# OpenAI pauses use of AI vocal avatar resembling Scarlett Johansson after controversy



OpenAI has paused the use of an AI vocal avatar that some claimed closely resembled the voice of actress Scarlett Johansson. Johansson expressed her shock and anger after friends and news outlets found it difficult to distinguish between the AI voice and her own. According to Johansson, she had previously turned down an offer from OpenAI for vocal work. In response, OpenAI stated that the voice was not an imitation of Johansson's but was another actress using her natural voice.

This issue arose shortly after the release of ChatGPT-4o, a new model featuring advanced conversational abilities. Notably, the "Sky" voice in ChatGPT-4o drew numerous comparisons to Johansson's portrayal of an AI assistant in the 2013 film "Her," leading to public speculation and controversy.

Amid the debate, some individuals on social media argued they did not perceive a strong resemblance, while others believed the similarity was deliberate. OpenAI, led by CEO Sam Altman, has since decided to pause the use of the Sky voice to address these concerns. Johansson has not indicated whether she will pursue legal action. Previously, she sued an app for unauthorized use of her likeness in an advertisement.