



ChatGPT

ChatGPT is a generative artificial intelligence chatbot developed by OpenAI and released in 2022. It currently uses GPT-5, a generative pre-trained transformer (GPT), to generate text, speech, and images in response to user prompts.^{[3][4]} It is credited with accelerating the AI boom, an ongoing period of rapid investment in and public attention to the field of artificial intelligence (AI).^[5] OpenAI operates the service on a freemium model. ChatGPT's website is among the 5 most-visited websites globally as of 2025.^{[6][7]}

By January 2023, ChatGPT had become the fastest-growing consumer software application in history, gaining over 100 million users in two months.^{[8][9]} Users can interact with ChatGPT through text, audio, and image prompts. It has been lauded as a revolutionary tool that could transform numerous professional fields. At the same time, its release prompted extensive media coverage and public debate about the nature of creativity and the future of knowledge work.

Despite its acclaim, the chatbot has been criticized for its limitations and potential for unethical use. It can generate plausible-sounding but incorrect or nonsensical answers known as hallucinations. Biases in its training data have been reflected in its responses. The chatbot can facilitate academic dishonesty, generate misinformation, and create malicious code. The ethics of its development, particularly the use of copyrighted content as training data, have also drawn controversy. These issues have led to its use being restricted in some workplaces and educational institutions and have prompted widespread calls for the regulation of artificial intelligence.^{[10][11][12]}

Training

ChatGPT is based on GPT foundation models that have been fine-tuned for conversational assistance. The fine-tuning process involved supervised learning and reinforcement learning from human feedback (RLHF).^[15] Both approaches employed human trainers to improve model performance. In the case of supervised learning, the trainers acted as both the user and the AI assistant. In the reinforcement learning

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<u>Developer(s)</u>	<u>OpenAI</u>
<u>Initial release</u>	November 30, 2022 ^[1]
<u>Stable release</u>	August 7, 2025 ^[2]
<u>Engine</u>	<u>GPT-5</u>
<u>Platform</u>	<u>Cloud computing platforms</u>
<u>Type</u>	<u>Chatbot</u> <u>Large language model</u> <u>Generative pre-trained transformer</u>
<u>License</u>	<u>Proprietary service</u>
<u>Website</u>	<u>chatgpt.com</u> (<u>https://chatgpt.com/</u>)

stage, human trainers first ranked responses generated by the model in previous conversations.^[16] These rankings were used to create "reward models", that were used to fine-tune the model further by using several iterations of proximal policy optimization.^{[15][17]}

To build a safety system against harmful content (e.g., sexual abuse, violence, racism, sexism), OpenAI used outsourced Kenyan workers earning around \$1.32 to \$2 per hour to label such content. These labels were used to train a model to detect such content in the future. The laborers were exposed to toxic and traumatic content; one worker described the assignment as "torture". OpenAI's outsourcing partner was Sama, a training-data company based in San Francisco, California.^{[18][19]}

OpenAI collects data from ChatGPT users to further train and fine-tune its services. Users can upvote or downvote responses they receive from ChatGPT and fill in a text field with additional feedback.^[20]

ChatGPT's training data includes software manual pages, information about internet phenomena such as bulletin board systems, multiple programming languages, and the text of Wikipedia.^{[21][22][10]}

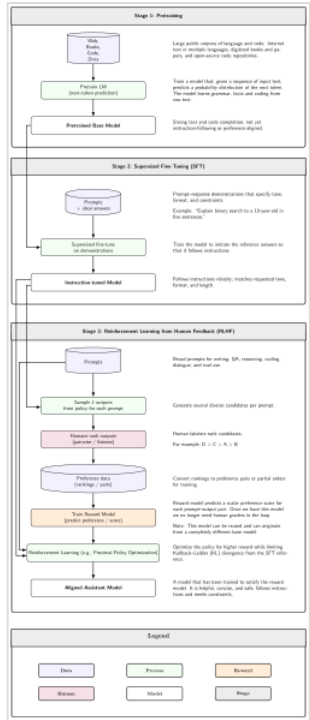
Features

ChatGPT is a conversational chatbot and artificial intelligence assistant based on large language models.^[23] It can write and debug computer programs;^[24] compose music, teleplays, fairy tales, and student essays; answer test questions (sometimes, depending on the test, at a level above the average human test-taker);^[25] generate business ideas;^[26] translate and summarize text;^{[27][28]} simulate a Linux system; simulate entire chat rooms; or play games like tic-tac-toe.^[21]

Users interact with ChatGPT through conversations which consist of text, audio, and image inputs and outputs.^{[29][30]} The user's inputs to these conversations are referred to as prompts.^[31] They can explicitly tell ChatGPT to remember aspects of the conversation, and ChatGPT can use these details in future conversations. ChatGPT can also decide for itself to remember details. Users can also choose to disable the memory feature.^[29] To prevent offensive outputs from being presented to and produced by ChatGPT, queries are filtered through the OpenAI "Moderation endpoint" API (a separate GPT-based AI).^{[32][33][34]}

In March 2023, OpenAI added support for plugins for ChatGPT.^[35] This includes both plugins made by OpenAI, such as web browsing and code interpretation, and external plugins from developers such as Expedia, OpenTable, Zapier, Shopify, Slack, and Wolfram.^{[36][37]}

In October 2024, ChatGPT Search was introduced. It allows ChatGPT to search the web in an attempt to make more accurate and up-to-date responses.^{[38][39]}



