

Keeping Your Intelligence Local (and Cheap)

by Nicholas Coats



% whoami

Name: Nicholas (Nick) Coats

Career: Sr. Consultant @ Nationwide

Specialties: Cloud Computing, Software Development and Architecture, DevSecOps

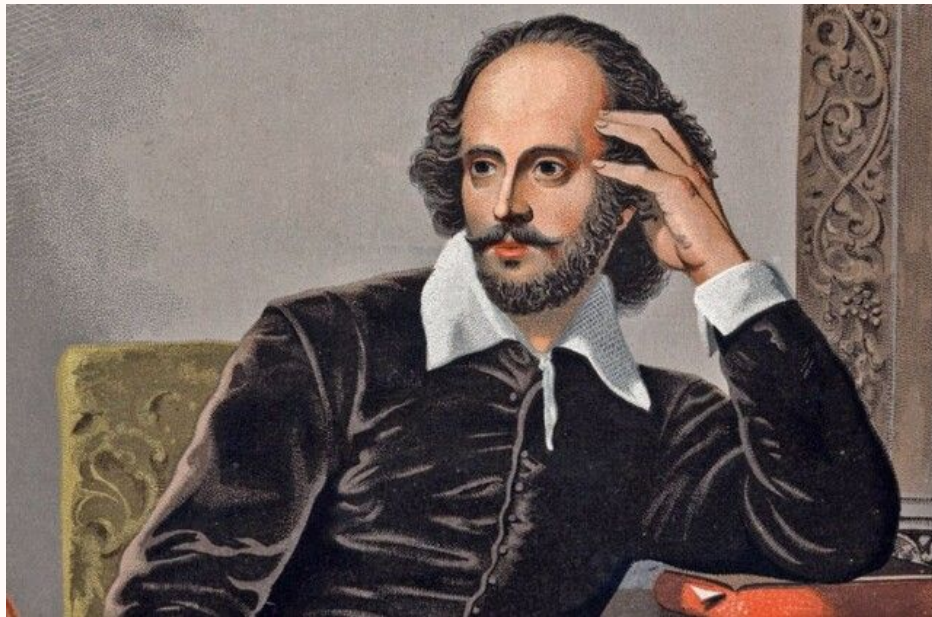
Hobbies: Science Fiction, Non-Fiction Science, Social Gathering, History, Politics, Video Games, AI

Relevant Experience: Not much, honestly



Generative AI

“To be or” \leadsto “not to be”



“Generative AI, a mere dispenser of tokens it
be; ne'er shall it rival the wit and craft of me.”
- Shakesbeer

All Presentation Materials on Github



<https://github.com/coatsnmore/keeping-your-intelligence-local>

A Few Quick Definitions

- Gen AI: Generative Artificial Intelligence
- AGI: Artificial General Intelligence (roughly human)
- ASI: Artificial Super Intelligence (better than human)
- LLM: Large Language Model
- Token: Roughly a “word” but not limited to
- Embeddings: Numerical representations of text
- Context: Information surrounding the token that produces meaning
- Agent: AI system with perception; often characterized by independent action
- CAG: Context-Augmented Generation
- RAG: CAG with remote data
- Modalities: The type of data the model processes (text|vision|audio)
- Quantization: Reducing precision on model weights to create smaller models
- LoRA: Low-rank Adaptation - fine-tuning “low rank” matrices for better performance
- Model weights: matrices of number representing the relationship between tokens
- CoT (Chain of Thought): coercing the LLM to think “step by step”



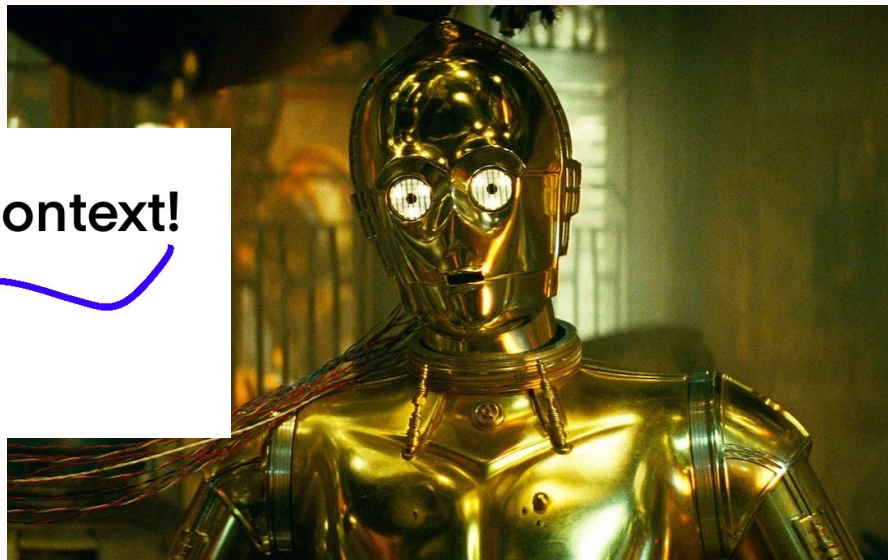
Token

We're **gonna** need a bigger context!

