The Doomsday Equation Was a Joke

A 1960 paper predicted 2026. It wasn’t serious.

Swipe for insights →

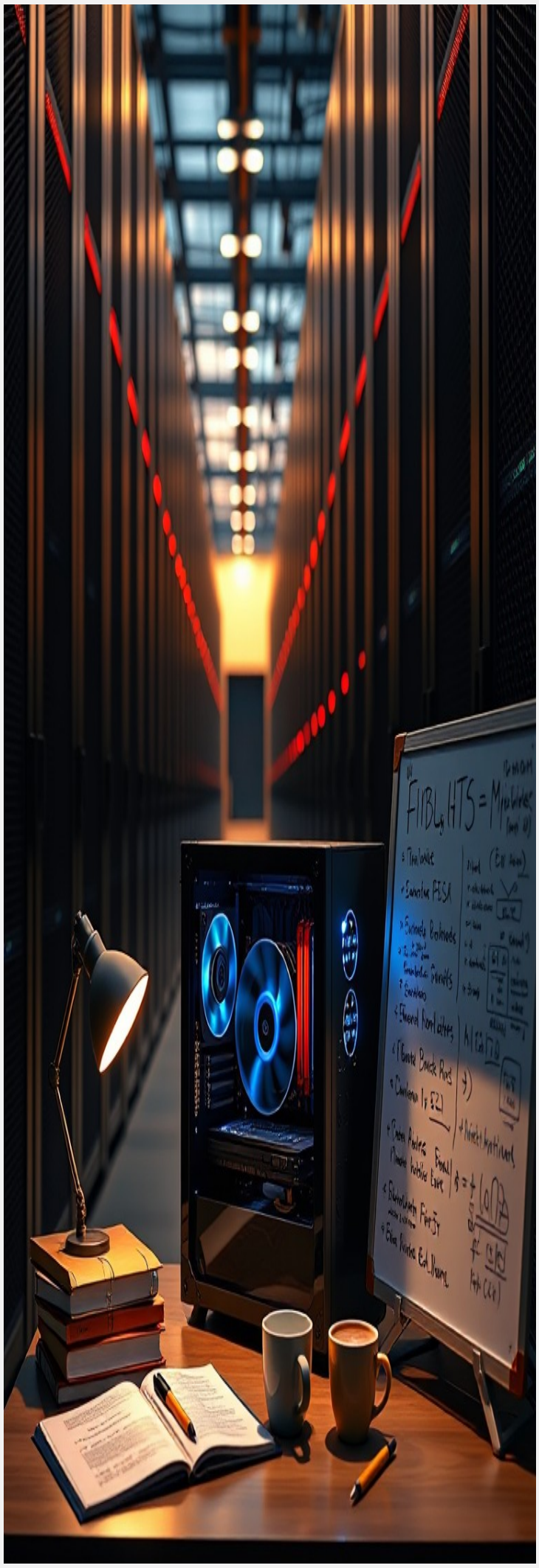
THE DATA

November 13, 2026

Predicted End Date

The date Heinz von Foerster’s population growth model projected human extinction.

This date, published in 1960, was not a forecast but a satirical thought experiment. It used mid-century assumptions—no environmental limits, infinite growth, no feedback loops—to demonstrate how absurd unchecked extrapolation could be. The model’s flaw? It assumed a world where population growth accelerated indefinitely, a condition that physics and biology reject.