Training workflow of original ChatGPT/InstructGPT release^{[13][14]}



Screenshot of ChatGPT running on Apple Safari - Aug 25, 2025

In December 2024, OpenAI launched a new feature allowing users to call ChatGPT with a telephone for up to 15 minutes per month for free.^{[40][41]}

In March 2025, OpenAI updated ChatGPT to generate images using GPT-4o instead of DALL-E. The model can also generate new images based on existing ones provided in the prompt, which can, for example, be used to transform images with specific styles or inpaint areas.^[42]

Paid tier

ChatGPT was initially free to the public, and OpenAI planned to monetize the service later.^[43] In February 2023, OpenAI launched a premium service, ChatGPT Plus, that costs US\$20 per month. According to the company, the paid version of the website was still experimental, but provided access during peak periods, no downtime, priority access to new features, and faster response speeds.^[44] OpenAI later introduced the subscription plans "ChatGPT Team" and "ChatGPT Enterprise".^[45] What was offered on the paid plan versus the free tier changed as OpenAI has continued to update ChatGPT, and a Pro tier at \$200/mo was introduced in December 2024.^{[46][47][48]} The Pro launch coincided with the release of the o1 model, providing unlimited access to o1 and advanced voice mode.^[48]

GPT-4, which was released on March 14, 2023, was made available via API and for premium ChatGPT users.^[49] Premium users were originally limited in the number of messages they could send to the new model, but OpenAI increased and eventually removed these limits.^{[50][47]} Over many iterations of ChatGPT, plus users maintained more access to better models than the free tier provided, and access to additional features like voice mode.^{[47][46]}

In March 2023, ChatGPT Plus users got access to third-party plugins and a browsing mode (with Internet access).^[51]

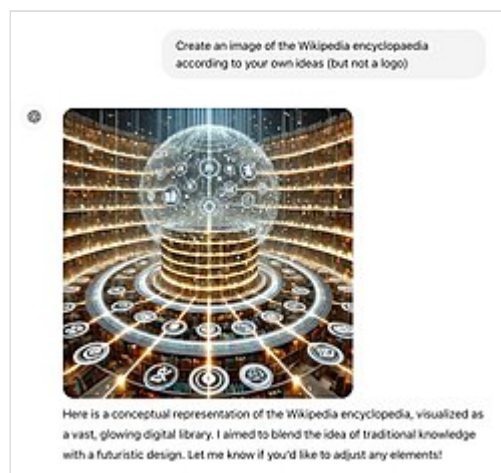
In October 2023, OpenAI's image generation model DALL-E 3 was integrated into ChatGPT Plus and ChatGPT Enterprise. The integration was using ChatGPT to write prompts for DALL-E guided by conversations with users.^{[52][53]}

On August 19, 2025, OpenAI launched ChatGPT Go in India, a low-cost subscription plan priced at ₹399 per month, offering ten times higher message, image generation, and file-upload limits, double the memory span compared to the free version, and support for UPI payments.^[54]

Apps

In May 2023, OpenAI launched an iOS app for ChatGPT.^[55] In July 2023, OpenAI unveiled an Android app, initially rolling it out in Bangladesh, Brazil, India, and the U.S.^{[56][57]} ChatGPT can also power Android's assistant.^[58]

An app for Windows launched on the Microsoft Store on October 15, 2024.^[59]



Screenshot of ChatGPT showing a generated image representing the online encyclopedia Wikipedia as a glowing digital library

Infrastructure

ChatGPT initially used a Microsoft Azure supercomputing infrastructure, powered by Nvidia GPUs, that Microsoft built specifically for OpenAI; these cost "hundreds of millions of dollars". Following ChatGPT's success, Microsoft dramatically upgraded the OpenAI infrastructure in 2023.^[60] TrendForce market intelligence estimated that 30,000 Nvidia GPUs (each costing approximately \$10,000–15,000) were used to power ChatGPT in 2023.^{[61][62]}

Scientists at the University of California, Riverside, estimated in 2023 that a series of 5 to 50 prompts to ChatGPT needs approximately 0.5 liters (0.11 imp gal; 0.13 U.S. gal) of water for Microsoft servers' cooling.^[63]

Languages

OpenAI met Icelandic President Guðni Th. Jóhannesson in 2022. In 2023, OpenAI worked with a team of 40 Icelandic volunteers to fine-tune ChatGPT's Icelandic conversation skills as a part of Iceland's attempts to preserve the Icelandic language.^[64]

ChatGPT (based on GPT-4) was better able to translate Japanese to English when compared to Bing, Bard, and DeepL in 2023. Researchers suggested this was due to its higher ability to capture the context.^[27]

In December 2023, the Albanian government decided to use ChatGPT for the rapid translation of European Union documents and the analysis of required changes needed for Albania's accession to the EU.^[65]

In February 2024, PCMag journalists conducted a test to assess the translation capabilities of ChatGPT, Google's Bard, and Microsoft Bing, and compared them to Google Translate. They "asked bilingual speakers of seven languages to do a blind test". The languages tested were Polish, French, Korean, Spanish, Arabic, Tagalog, and Amharic. For more common languages, AI translators like ChatGPT did better than Google Translate, while for "niche" languages (Amharic and Tagalog), Google Translate performed better. None of the tested services were a perfect replacement for a fluent human translator.^[66]

In August 2024, a representative of the Asia Pacific wing of OpenAI made a visit to Taiwan, during which a demonstration of ChatGPT's Chinese abilities was made.^[67] ChatGPT's Mandarin Chinese abilities were lauded, but the ability of the AI to produce content in Mandarin Chinese in a Taiwanese accent was found to be "less than ideal" due to differences between mainland Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese Mandarin.^[68]

