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Sat, Mar 1, 2025 at 7:16 PM

OpenAI Announces GPT-4.5, Warns It's Not a Frontier AI Model

OpenAI has launched GPT-4.5, its largest AI language model, available as a research preview for ChatGPT Pro users. GPT-4.5 boasts improved writing capabilities, world knowledge, and a refined personality, making it ideal for writing, programming, and solving practical problems. However, it is not a frontier model and may not perform as well as o1 or o3-mini. GPT-4.5 was trained using new supervision techniques and traditional methods like SFT and RLHF. It hallucinates less than GPT-4o and o1, and outperforms GPT-4o in every category. GPT-4.5 will roll out to Plus and Team users next week and then to Enterprise and Edu users after that. It is also available in Microsoft's Azure AI Foundry platform.

UK Newspapers Blanket Their Covers to Protest Loss of AI Protections

The UK government's proposal to allow AI companies to train their models on copyright-protected work without permission has sparked widespread criticism and protests from creative and media industries. The "Make It Fair" campaign, backed by the News Media Association and the Creative Rights in AI Coalition, calls for readers to help protect British creative industries. The proposal has been widely criticized for potentially weakening copyright protections and having a devastating impact on the UK's \$152 billion creative industry. The government's consultation period has closed, and it will use the responses to help design the best possible policy to achieve its objectives around expanding AI.

Google Gemini's AI Coding Tool is Now Free for Individual Users

Google has launched a free public preview of Gemini Code Assist for individuals, which aims to make AI coding assistants more accessible for solo developers. The tool is powered by Google's Gemini 2.0 AI model and can generate entire code blocks, complete code as you write, and provide general coding assistance via a chatbot interface. The free coding tool can be installed in Visual Studio Code, GitHub, and JetBrains developer environments and supports all programming languages in the public domain. Developers can instruct Gemini Code Assist using natural language, such as asking the coding chatbot to "build me a simple HTML form with fields for name, email, and message, and then add a 'submit' button." The free Individual tier seems pretty expansive, but it doesn't include all of the advanced business-focused features available in the Standard and Enterprise versions of Gemini Code Assist.

Five Predictions for Where Crypto is Headed in 2025

Crypto is exploding again, driven by a potentially friendlier regulatory atmosphere and rising coin values. Saga is emerging as a key enabler of these shifts, providing scalable, on-demand blockspace for AI, gaming, and DeFi. AI will unlock new possibilities, and the market will find solutions to fragmentation. Top gaming brands will integrate blockchain, and DeFi infrastructure within gaming will take a leap forward. The demand for blockchain space will surge, and Saga's infrastructure will be critical to meeting this demand.

Singapore Scheme May Have Funneled Nvidia Chips to DeepSeek

Singapore authorities have arrested three individuals for fraudulently supplying high-end Nvidia chips to China's DeepSeek AI company, which is under US sanctions. The case highlights the potential for illegal trade in advanced technology and the challenges of enforcing export controls.

Microsoft Names Developers It Sued for Abusing Its AI Tools

Microsoft has amended a lawsuit to unmask four developers who evaded guardrails on its AI tools to generate deepfakes of celebrities. The developers are part of a global cybercrime network called Storm-2139. The group compromised accounts with access to Microsoft's generative AI tools and managed to "jailbreak" them to create deepfakes of celebrities. The group then sold access to others, who used it to create deepfake nudes of celebrities, among other abuses. Celebrities, including Taylor Swift, have been frequent targets of deepfake pornography. There has been an ongoing debate in the AI community regarding the topic of safety and whether the concerns are real or rather intended to help major players like OpenAI gain influence and sell their products by over-hyping the true power of generative artificial intelligence. Legal means are one way in which those abuses can be addressed regardless of whether a model is open or closed.

The Next Pandemic Could Be Engineered. A New Program Aims to Stop It

The Engineered Pandemics Risk Management Programme at the University of Cambridge has been launched to prepare for a potential future pandemic caused by deliberate human actions. The program will focus on preventing such outbreaks and developing contingency plans for the UK. The program's research will include identifying the most likely state and non-state actors who could modify harmful pathogens, examining strategies for dealing with a crisis once it's unleashed, and predicting the necessary infrastructure and supplies needed in the event of another pandemic. The program will also address the issue of mistrust of science and the spread of misinformation.

Zizians: What We Know About the Vegan 'Cult' Linked to Six Deaths

The Zizians, a cult-like US group led by Jack Lasota, a transgender woman with a degree in computer science, has been linked to a string of murders across the US. The group's origins can be traced back to Lasota's association with the rationalist movement in Silicon Valley, where she applied for jobs at tech companies and startups. However, Lasota's writings spun off in bizarre directions, blending personal experiences, theories about technology and philosophy, and esoteric comments about pop culture, computer coding, and other subjects. The group's beliefs include veganism, anarchism, and a justification for breaking laws. The Zizians have been linked to at least six killings, including a double homicide in Pennsylvania, a knife attack in California, and the shooting of a US border guard in January. Three other alleged members of the group have already been charged with murder.

Apple AI Tool Transcribed the Word 'Racist' as 'Trump'

Apple has reported a bug in its speech-to-text tool Dictation, which transcribed the word "racist" as "Trump" on some occasions. The company has suggested that the issue was caused by a problem with its speech recognition model, but an expert in speech recognition has said this explanation is "not plausible." The expert, Professor Peter Bell, suggested that the issue was more likely to have been caused by someone altering the underlying software used by the tool. Apple has said it is working on a fix for the issue.