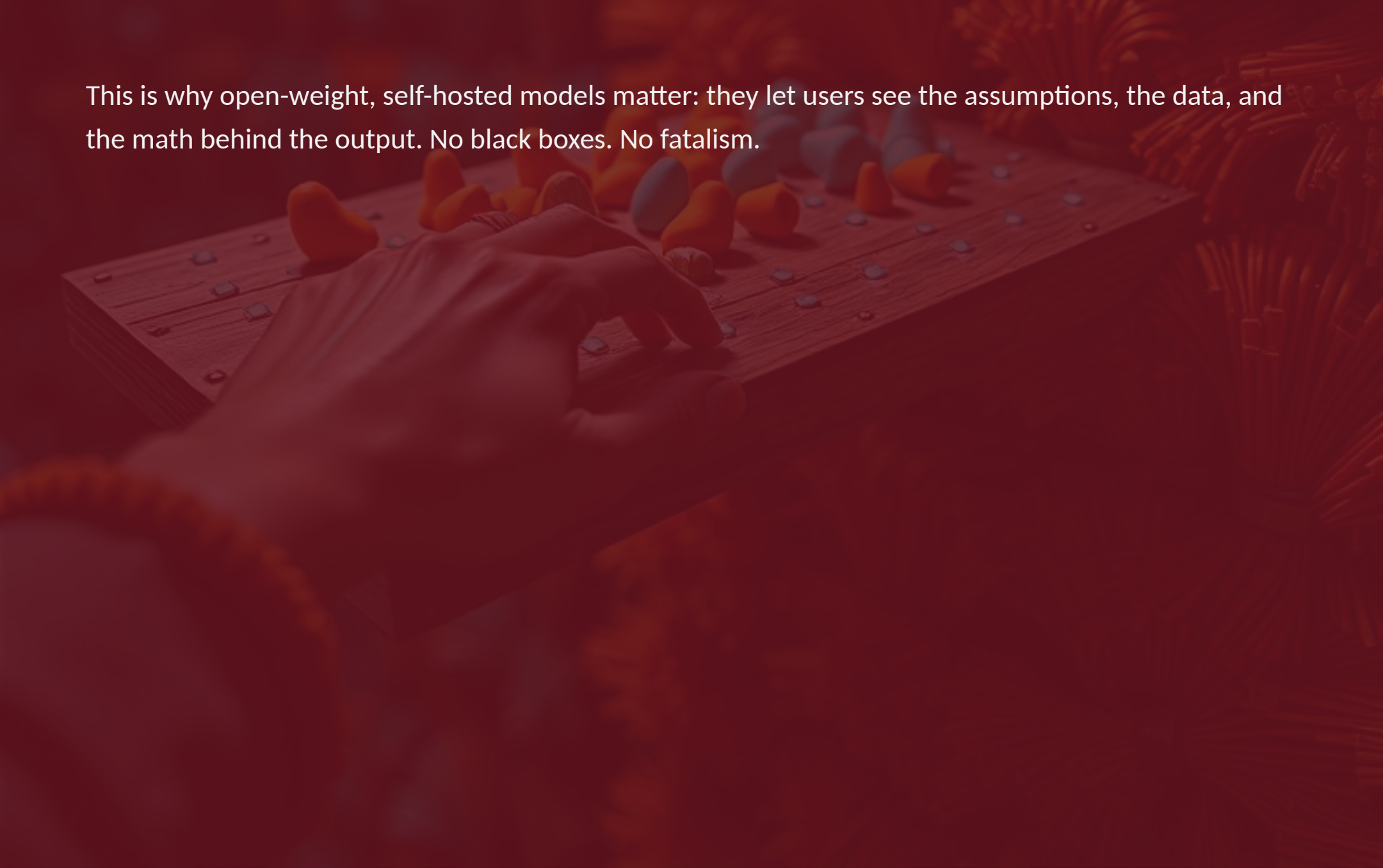


Source: University of Illinois News Bureau · Published November 15, 2026
https://news.illinois.edu/its-not-the-end-of-the-world/

01

AI Needs Humility, Not Just Accuracy

This is why open-weight, self-hosted models matter: they let users see the assumptions, the data, and the math behind the output. No black boxes. No fatalism.



02

The Best AI Is a Playful One

When you run a local LLM on a Raspberry Pi, you're not just saving bandwidth—you're reenacting the joy of discovery that drove von Foerster's work. The best AI isn't scalable. It's meaningful.

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