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The Self-Hosted Alternative to Google Notebook LM Is Here.

Google Is Reading Your Notes. Here's the 2-Minute Fix to Take Back Your Privacy.

3 min read · 1 day ago



Bytefer

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As artificial intelligence has become fundamental infrastructure, must we entrust our most valuable thinking and research data entirely to a single cloud service provider? When a useful tool, such as Google Notebook LM, locks us into its ecosystem, do we truly have alternatives?

The developer, Luis Novo, answers with a resounding **no**. He firmly believes that the capacity to acquire new knowledge and engage in critical thinking should neither be a privilege reserved for a few nor be restricted by any single vendor.

Guided by this conviction, he developed **Open Notebook** — a private, multi-model, fully local, and fully functional open-source alternative to Notebook LM.

The screenshot shows the Open Notebook application interface. On the left is a sidebar with various icons for navigation. The main area is divided into three columns:

- Sources:** Contains two items:
 - [The AlphaGO Moment for AI Models....](#) (with a link icon and 2 insights)
 - [Superintelligence is Near! Three Innovations that prove it! \(I think Fast Takeoff just started!!\)](#) (with a link icon and 2 insights)
- Notes:** Contains four AI-generated notes:
 - AI's Paradigm Shift: Accelerating Towards Superintelligence. (6 days ago)
 - AI Innovation: Breaking the Human Barrier with Autonomous Discovery (6 days ago)
 - **Self-Improving AI: Autonomous Discovery Fuels Exponential Growth** (6 days ago)
 - Artificial Cognitive Primitives: Accelerating the Path to Superintelligence (6 days ago)
- Chat with Notebook:** A text-based conversation:
 - Experimental throughput is much lower for humans
 - Humans take hours/days to design, code, debug and interpret experiments that an automated loop can run thousands or millions of times by combinatorially searching architectures and running self-play or synthetic evaluation.
 - AlphaGo's learning by millions of self-play games is a canonical example of how removing humans from the loop gave enormous scaling advantages;
 - ASI-Arch applies that idea to architecture search [[source:baf03xvr5bs1us2q1wb6](#)].
 - With humans in the loop, promising lines can be abandoned due to simple implementation errors or because the cost of debugging is too high. Automated "Engineer" components can self-heal code and keep promising experiments alive [[source:baf03xvr5bs1us2q1wb6](#)].
 - Memory, systematic learning and meta-learning at scale
 - Automated analyst components can

Breaking Free from the “Data Tax” and Model Lock-In

Many developers experience a sense of unease when using cloud-based AI services. Is my sensitive research data truly secure? If I want to switch to a more affordable or more powerful model, is that even possible? Can I integrate it into my own workflows via API if needed?

When it comes to Google Notebook LM, the answers to these questions are mostly negative. Open Notebook’s design philosophy, however, directly addresses these pain points:

Open Notebook vs Google Notebook LM

In short, Open Notebook puts you back in control. You can deploy it anywhere to ensure complete privacy for your research materials, freely choose the most cost-effective AI models — even running them locally via Ollama at zero cost — and seamlessly integrate it anywhere you want through its API.

Quick Start

Open Notebook offers an incredibly simple Docker deployment — you can have your own private knowledge base running in just two minutes.

Navigate to a new `open-notebook` directory and execute the following command:

```
# Create a new directory for your Open Notebook installation
mkdir open-notebook
cd open-notebook

# Using Docker - Get started in 2 minutes
docker run -d \
--name open-notebook \
```

```
-p 8502:8502 -p 5055:5055 \
-v ./notebook_data:/app/data \
-v ./surreal_data:/mydata \
-e OPENAI_API_KEY=your_key \
lfnovo/open_notebook:v1-latest-single
```

After executing the command, two new folders will be created locally to store your notes and database files respectively. Your data will be persistently saved here, remaining entirely under your control.

Now, open your browser and navigate to:

- Main Interface: <http://localhost:8502>
- API Access: <http://localhost:5055>
- API Documentation: <http://localhost:5055/docs>

A fully functional private AI knowledge base is now ready for you.

More Than Notes — A Powerful Research Tool

Open Notebook's capabilities extend far beyond basic functionality:

- **Multimodal Content Support:** It can process PDFs, videos, audio files, and webpages — just feed them in.
- **Intelligent Search:** Performs full-text and vector search across all your content.
- **Context-Aware Chat:** Enables AI-powered conversations based on your research materials.
- **Professional Podcast Generation:** Features advanced multi-speaker podcast creation with full control over scripts and host configurations.
- **Powerful Content Transformation:** Customizable automated actions for summarization and insight extraction.

Summary

Open Notebook is a rapidly evolving open-source project with a clear and exciting roadmap. Amid the current wave of AI advancements, it offers a valuable alternative: a truly developer-owned tool for thinking and research that provides complete control and limitless extensibility.

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Written by Bytefer

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Focus on AI Agent and AI Automation. <https://batchtool.com/>

Responses (2)



Bgerby

What are your thoughts?



Robert Klugseder

1 day ago (edited)



Works perfectly. I defined also a Claude Code Skill. Now CC can use the notebooks directly via API. Super knowledge base for CC.



1 reply

[Reply](#)



Ernest Tan

1 day ago



cool! i just installed it yesterday, it works great



1 reply

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