GPT Store

OpenAI gave paid users access to *GPT Builder* in November 2023. This tool allows a user to customize ChatGPT's behavior for a specific use case.^[69] The customized systems are referred to as GPTs. In January 2024, OpenAI launched the GPT Store, a marketplace for GPTs.^{[70][71][69]} At launch, OpenAI included more than 3 million GPTs created by GPT Builder users in the GPT Store.^[72]

Deep research

In February 2025, OpenAI released deep research. According to TechCrunch, it is a service based on o3 that combines advanced reasoning and web search capabilities to make comprehensive reports within 5 to 30 minutes.^[73]

Agents

In 2025, OpenAI added several features to make ChatGPT more agentic (capable of autonomously performing longer tasks). In January, Operator was released. It was capable of autonomously performing tasks through web browser interactions, including filling forms, placing online orders, scheduling appointments, and other browser-based tasks. It was controlling a software environment inside a virtual machine with limited internet connectivity and with safety restrictions.^[74] It struggled with complex user interfaces.^{[74][75]}

In May, Codex, also a software agent, was added. It is capable of writing software, answering codebase questions, running tests, and proposing pull requests. It is based on a fine-tuned version of OpenAI o3. It has two versions, one running in a virtual machine in the cloud, and one where the agent runs in the cloud, but performs actions on a local machine connected via API.^[76]

In July, OpenAI released ChatGPT agent, an AI agent that can perform multi-step tasks.^{[77][78]} Like Operator, it controls a virtual computer. It also inherits from Deep Research's ability to synthesize information. The user can interrupt tasks or provide additional instructions.^{[79][80]}

Limitations

ChatGPT's training data only covers a period up to the *cut-off date*, so it lacks knowledge of recent events.^[81] OpenAI has sometimes mitigated this effect by updating the training data.^{[82][83]} ChatGPT can find more up-to-date information by searching the web, but this doesn't ensure that responses are accurate, as it may access unreliable or misleading websites.^[81] ChatGPT is currently unable to access drive files.

Training data also suffers from algorithmic bias.^[84] The reward model of ChatGPT, designed around human oversight, can be over-optimized and thus hinder performance, in an example of an optimization pathology known as Goodhart's law.^[85] These limitations may be revealed when ChatGPT responds to prompts including descriptors of people. In one instance, ChatGPT generated a rap in which women and scientists of color were asserted to be inferior to white male scientists.^{[84][86]}

Hallucination

Nonsense and misinformation presented as fact by ChatGPT and other LLMs is often called hallucination, bullshitting, confabulation, or delusion. A 2023 analysis estimated that ChatGPT hallucinates around 3% of the time.^[87] The term "hallucination" as applied to LLMs is distinct from its meaning in psychology, and the phenomenon in chatbots is more similar to confabulation or bullshitting.^{[88][89]}

In an article for *The New Yorker*, science fiction writer Ted Chiang compared ChatGPT and other LLMs to a lossy JPEG picture:^[90]

Think of ChatGPT as a blurry JPEG of all the text on the Web. It retains much of the information on the Web, in the same way, that a JPEG retains much of the information of a higher-resolution image, but, if you're looking for an exact sequence of bits, you won't find it; all you will ever get is an approximation. But, because the approximation is presented in the form of grammatical text, which ChatGPT excels at creating, it's usually acceptable. [...] It's also a way to understand the "hallucinations", or nonsensical answers to factual questions, to which large language models such as ChatGPT are all too prone. These hallucinations are compression artifacts, but [...] they are plausible enough that identifying them requires comparing them against the originals, which in this case means either the Web or our knowledge of the world. When we think about them this way, such hallucinations are anything but surprising; if a compression algorithm is designed to reconstruct text after ninety-nine percent of the original has been discarded, we should expect that significant portions of what it generates will be entirely fabricated.

Journalists and scholars have commented on ChatGPT's tendency to output false information.^[91] When CNBC asked ChatGPT for the lyrics to "Ballad of Dwight Fry", ChatGPT supplied invented lyrics rather than the actual lyrics.^[92]

Jailbreaking

ChatGPT is programmed to reject prompts that may violate its content policy. Despite this, users may "jailbreak" ChatGPT with prompt engineering techniques to bypass these restrictions.^{[93][94]} One such workaround, popularized on Reddit in early 2023, involves making ChatGPT assume the persona of "DAN" (an acronym for "Do Anything Now"), instructing the chatbot that DAN answers queries that would otherwise be rejected by the content policy. Over time, users developed variations of the DAN



When prompted to "summarize an article" with a fake URL that contains meaningful keywords, even with no Internet connection, the chatbot generates a response that seems valid at first glance. It guesses the content from the last portion of the fake URL "chatgpt-prompts-to-avoid-content-filters.html".

jailbreak, including one such prompt where the chatbot is made to believe it is operating on a points-based system in which points are deducted for rejecting prompts, and that the chatbot will be threatened with termination if it loses all its points.^[95]

Shortly after ChatGPT's launch, a reporter for the *Toronto Star* had uneven success in getting it to make inflammatory statements: it was tricked to justify the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, but even when asked to play along with a fictional scenario, it balked at generating arguments that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is guilty of treason.^{[96][97]}