context

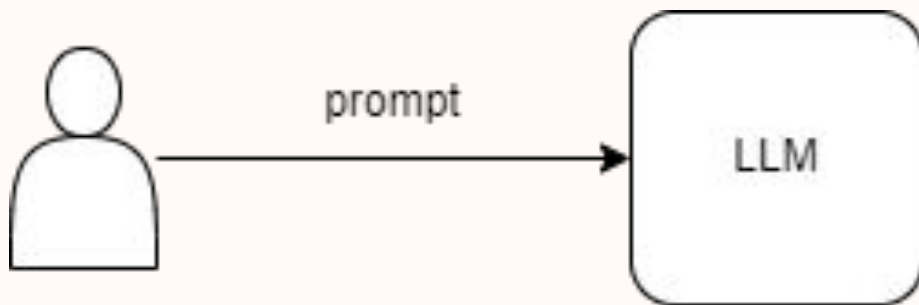
token

context

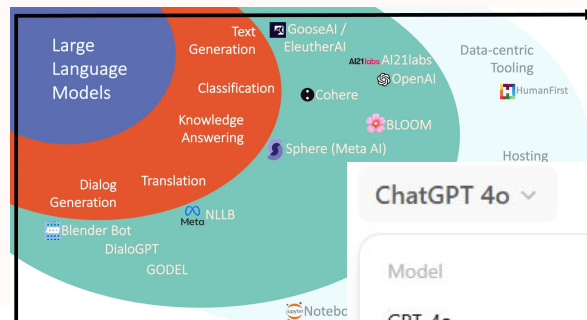


A Basic LLM

- LLM: Large Language Model



Choosing a Model



70b

14 Tags

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Updated 5 weeks ago

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Hugging Face

Search models, datasets, users...

Models Datasets Spaces

Tasks Libraries Datasets Languages Licenses Other

Filter Tasks by name

Multimodal
Audio-Text-to-Text Image-Text-to-Text
Visual Question Answering
Document Question Answering Video-Text-to-Text

Any-to-Any

Computer Vision
Depth Estimation Image Classification
Object Detection Image Segmentation
Text-to-Image Image-to-Text Image-to-Image

Image-to-Video Unconditional Image Generation
Video Classification Text-to-Video
Zero-Shot Image Classification Mask Generation

Zero-Shot Object Detection Text-to-3D
Image-to-3D Image Feature Extraction
Keypoint Detection

Natural Language Processing

Text Classification Token Classification
Table Question Answering Question Answering
Zero-Shot Classification Translation
Summarization Feature Extraction
Text Generation Text2Text Generation

