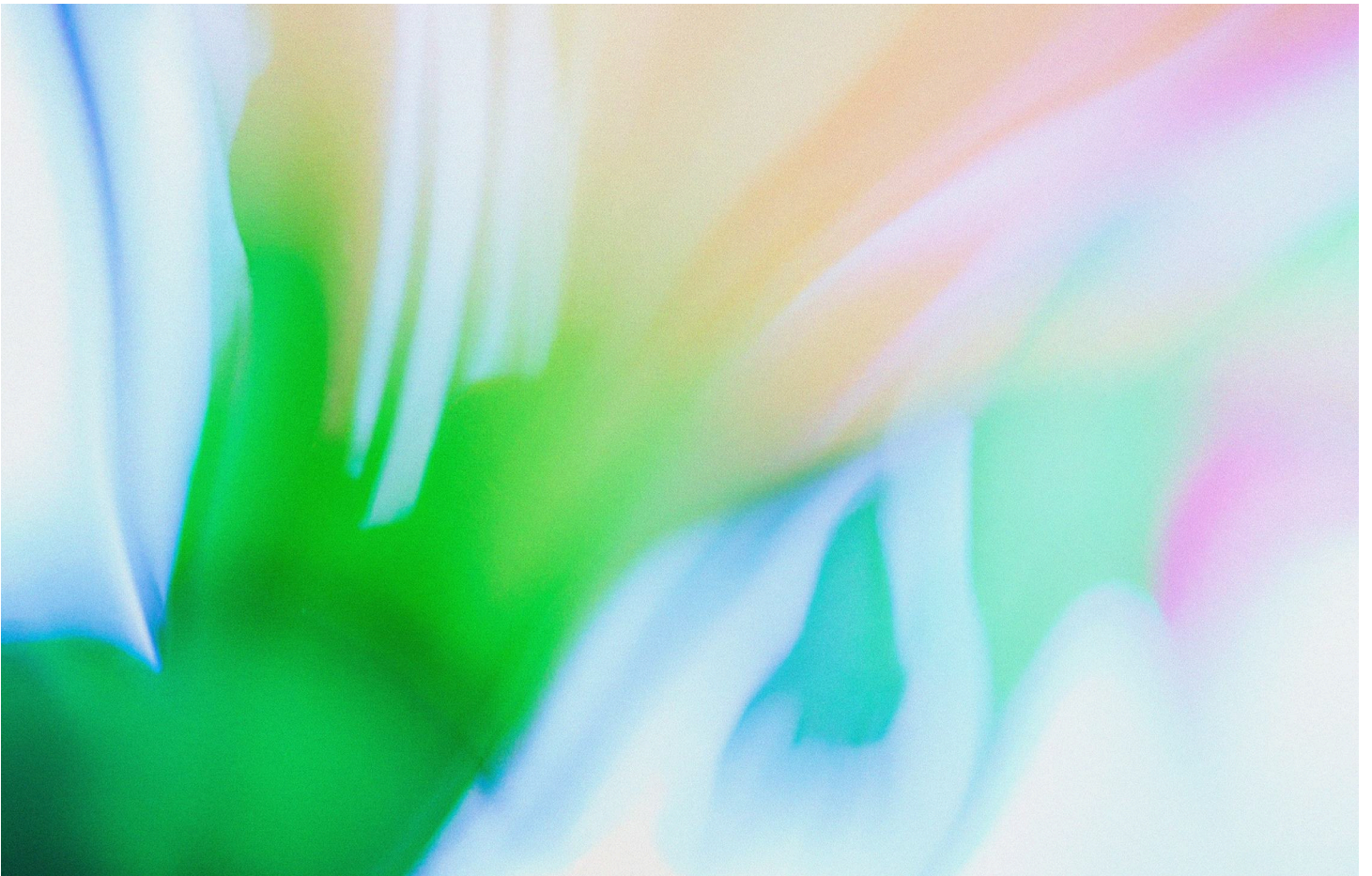


OpenAI

A practical guide to building agents



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Introduction

Large language models are becoming increasingly capable of handling complex, multi-step tasks. Advances in reasoning, multimodality, and tool use have unlocked a new category of LLM-powered systems known as **agents**.

This guide is designed for product and engineering teams exploring how to build their first agents, distilling insights from numerous customer deployments into practical and actionable best practices. It includes frameworks for identifying promising use cases, clear patterns for designing agent logic and orchestration, and best practices to ensure your agents run safely, predictably, and effectively.

After reading this guide, you'll have the foundational knowledge you need to confidently start building your first agent.