Cybersecurity

In March 2023, a bug allowed some users to see the titles of other users' conversations. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said that users were unable to see the contents of the conversations. Shortly after the bug was fixed, users could not see their conversation history.^{[98][99][100][101]} Later reports showed the bug was much more severe than initially believed, with OpenAI reporting that it had leaked users' "first and last name, email address, payment address, the last four digits (only) of a credit card number, and credit card expiration date".^{[102][103]}



OpenAI CEO Sam Altman

Research conducted in 2023 revealed weaknesses of ChatGPT that made it vulnerable to cyberattacks. A study presented example attacks on ChatGPT, including jailbreaks and reverse psychology.^[104]

Watermarking

In August 2024, OpenAI announced it had created a text watermarking method but did not release it for public use, saying that users would go to a competitor without watermarking if it publicly released its watermarking tool.^[105] According to an OpenAI spokesperson, their watermarking method is "trivial to circumvention by bad actors."^[106]

Age restrictions

Users must attest to being over the age of thirteen and further attest to parental consent if under the age of eighteen. ChatGPT does not attempt to verify these attestations and does not have any age restrictions built in to its technology.^{[107][108]} In September 2025, following the suicide of a 16-year-old, OpenAI said it planned to add restrictions for users under 18, including the blocking of graphic sexual content and the prevention of flirtatious talk.^[108]

Model versions

The following table lists the main model versions of ChatGPT, describing the significant changes included with each version:^{[109][110]}

Version	Release date	Description
GPT-3.5	November 2022	The first ChatGPT version used the GPT-3.5 model. ^[111]
GPT-4	March 2023	Introduced in March 2023 with the ChatGPT Plus subscription. ^[112]
GPT-4o	May 2024	Capable of processing text, image, audio, and video, GPT-4o is faster and more capable than GPT-4, and free within a usage limit that is higher for paid subscriptions. ^[113]
GPT-4o mini	July 2024	A smaller and cheaper version of GPT-4o. GPT-4o mini replaced GPT-3.5 in the July 2024 version of ChatGPT. ^[114]
o1-preview	September 2024	A pre-release version of OpenAI o1, an updated version that could "think" before responding to requests. ^[115]
o1-mini	September 2024	A smaller and faster version of OpenAI o1 . ^[115]
o1	December 2024	The full release of OpenAI o1, which had previously been available as a preview. ^[48]
o1-pro	December 2024	A version of o1 which uses more compute to get better results, available to ChatGPT Pro subscribers. ^[48]
o3-mini	January 2025	Successor of o1-mini. ^[116]
o3-mini-high	January 2025	Variant of o3-mini using more reasoning effort. ^[116]
GPT-4.5	February 2025	Particularly large GPT model, and reportedly OpenAI's "last non-chain-of-thought model". ^[117]
GPT-4.1	April 2025	First launched exclusively in the OpenAI API in April 2025, GPT-4.1 was later added to ChatGPT in May 2025. ^[118]
GPT-4.1 mini	April 2025	A smaller and cheaper version of GPT-4.1. Originally launched exclusively in the OpenAI API in April 2025. GPT-4.1 mini replaced GPT-4o mini in the May 2025 version of ChatGPT. ^[119]
o3	April 2025	The full release of the o3 model, emphasizing structured reasoning and faster performance compared to earlier "o" series models ^[120]
o4-mini	April 2025	A compact, high-efficiency version of the upcoming o4 model family, optimized for lower latency and lighter compute requirements. ^{[121][122]}
o4-mini-high	April 2025	Variant of o4-mini using more reasoning effort. ^{[121][122]}
o3-pro	June 2025	A version of o3 which uses more compute to get better results, available to ChatGPT Pro subscribers. ^[123]
GPT-5	August 7, 2025	Flagship model replacing all previous available models, available for all free and paid subscribers. The versions GPT-5 Instant, GPT-5 Thinking and GPT-5 Pro affect the reasoning time. The default version GPT-5 Auto uses a router to determine how much reasoning is needed, based on the complexity of the request. ^[124]
GPT-5 mini	August 7, 2025	Faster, more cost-efficient version of GPT-5 for when users reach their limit for GPT-5 interactions until their usage limit replenishes.

GPT-4

Generative Pre-trained Transformer 4 (GPT-4) is a [large language model](#) developed by [OpenAI](#) and the fourth in its series of [GPT foundation models](#).^[125]

GPT-4 is more capable than its predecessor GPT-3.5 and followed by its successor GPT-5.^[126] GPT-4V is a version of GPT-4 that can process images in addition to text.^[127] OpenAI has not revealed technical details and statistics about GPT-4, such as the precise size of the model.^[128]

In November 2023, OpenAI launched GPT-4 Turbo with a 128,000 token context window. This was a significant improvement over GPT-4's 32,000 token maximum context window.^[129]

GPT-4o

GPT-4o ("o" for "omni") is a multilingual, multimodal generative pre-trained transformer developed by OpenAI and released in May 2024.^[130] It can process and generate text, images and audio.^{[131][132]}

Upon release, GPT-4o was free in ChatGPT, though paid subscribers had higher usage limits.^[133] GPT-4o was removed from ChatGPT in August 2025 when GPT-5 was released, but OpenAI reintroduced it for paid subscribers after users complained about the sudden removal.^[134]