Models 1,275,414 Filter by name

microsoft/phi-4

Text Generation · Updated 3 days ago · 35.9K · 985

hexgrad/kokoro-82M

Text-to-Speech · Updated 5 days ago · 8.1k · 686

meta-llama/llama-3.3-70B-Instruct

Text Generation · Updated 22 days ago · 432k · 1.59k

nvidia/cosmos-1.0-diffusion-7B-Text2World

Updated 1 day ago · 1.35k · 112

cognitivecomputations/boiphi3.0-llama3.1-8B

Updated 6 days ago · 1.35k · 104

deepseek-ai/deepseek-v3-base

Updated 13 days ago · 11.2k · 1.22k

stabilityai/stable-diffusion-3.5-large

Text-to-Image · Updated Oct 22, 2024 · 1.13k · 1.85k

bullewin/deepseek-v3-gguf

Updated 6 days ago · 26.4k · 80

sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L6-v2

Sentence Similarity · Updated Nov 1, 2024 · 68.6M · 2.81k

snowflake/snowflake-llm-72b-hf

ChatGPT 4o

Model

GPT-4o

Great for most tasks

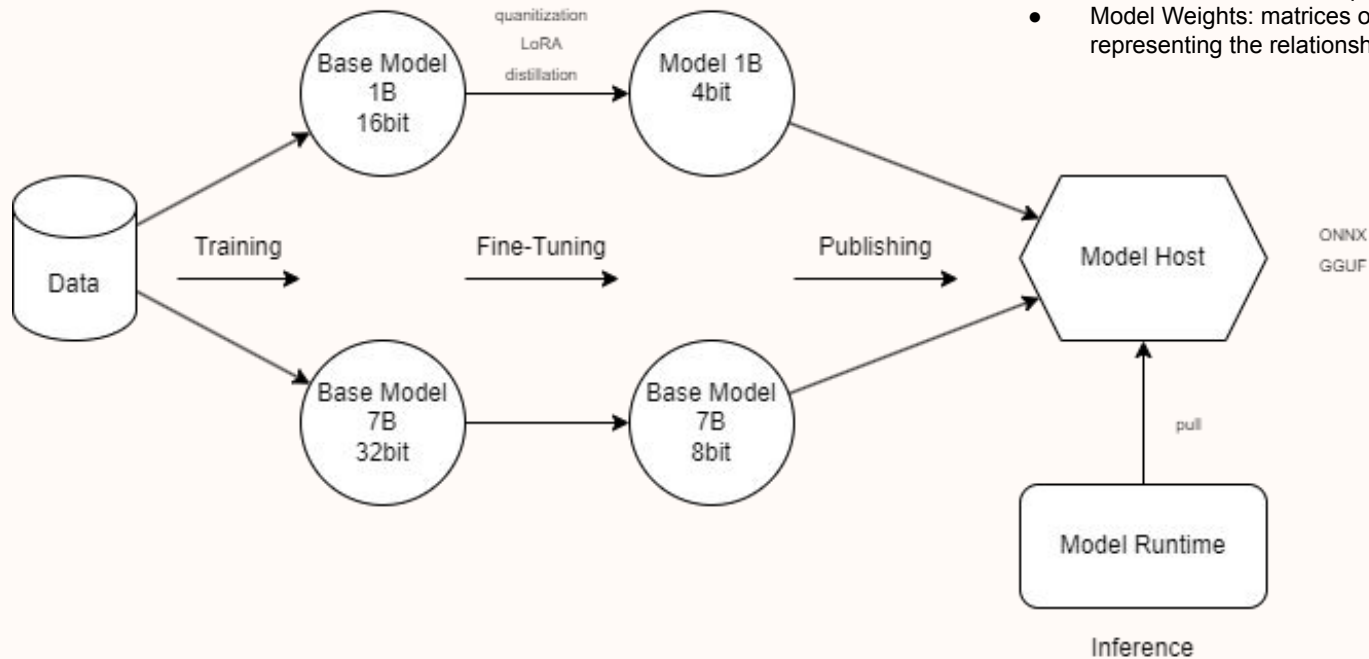
o1

Uses advanced reasoning

o1-mini

Faster at reasoning

Models at a High Level

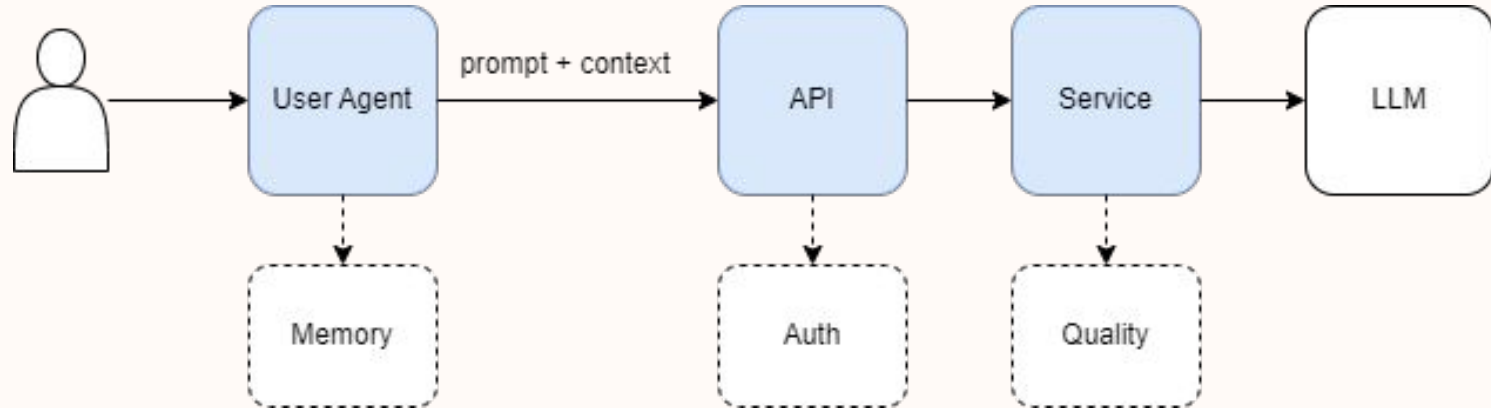


- Modalities: The type of data the model processes (text|vision|audio)
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- Model Weights: matrices of number representing the relationship between tokens

