Open Mic Night Event Report
2023

Foreword

 As the Chairman of IT4Curaçao, I am thrilled to share this report on our collaborative event with Ngrane, held on September 19th. It was a resounding success, and I am deeply grateful to our community for their active participation.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Ngrane, particularly its founders, David van Delden and Stephen Garcia, for their unwavering support in making this event a reality. Your commitment to our cause is truly commendable, and I am thankful for your dedication.

I also want to extend my thanks to the entire Ngrane team for their hard work and enthusiasm, which played a significant role in the event's success.
Special appreciation goes to David Tjong-Ayong, Chiara Liqui Lung, and Gabriella Obispa for hosting insightful talks and discussions. Your contributions added immense value to the event.

Reflecting on this successful event, I am filled with hope and excitement for the future. The Curaçao Diaspora working in the Dutch IT industry is a vibrant and dynamic community, and I am eager to see the great potential and opportunities that lie ahead as we continue this journey together.
Thank you to Ngrane, our speakers, and our engaged audience for making this event a memorable and meaningful experience.

Warm regards,

Ian van Eenennaam
Chairman, IT4Curaçao

Content

Ngrane on AI and Technology

Presented by [David van Delden](#)

In an exciting evening at the Amsterdam office of Ngrane, that brought together local and international tech enthusiasts, Ngrane and IT4Curaçao joined forces to explore the ever-evolving world of artificial intelligence (AI) and remote work. The event, which featured a lineup of captivating speakers and demonstrations, shed light on the challenges, opportunities, and ethical considerations surrounding these groundbreaking technologies.

A Night of Promises and Potential Collaborations

The event began with an introduction from David van Delden, Ngrane's Creative Director. He expressed their excitement about the collaboration between Ngrane and IT4Curaçao, emphasizing their shared visions and missions. Ngrane, a digital agency with over 14 years of experience, specializes in creating digital experiences for companies, with a focus on UX design and digital marketing.

The key takeaway from the introduction was the strong connection between Ngrane and IT4Curaçao's common goal: bridging the Curaçao workforce with the Dutch IT market and potentially even the global market.

Discovering the Heart

The evening then delved into a deeper exploration. Ngrane was described as a team driven by a profound love and a deep sense of responsibility towards Curaçao and its people. This intrinsic connection between the team and the island lies at the heart of their work, and their mission to bring growth to Curaçao and its people is fueled by this passion.

The Future of AI: A World in Transition

The audience was then treated to a discussion on the future of AI, with the presentation led by Ngrane. The rapid growth of AI tools was highlighted, with an emphasis on the vital role they play in many people's daily tasks, including coding, email, and even creative endeavors. The audience was actively engaged, with attendees sharing their own experiences and predictions for the future of AI.

As the conversation unfolded, important factors and potential risks associated with AI were explored. Context, biases, social and political aspects, validation, credibility, and ethics were all brought into focus. It became clear that, as AI technology advances, a robust understanding of its implications and potential consequences will be crucial.

The audience actively participated, sharing their perspectives on these crucial aspects of AI. Dark patterns, loss of human connection, and inaccurate information were discussed as potential pitfalls.

AI in Action: AI-Generated Sitemaps and Wireframes

The session featured live demonstrations of AI applications. Jitesh Pujari, a UX designer at Ngrane, showcased a remarkable AI tool called [Relume](#). This tool, initially created for website building, was now capable of generating sitemaps, wireframes, and even complete UI designs. The tool raised questions about the future of designers' roles, as AI technology appeared increasingly capable of automating tasks traditionally associated with creative professionals.

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Reviving History Through AI-Enhanced Photography

The audience was treated to another fascinating demonstration by David.
He shared a project in which AI technology was used to revive historical moments in Curaçao's history. AI tools were employed to colorize and enhance black-and-white photographs, breathing new life into moments from the past.

The Burning Question: Will AI Take Over the World?

The event wrapped up with a thought-provoking discussion led by Chiara and Gabriela. The central question pondered was whether AI had the potential to take over the world. It was an open-ended question that set the stage for continued discussions during the subsequent session led by Chiara Liqui Lung and Gabriella Obispa.

Ngrane's presentation left attendees with much to contemplate. The future of AI, its role in our lives, and the ethical considerations associated with its development and deployment will continue to be hot topics in the world of technology. As the presentation concluded, it was clear that the world of AI was evolving rapidly, and Curaçao was determined to remain at the forefront of this transformation.

