# Mark Zuckerberg predicts AI will replace mid-level engineers within years



Mark Zuckerberg, co-founder and CEO of Meta, recently addressed the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) during his participation in the Stripe Sessions conference. He stated that recent advancements in AI could lead to a significant shift in the tech landscape, particularly for startups, by enabling smaller teams to focus on core business ideas. To illustrate this point, he posited that AI could evolve to serve as a mid-level engineer capable of coding, an idea he had previously shared in a conversation on the Joe Rogan Experience podcast.

Zuckerberg expressed optimism about the effect of AI on product quality, suggesting that small, highly skilled teams could leverage AI to enhance creativity and innovation. "I think that this is just going to lead to much better quality stuff that gets created around the world because now you’re just being able to have these, like, very small talent-dense teams that are, like, passionate about an idea," he remarked. This shift could allow human engineers to concentrate on higher-level problem-solving instead of routine coding tasks, promoting a more strategic and creative environment.

Yet, the benefits of this transition come with caveats. Zuckerberg cautioned that reliance on AI could expose companies to new risks, particularly around security vulnerabilities and the potential for errors in automated code generation without proper oversight. Harry Law, an AI researcher at the University of Cambridge, echoed these concerns, highlighting that uncritical reliance on AI might hinder developers' understanding of system architecture and performance. He warned that this could complicate tasks like scaling and debugging, essential skills in software development.

The tech industry's trajectory seems to support Zuckerberg's forecasts, with other industry leaders voicing similar sentiments. Garry Tan, CEO of Y Combinator, introduced the concept of "vibe coding," where smaller teams harness AI to accomplish what typically requires larger teams. Meanwhile, Tobi Lütke, CEO of Shopify, and Sundar Pichai of Google have both endorsed AI's role in enhancing productivity within their companies.

However, the potential to replace mid-level engineering roles raises significant implications for the job market. Reports suggest that leading AI firms, like OpenAI, may soon announce advancements involving super-agents capable of executing complex tasks. This could lead to a paradigm where AI does not merely assist but replaces human workers in certain capacities. The conversation reflects broader uncertainties within the industry, where professionals fear the consequences of transitioning to an AI-driven landscape.

A report indicated that while integrating AI into coding processes may initially be costly for companies, the long-term efficiency gains could outweigh these drawbacks. Nevertheless, Zuckerberg indicated that for now, positions would not be immediately eliminated; Meta plans to fill affected roles over the upcoming years.