Requirements

	VRAM Requirement	Quantized	Compute	
Model	(Full Precision)	VRAM	Recommendations	Notes
OpenAI GPT-4	~350 GB+	N/A	A100/H100 clusters	Accessed via API.
LLaMA 3	14–160 GB	7–40 GB	RTX 4090, A100, H100	Optimized for inference.
TinyLlama	<2 GB	N/A	Consumer GPUs (GTX 1660, RTX 3050)	Lightweight and CPU-compatible.
GPT-NeoX	40 GB	~20 GB	A100, RTX 4090	Large open-source LLM.
Bloom	350 GB	150 GB	A100/H100 clusters	Multilingual support.
Falcon	16–80 GB	8–40 GB	RTX 4090, multi-GPU	Efficient for deployment.
ChatGLM	12 GB	6–8 GB	RTX 3060, CPU for smaller tasks	Optimized for low-resource.
GPT-2	2–4 GB	N/A	Consumer GPUs (GTX 1080, RTX 3050)	Lightweight, smaller scale.

Let's API Enable that Bad Boy



Risks of Cloud

- Vendor lock in
- Data gravity
- Data privacy (personal, IP, business process)
- Subject to vendor guardrails (censored)
- Variable Cost

Pricing

Model	Pricing	Pricing with Batch API*
gpt-4o	\$2.50 / 1M input tokens	\$1.25 / 1M input tokens
	\$1.25 / 1M cached** input tokens	
	\$10.00 / 1M output tokens	\$5.00 / 1M output tokens

