work on is my work-life balance, where I manage my tasks in a timely manner so that I am

able to spend my time doing other stuff that excites me that stays away from work.