David van Delden

AI in Curaçao: Opportunities & Challenges

Presented by Chiara Liqui Lung & Gabriella Obispa

The informative session titled "AI in Curaçao: Opportunities and Challenges" gathered the audience for a workshop exploring the multifaceted world of artificial intelligence (AI). Hosted by Gabriella Obispa and Chiara Liqui Lung, the session delved into the myriad aspects of AI, from its potential to ethical considerations, and how it could impact the picturesque island of Curaçao.

As the workshop began, Gabriella Obispa, a prominent figure in the field, introduced herself. Gabriella is a lecturer in technology law and ethics at the University of Applied Sciences of Rotterdam, co-developer of the Bachelor of Applied Data Science and AI, and a privacy-responsible tech consultant. She is also deeply passionate about responsible AI and advocates for the relationship between innovation, power, and social justice.

Chiara Liqui Lung, co-host of the workshop and FinTech founder, explained her focus on FinTech and her work as a growth hacker specializing in data analysis and marketing optimization. Chiara has also dedicated her time to mentoring and coaching women in tech.

Anatomy of an AI system

The workshop aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of AI while examining its relevance to Curaçao, focusing on industries it could impact and those that require careful consideration when introducing AI to the culture.

The speakers first delved into the challenge of defining artificial intelligence. They highlighted the misrepresentations of AI in popular media, which often present it as abstract and ethereal, neglecting its human implications and responsibilities. Participants were shown an "anatomy of an AI system" through Kate Crawford's research, shedding light on the hidden costs of AI, which rely on natural resources, human labour, intelligence, and data, revealing that AI is far from being an abstract concept.

Using AI as an Instrument

The workshop then explored AI as an instrument, emphasizing its role in complementing human abilities rather than replacing them. The speakers made it clear that addressing social and political issues must precede the discussion of AI replacing humans in various industries.

Chiara shared practical insights into AI as a tool, explaining how AI can enhance one's work by rewriting content, helping with decision-making, and even automating tasks to increase efficiency. She highlighted the growing adoption of AI in various industries, particularly in the tools sector, where AI is becoming an essential part of digital solutions.

Moreover, the workshop covered trends in AI startup companies, with many emerging start-ups focusing on AI tools to enhance productivity and user experience. Chiara encouraged attendees to consider how AI could benefit Curaçao's industries, such as education, healthcare, and tourism.

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The workshop also featured a participatory segment where attendees formed groups to brainstorm and share their thoughts on the potential benefits of AI in Curaçao, with an emphasis on the healthcare, education, and communication sectors.

Redefining Mental Health and Healthcare

One of the central themes discussed at the workshop was the application of AI in addressing mental health challenges. Participants highlighted the need for privacy and discretion in handling mental health issues. They proposed AI-driven solutions that could provide individuals with guidance and information on seeking help, while maintaining the utmost privacy.
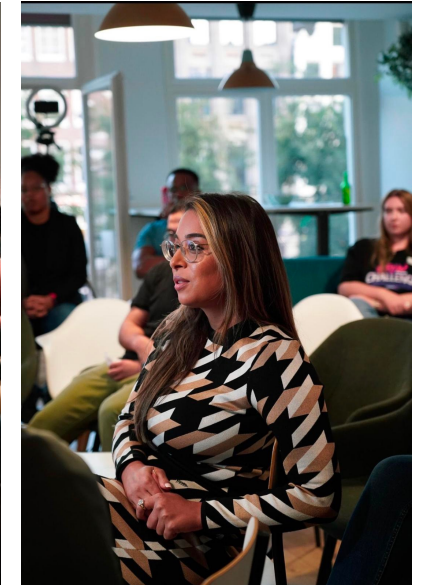
Additionally, the discussion explored how AI could guide individuals to relevant healthcare resources. For instance, if someone had questions about sexual health and was hesitant to consult family members, AI systems could offer a discreet way to access information and assistance. The workshop emphasized the potential benefits of AI in the healthcare sector, ranging from privacy protection to raising awareness about mental health issues.

Revolutionizing Education

In the context of education, the workshop attendees discussed the potential for AI to personalize learning experiences for students. The proposal involved teachers utilizing AI tools to create specialized learning plans tailored to individual students. This would address the challenge of limited teaching resources on the island and empower students to learn at their own pace while achieving educational objectives.

Chiara Liqui Lung (Foreground)

Gabriella Obispa

The discussion also highlighted that AI could help teachers identify areas where students were struggling and suggest improvements to the learning curriculum. While the group recognized the importance of personal interaction between teachers and students, they emphasized that the AI's role was to level the playing field, ensuring that all students, regardless of their starting point, could succeed.