- <https://openai.com/api/pricing/>

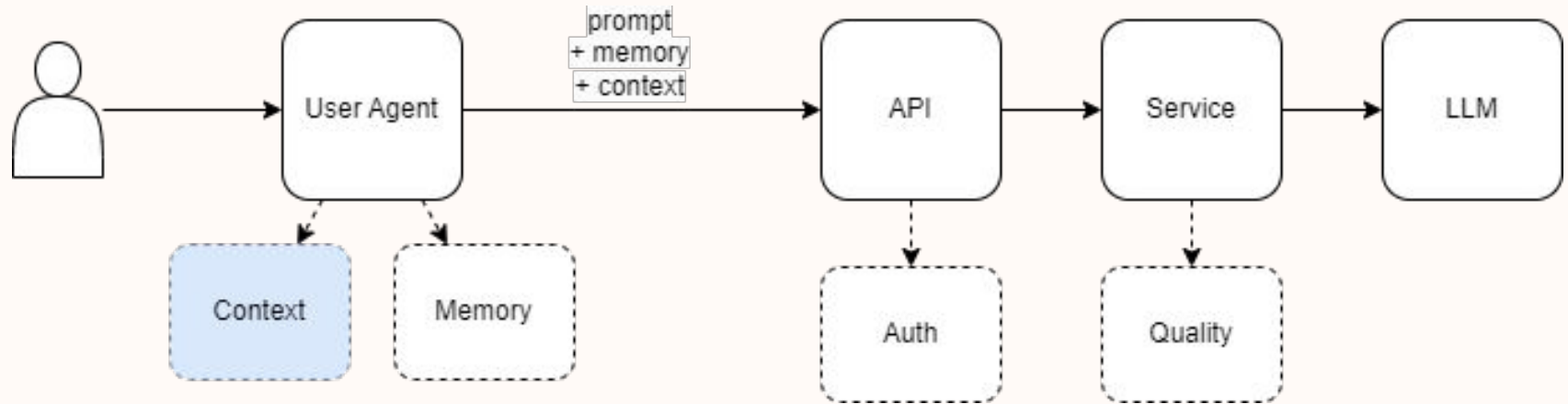
Coffee

For every 1 Million
token, if we ran

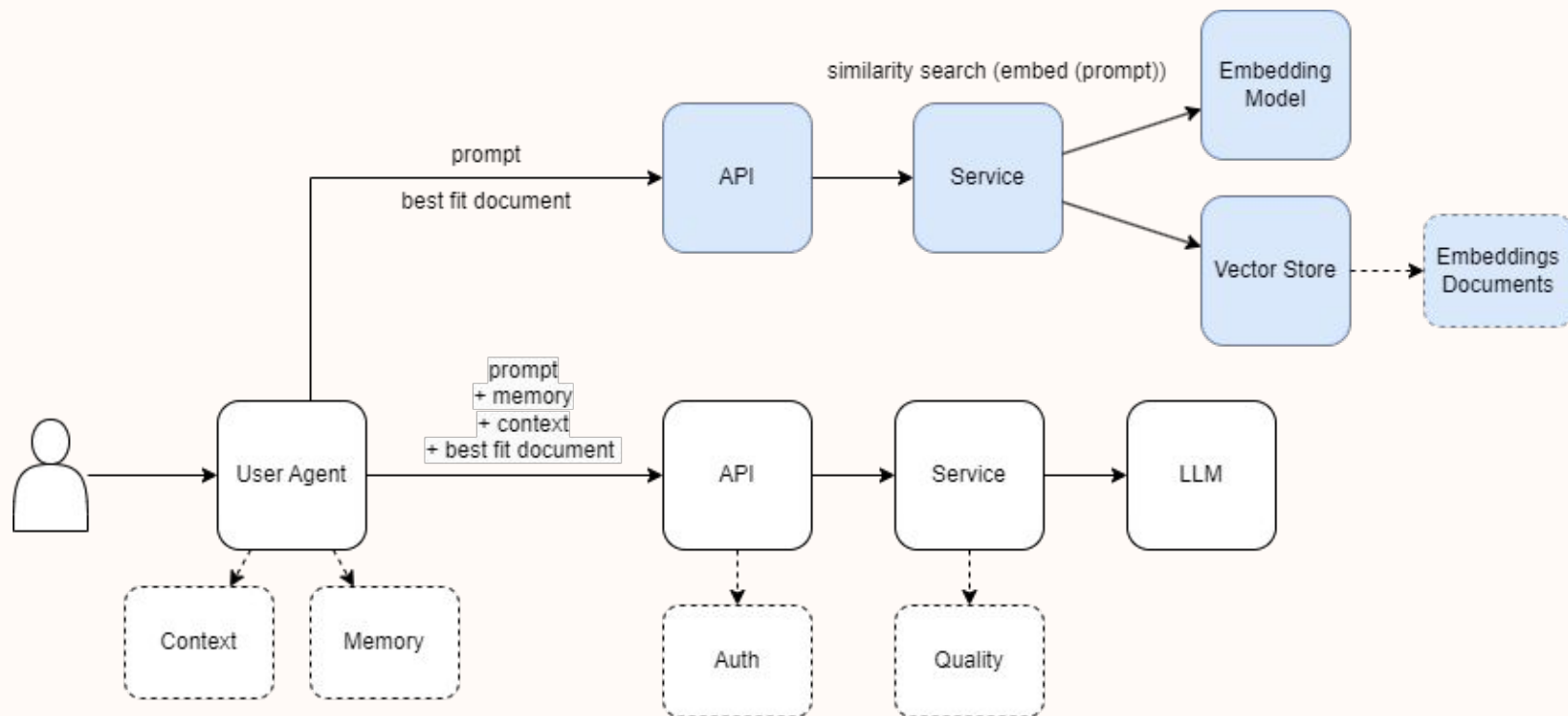
TTC = Time to Coffee



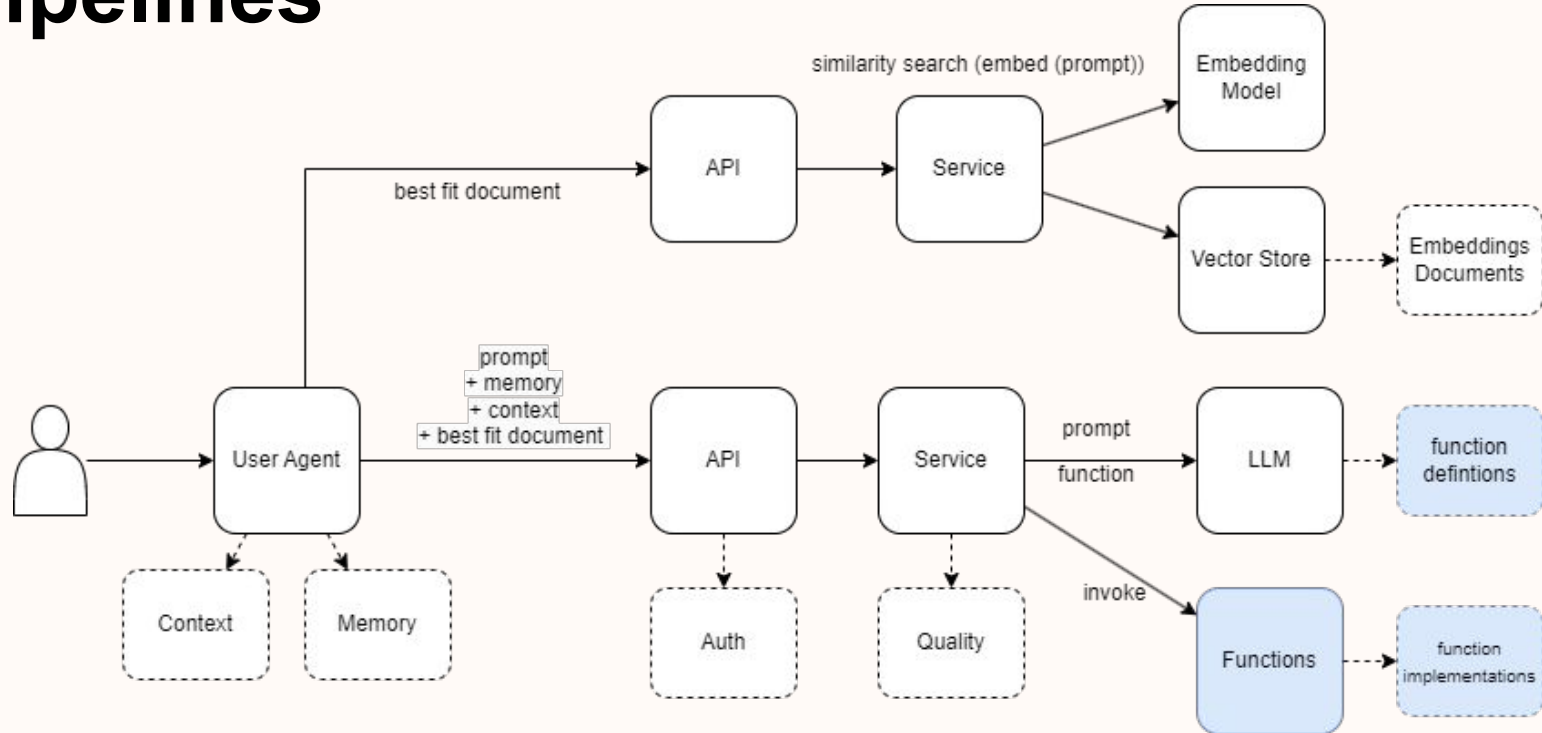
Context Augmented Generation



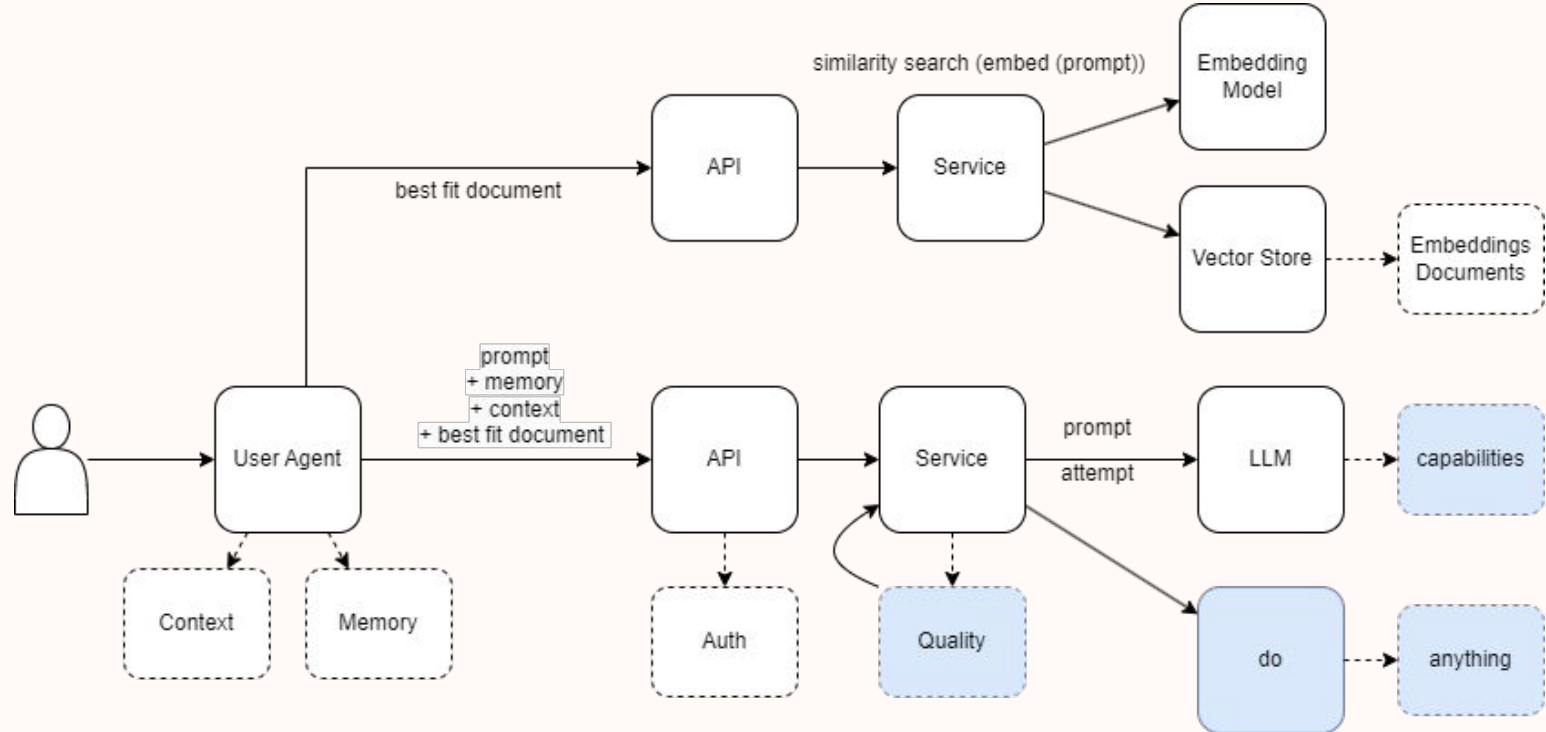
Retrieval Augmented Generation



Agentic Systems - Workflows AKA Pipelines

