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Daily brief · 2026-01-17

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Last 7 daily reports

3 deep-dives you should really read

Kilo launches AI-powered Slack bot that ships code from a chat message

VentureBeat – AI · Topic: **AI/Cloud/Quantum**

- **What it is:** Kilo for Slack is an AI-powered bot developed by Kilo Code, enabling software engineering teams to manage code changes directly within Slack conversations.
- **Who:** Kilo Code, an open-source AI coding startup backed by GitLab's co-founder, developed this Slack bot for software engineering teams.
- **What it does:** The bot integrates AI capabilities directly into Slack, allowing developers to execute code changes, debug issues, and push pull requests seamlessly from chat conversations.
- **Why it matters:** This solution significantly streamlines developer workflows by eliminating context switching between applications, leveraging conversational context for efficient, direct code modifications.
- **Strategic view:** This approach demonstrates a shift towards embedding AI directly into existing enterprise collaboration platforms, signaling a strategic focus on workflow integration and open model adoption over siloed tools.

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Listen Labs raises \$69M after viral billboard hiring stunt to scale AI customer interviews

VentureBeat – AI · Topic: **AI/Cloud/Quantum**

- **What it is:** Listen Labs is an AI-powered platform revolutionizing market research by scaling in-depth customer interviews and insights delivery in hours, replacing slow traditional methods.
- **Who:** Listen Labs, an AI customer interview platform, raised \$69 million in Series B funding, valuing the company at \$500 million, after a viral hiring stunt.
- **What it does:** Its AI researcher recruits participants, conducts open-ended video interviews with follow-up questions, and delivers executive-ready reports with actionable insights quickly, while combating research fraud.
- **Why it matters:** This innovation dramatically accelerates customer insight generation from weeks to hours, enabling faster product development and marketing decisions by overcoming scalability and honesty issues of traditional surveys and interviews.
- **Strategic view:** TMT companies can leverage AI-driven customer insights for rapid, fraud-resistant product innovation and hyper-personalized strategies, gaining a significant competitive edge in fast-evolving markets.

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How Google's 'internal RL' could unlock long-horizon AI agents

VentureBeat – AI · Topic: **AI/Cloud/Quantum**

- **What it is:** Google's internal reinforcement learning (internal RL) is a novel AI technique that steers a large language model's internal activations to develop high-level, step-by-step solutions for complex reasoning tasks, unlike traditional token-by-token prediction.
- **Who:** Researchers at Google developed internal reinforcement learning, a technique aimed at improving AI models' ability to handle complex reasoning and long-horizon tasks.
- **What it does:** It uses an internal neural network metacontroller to modify the model's hidden layers, enabling exploration of abstract actions and robust problem-solving without explicit token-level output guidance.
- **Why it matters:** This approach overcomes limitations of next-token prediction, drastically improving AI agents' ability to learn complex, multi-step tasks with sparse rewards and reducing hallucinations efficiently.
- **Strategic view:** For TMT, internal RL promises scalable, truly autonomous AI agents capable of complex reasoning and real-world robotics, reducing operational costs and accelerating multimodal AI applications without constant human intervention.

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CEO POV · AI & Space Economy

No CEO statements collected for today.

Patent watch · Compute / Video / Data / Cloud

No relevant patent publications detected for today (EPO / USPTO).

Curated watchlist · 3-5 links per topic

TV / Streaming

No notable articles for this topic today.

Telco / 5G

No notable articles for this topic today.

Media / Platforms

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AI / Cloud / Quantum

- [Black Forest Labs launches open source Flux.2 \[klein\] to generate AI images in less than a second](#) (VentureBeat – AI) ☐ Add to Weekly
- [The Download: cut through AI coding hype, and biotech trends to watch](#) (MIT Technology Review – Tech) ☐ Add to Weekly
- [Thinking Machines Cofounder’s Office Relationship Preceded His Termination](#) (Wired – Business) ☐ Add to Weekly
- [Rackspace customers grapple with “devastating” email hosting price hike](#) (Ars Technica – AI) ☐ Add to Weekly
- [Ads Are Coming to ChatGPT. Here’s How They’ll Work](#) (Wired – Business) ☐ Add to Weekly

Space / Infrastructure

- [Earth from Space: The fate of a giant](#) (ESA – European Space Agency) ☐ Add to Weekly

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