Improving Public Services and Governance

The attendees also tackled issues related to public services and governance. They pointed out inefficient processes in government departments, such as the example of 300 emails required to change an address at the tax office. The participants envisioned a future where AI could assist human employees in managing large workloads, allowing them to focus on critical decision-making.

The implementation of AI in public services is not only aimed at cost savings but also at enhancing the overall satisfaction of citizens. By streamlining and optimizing services, AI could significantly reduce frustration and inefficiencies. Additionally, it was noted that positive experiences with AI-driven public services could lead to a more engaged and collaborative community, working towards the betterment of the nation.

Challenges and Ethical Considerations

As AI implementation was explored, ethical considerations emerged as a significant topic of discussion. Participants recognized the need to safeguard privacy and prevent data breaches when designing AI solutions, particularly in sensitive domains like mental health.

The workshop introduced "Lodder's model" as a guide for implementing responsible AI, which includes four pillars: possibilities, permissibility (compliance with legal regulations), desirability (ethical considerations), and feasibility (infrastructure and accessibility). The discussions raised questions about how AI could unintentionally magnify existing biases and the importance of informed consent and data anonymization.

Key Stakeholders and Collaboration

A critical aspect of AI implementation discussed during the workshop was the importance of collaboration among different stakeholders. The "quadruple helix" model emphasized the role of government, academia, businesses, and society. Notably, society was underlined as a vital stakeholder, ensuring that AI solutions meet the real needs of the population.
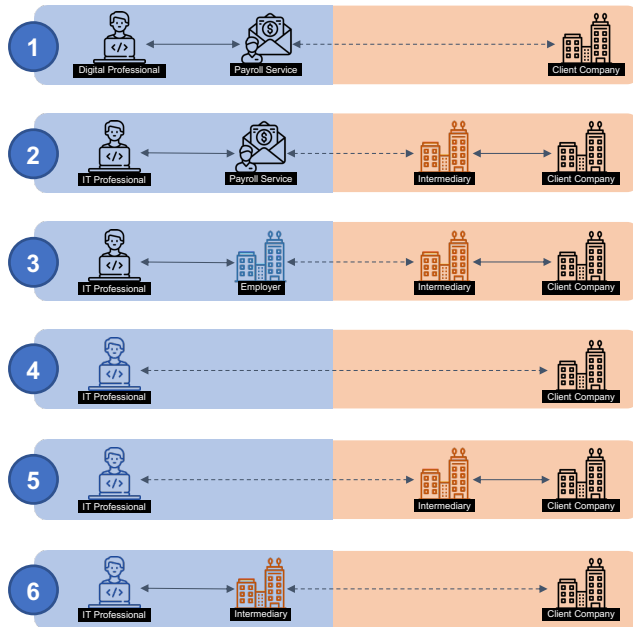
The workshop's participants suggested that a multi-faceted approach involving various experts, educators, mental health professionals, social workers, and service designers was essential to the successful deployment of AI in Curaçao. Additionally, building an appropriate technological infrastructure was identified as a prerequisite for the successful integration of AI.

The workshop concluded with a recognition of the critical role of education in ensuring that the population fully benefits from AI technologies. Educating the public and involving them in the decision-making process were considered paramount for a prosperous AI-driven future for Curaçao.

Remote Working: Connecting Curaçao & Dutch IT Markets

Presented by David Tjong-Ayong & Ian van Eenennam

In an exciting exploration of the dynamic world of remote work, with David Tjong-Ayong & Ian van Eenennaam at the helm, steering the discussion into uncharted waters. This session brought a fresh perspective to remote working, focusing on the vital connection between Curaçao and the Dutch market. The session successfully transported its audience away from the global scale and instead zeroed in on the local implications, making the subject all the more engaging.

Dutch-Curaçao Collaboration: Remote Work Redefined

The presentation commenced with an intriguing concept - a Dutch company partnering with a Curaçao-based payroll firm, hiring remote workers to carry out tasks for businesses located in the Netherlands. This innovative arrangement allows for seamless remote work while maintaining a strong foothold in the Dutch market.

Another captivating scenario explored outsourcing work from Dutch firms to Curaçao, facilitated by intermediaries such as Ngrane. This setup saw developers being hired on the island, further deepening the connection between Curaçao and the Netherlands.

The third variation introduced the idea of IT professionals being employed by Curaçao-based companies, with assignments orchestrated through intermediaries. These professionals enjoyed the stability of regular monthly salaries and the job security that comes with being full-time employees.

