



Half of xAI's Founding Team Depart the Company

Description

On Monday night, Yuhuai (Tony) Wu, co-founder of xAI, announced his departure from the company. In a late-night post on X, Wu expressed that it was time for "my next chapter." He mentioned the era of possibilities, highlighting how a small team with artificial intelligence (AI) could achieve great things.

The following day, Jimmy Ba, another co-founder who worked closely with Elon Musk, also announced his exit. Ba posted a note of gratitude on X, thanking Musk and expressing pride in the achievements of the xAI team.

These departures are part of a concerning trend for the technology lab. Now, six out of the twelve founding members have left, with five departures occurring in the past year. Kyle Kosic moved to OpenAI in mid-2024, followed by Christian Szegedy from Google in February 2025. In August, Igor Babuschkin departed to start a venture firm, while Greg Yang left last month for health reasons.

While all departures appear amicable, there are multiple reasons for these changes. Elon Musk is known to be a demanding leader. With the acquisition of xAI by SpaceX and a potential initial public offering (IPO) on the horizon, many founders may seek new opportunities for growth. The current environment is also favourable for AI startups, attracting high-level researchers.

However, some issues may have contributed to the departures. The Grok chatbot, xAI's main product, has faced problems, including erratic behaviour and alleged internal tampering, which could cause friction among the team. Additionally, recent changes to xAI's image-generation tools raised concerns due to inappropriate content, leading to potential legal challenges.

Ultimately, the cumulative impact of these departures is concerning. With an IPO approaching, xAI will face increased scrutiny, and the pressure to meet ambitious goals is mounting. The company needs to retain its talent to stay competitive in the fast-evolving AI sector.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Departure** /dɪ'pɑ:rtʃər/ (noun): The act of leaving or exiting from a place or situation.
2. **Achievements** /ə'tʃi:vmənts/ (noun): Things that have been accomplished successfully often through effort.
3. **Concerns** /kən'sɜ:rnz/ (noun): Matters of interest or worry that require attention.
4. **Amicable** /'æmɪkəbl/ (adjective): Characterized by friendliness and goodwill; having a spirit of friendliness.
5. **Scrutiny** /'skru:təni/ (noun): Critical observation or examination of something.
6. **Venture** /'ven.tʃər/ (noun): A risky or daring journey or undertaking often in business.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who announced his departure from xAI on Monday night?
Option: Jimmy Ba
Option: Elon Musk
Option: Yuhuai (Tony) Wu
Option: Kyle Kосic
2. Which co-founder of xAI worked closely with Elon Musk?
Option: Kyle Kосic
Option: Jimmy Ba
Option: Christian Szegedy
Option: Greg Yang
3. What is highlighted as a possibility by Yuhuai (Tony) Wu in his post?
Option: Growth of AI industry
Option: Leadership challenges
Option: Legal disputes
Option: Health reasons
4. Where did Kyle Kосic move to in mid-2024?
Option: Google
Option: OpenAI
Option: SpaceX
Option: Venture firm
5. What caused friction among the xAI team according to the text?
Option: Leadership disagreements
Option: Chatbot issues
Option: Health problems
Option: Image-generation tools
6. What raised concerns regarding xAI's image-generation tools?
Option: Health reasons



- Option: Legal challenges
- Option: Growth opportunities
- Option: Chatbot errors

True-False

7. Six out of the twelve founding members of xAI have left the company.
8. Elon Musk was one of the co-founders of xAI.
9. All departures from xAI were due to disagreements with Elon Musk.
10. One of the co-founders of xAI departed due to health reasons.
11. The recent changes to xAI's image-generation tools were well received.
12. All xAI founders left the company on the same day.