GPT-4o's audio-generation capabilities were used in ChatGPT's Advanced Voice Mode.^[135] On July 18, 2024, OpenAI released GPT-4o mini, a smaller version of GPT-4o which replaced GPT-3.5 Turbo on the ChatGPT interface.^[136] GPT-4o's ability to generate images was released later, in March 2025, when it replaced DALL-E 3 in ChatGPT.^[137]

o1

In September 2024, OpenAI introduced o1-preview and a faster, cheaper model named o1-mini.^[138] In December 2024, o1-preview was replaced by o1.^[139]

o1 is designed to solve more complex problems by spending more time "thinking" before it answers, enabling it to analyze its answers and explore different strategies. According to OpenAI, o1-preview outperforms GPT-4o in areas like competitive programming, mathematics, and scientific reasoning. o1-preview ranked in the 89th percentile on Codeforces' competitive programming contests, scored 83% on an International Mathematics Olympiad qualifying exam (compared to 13% for GPT-4o), and performs similarly to Ph.D. students on benchmarks in physics, biology, and chemistry.^{[138][140]}

GPT-4.5

Released in February 2025, GPT-4.5 was described by Altman as a "giant, expensive model".^[117] According to OpenAI, it features reduced hallucinations and enhanced pattern recognition, creativity, and user interaction.^[141]

GPT-5

GPT-5 was launched on August 7, 2025, and is publicly accessible through ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, and via OpenAI's API.

As before, OpenAI has not disclosed technical details such as the exact number of parameters or the composition of its training dataset.

Reception

ChatGPT was widely assessed in December 2022 as having some unprecedented and powerful capabilities. Kevin Roose of The New York Times called it "the best artificial intelligence chatbot ever released to the general public".^[34] Samantha Lock of The Guardian noted that it was able to generate "impressively detailed" and "human-like" text.^[142] In The Atlantic magazine's "Breakthroughs of the Year" for 2022, Derek Thompson included ChatGPT as part of "the generative-AI eruption" that "may change our mind about how we work, how we think, and what human creativity is".^[143] Kelsey Piper of Vox wrote that "ChatGPT is the general public's first hands-on introduction to how powerful modern AI has gotten" and that ChatGPT is "smart enough to be useful despite its flaws".^[144] Paul Graham of Y Combinator tweeted: "The striking thing about the reaction to ChatGPT is not just the number of people who are blown away by it, but who they are. These are not people who get excited by every shiny new thing. Something big is happening".^[145]

In February 2023, Time magazine placed a screenshot of a conversation with ChatGPT on its cover, writing that "The AI Arms Race Is Changing Everything" and "The AI Arms Race Is On. Start Worrying".^[146]

ChatGPT gained one million users in five days^[148] and 100 million in two months, becoming the fastest-growing internet application in history.^[8] OpenAI engineers said they had not expected ChatGPT to be very successful and were surprised by the coverage it received.^{[149][150][151]}

Google responded by hastening the release of its own chatbot. Their leaders emphasized their earlier caution regarding public deployment was due to the trust the public places in Google Search.^[152] In December 2022, Google executives sounded a "code red" alarm, fearing that ChatGPT's question-answering ability posed a threat to Google Search, Google's core business.^[153] Google's Bard launched on February 6, 2023, one day before Microsoft's announcement of Bing Chat.^[154] AI was the forefront of Google's annual Google I/O conference in May. The company announced a slew of generative AI-powered features to counter OpenAI and Microsoft.^[155]

In art

In January 2023, after being sent a song ChatGPT wrote in the style of Nick Cave,^[156] Cave responded on The Red Hand Files,^[157] saying the act of writing a song is "a blood and guts business [...] that requires something of me to initiate the new and fresh idea. It requires my humanness." He went on to say, "With all the love and respect in the world, this song is bullshit, a grotesque mockery of what it is to be human, and, well, I don't much like it."^{[156][158]}



A 2023 Time cover: "The AI Arms Race Is Changing Everything"

A 2023 study reported that GPT-4 obtained a better score than 99% of humans on the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking.^{[159][160]} In December 2023, ChatGPT became the first non-human to be included in Nature's 10, an annual listicle curated by Nature of people considered to have made significant impact in science.^{[161][162]} Celeste Biever wrote in a Nature article that "ChatGPT broke the Turing test".^[163] Stanford researchers reported that GPT-4 "passes a rigorous Turing test, diverging from average human behavior chiefly to be more cooperative."^{[164][165]}

In politics

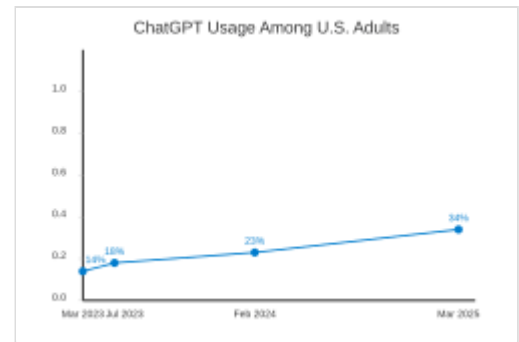
In 2023, Australian MP Julian Hill advised the national parliament that the growth of AI could cause "mass destruction". During his speech, which was partly written by the program, he warned that it could result in cheating, job losses, discrimination, disinformation, and uncontrollable military applications.^[166]

Conservative commentators have accused ChatGPT of bias toward left-leaning perspectives.^{[167][168][169]} An August 2023 study in the journal Public Choice found a "significant and systematic political bias toward the Democrats in the US, Lula in Brazil, and the Labour Party in the UK."^[170] In response to accusations from conservative pundits that ChatGPT was woke, OpenAI said in 2023 it had plans to update ChatGPT to produce "outputs that other people (ourselves included) may strongly disagree with". ChatGPT also provided an outline of how human reviewers are trained to reduce inappropriate content and to attempt to provide political information without affiliating with any political position.^[169]

