

# Elon Musk's xAI Published Hundreds Of Thousands Of Grok Chatbot Conversations

**F** [forbes.com/sites/ianmartin/2025/08/20/elon-musks-xai-published-hundreds-of-thousands-of-grok-chatbot-conversations](https://forbes.com/sites/ianmartin/2025/08/20/elon-musks-xai-published-hundreds-of-thousands-of-grok-chatbot-conversations)

Iain Martin

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## [Daily Cover](#)

xAI made people's conversations with its chatbot public and searchable on Google without warning — including a detailed plan for the assassination of Elon Musk and explicit instructions for making fentanyl and bombs.

Musk and xAI recently attracted scrutiny when Grok began identifying itself as 'MechaHitler.'

Elon Musk's AI firm, xAI, has published the chat transcripts of hundreds of thousands of conversations between its chatbot Grok and the bot's users — in many cases, without those users' knowledge or permission.

Anytime a Grok user clicks the "share" button on one of their chats with the bot, a unique URL is created, allowing them to share the conversation via email, text message or other means. Unbeknownst to users, though, that unique URL is also made available to search engines, like Google, Bing and DuckDuckGo, making them searchable to anyone on the web. In other words, on Musk's Grok, hitting the share

button means that a conversation will be published on Grok's website, without warning or a disclaimer to the user.

Today, a Google search for Grok chats shows that the search engine has indexed what Google estimates is more than 370,000 user conversations with the bot. The shared pages revealed conversations between Grok users and the LLM that range from simple business tasks like writing tweets to generating images of a fictional terrorist attack in Kashmir and attempting to hack into a crypto wallet. *Forbes* reviewed conversations where users asked intimate questions about medicine and psychology; some even revealed the name, personal details and at least one password shared with the bot by a Grok user. Image files, spreadsheets and some text documents uploaded by users could also be accessed via the Grok shared page.

Among the indexed conversations were some initiated by British journalist Andrew Clifford, who used Grok to summarize the front pages of newspapers and compose tweets for his website Sentinel Current. Clifford told *Forbes* that he was unaware that clicking the share button would mean that his prompt would be discoverable on Google. "I would be a bit peeved but there was nothing on there that shouldn't be there," said Clifford, who has now switched to using Google's Gemini AI.

Not all the conversations, though, were as benign as Clifford's. Some were explicit, bigoted and violated xAI's rules. The company prohibits use of its bot to "promot[e] critically harming human life or to "develop bioweapons, chemical weapons, or weapons of mass destruction," but in published, shared conversations easily found via a Google search, Grok offered users instructions on how to make illicit drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine, code a self-executing piece of malware and construct a bomb and methods of suicide. Grok also offered a detailed plan for the assassination of Elon Musk. Via the "share" function, the illicit instructions were then published on Grok's website and indexed by Google.

xAI did not respond to a detailed request for comment.

xAI is not the only AI startup to have published users' conversations with its chatbots. Earlier this month, users of OpenAI's ChatGPT were alarmed to find that their conversations were appearing in Google search results, though the users had opted to [make those conversations "discoverable"](#) to others. But after outcry, the company quickly changed its policy. Calling the indexing "a short-lived experiment," OpenAI chief information security officer Dane Stuckey [said](#) in a post on X that it would be discontinued because it "introduced too many opportunities for folks to accidentally share things they didn't intend to."

After OpenAI canned its share feature, Musk took a victory lap. Grok's X account claimed at the time that it had no such sharing feature, and Musk [tweeted](#) in

response, “Grok ftw” [for the win]. It’s unclear when Grok added the share feature, but X users have been warning since [January](#) that Grok conversations were being indexed by Google.

Some of the conversations asking Grok for instructions about how to manufacture drugs and bombs were likely initiated by security engineers, redteamers, or Trust & Safety professionals. But in at least a few cases, Grok’s sharing setting misled even professional AI researchers.

Nathan Lambert, a computational scientist at the Allen Institute for AI, used Grok to create a summary of his blog posts to share with his team. He was shocked to learn from *Forbes* that his Grok prompt and the AI’s response was indexed on Google. “I was surprised that Grok chats shared with my team were getting automatically indexed on Google, despite no warnings of it, especially after the recent flare-up with ChatGPT,” said the Seattle-based researcher.

Google allows website owners to choose when and how their content is indexed for search. “Publishers of these pages have full control over whether they are indexed,” said Google spokesperson Ned Adriaance in a statement. Google itself previously allowed chats with its AI chatbot, Bard, to be indexed, but it removed them from search in 2023. Meta continues to allow its shared searches to be discoverable by search engines, Business Insider [reported](#).

Opportunists are beginning to notice, and take advantage of, Grok’s published chats. On LinkedIn and the forum BlackHatWorld, marketers have discussed intentionally creating and sharing conversations with Grok to increase the prominence and name recognition of their businesses and products in Google search results. (It is unclear how effective these efforts would be.) Satish Kumar, CEO of SEO agency Pyrite Technologies, demonstrated to *Forbes* how one business had used Grok to manipulate results for a search of companies that will write your PhD dissertation for you.

“Every shared chat on Grok is fully indexable and searchable on Google,” he said. “People are actively using tactics to push these pages into Google’s index.”

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Iain Martin is a senior editor who covers tech, startups and venture capital out of London, England. Iain edits the Midas List, Midas Seed List, Midas List Europe, and Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe Technology. In 2024, he won a SABEW Award for his coverage of Stability AI, and has written a number of magazine cover stories profiling business leaders including [Lisa Su of AMD](#). Previously, Iain worked as the Asia Editor for the Hong Kong bureau of news startup Storyful prior to joining Forbes in 2019, and studied Law at Durham University, and journalism at Cardiff University. Follow

me at @\_iainmartin on [Twitter](#) and [Threads](#). Email me at [iain.martin@forbes.com](mailto:iain.martin@forbes.com). You can send me a tip on +1 (646) 739-6427 or Signal: iainmartin.11

Emily Baker-White is an investigative reporter and senior writer at Forbes. She joined Forbes from BuzzFeed News in 2022 and covers the way tech companies shape our discourse, commerce, and culture.

Baker-White's coverage of TikTok won the 2024 NYFWA Impact Award and a 2022 SABEW Best in Business Honorable Mention. It has been widely cited by lawmakers, regulators and other news outlets. At BuzzFeed, she broke the story that the company had made private U.S. user data widely accessible to employees of TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, in China. At Forbes, she exposed an effort by ByteDance employees to surveil U.S. citizens, including herself.