**New Monthly Feature: "AI Reality Check"**

SMACNA’s **AI Reality Check** is a quick monthly update to help you understand what’s happening with AI. Each post will share simple, useful insights—what’s helpful, what’s overhyped, and how to think about AI in a practical way.

Earlier this month, OpenAI launched their [“Tasks” feature](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhelp.openai.com%2Fen%2Farticles%2F10291617-scheduled-tasks-in-chatgpt&data=05%7C02%7Casanchez%40smacna.org%7C310efabffc3a45ad1f4a08dd3a3afc52%7C2b1ed46dc05247cdb9c2e701db48f7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638730747226039515%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sZi4JKoPQajQ%2BYzbtgn1%2B6Gq4y%2FdvLBnko0Fo%2FChX0A%3D&reserved=0), which allows users to create automated tasks that can run later. At first this might sound like “reminders” that we’ve seen for years, but there are a few key differences:

1.      You can ask in plain language for some complicated tasks, like “let me know when Gold passes $1,500 an ounce,” where it will include web search and other things, or “every morning, send me an image of dolphins,” where it will create new images every morning.

2.      You can ask it to look at the full range of ChatGPT filetypes, from excel to sequel databases and more, so it’s very powerful

3.      Per above, it can do these tasks based on conditions, not just regular intervals

Essentially what OpenAI has done is create a simple agent framework for consumers, to get used to the idea of AI Agents without quite so much complexity. Here’s a quick [video](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FF6W4RtJ6u9c%3Fsi%3DZ5DeZUskrt6321ho&data=05%7C02%7Casanchez%40smacna.org%7C310efabffc3a45ad1f4a08dd3a3afc52%7C2b1ed46dc05247cdb9c2e701db48f7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638730747226061248%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6CPzEISf%2F5%2Fx7TvPZkM2gf5Fq1vHi4%2Fawfq5EbxeC0g%3D&reserved=0).

**The Good:**Easy way to offload some mental effort that people are often not great at, like remembering to do things, or paying attention to whether something has happened or not.

**The Bad:** They’re still going to be narrow software, so will miss things and send irrelevant things sometimes. Offloading mental effort is great, but we’re going to need to learn when to not fully rely on still limited systems.