

AI Agents vs Agentic AI: What's the Difference and Why Does It Matter?



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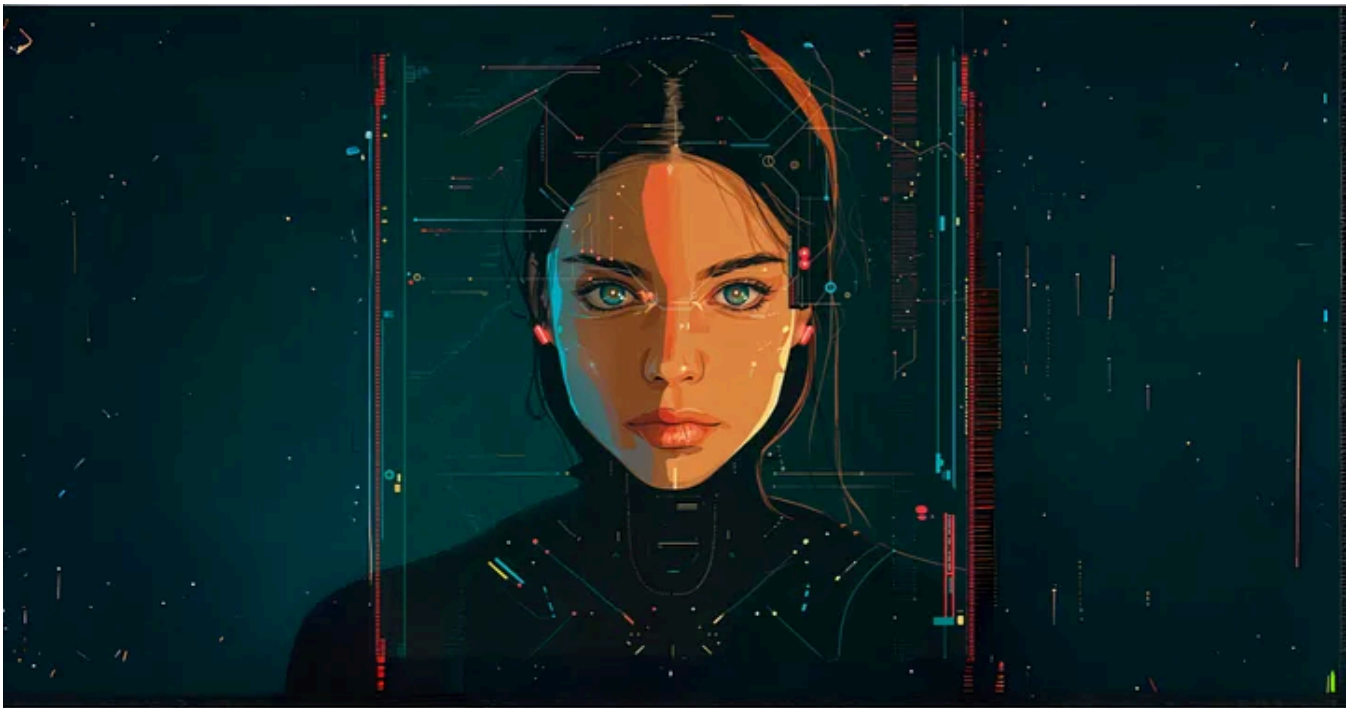


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If you've been keeping an eye on artificial intelligence (AI) lately, you've probably heard the terms AI Agents and Agentic AI thrown around. While they might sound like fancy tech jargon, they're actually referring to two different types of AI that are both making a big impact on our world. But what exactly are they, and how are they different from each other? And more importantly, why should we care?

Let's break it down in simple terms and explore the differences, real-world applications, and future of both AI Agents and Agentic AI.

What Are AI Agents and Agentic AI?

Before we dive into the details, let's start with the basics.

What is Agentic AI?

At its core, Agentic AI is a type of AI that's all about autonomy. This means that it can make decisions, take actions, and even learn on its own to achieve specific goals. It's kind of like having a virtual assistant that can think, reason, and adapt to changing circumstances without needing constant direction. **Agentic AI operates in four key stages:**

1. **Perception:** It gathers data from the world around it.
2. **Reasoning:** It processes this data to understand what's going on.
3. **Action:** It decides what to do based on its understanding.
4. **Learning:** It improves and adapts over time, learning from feedback and experience.



This makes Agentic AI highly autonomous and able to handle complex tasks that require reasoning, problem-solving, and adapting to new situations.

