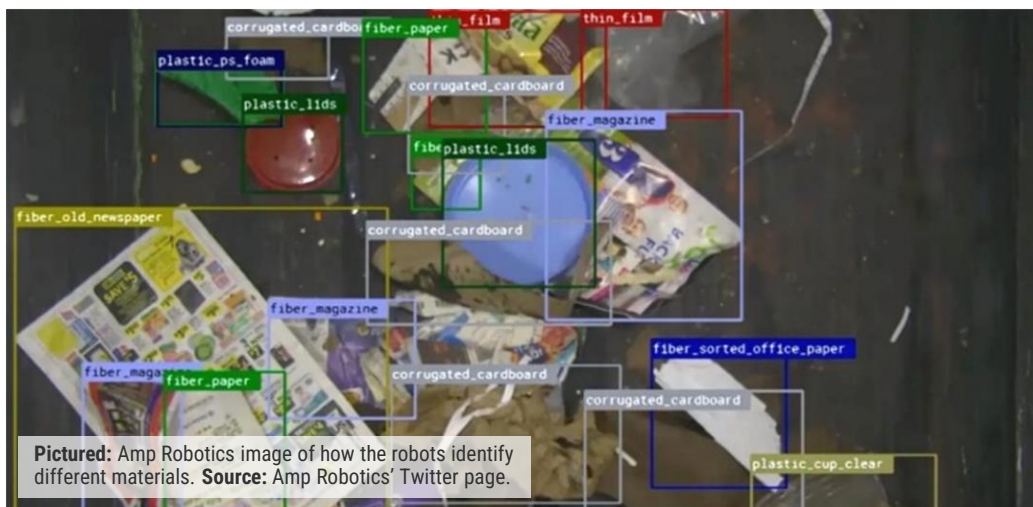


Smart Sorting Robots



Tech startup company, Amp Robotics' smart sorting robots (also named Sorty McSortface and Sir Sorts-a-Lot), operate in 80 recycling facilities in the USA. The ingeniously named machines have massively improved recycling procedures at the centres. The robot waste pickers identify and sort recyclables with extreme accuracy (up to 99%); they can even recognise SKU numbers (stock keeping unit - a unique number combination used by retailers to identify and track products).

One robot can pluck out juice cartons and plastic bottles that can be reprocessed from the conveyor belt of waste products. At the same time, the other searches for contaminants in the stream of paper products headed to be recycled at the fibre mill. The robots use mechanical claws and AI to sort tons of recyclables in minutes, meaning it is much more cost-effective for items to be recycled and not sent to landfill. **Can you think of any other sorting jobs this technology could be used for?**

Peanut – the World's Oldest Chicken!

Peanut, who is 21 years old and from Michigan, USA, was officially recognised as the world's oldest living chicken earlier this year. She lives on a small farm, where she was almost thrown away two decades ago before she hatched! Retired librarian Marsi Parker Darwin, who lives on the farm, found a 'rotten looking' abandoned egg and luckily heard a small 'cheep' coming from inside. She gently peeled back the shell to discover a tiny chick, who couldn't break out on her own as she didn't have an egg tooth. Marsi lovingly hand-reared the tiny bantam hen, who now lives with her daughter in Marsi's living room in a wire

coop next to the window, so she has a view. 'She's a friendly character and she pretty much gets along with everyone, including our dogs and cats,' said Marsi, who considers the record-breaking bird to be part of her family. Marsi added, 'Peanut is a sassy little chicken, if she doesn't get her blueberry yoghurt in the morning, I definitely hear about it! I hope to share Peanut's message that even if you're rejected or might feel like a misfit, you can still find someone to bond with and have a long, productive life.'

Did you know that chickens could live to be over 20 years old?



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Book Vending Machine

Students and teachers at Bradfield's Academy in Chatham, Kent, have been talking about their school's book vending machine. Pupils can earn tokens to use to purchase books as appreciation for their efforts and engagement in English lessons. Sherie McCormick, a teacher at the school, said, 'We believe in the power of reading, and it must be accessible for all. Reading helps to improve concentration, expand vocabulary, inspire creativity and spark imagination. It also helps our students to improve their self-esteem. It is the foundation of education and a great leveller that fosters cultural, social and emotional growth.' The school say that they are trying to combat the

cost-of-living crisis, which they believe has made books a luxury item. 31% of students surveyed by the school said they did not have access to books at home! The machine has been funded by the publishing company CPI and the Co-op. The Fortis Trust, which the academy is a member of, Tweeted, 'Reading for education & pleasure is encouraged across the trust, and this book vending machine will help students continue their love of reading at home.' The vending machine has been very popular with students and the school aims to continue making a range of books available this way.

Do you think that a book vending machine at school is a good idea?



Pictured: The book vending machine at Bradfield's Academy. **Source:** Fortis Trust Twitter page.

Last week's topic:

What can we learn from new adventures?



I think that new adventures can challenge you and help you to become a stronger person.

Otis

I think travelling the world and meeting lots of different people and seeing lots of new places would be so exciting. Learning about them all will give you so much knowledge to use in the future.

Neave

Going on adventures and travelling to every country would be amazing but I would like to take my friends and family with me.

Theo

Let us know what you think about this week's news?



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