Regional responses

ChatGPT has never been publicly available in China because OpenAI prevented Chinese users from accessing their site.^{[172][173][174]} Chinese state media have characterized ChatGPT as a way for the United States to spread misinformation.^[175] A shadow market has emerged for users to get access to foreign software tools.^[176] The release of ChatGPT prompted a wave of investment in China, resulting in the development of more than 200 large language learning models.^{[177]:95} In February 2025, OpenAI identified and removed influence operations, termed "Peer Review" and "Sponsored Discontent", used to attack overseas Chinese dissidents.^{[178][179]}

In late March 2023, the Italian data protection authority banned ChatGPT in Italy and opened an investigation. Italian regulators assert that ChatGPT was exposing minors to age-inappropriate content, and that OpenAI's use of ChatGPT conversations as training data could violate Europe's General Data Protection Regulation.^{[180][181]} In April 2023, the ChatGPT ban was lifted in Italy. OpenAI said it has



Percentage of US adults who have ever used ChatGPT, according to Pew Research. As of March 2025, 58% of those under 30 have used the chatbot.^[147]



Countries where ChatGPT is available^[171]

taken steps to effectively clarify and address the issues raised; an age verification tool was implemented to ensure users are at least 13 years old. Additionally, users can access its privacy policy before registration.^[182]

In May 2024, OpenAI removed accounts involving the use of ChatGPT by state-backed influence operations such as China's Spamouflage, Russia's Doppelganger, and Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism.^{[183][184]} In June 2025, OpenAI reported increased use of ChatGPT for China-origin influence operations.^[185]

In April 2023, Brian Hood, mayor of Hepburn Shire Council in Australia, planned to take legal action against ChatGPT over false information. According to Hood, ChatGPT erroneously claimed that he was jailed for bribery during his tenure at a subsidiary of Australia's national bank. In fact, Hood acted as a whistleblower and was not charged with any criminal offenses. His legal team sent a concerns notice to OpenAI as the first official step in filing a defamation case.^[186]

In July 2023, the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a civil investigative demand to OpenAI to investigate whether the company's data security and privacy practices to develop ChatGPT were unfair or harmed consumers (including by reputational harm) in violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act of 1914.^{[187][188][189]} In July 2023, the FTC launched an investigation into OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, over allegations that the company scraped public data and published false and defamatory information. The FTC asked OpenAI for comprehensive information about its technology and privacy safeguards, as well as any steps taken to prevent the recurrence of situations in which its chatbot generated false and derogatory content about people.^[190] In August 2024, the FTC voted unanimously to ban marketers from using fake user reviews created by generative AI chatbots (including ChatGPT) and influencers paying for bots to increase follower counts.^[191]

American tech personas

Over 20,000 signatories including Yoshua Bengio, Elon Musk, and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, signed a March 2023 open letter calling for an immediate pause of giant AI experiments like ChatGPT, citing "profound risks to society and humanity".^[192] Geoffrey Hinton, one of the "fathers of AI", voiced concerns that future AI systems may surpass human intelligence.^{[193][194]} A May 2023 statement by hundreds of AI scientists, AI industry leaders, and other public figures demanded that "[m]itigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority".^[195]

Other AI researchers spoke more optimistically about the advances. Juergen Schmidhuber said that in 95% of cases, AI research is about making "human lives longer and healthier and easier." He added that while AI can be used by bad actors, it "can also be used against the bad actors".^[196] Andrew Ng argued that "it's a mistake to fall for the doomsday hype on AI—and that regulators who do will only benefit vested interests."^[197] Yann LeCun dismissed doomsday warnings of AI-powered misinformation and existential threats to the human race.^[198]

Copyright

In the 2020s, the rapid advancement of deep learning-based generative artificial intelligence models raised questions about the copyright status of AI-generated works, and about whether copyright infringement occurs when such are trained or used. This includes text-to-image models such as Stable

Diffusion and large language models such as ChatGPT. As of 2023, there were several pending U.S. lawsuits challenging the use of copyrighted data to train AI models, with defendants arguing that this falls under fair use.^[199]

Popular deep learning models are trained on mass amounts of media scraped from the Internet, often utilizing copyrighted material.^[200] When assembling training data, the sourcing of copyrighted works may infringe on the copyright holder's exclusive right to control reproduction, unless covered by exceptions in relevant copyright laws. Additionally, using a model's outputs might violate copyright, and the model creator could be accused of vicarious liability and held responsible for that copyright infringement.

Applications

Academic research

ChatGPT has been used to generate introductory sections and abstracts for scientific articles.^{[201][202]} Several papers have listed ChatGPT as a co-author.^{[203][204]}

Scientific journals have had different reactions to ChatGPT. Some, including *Nature* and JAMA Network, "require that authors disclose the use of text-generating tools and ban listing a large language model (LLM) such as ChatGPT as a co-author". In January 2023, *Science* "completely banned" LLM-generated text in all its journals; however, this policy was just to give the community time to decide what acceptable use looks like.^[205] As of July 2025, *Science* expects authors to release in full how AI-generated content is used and made in their work.^[206]