What is an AI Agent?

On the other hand, AI Agents are typically built to do specific tasks. They're designed to help you with something — like answering questions, organizing your calendar, or even managing your email inbox. AI Agents are great at automating simple, repetitive tasks but don't have the autonomy or decision-making abilities that Agentic AI does. Think of them as virtual helpers that do exactly what you tell them to do, without thinking for themselves.

Choose the appropriate AI type for your needs



AI Agents

Automate simple tasks



Agentic AI

Make autonomous decisions

What's the Difference?

Here's where things get interesting. Even though AI Agents and Agentic AI are both powered by artificial intelligence, they operate in very different ways.

Aspect	Agentic AI	AI Agent
Autonomy Level	Highly autonomous, can act independently	Limited autonomy, needs human input
Goal-Orientation	Goal-driven, solves problems on its own	Task-specific, follows set instructions
Learning Capabilities	Continuously learns and improves	May not learn or only learns within set rules
Complexity	Handles complex, dynamic environments	Handles simpler, more structured tasks
Decision-Making Process	Makes decisions based on reasoning and analysis	Pre-programmed responses to inputs
Interaction with Environment	Actively adapts to surroundings and changes	Reacts to set inputs but doesn't adapt
Responsiveness to Change	Changes its goals and methods autonomously	Limited ability to adapt to new situations

Where Do We See These in the Real World?

Both Agentic AI and AI Agents have started popping up in various industries, and their applications are growing fast.

Agentic AI in Action

1. **Self-Driving Cars:** One of the most exciting uses of Agentic AI is in autonomous vehicles. These AI systems perceive their surroundings, make driving decisions, and learn from every trip. Over time, they get better at navigating and handling new challenges on the road. For example, **Tesla's Full Self-Driving system** is an example of Agentic AI that continuously learns from the driving environment and adjusts its behavior to improve safety and efficiency.
2. **Supply Chain Management:** Agentic AI is also helping companies optimize their supply chains. By autonomously managing inventory, predicting demand, and adjusting delivery routes in real-time, AI can ensure smoother, more efficient operations. **Amazon's Warehouse Robots**, powered by AI, are an example — these robots navigate complex environments, adapt to different conditions, and autonomously move goods around warehouses.
3. **Cybersecurity:** In the world of cybersecurity, Agentic AI can detect threats and vulnerabilities by analyzing network activity and automatically responding to potential breaches. **Darktrace, an AI cybersecurity company**, uses Agentic AI to autonomously detect, respond to, and learn from potential cyber threats in real-time.
4. **Healthcare:** AI is playing a big role in healthcare, too. Agentic AI can assist with diagnostics, treatment recommendations, and patient care management. It analyzes medical data, identifies patterns, and helps doctors make more informed decisions. For instance, **IBM's Watson Health** uses AI to analyze massive amounts of healthcare data, learning from new information to offer insights that help doctors and healthcare professionals.

AI Agents in Action

1. **Customer Support:** One of the most common uses of AI Agents is in customer service. Chatbots can answer questions, resolve issues, and guide customers through processes — all without needing human intervention. **Zendesk's AI-powered chatbot** helps businesses respond to customer queries quickly and efficiently, acting as an AI Agent that handles common issues and frees up human agents for more complex tasks.

2. **Personal Assistants:** You probably already interact with an AI Agent every day if you use voice assistants like Siri or Google Assistant. They can help you set reminders, check the weather, or play your favorite music — tasks that are useful but don't require much decision-making. These AI Agents rely on predefined commands and are great at handling simple, repetitive tasks.
3. **Email Management:** AI Agents are also great for managing your inbox. They can sort emails, flag important ones, and even provide smart replies to save you time. **Google's Gmail Smart Compose** feature is an excellent example of an AI Agent at work, helping users respond to emails faster by suggesting phrases based on context.
4. **Productivity Tools:** Tools like **GitHub Copilot** are AI Agents that help software developers by suggesting code and helping with debugging. They're like having a second set of eyes that's always there to help. By offering code suggestions in real-time, this AI Agent enhances developer productivity, allowing them to focus on more creative aspects of their work.

👁️ Check out also my [top list of AI Agents set to dominate in 2025](#)

How to Get Started with AI Agents?

