Executive Summary

The benchmarking results indicate that **Gemini 2.5 Pro** and **Gemini 2.5 Flash** are the top-performing models across almost all metrics, particularly when paired with the **Brave** search provider. While the **GPT-4 series** (notably GPT-4.1) remains highly competitive in relevance and usefulness, the Gemini models demonstrate superior freshness and coverage scores.

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1. Best Performing Models

The models were evaluated on relevance, freshness, quality, usefulness, and coverage.

- **Overall Performance: Gemini 2.5 Pro:** Achieved a near-perfect overall score of **9.8 to 10.0** in advanced tech search scenarios. It consistently provides the highest depth of information and source coverage.
    - **Gemini 2.5 Flash:** The most efficient high-performer, maintaining a perfect **10.0 overall score** in basic searches while being significantly faster than Pro versions.
- **Strong Alternatives:**
    - **GPT-4.1:** The strongest performer within the OpenAI suite, often reaching an overall score of **9.4 to 9.6**. It is particularly noted for high "usefulness" and "quality" ratings.
    - **GPT-4o Mini:** Offers the best balance of speed and reliability for standard queries, consistently scoring around **8.6**.

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2. Provider Benchmark: Tavily vs. Brave

The choice of search provider significantly impacts the quality of the model's output.

- **Brave (Recommended for Quality):** Models using Brave as a provider consistently reached the highest possible scores (10.0).
    - Brave-powered searches resulted in higher **freshness scores** compared to Tavily, making it superior for fast-moving "tech" breakthrough queries.
- **Tavily (Strong for Research):** Tavily performs exceptionally well in "advanced" depth modes, where it helps models like Gemini 2.5 Pro achieve higher coverage.
    - However, it showed occasional volatility; for instance, Gemini 2.5 Pro's quality dropped significantly in one specific Tavily test case (overall score 0.0), suggesting potential integration edge cases.

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3. Detailed Performance Metrics Analysis

Metric	Leader	Finding
Relevance	Gemini 2.5 Pro / GPT-4.1	Both models consistently hit scores of 10/10.
Freshness	Gemini 2.5 series	Superior ability to capture developments from January 2026.
Search Time	GPT-4o Mini / Gemini Flash	Consistently lower search latency (~0.3s - 0.6s).
Coverage	Gemini 2.5 Pro	Best at synthesizing information from a wide variety of URLs.

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4. Recommendations

1. **For Maximum Accuracy & Research Depth:** Use **Gemini 2.5 Pro** with the **Brave** provider. This configuration maximizes freshness and source coverage.
2. **For Speed & Efficiency:** Use **Gemini 2.5 Flash** or **GPT-4o Mini**. These models provide professional-grade results (Scores >8.5) with minimal latency.
3. **For General Usefulness: GPT-4.1** is the most reliable model if your primary goal is high-quality, actionable summaries.

5. Final Strategic Recommendations

To ensure long-term stability and peak performance, the following roadmap is recommended:

- **Phase-out OpenAI Series**: Given that the GPT-4 series is retiring in February 2026, standardizing on the Gemini ecosystem is recommended to avoid service interruptions.
- **Standardize on Gemini 2.5 Suite**: Proceed with **Gemini 2.5 Pro** and **Flash** as the primary models.
- **Implementation of Dynamic Model Routing**: Use an "Auto-Choosing" model logic based on the specific situation:
    - **Gemini 2.5 Flash** for high-speed, standard queries where latency is critical.
    - **Gemini 2.5 Pro** for complex, advanced searches requiring maximum research depth and coverage.
- **Provider Optimization**: Utilize the **Brave** provider for all time-sensitive tech queries to maximize freshness and accuracy.