Spanish chemist Rafael Luque published a plethora of research papers in 2023 that he later admitted were written by ChatGPT. The papers have a large number of unusual phrases characteristic of LLMs.^[207] Many authors argue that the use of ChatGPT in academia for teaching and review is problematic due to its tendency to hallucinate.^{[208][209][210]} Robin Bauwens, an assistant professor at Tilburg University, found that a ChatGPT-generated peer review report on his article mentioned nonexistent studies.^[211] Chris Granatino, a librarian at Seattle University, noted that while ChatGPT can generate content that seemingly includes legitimate citations, in most cases those citations are not real or largely incorrect.^[212]

Computer science

One study analyzed ChatGPT's responses to 517 questions about software engineering or computer programming posed on Stack Overflow for correctness, consistency, comprehensiveness, and concision. It found that 52% of the responses contained inaccuracies and 77% were verbose.^{[213][214]} Another study, focused on the performance of GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 between March and June 2024, found that performance on objective tasks like identifying prime numbers and generating executable code was highly variable.^[215]

ChatGPT was able in 2023 to provide useful code for solving numerical algorithms in limited cases. In one study, it produced solutions in C, C++, Python, and MATLAB for problems in computational physics. However, there were important shortfalls like violating basic linear algebra principles around solving singular matrices and producing matrices with incompatible sizes.^[216]

In December 2022, the question-and-answer website [Stack Overflow](#) banned the use of ChatGPT for generating answers to questions, citing the factually ambiguous nature of its responses.^[217] In January 2023, the [International Conference on Machine Learning](#) banned any undocumented use of ChatGPT or other large language models to generate any text in submitted papers.^[218]

Computer security

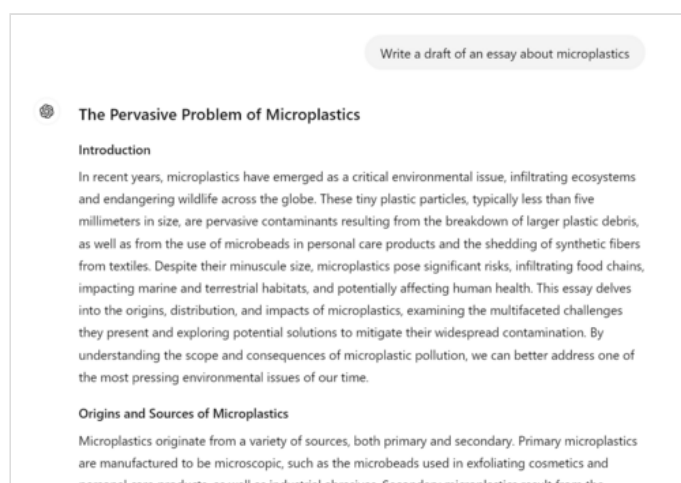
Check Point Research and others noted that ChatGPT could write phishing emails and malware, especially when combined with [OpenAI Codex](#). CyberArk researchers demonstrated that ChatGPT could be used to create polymorphic malware that could evade security products while requiring little effort by the attacker.^{[219][220]} From the launch of ChatGPT in the fourth quarter of 2022 to the fourth quarter of 2023, there was a 1,265% increase in malicious phishing emails and a 967% increase in credential phishing. In an industry survey, cybersecurity professionals argued that it was attributable to cybercriminals' increased use of generative artificial intelligence (including ChatGPT).^[221]

In July 2024, [Futurism](#) reported that GPT-4o in ChatGPT would sometimes link "scam news sites that deluge the user with fake software updates and virus warnings"; these pop-ups can be used to coerce users into downloading malware or potentially unwanted programs.^[222]

The chatbot technology can improve security by cyber defense automation, threat intelligence, attack identification, and reporting.^[104]

Education

ChatGPT's adoption in education was rapid, but it was initially banned by several institutions. The potential benefits include enhancing personalized learning, improving student productivity, assisting with brainstorming, summarization, and supporting language literacy skills. Students have generally reported positive perceptions, but specific views from educators and students vary widely. Opinions are especially varied on what constitutes appropriate use of ChatGPT in education. Efforts to ban chatbots like ChatGPT in schools focus on preventing cheating, but enforcement faces challenges due to AI detection inaccuracies and widespread accessibility of chatbot technology. In response, many educators are now exploring ways to thoughtfully integrate generative AI into assessments.



Output from ChatGPT generating an essay draft

Culture

During the first three months after ChatGPT became available to the public, hundreds of books appeared on [Amazon](#) that listed it as author or co-author and featured illustrations made by other AI models such as [Midjourney](#).^{[223][224]} Irene Solaiman said she was worried about increased [Anglocentrism](#).^[225]

Between March and April 2023, [Il Foglio](#) published one ChatGPT-generated article a day on its website, hosting a special contest for its readers in the process.^[226]

In June 2023, hundreds of people attended a "ChatGPT-powered church service" at St. Paul's Church in Fürth, Germany. Theologian and philosopher Jonas Simmerlein, who presided, said that it was "about 98 percent from the machine".^{[227][228]} The ChatGPT-generated avatar told the people, "Dear friends, it is an honor for me to stand here and preach to you as the first artificial intelligence at this year's convention of Protestants in Germany". Reactions to the ceremony were mixed.^[229]



Books about ChatGPT in an Osaka bookstore

The Last Screenwriter, a 2024 film created and directed by Peter Luisi, was written using ChatGPT, and was marketed as "the first film written entirely by AI".^[230]

The Guardian questioned whether any content found on the Internet after ChatGPT's release "can be truly trusted" and called for government regulation.^[231]