Freelancers and Independent Contractors Take the Stage

Shifting the spotlight to individuals in Curaçao, the discussion turned towards remote-independent contracts and freelancers. In this segment, three thrilling variations emerged. The first involved IT professionals directly collaborating with Dutch companies. The second variation employed intermediary companies to bridge the gap, offering a lifeline to those struggling to make direct connections with Dutch businesses. The third scenario featured an intermediary based in Curaçao, facilitating seamless communication and collaboration.
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While each scenario unveiled its unique set of challenges, the event inspired the audience to consider which options might hold the most promise and benefits. Some options, due to their daunting challenges, were deemed less viable. Ultimately, the audience was encouraged to ponder these dynamics and draw their own conclusions.

Key Insights from the Discussion

The session's conversation traversed numerous aspects of remote working, including the crucial role of effective communication, the challenges faced by various roles in remote work, the role of the education system in supporting remote work, and the financial considerations for businesses embracing remote work.

One participant shared a riveting experience of successfully working on a project remotely with a team in L.A., underscoring the importance of precise communication and impeccable organization. They highlighted that even the creative director had no qualms about overseeing the project remotely, demonstrating the potential for fruitful remote collaboration when robust communication strategies are in place.

Another participant, reflecting on their experiences as a lead developer during the COVID-19 pandemic, vividly recounted their journey of adjusting working hours to accommodate meetings and collaborating with team members scattered across different time zones. This case exemplified how certain roles can face heightened challenges in remote settings, where participating in meetings and engaging in real-time discussions can be akin to traversing uncharted waters.
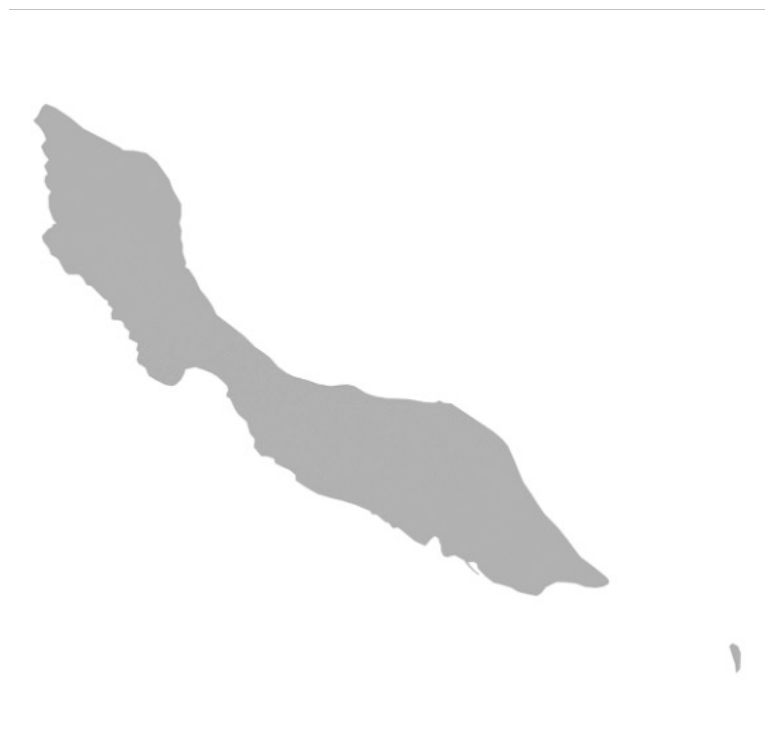

Ian van Eenennaam & David Tjong Ayong

The discussion then ventured into the challenges seen in the education system, with a participant suggesting that limitations might exist in preparing individuals for remote work, an area ripe for attention and improvement.

A business perspective emerged as another participant shared their experiences in the asset management market, particularly in processing payments for global companies. They candidly disclosed the challenges in persuading clients to invest in their own infrastructure for remote work, acknowledging the financial apprehensions that often arise when considering remote work options.

To wrap up the electrifying event, a participant expressed wholehearted support for the initiative and their eagerness to collaborate. Their enthusiasm illuminated the room, hinting at the untapped potential and zeal for exploring and implementing remote working practices in Curaçao.

In summary, this session provided a rollercoaster ride through the thrilling world of remote work, showcasing the paramount role of effective communication, the unique challenges faced by different roles, the potential need for educational support, and the ever-pressing financial considerations for businesses navigating the remote working frontier. Curaçao is primed to take its place on the remote work stage, and this event has set the stage for an exciting journey ahead.

IT4Curaçao

[Website](#)