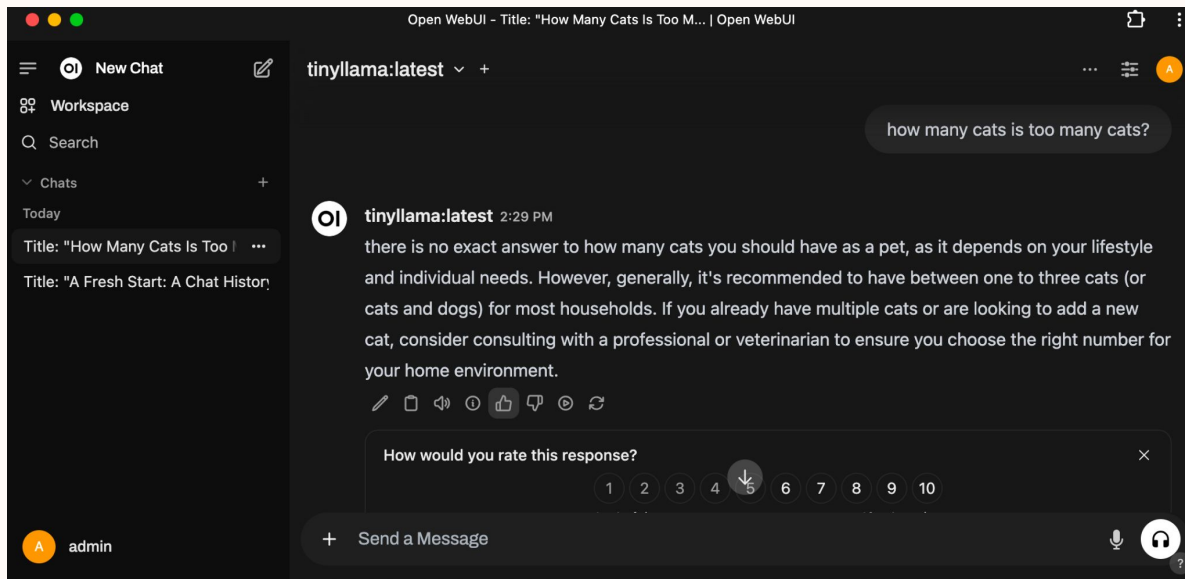


Agentic Systems - Agents



Open Web UI

- <https://docs.openwebui.com/>
- <http://localhost:3000/>



Some Recent Advancements

- [NVIDIA's DIGITS](#) (\$3k)
- [Jetson Nano](#) (\$250)



Summary

- Gen AI Fundamentals
 - Token Generation
 - Chat Completion
 - Image Analysis
 - Structured Output
 - Function Calling
 - RAG Fundamentals
- Products are iterating abstractions on top
 - AWS Bedrock, GCP VertX, Azure Open AI
- SaaS Products inherit the risk of the cloud
 - Vendor Constraints
 - Security
 - Variable Pricing
- Hyperscalers have a severe advantage in terms of competition
 - And there is no end in sight
- Local AI
 - We rely on the blessings of Meta and other open researchers
 - Start saving now for your Gen AI home appliance

