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# OpenMemory: The Open-Source Brain That Lets AI Remember

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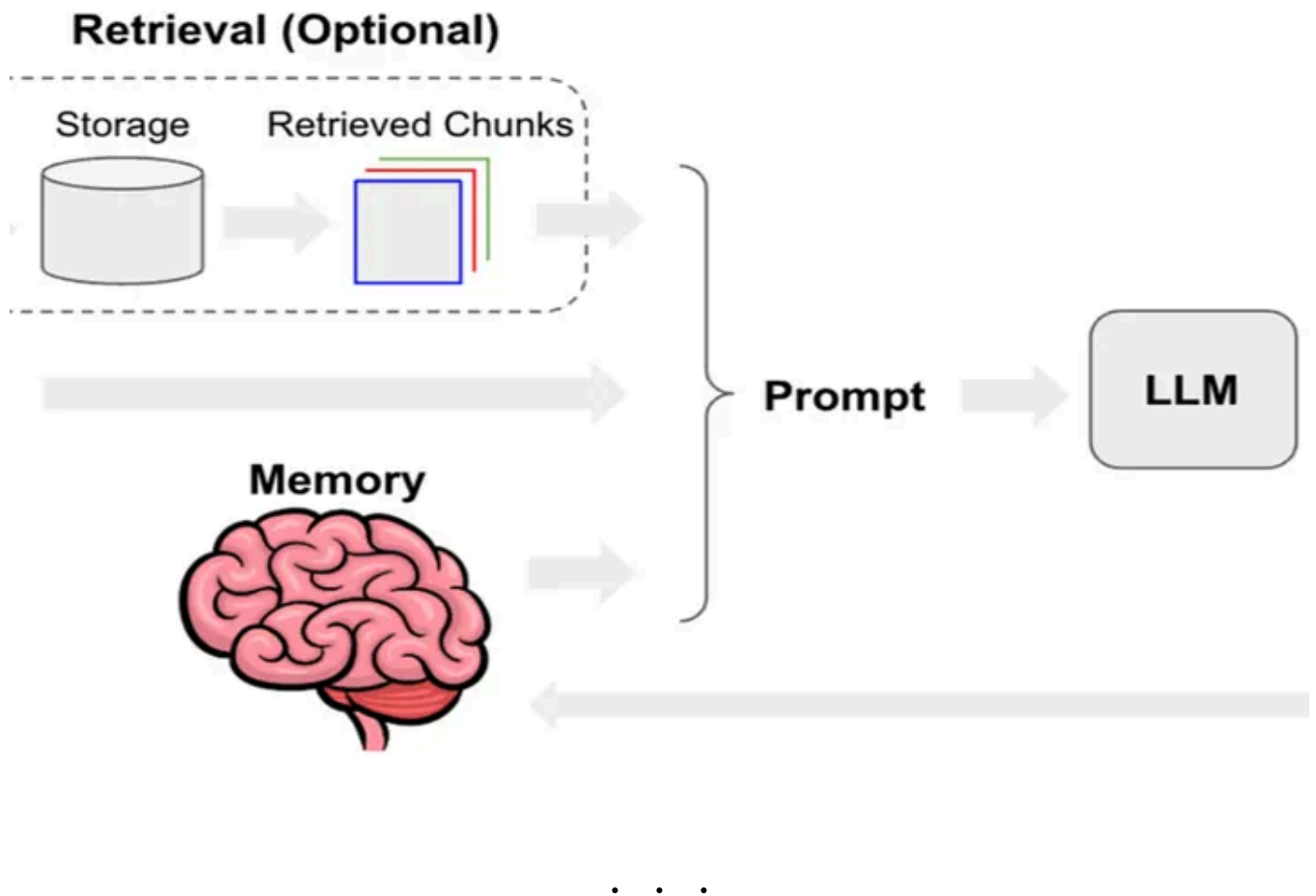
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Most AI “assistants” forget everything the moment you close the chat. They don’t remember your name, your preferences, or that one thing you told them yesterday.

That’s why I find **OpenMemory** quite interesting. It’s open-source, runs locally, and provides AI systems *with real memory* — similar to a brain for your chatbot or copilot.



