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Daily brief · 2025-12-20

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Last 7 daily reports

3 deep-dives you should really read

Google releases FunctionGemma: a tiny edge model that can control mobile devices with natural language

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

- **What it is:** FunctionGemma is a specialized 270-million parameter AI model from Google designed to translate natural language user commands into executable code directly on devices.
- **Who:** Google's DeepMind and AI Developers team released FunctionGemma, making it available for AI engineers and enterprise builders on platforms like Hugging Face and Kaggle.
- **What it does:** It translates natural language into structured code for reliable, on-device execution, acting as a privacy-first 'traffic controller' for complex logic with minimal latency and reduced cloud costs.
- **Why it matters:** This model matters by enabling private, low-latency, and cost-efficient AI applications directly on edge devices, strategically pivoting from large cloud LLMs to smaller, specialized local models for reliable enterprise functions.
- **Strategic view:** This launch signals Google's bet on distributed, hybrid AI architectures where intelligent edge models reduce cloud dependency, enhance data privacy, and optimize operational costs for on-device applications.

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Even Google and Replit struggle to deploy AI agents reliably — here's why

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

- **What it is:** Google Cloud and Replit reveal that AI agent deployment is currently unreliable and challenging for enterprises, facing significant technical and operational hurdles.
- **Who:** Leaders from Google Cloud and Replit, prominent partners in AI agent development, openly acknowledge the current immaturity and deployment struggles.
- **What it does:** AI agents are intended to automate complex workflows and tasks within enterprises, operating autonomously or semi-autonomously by accessing diverse data and systems.
- **Why it matters:** This unreliability prevents enterprises from successfully deploying AI agents beyond "toy examples," delaying widespread automation and digital transformation efforts.
- **Strategic view:** C-level executives must prioritize fundamental shifts in data architecture, security models, governance, and organizational culture to prepare for gradual, supervised AI agent integration.

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The Download: China's dying EV batteries, and why AI doomers are doubling down

MIT Technology Review – Tech · Topic: **AI/Cloud/Quantum**

- **What it is:** China's unprecedented electric vehicle boom from the past decade is now creating a looming environmental crisis due to the imminent end-of-life of millions of EV batteries.
- **Who:** The Chinese government and its rapidly expanding electric vehicle manufacturers are primarily responsible for addressing the escalating challenge of managing this significant battery waste.
- **What it does:** This situation underscores the critical necessity for comprehensive lifecycle planning and robust recycling infrastructure within fast-growing technology sectors to prevent future ecological burden.
- **Why it matters:** It reveals a systemic oversight in scaling new technologies without parallel development of sustainable end-of-life solutions, creating significant long-term environmental and resource management challenges.
- **Strategic view:** TMT executives must proactively integrate circular economy principles and robust supply chain sustainability into emerging technology strategies to mitigate future waste and resource risks.

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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
No notable articles for this topic today.

AI / Cloud / Quantum
- WIRED Roundup: The 5 Tech and Politics Trends That Shaped 2025 (Wired – Business) ☐ Add to Weekly
- 6 Scary Predictions for AI in 2026 (Wired – Business) ☐ Add to Weekly
- Introducing a New Chapter for 'Uncanny Valley' (Wired – Business) ☐ Add to Weekly
- Scammers in China Are Using AI-Generated Images to Get Refunds (Wired – Business) ☐ Add to Weekly
- NASA's Wideband Technology Demo Proves Space Missions are Free to Roam (NASA – Breaking News) ☐ Add to Weekly

Space / Infrastructure
- Galileo: the journey of satellites 33 and 34 (ESA – European Space Agency) ☐ Add to Weekly
- ESA Impact 2025 - October-December (ESA – European Space Agency) ☐ Add to Weekly
- Earth from Space: Manicouagan crater (ESA – European Space Agency) ☐ Add to Weekly
- Post-CM25 industry event online set for 14 January (ESA – European Space Agency) ☐ Add to Weekly

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