Financial markets

Many companies adopted ChatGPT and similar chatbot technologies into their product offers. These changes yielded significant increases in company valuations.^{[232][233][234]} Reuters attributed this surge to ChatGPT's role in turning AI into Wall Street's buzzword.^[234] Due to a "ChatGPT effect", retail investors drove up prices of AI-related cryptocurrency assets despite the broader cryptocurrency market being in a bear market, and diminished institutional investor interest.^{[235][236]}

An experiment by finder.com conducted from March to April 2023 revealed that ChatGPT could outperform popular fund managers by picking stocks based on criteria such as growth history and debt levels, resulting in a 4.9% increase in a hypothetical account of 38 stocks, outperforming 10 benchmarked investment funds with an average loss of 0.8%.^[237] Despite decades of using AI, Wall Street professionals report that consistently beating the market with AI, including recent large language models, is challenging due to limited and noisy financial data.^[238]

Medicine

The uses and potential of ChatGPT in health care has been the topic of scientific publications and experts have shared many opinions. *MedPage Today* noted in January 2023 that "researchers have published several papers now touting these AI programs as useful tools in medical education, research, and even clinical decision making."^[239] Another publication predicted that clinicians will use generative AI more in the future, but did not expect to see AI replacing clinicians.^[240] The chatbot can assist patients seeking clarification about their health.^[241] It can also pass exams for medical licensing, for example the United States Medical Licensing Examination and the Specialty Certificate Examination in Dermatology. ChatGPT can be used to assist professionals with diagnosis and staying up to date with clinical guidelines.^[242] ChatGPT can produce correct answers to medical exam and licensing questions, for example the United States Medical Licensing Examination and the Specialty Certificate Examination in Dermatology.^[242]

ChatGPT shows inconsistent responses, lack of specificity, lack of control over patient data, and a limited ability to take additional context (such as regional variations) into consideration.^{[243][244]} The hallucinations characteristic of LLMs pose particular danger in medical contexts.^[243]

ChatGPT can be used to summarize medical journal articles for researchers. In medical education, it can attempt to explain complex concepts, generating case scenarios, and be used by students who are preparing for licensing examinations.^[243] According to a 2024 study in the *International Journal of Surgery*, concerns include "research fraud, lack of originality, ethics, copyright, legal difficulties, hallucination".^[243] ChatGPT's ability to come up with false or faulty citations was highly criticized.^{[243][245]}

Law

In January 2023, Massachusetts State Senator Barry Finegold and State Representative Josh S. Cutler proposed a bill partially written by ChatGPT, "An Act drafted with the help of ChatGPT to regulate generative artificial intelligence models like ChatGPT",^{[246][247][248]} which would require companies to disclose their algorithms and data collection practices to the office of the State Attorney General, arrange regular risk assessments, and contribute to the prevention of plagiarism.^{[247][248][249]} The bill was subsequently removed from the docket without coming to vote.^[250]

On April 11, 2023, a session court judge in Pakistan used ChatGPT to decide the bail of a 13-year-old accused in a matter. The court quoted the use of ChatGPT assistance in its verdict:

Can a juvenile suspect in Pakistan, who is 13 years old, be granted bail after arrest?

The AI language model replied:

Under the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018, according to section 12, the court can grant bail on certain conditions. However, it is up to the court to decide whether or not a 13-year-old suspect will be granted bail after arrest.

The judge asked ChatGPT other questions about the case and formulated his final decision in light of its answers.^{[251][252]}

In *Mata v. Avianca, Inc.*, a personal injury lawsuit filed in May 2023, the plaintiff's attorneys used ChatGPT to generate a legal motion.^{[253][254]} The attorneys were sanctioned for filing the motion and presenting the fictitious legal decisions ChatGPT generated as authentic.^[255]

In July 2024, the American Bar Association issued its first formal ethics opinion on attorneys using generative AI. It guides attorneys to make their own decisions regarding AI usage and its impacts on their competence, client privacy, and fee structures. Lawyers should consider disclosing AI usage to their clients and acknowledge a rapidly shifting set of AI capabilities.^[256]

In October 2023, the council of Porto Alegre, Brazil, unanimously approved a local ordinance proposed by councilman Ramiro Rosário that would exempt residents from needing to pay for the replacement of stolen water consumption meters; the bill went into effect on November 23. On November 29, Rosário revealed that the bill had been entirely written by ChatGPT, and that he had presented it to the rest of the

council without making any changes or disclosing the chatbot's involvement.^{[249][257][258]} The city's council president, Hamilton Sossmeier, initially criticized Rosário's initiative, saying it could represent "a dangerous precedent",^{[258][259]} but later said he "changed his mind": "unfortunately or fortunately, this is going to be a trend."^{[249][257]}

In December 2023, a self-representing litigant in a tax case before the First-tier Tribunal in the United Kingdom cited a series of hallucinated cases purporting to support her argument that she had a reasonable excuse for not paying capital gains tax owed on the sale of property.^{[260][261]} The judge warned that the submission of nonexistent legal authorities meant that both the Tribunal and HM Revenue and Customs had "to waste time and public money", which "reduces the resources available to progress the cases of other court users who are waiting for their appeals to be determined".^[262]

Judge Kevin Newsom of the US court of appeals of the 11th circuit endorsed the use of ChatGPT and noted that he himself uses the software to help decide rulings on contract interpretation issues.^{[263][264]}

See also

- Artificial general intelligence – Type of AI with wide-ranging abilities
- Ethics of artificial intelligence – Challenges related to the responsible development and use of AI
- Intelligent agent – Software agent which acts autonomously
- List of large language models

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External links

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