A Tale of Two Cities (Closing Thoughts)

The Outwardly Optimistic Capitalists that Watch Gotham from the Skyscraper

- “We believe we’ll have agents acting as Mid-Level Engineers in 2025” - Zuckerberg (Meta)
- “We are no longer hiring humans.” - Sebastian Siemiatkowski (Klarna)
- “The TAM (Total Addressable Market) is in the trillions.” - Marc Benioff (Salesforce)
- “We believe that, in 2025, we may see the first AI agents “join the workforce” and materially change the output of companies.” - Sam Altman (Open AI)

The (Mostly) Silent Pragmatists Walking Through the Market

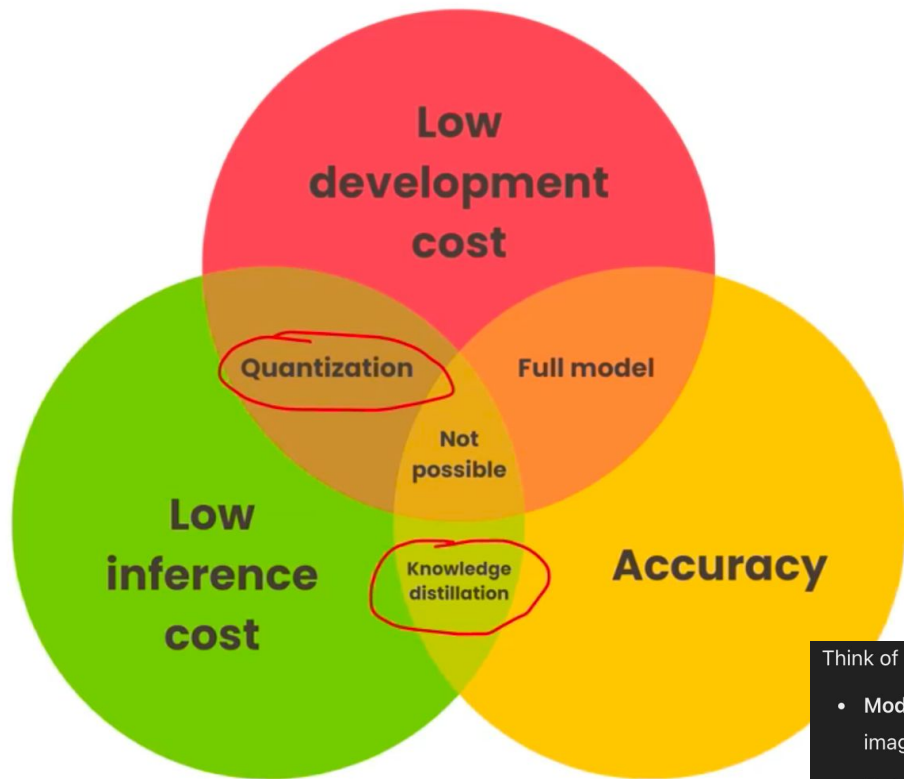
- “When the poor have nothing to eat, they will eat the rich.” - French Proverb
- “In a worse case, AI trillionaires have near-unlimited and unchecked power, and there’s a permanent aristocracy that was locked in based on how much capital they had at the time of labour-replacing AI.” - [L. Rudolf \(Capital Will Matter after AGI\)](#)
- “Our dreamtime will be a time of legend, a favorite setting for grand fiction, when low-delusion heroes and the strange rich clowns around them could most plausibly have changed the course of history. Perhaps most dramatic will be tragedies about dreamtime advocates who could foresee and were horrified by the coming slow stable adaptive eons, and tried passionately, but unsuccessfully, to prevent them.” - [Robin Hanson \(This is the Dream Time\)](#)



Appendix

- [Presentation Materials Repository \(github\)](#)
- [CAG vs RAG](#)
- [Understanding RAG](#)
- [Capital Will Matter with AGI](#)
- [Building Effective Agents](#)

OLD



Think of the model as a *camera*:

- **Model weights** are the settings (aperture, focus, etc.) of the camera that determine how the image is captured.
- **Embeddings** are the resulting photographs – a representation of the scene (data) based on the camera settings.

pictures... put in right place

Model	Pricing	Pricing with Batch API*
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pricing

% what - does the future look like

- Robin Hanson calls the present "**the dreamtime**", following a concept in Aboriginal myths: the time when the future world order and its values are still liquid, not yet set in stone.

-

<https://www.lesswrong.com/posts/KFFaKu27FNugCHFmh/by-default-capital-will-matter-more-than-ever-after-agi>

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