Gap-Fill

14. Kyle Kosic moved to _____ in mid-2024.
15. Igor Babuschkin departed in _____ to start a venture firm.
16. Recent changes to xAI's image-generation tools raised concerns due to _____ content.
17. xAI will face increased scrutiny with an _____ approaching.
18. The pressure to meet _____ goals is mounting on xAI.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Yuhuai (Tony) Wu 2. Jimmy Ba 3. Growth of AI industry 4. OpenAI 5. Chatbot issues
6. Legal challenges
- True-False:** 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False
- Gap-Fill:** 14. OpenAI 15. August 16. inappropriate 17. IPO 18. ambitious



Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term refers to the use of goods and services by individuals or households?
Option: Reliance
Option: Consumption
Option: Investment
Option: Geopolitical
2. Which term relates to the geographical factors influencing international relations and foreign policy?
Option: Stabilising
Option: Integration
Option: Geopolitical
Option: Surveillance
3. Which term describes something that is likely to cause an argument or be disputed?
Option: Contentious
Option: Advocates
Option: Criticism
Option: Clarified
4. Which term refers to the things done successfully typically by effort or skill?
Option: Departure
Option: Achievements
Option: Concerns
Option: Amicable
5. Which term signifies a major disturbance or problem that interrupts normal events?
Option: Venture
Option: Grounding
Option: Disruption
Option: Software
6. Which term is used to describe something or someone famous or well-known typically for some bad quality or deed?
Option: Rectified
Option: Incident
Option: Component
Option: Notorious
7. Which term refers to proposed explanations based on limited evidence and used as a starting point for



further investigation?

- Option: Disruptive
- Option: Elusive
- Option: Manipulates
- Option: Hypotheses

8. Which term means to give special importance or prominence to something in speaking or writing?

- Option: Scrutinizing
- Option: Emphasised
- Option: Reliance
- Option: Investment

9. Which term means to correct or make right an error fault or problem?

- Option: Component
- Option: Scrutinizing
- Option: Notorious
- Option: Rectified

10. Which term describes something that is difficult to find catch or achieve?

- Option: Disruptive
- Option: Elusive
- Option: Manipulates
- Option: Incident

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ is the monitoring or observation of a person group or place for the purpose of gathering information.

12. _____ refers to the process of combining different elements into a harmonious whole.

13. The company faced intense _____ from regulators regarding its business practices.

14. Long-term financial _____ is crucial for securing future growth and stability.

15. The sudden _____ of the CEO surprised many employees.



16. The organization _____ for the rights of marginalized communities.
17. Constructive _____ can help individuals and organizations improve.
18. A strong educational _____ can make a significant difference in a person's life.
19. The data analysis software _____ large datasets efficiently.
20. Diplomatic efforts are essential for _____ regions facing political unrest.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Successful businesses often require long-term financial commitments for growth and stability.
22. The company's operations are heavily dependent on a few key suppliers demonstrating a significant level of trust and .
23. The merger aimed at combining the diverse strengths of the two companies to create a more cohesive and efficient entity through .
24. The team's collective efforts resulted in several notable successes and noteworthy over the past year.
25. The auditor spent days meticulously examining the financial records and every transaction for accuracy.
26. Despite the initial disagreements the parties reached an agreement that was mutually beneficial.
27. The ambitious young entrepreneur decided to embark on a new in the tech industry.
28. The innovative technology had the potential to be highly in the market causing significant changes in traditional practices.
29. Each individual part plays a crucial role as a of the larger system contributing to its overall function.
30. The CEO addressed the confusion and the company's stance on sustainability during the press conference.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Consumption 2. Geopolitical 3. Contentious 4. Achievements 5. Disruption 6. Notorious 7. Hypotheses



8. Emphasised 9. Rectified 10. Elusive

Gap-Fill: 11. Surveillance 12. Integration 13. Scrutiny 14. Investment 15. Departure 16. Advocates 17. Criticism 18. Grounding 19. Manipulates 20. Stabilising

Matching sentence: 1. Investment 2. Reliance 3. Integration 4. Achievements 5. Scrutinizing 6. Amicable 7. Venture 8. Disruptive 9. Component 10. Clarified

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL5

POST TAG

1. C1
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. founding team
5. left
6. Level 5
7. xAI

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