

NEWS

Microsoft's AI boss causes a stir with his 'fair use' views



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Music rightsholders and their representative bodies aren't going to be impressed at all with views expressed by Microsoft's AI boss Mustafa Suleyman at a recent conference. He was asked whether 'AI companies have effectively stolen the world's IP' and... well, [this is what he said](#).

“I think that with respect to content that’s already on the open web, the social contract of that content since the ‘90s has been that it is fair use. Anyone can copy it, recreate with it, reproduce with it. That has been ‘freeware,’ if you like, that’s been the understanding.”

It certainly has *not* been the understanding among rightsholders in the creative industries, but this is an important glimpse at how many (not all) tech execs beyond Microsoft also think about AI, training and copyright.

And as a topical reminder, last December Suleyman’s company [signed a deal with startup Suno](#) to bring the latter’s AI music service into Microsoft’s Copilot AI suite. Suno has since been [sued by labels in the US](#) alleging copyright infringement in its training processes.