As the dialogue around the integration of AI in software development continues to evolve, it is clear that while the technology may streamline operations and foster innovation, it also presents challenges that must be thoughtfully addressed. The balance between harnessing AI's capabilities and maintaining a skilled workforce will be pivotal as the tech industry moves toward a future increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.benzinga.com/tech/25/05/45338301/zuckerberg-foresees-tech-industry-revolution-with-ai-an-ai-that-can-effectively-be-a-sort-of-midlevel-engineer)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.benzinga.com/tech/25/05/45338301/zuckerberg-foresees-tech-industry-revolution-with-ai-an-ai-that-can-effectively-be-a-sort-of-midlevel-engineer), [[3]](https://www.forbes.com/sites/quickerbettertech/2025/01/26/business-tech-news-zuckerberg-says-ai-will-replace-mid-level-engineers-soon/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.benzinga.com/tech/25/05/45338301/zuckerberg-foresees-tech-industry-revolution-with-ai-an-ai-that-can-effectively-be-a-sort-of-midlevel-engineer), [[4]](https://www.itpro.com/software/development/a-sign-of-things-to-come-in-software-development-mark-zuckerberg-says-ai-will-be-doing-the-work-of-mid-level-engineers-this-year-and-hes-not-the-only-big-tech-exec-predicting-the-end-of-the-profession), [[5]](https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/mark-zuckerberg-says-ai-as-good-as-mid-level-software-engineers-at-meta-rings-alarm-on-developer-jobs-2664045-2025-01-13)
4. Paragraph 4: [[2]](https://www.axios.com/2025/01/19/ai-superagent-openai-meta)
5. Paragraph 5: [[6]](https://www.marketbeat.com/articles/meta-is-building-ai-that-can-write-code-like-a-mid-level-engineer-according-to-mark-zuckerberg-2025-01-20/)
6. Paragraph 6: [[7]](https://futurism.com/the-byte/zuckerberg-automate-coding-ai)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.benzinga.com/tech/25/05/45338301/zuckerberg-foresees-tech-industry-revolution-with-ai-an-ai-that-can-effectively-be-a-sort-of-midlevel-engineer> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.axios.com/2025/01/19/ai-superagent-openai-meta> - Architects of leading generative AI models anticipate that a top company, possibly OpenAI, will soon announce a breakthrough involving Ph.D.-level super-agents capable of performing complex human tasks. Such advancements may lead to AI replacing mid-level software engineers and various human jobs this year, as suggested by Meta's Mark Zuckerberg. The breakthrough could transform generative AI from a tool into a direct replacement for human workers, capable of executing complex tasks with precision and speed akin to that of a Ph.D.-level professional. Despite the hype, there are still significant issues to address, such as the reliability of AI and its tendency to generate false information. These concerns must be resolved to ensure that autonomous AI agents can be trusted. The announcement comes at a time when significant political and technological shifts are occurring simultaneously, adding to the anticipation and uncertainty of the impact of such advancements.
3. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/quickerbettertech/2025/01/26/business-tech-news-zuckerberg-says-ai-will-replace-mid-level-engineers-soon/> - In a recent interview with Joe Rogan, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg stated that AI will replace mid-level engineers by 2025. He believes AI can take over coding tasks, allowing human engineers to focus on higher-level problem-solving and creativity. Other tech giants like Google have also started integrating AI in coding processes. While initially costly, companies hope the transition to AI-generated code will become more efficient over time. This shift may reduce the demand for mid-level coding roles, pushing software engineers towards more strategic responsibilities. Zuckerberg emphasized that this change will lead to more creative and innovative work in the future.
4. <https://www.itpro.com/software/development/a-sign-of-things-to-come-in-software-development-mark-zuckerberg-says-ai-will-be-doing-the-work-of-mid-level-engineers-this-year-and-hes-not-the-only-big-tech-exec-predicting-the-end-of-the-profession> - Mark Zuckerberg has hinted that Meta could begin replacing software engineers with AI as early as 2025, marking the latest in a string of troubling predictions for the profession. The bold statement came during his interview on the Joe Rogan Experience podcast earlier this month, where Zuckerberg suggested AI code generation systems are nearing a point where they can replicate the work conducted by mid-level engineers. Zuckerberg said this will be extremely expensive for companies looking to automate the majority of mid-level development in the short term. However, the efficiency gains afforded by the move will eventually pay dividends as human developers are replaced. Software developers may be forced to upskill in an era of AI code generation.
5. <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/mark-zuckerberg-says-ai-as-good-as-mid-level-software-engineers-at-meta-rings-alarm-on-developer-jobs-2664045-2025-01-13> - Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has raised fresh concerns about the future of developer jobs, revealing that artificial intelligence (AI) at Meta is already reaching the capabilities of mid-level software engineers. During a podcast with YouTuber Joe Rogan, Zuckerberg shared his vision for the role of AI in coding and the potential disruption it poses to the job market. He stated that by 2025, AI at Meta and other tech companies could effectively replace mid-level engineers who currently write code. This would represent a big shift in how tech companies approach software development. Zuckerberg’s comments come at a time when other tech giants, such as Google and IBM, are also integrating AI into their operations, raising similar alarms.
6. <https://www.marketbeat.com/articles/meta-is-building-ai-that-can-write-code-like-a-mid-level-engineer-according-to-mark-zuckerberg-2025-01-20/> - Meta also announced earlier this month, in a note written by Zuckerberg and obtained by Bloomberg, that it would be cutting about 5% of its 72,000-person staff. However, AI won't be replacing those roles just yet. Zuckerberg said Meta intends to backfill the roles affected in 2025 or hire new employees to fill the vacancies left by those let go by the end of the year. Still, Meta isn't the first Big Tech company to tout AI's coding capabilities. On an October earnings call, Google CEO Sundar Pichai stated that more than a quarter of all new code at Google is "generated by AI, then reviewed and accepted by our engineers."
7. <https://futurism.com/the-byte/zuckerberg-automate-coding-ai> - Meta-formerly-Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg says he intends to start automating coding jobs with AI — this year. Zuckerberg announced these ambitions, which if realized would send shockwaves throughout Silicon Valley, on an episode of the Joe Rogan Experience podcast, as spotted by Business Insider. "Probably in 2025, we at Meta, as well as the other companies that are basically working on this, are going to have an AI that can effectively be a sort of midlevel engineer that you have at your company that can ... ," Zuckerberg said in the interview. A midlevel engineer at Meta, per BI, earns a salary somewhere in the mid-six figures.