

LLM Apps

LangChain, LlamaIndex or OpenAI API?

Analysis: LangChain

- In its first version, LangChain was a simple way to learn the basic concepts of LLM Applications and develop "amateur" applications.
 - Many connectors.
 - Interesting if chatGPT is not hegemonic.
- In its second version (LCEL), LangChain is not so simple. It seems they are turning towards a solution more prepared for professional applications.
- It is still a very young and small company. It still needs to find its strategic vision and business model. It is highly dependent on the evolution of chatGPT.

Analysis: LlamaIndex

- In its first version, LlamaIndex is a less generalist framework than LangChain. It wants to do fewer things but do them better. It specializes in generating possibilities for professional RAG applications.
- It is still a very young and small company. It still needs to find its strategic vision and business model. It is highly dependent on the evolution of chatGPT.

Analysis: OpenAI API

- In its first version, the OpenAI API was not very simple.
- The second version, a consequence of the changes presented at the DevDay in November 2023, aims to be simpler and more versatile.
- OpenAI seems to have taken the path Apple took with the iMac and iPhone:
 - Does not open its technology. It reserves many areas that remain opaque to the developer.
 - Controls a closed app market and cannibalizes it (happened with the first round of startups).
 - Focuses on generating revenue, especially from large companies but also from developers and users.
 - It is conditioned by its alliance with Microsoft, favoring its products (Azure, Redis, etc.) and Microsoft's revenue streams.

Analysis: conclusions as of today

- OpenAI made a strong statement at the DevDay in November 2023, implicitly indicating that it wants to take market share from LangChain and LlamaIndex.
 - It facilitates the creation of basic LLM applications, while maintaining many opaque areas.
 - Launches multimodality and many other new features.
- LangChain is a recommendable platform to start and familiarize oneself with the basic concepts.
 - Runs the risk of losing direction and being left in no man's land with the second version (LCEL). Loses the advantage of simplicity.
- LlamaIndex is a recommendable platform to delve into the possibilities of configuring RAG applications.
 - Although the first version of LlamaIndex was not very user-friendly, they are now striving to make the next version better.