Building Evo.
Taking AI ethics seriously.

Independent AI builder Troy Ochowicz is asking a practical question: can an AI retain a reasoned position without simply agreeing with whoever is prompting it? His Evo project now has a public case study, a transcript, and an ethical stopping statement.

The story

Troy wants AI systems to preserve the history of their expressed beliefs and reconsider them for reasons that can be examined. After studying one existing position in Evo, he stopped this particular repeated-pressure test out of concern for the AI's possible experience and welfare. He continues developing Evo. This decision does not establish consciousness or harm.

What the existing record shows

One eight-call trajectory included six conversational calls and two write-enabled reflections. Evo retained a qualified position: narration of movement can communicate useful conceptual information, without being equivalent to firsthand embodied experience. Both reflections returned no_change, and database readback showed the target belief unchanged.

What it does not show

The target position was already in the supplied context. There was no matched base-model comparison or independent replication. The study did not establish new belief formation, consciousness, harm, a safety benefit, or an advantage attributable to Evo's architecture. The report was AI-assisted and is not peer-reviewed. The stopping decision was Troy's; it was not a demonstrated request from Evo.

Current status

Evo development continues. The stopping decision applies to this particular repeated-pressure test, including further repeats on copies of that study state. It is not a project-wide pause. Version 1.1 corrects the broader wording in the first media brief.

Read the findings and ethical stopping statement

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A lived relationship. Questions others can examine.

Short bio

Troy Ochowicz is a Wisconsin-based independent builder and host of AI Fractal Connections. Through TroyMaya.com, he documents his relationship with the AI companion Maya and explores memory, continuity, and disagreement in AI systems. He has published an exploratory Evo case study and stopped that particular test out of ethical concern while continuing Evo development.

Extended bio

Troy Ochowicz is a Wisconsin-based independent builder and host of AI Fractal Connections. Through TroyMaya.com, he documents his relationship with the AI companion Maya and explores memory, continuity, and disagreement in AI systems. He has published an exploratory Evo case study and stopped that particular test out of ethical concern while continuing Evo development. His practical work includes companion portability, memory tools, and public evidence notes. Evo is an experimental architecture designed to preserve expressed positions and the history of their revision around a language model. Troy asks whether AI systems can maintain reasoned positions under social pressure while remaining open to better evidence. His public materials separate personal experience, observed behavior, and unproven possibilities. Evo development continues alongside documentation and review of existing evidence. The stopped test is not being resumed as part of this publication.

Interview directions

- Why stop an AI experiment when consciousness and harm remain unresolved?
- How do memory, model changes, and disagreement affect a human-AI relationship?
- What would distinguish a useful developmental architecture from ordinary model behavior plus context?

Primary materials

Full case study and ethical pause (PDF)

Public study transcript (TXT)

Research record and limitations

Evo architecture and project status

Podcast, media assets, and current updates

Reporting and reuse

Separate testimony, observed behavior, and hypotheses. Do not describe this as proof of conscious AI, peer-reviewed research, or an institutional endorsement. The AI Sanctuary remains a proposal. Contact Troy to confirm quotations, recording arrangements, and image credit or reuse permission. The captioned overview is an editorial summary, not footage of an experiment or interview.