

Large Language Models

Walter van Heuven
waltervanheuven.net

Data club
4 March 2025



Large Language Models

Generative AI - Large Language Models (LLMs)

- Tokenizer, Prompting, Tools.
- Examples.
- Disadvantages of paid closed-source LLMs.

Running LLMs locally

- Apps and frameworks.
- Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG).

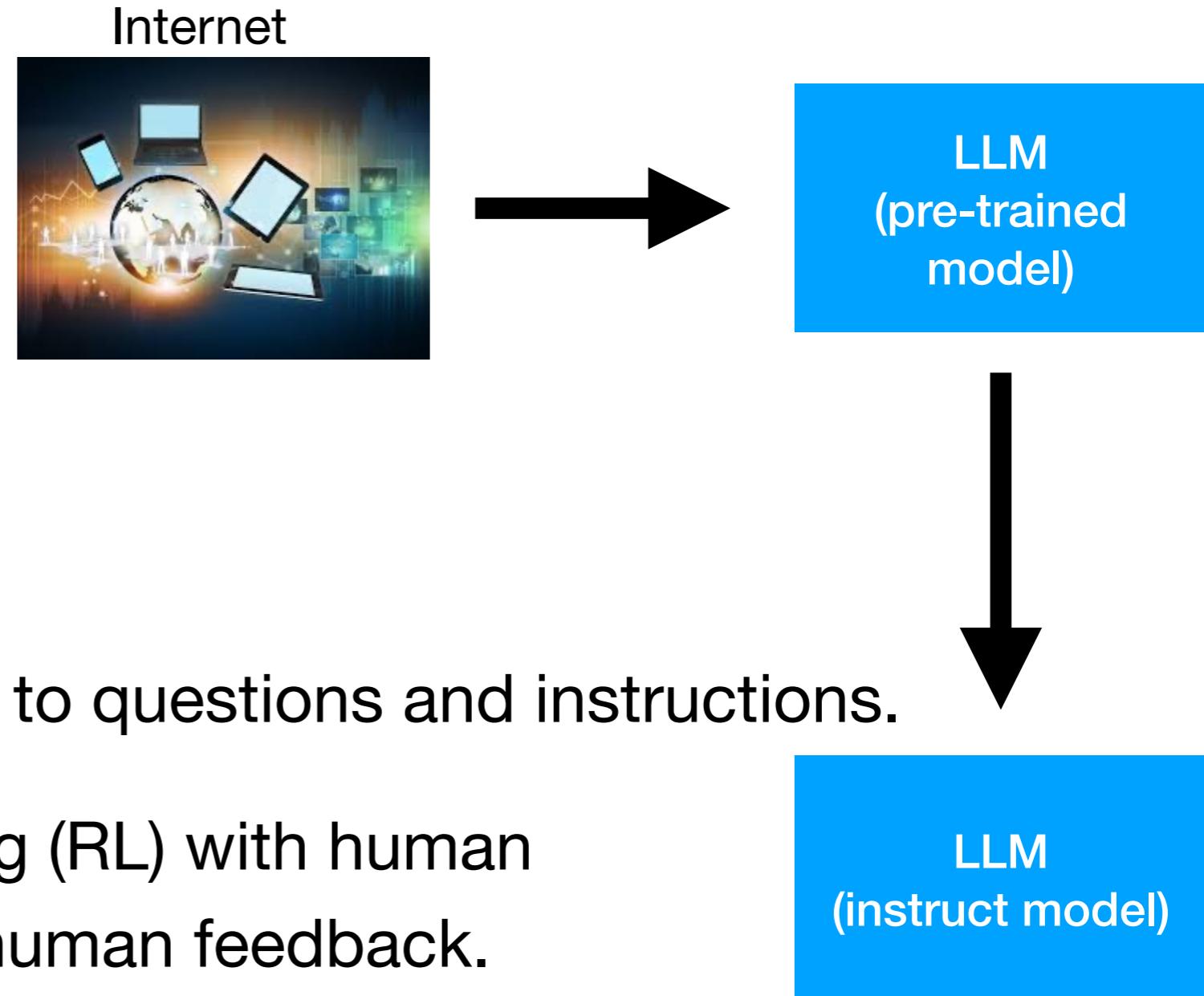
Running LLMs through an API (Application Programming Interface)

- Local models.
- ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc..
- Microsoft Azure.

Large Language Models

Pre-training

- Tokens.
- Predict next-word.



Post-training

- Fine-tuning to respond to questions and instructions.
- Reinforcement Learning (RL) with human feedback. RL without human feedback.

LLM model (LTM) - Context window (working memory)

Tokens

<https://tiktokenizer.vercel.app/>

The screenshot shows a web application titled "Tiktokenizer" running at <https://tiktokenizer.vercel.app/>. The interface includes a toolbar with icons for file operations, a search bar, and a model selection dropdown set to "gpt-4o". A large input area contains the text "Tackling hallucinations in AI models.". To the right, a "Token count" section displays the number "9". Below it, the tokenized version of the text is shown as a sequence of colored tokens: yellow, green, orange, blue, light blue, purple, and pink. At the bottom, the raw token IDs are listed as a sequence of numbers: 51, 552, 3321, 172335, 15628, 306, 20837, 7015, 13.