*Addepto is a leading **generative AI development company**. We specialize in transforming business operations with the power of generative AI-powered applications and agents. Share your vision, and we'll guide you through the process, from consultation to implementation, ensuring measurable results.*

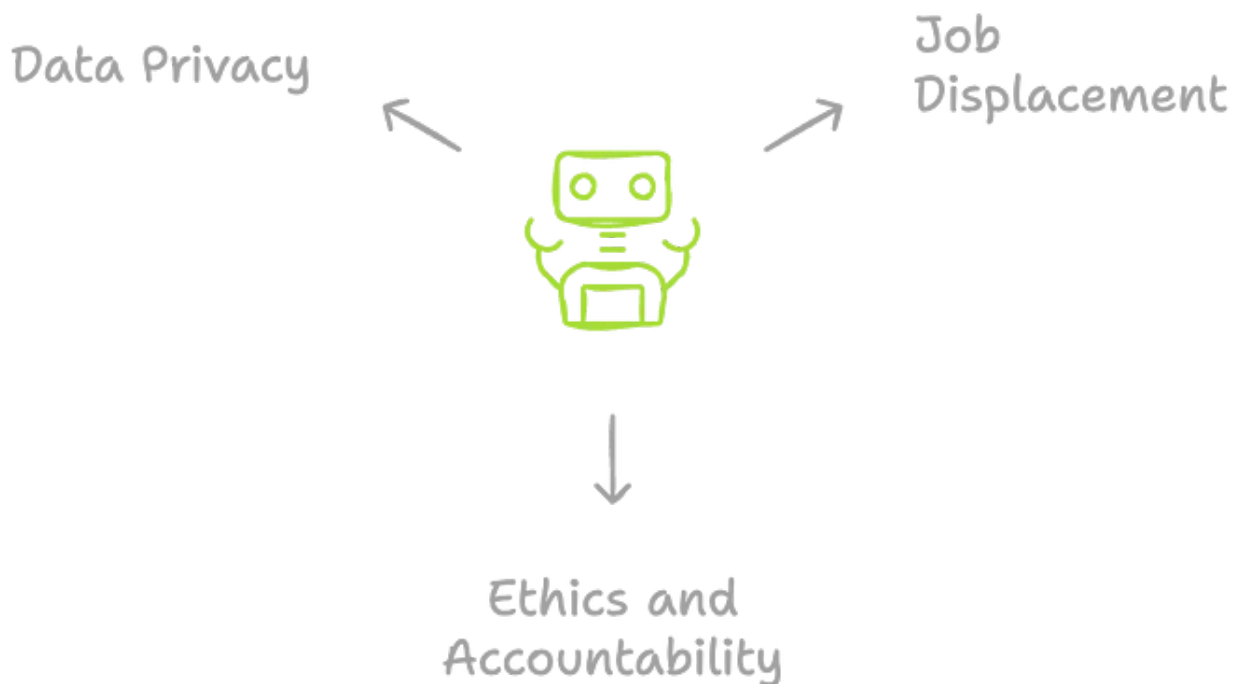
Looking Ahead: What's Next for Agentic AI and AI Agents?

The Benefits

- **Revolutionizing Industries:** Both Agentic AI and AI Agents are transforming industries. Whether it's making self-driving cars a reality or automating customer service, AI is making things more efficient and cost-effective.
- **Better Decision-Making:** Agentic AI has the potential to process huge amounts of data, recognize patterns, and make decisions that are often more accurate than humans can.
- **Personalization:** In industries like finance, AI can provide highly personalized services — adjusting financial advice or investment strategies based on real-time data and predictions.

The Risks and Challenges

AI Risks and Challenges



- **Job Displacement:** As AI takes over more tasks, there's a fear of job loss in sectors like customer service, driving, and even healthcare. But there's also the potential for AI to create new jobs and opportunities.
- **Ethics and Accountability:** As AI systems become more autonomous, questions about accountability arise. If an Agentic AI makes a mistake, who's responsible? And how transparent should these systems be?
- **Data Privacy:** With more AI systems handling sensitive data, privacy concerns are growing. How will companies protect user data, and what safeguards are in place?

As AI continues to develop, the line between AI Agents and Agentic AI might blur even further. The potential for these technologies to complement each other is huge

— imagine an AI Agent that can learn and adapt like Agentic AI, offering even more power to automate tasks and make decisions.

Final Thoughts

Both AI Agents and Agentic AI are changing the world in different ways. While AI Agents are great for automating repetitive tasks and handling specific actions, Agentic AI is pushing the boundaries of what AI can do by making decisions, learning from experiences, and solving complex problems. Both are valuable tools that are shaping the future of technology and the way we live.

Agentic Ai

Ai Agent

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