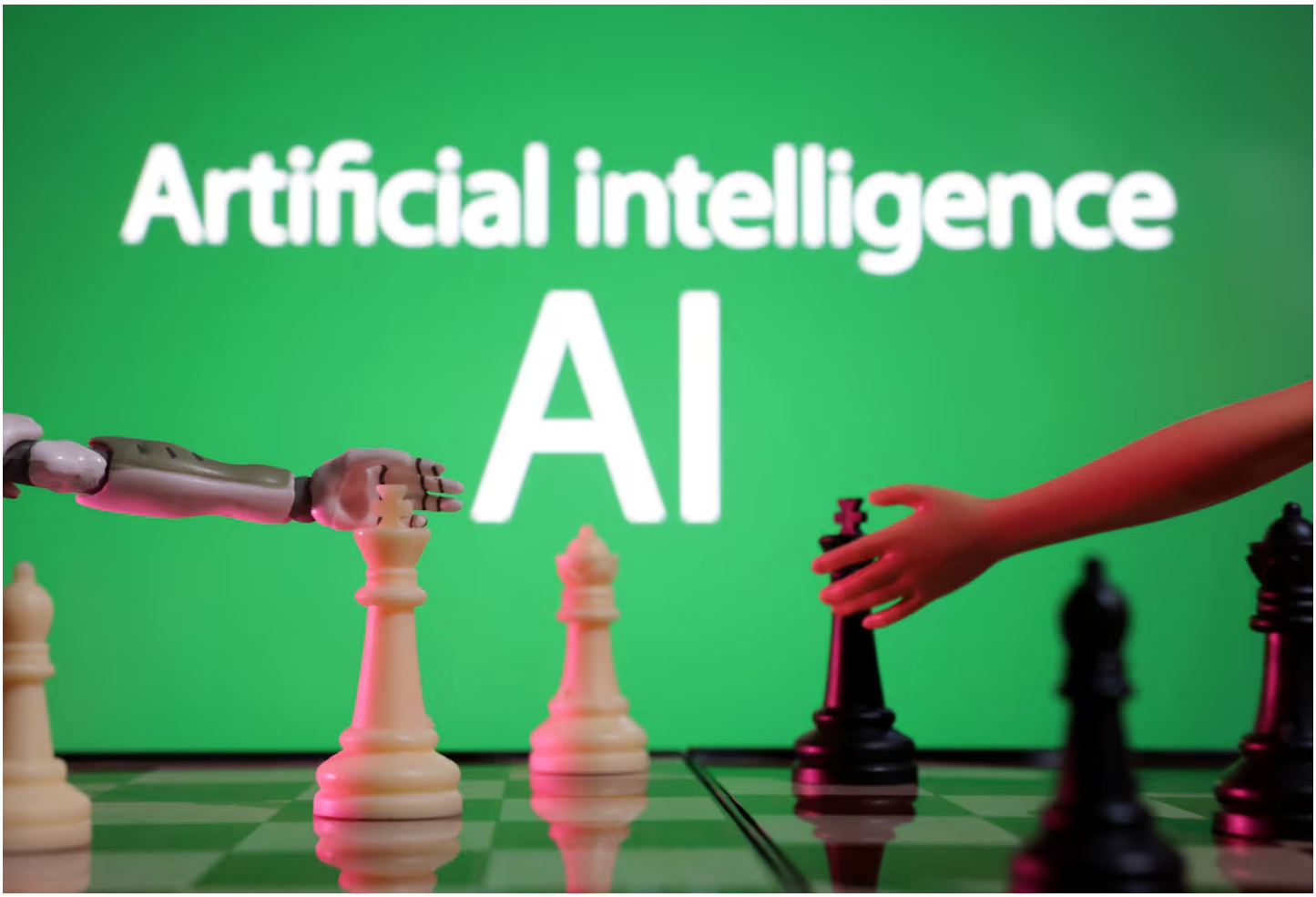
Learn more about LSEG

Disrupted

Open-source AI models released by Tokyo lab Sakana founded by former Google researchers

By **Anna Tong**

March 21, 2024 2:41 PM GMT+8 · Updated 4 days ago



Words reading "Artificial intelligence AI", miniature of robot and toy hand are picture in this illustration taken December 14, 2023. REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/Illustration/file photo

Purchase Licensing Rights

SAN JOSE, March 20 (Reuters) - Sakana AI, a Tokyo-based artificial intelligence startup founded by two prominent former Google (GOOGL.O) researchers, released AI models on Wednesday it said were built using a novel method inspired by evolution, akin to breeding and natural selection.

Sakana AI employed a technique called "model merging" which combines existing AI models to yield a new model, combining it with an approach inspired by evolution, leading to the creation of hundreds of model generations.

The most successful models from each generation were then identified, becoming the "parents" of the next generation.

The company is releasing the three Japanese language models and two are being open-sourced, Sakana AI founder David Ha told Reuters in online remarks from Tokyo.

The company's founders are former Google researchers Ha and Llion Jones.

Jones is an author on Google's 2017 research paper "Attention Is All You Need", which introduced the "transformer" deep learning architecture that formed the basis for viral chatbot ChatGPT, leading to the race to develop products powered by generative AI.

Feedback

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

Ha was previously the head of research at Stability AI and a Google Brain researcher.

All the authors of the ground-breaking Google paper have since left the organisation.

Venture investors have poured millions of dollars in funding into their new ventures, such as AI chatbot startup Character.AI run by Noam Shazeer, and the large language model startup Cohere founded by Aidan Gomez.