## What Exactly Is OpenMemory?

Think of it like your AI's notepad — but smarter. It doesn't just store random sentences; it actually *understands* what you said and organises it by meaning.

For example, if you tell your bot:

---

"I like working in dark mode."

---

That's not just a string of text — OpenMemory stores it as a *semantic memory* so the AI can recall it later when relevant.

It's built to remember things long-term — securely and privately — without depending on third-party services.

. . .

## How It Works

Behind the scenes, OpenMemory uses a method called **Hierarchical Memory Decomposition**.

Don't worry, that's just a fancy way of saying it sorts information into categories, similar to how humans think.

| Memory Type | What It Stores | Example                                   |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| Episodic    | Events         | "User logged in at 9 AM."                 |
| Semantic    | Facts          | "User prefers dark mode."                 |
| Procedural  | Actions        | "Send reminder every morning."            |
| Emotional   | Feelings       | "User seemed frustrated."                 |
| Reflective  | Insights       | "User is more productive in the morning." |

So your AI isn't just searching through a huge list of notes — it's recalling information from the *appropriate type* of memory, making it quicker and more precise.

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### Why It's Different From the Rest

There are many "memory layers" available, but most are cloud-based and expensive. OpenMemory, by contrast, is open-source, runs locally, and provides you with full control over your data.

Here's the gist:

| Feature                  | OpenMemory | Typical SaaS Memory |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Open-source              | Yes        | No                  |
| Self-hosted              | Yes        | No                  |
| Fast recall (100k nodes) | ~120 ms    | ~350 ms             |
| Explainable memory links | Yes        | No                  |
| Cost (per 1M tokens)     | ~\$0.40    | ~\$3.00+            |
| Data ownership           | 100% yours | Vendor controlled   |

So not only is it faster and cheaper, but you're not sending private info to someone else's server.

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## Setting It Up

You can get OpenMemory running in a few minutes.

```
git clone https://github.com/caviraoss/openmemory.git
cd openmemory/backend
cp .env.example .env
npm install
npm run dev
```

It'll start a local API at

<http://localhost:8080>

Want to go production-grade? Just set it up with Docker:

```
docker compose up --build -d
```

That's all. No complicated cloud setup.

. . .

## Let's Try It

Once it's running, you can add and recall memories using a few curl commands.

Add a memory:

```
curl -X POST http://localhost:8080/memory/add \
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \
-d '{"content": "User prefers dark mode"}'
```

Query what the AI remembers:

```
curl -X POST http://localhost:8080/memory/query \  
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \  
-d '{"query": "What color theme does the user like?"}'
```

And it'll respond with:

```
[  
  { "content": "User prefers dark mode", "score": 0.93 }  
]
```

It's that straightforward.

• • •

## Works With LangGraph Too

If you're using LangGraph to create agentic workflows, OpenMemory integrates seamlessly.

You toggle several environment variables such as:

```
OM_MODE=langgraph  
OM_LG_NAMESPACE=default  
OM_LG_REFLECTIVE=true
```

Now each node (observe, plan, act, reflect) automatically links to its own “memory sector.”

That means your agent can *learn from its own thoughts* — bringing it closer to true intelligence.

• • •

## What About Cost?

Here’s what surprised me the most — you can run a reliable AI memory system for under \$10 a month on a VPS.

| Metric                | OpenMemory | SaaS Memory |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| Latency               | ~120 ms    | ~350 ms     |
| Storage (1M memories) | ~\$3/month | ~\$60+      |
| Monthly total         | ~\$5-8     | ~\$60-120   |

Pretty good deal, right?

. . .

### Privacy Comes First

Everything remains local.  
You can encrypt data, isolate users, and wipe it clean anytime you want. No vendor lock-in, no “trust us” data policies.

. . .

### My Take

OpenMemory feels like a small but important step toward *genuine* agentic AI. It provides models with something they have always lacked—lasting **memory**.  
  
If you’re exploring copilots, journaling bots, or AI agents, give it a try.  
You might finally have a system that recalls what you told it yesterday.

[GitHub: caviraoss/openmemory](#)



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
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