Sakana AI seeks to put the Japanese capital on the map as an AI hub, just as OpenAI did for San Francisco and the company DeepMind did for London earlier. In January Sakana AI said it had raised $30 million in seed financing led by Lux Capital.

> The Technology Roundup newsletter brings the latest news and trends straight to your inbox. Sign up here.

Reporting by Anna Tong in San Jose; Editing by Clarence Fernandez

Our Standards: **The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.**

Purchase Licensing Rights

Anna Tong
Thomson Reuters

Anna Tong is a correspondent for Reuters based in San Francisco, where she reports on the technology industry. She joined Reuters in 2023 after working at the San Francisco Standard as a data editor. Tong previously worked at technology startups as a product manager and at Google where she worked in user insights and helped run a call center. Tong graduated from Harvard University.

Read Next

Disrupted
China successfully launches a pilot reusable spacecraft, state media report
August 4, 2022

Disrupted
Apple forecasts faster sales growth, strong iPhone demand despite glum economy
July 28, 2022

Disrupted
Meta posts first-ever revenue drop as inflation throttles ad sales
July 27, 2022

Feedback

Disrupted

YouTube's quarter shows problems Meta may face: TikTok, weakening economy

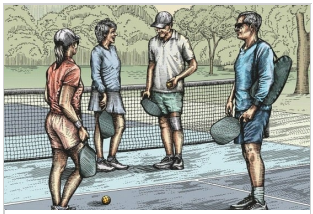
July 27, 2022

Sponsored Content

Dianomi

Leverage TradeStation's platform to trade across asset classes.

Sponsored by TradeStation



7 Retirement Income Strategies Once Your Portfolio Reaches $500k

Sponsored by Fisher Investments

Hiring A Financial Advisor? Avoid These 6 Mistakes

Sponsored by smartasset

Sponsored Content

Dianomi

Help Pay Down Balances Instead Of Interest

Sponsored by Credit Karma

Leverage a powerful platform designed for self-directed traders.

Sponsored by TradeStation

Hiring A Financial Advisor? Avoid These 6 Mistakes

Sponsored by smartasset

What Are the Top 3 Internet Providers Near You? Check Your ZIP Now.

Sponsored by HighSpeedInternet.com

Lazy People Keep Spending Too Much Money on These 5 Things

Sponsored by The Penny Hoarder

1 Stock For AI's Invisible Goldmine (and it's NOT Nvidia)

Sponsored by The Motley Fool

Feedback

Reddit may need to ramp up spending on content moderation, analysts say

Technology · March 22, 2024

Reddit will need to spend heavily on content moderation as it may face greater scrutiny as a public company, analysts said, threatening its longstanding policy of relying on an army of volunteers to maintain order on its platform.

Technology

Head of leading Atos shareholder Onepoint says ready to lead rescue plan

3:54 PM GMT+8

Technology

Binance to end support for USDC stablecoin on Tron blockchain network

6:26 PM GMT+8

Technology

Xiaomi CEO teases price on upcoming car, showrooms begin displaying vehicle

5:26 PM GMT+8

Technology

Explainer: US lawsuit against Apple could make iPhone experience more consumer-friendly

March 23, 2024

Feedback

Sponsored Content

See How Some Retirees Use Options Trading As A Safe Way To Earn Income
Sponsored by TradeWins

Help Pay Down Balances Instead Of Interest
Sponsored by Credit Karma

Hiring A Financial Advisor? Avoid These 6 Mistakes
Sponsored by smartasset

5 Strange Investments Millionaires Are Hiding From Us
Sponsored by The Penny Hoarder

The Tiny, Fast-Growing Company Flying Under the Radar. Don't Miss Out.
Sponsored by The Motley Fool

Epic Credit Card Bonus Is One of the Best Offers We've Ever Seen
Sponsored by CardCritics

Sponsored Content

Read the "Five signs" a custodian is ready for tomorrow's challenges.
Sponsored by Fidelity Investments

50-Year Wall Street Legend: "You Have Just Weeks To Move Your Money"
Sponsored by Chaikin Analytics

What Are the Top 3 Internet Providers Near You? Check Your ZIP Now.
Sponsored by HighSpeedInternet.com

24-Year Market Veteran: "Beware this Popular AI Stock"

7 Retirement Income Strategies Once Your Portfolio Reaches $500k

10 Lucrative Dividend Stocks With Double Digit Dividend Yields

Reuters, the news and media division of Thomson Reuters, is the world's largest multimedia news provider, reaching billions of people worldwide every day. Reuters provides business, financial, national and international news to professionals via desktop terminals, the world's media organizations, industry events and directly to consumers.

Follow Us

Thomson Reuters Products

Westlaw

Build the strongest argument relying on authoritative content, attorney-editor expertise, and industry defining technology.

Onesource

The most comprehensive solution to manage all your complex and ever-expanding tax and compliance needs.

Checkpoint

The industry leader for online information for tax, accounting and finance professionals.

LSEG Products

Workspace

Access unmatched financial data, news and content in a highly-customised workflow experience on desktop, web and mobile.

Data Catalogue

Browse an unrivalled portfolio of real-time and historical market data and insights from worldwide sources and experts.

World-Check

Screen for heightened risk individual and entities globally to help uncover hidden risks in business relationships and human networks.

Advertise With Us **Advertising Guidelines** **Coupons** **Purchase Licensing Rights**

All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. See here for a complete list of exchanges and delays.

Cookies **Terms of Use** **Privacy** **Digital Accessibility** **Corrections** **Site Feedback**

© 2024 Reuters. All rights reserved

Feedback