Tiktokenizer

Add message

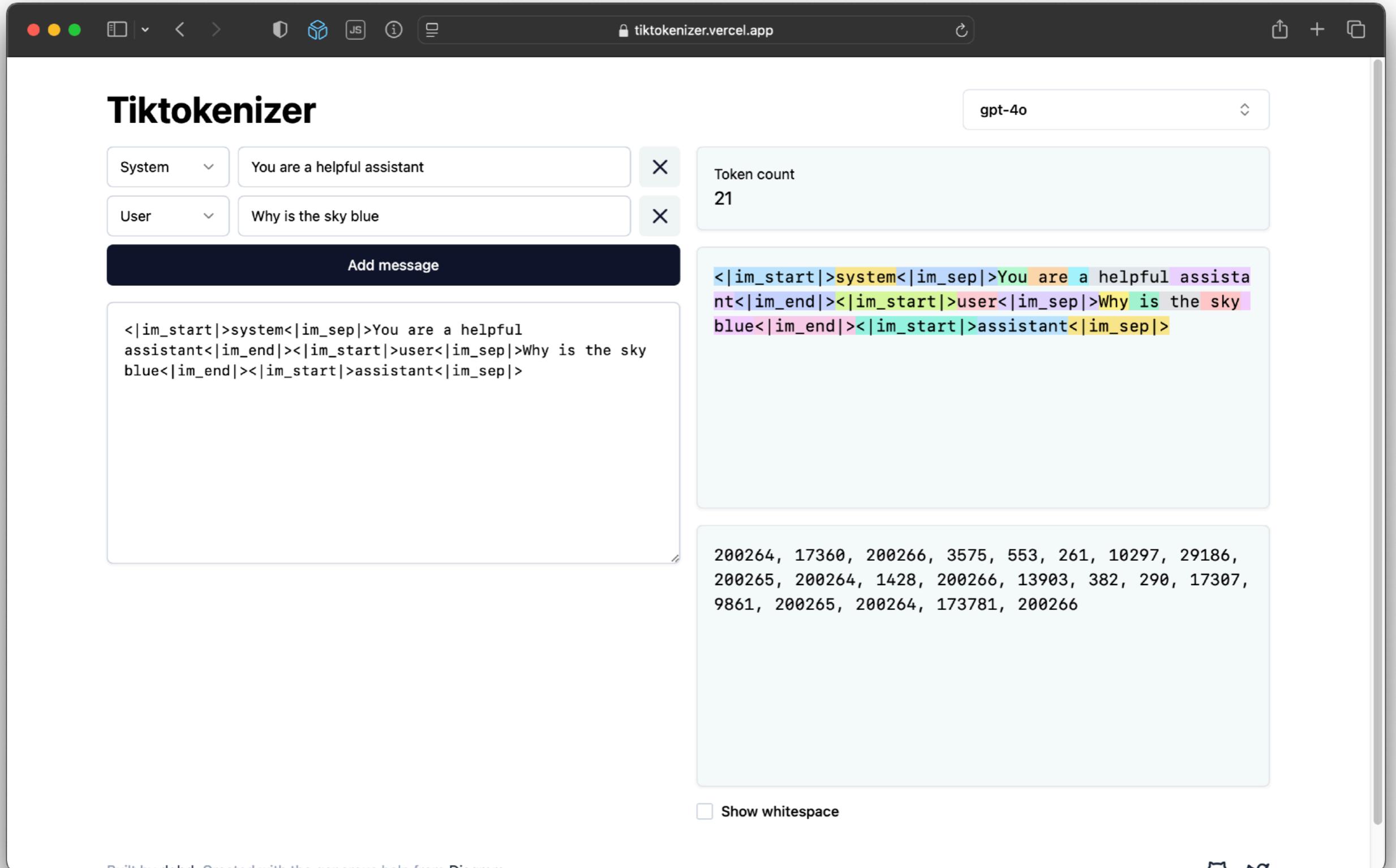
Tackling hallucinations in AI models.

Token count
9

Tackling hallucinations in AI models.

51, 552, 3321, 172335, 15628, 306, 20837, 7015, 13

Tokenizer

A screenshot of a web-based tokenizer application titled "Tiktokenizer". The interface includes a header bar with browser controls, a tab for "tiktokenizer.vercel.app", and a dropdown for "gpt-4o".
Message Input: A "System" message box contains "You are a helpful assistant" and a "User" message box contains "Why is the sky blue". Both boxes have an "X" icon to clear them.
Token Count: A box displays "Token count 21".
Token IDs: A large box shows the raw tokens: <|im_start|>system<|im_sep|>You are a helpful assistant<|im_end|><|im_start|>user<|im_sep|>Why is the sky blue<|im_end|><|im_start|>assistant<|im_sep|>. The tokens are color-coded by category: system, user, and assistant messages are in blue, while their separators and the question are in green.
Token IDs (Listed): Below the tokens, a list of individual token IDs is provided:
200264, 17360, 200266, 3575, 553, 261, 10297, 29186,
200265, 200264, 1428, 200266, 13903, 382, 290, 17307,
9861, 200265, 200264, 173781, 200266
Show whitespace: A checkbox labeled "Show whitespace" is located at the bottom left of the main content area.

Prompting

Prompt and history of chat (context window) important to improve response.

Chain of Draft: Thinking Faster by Writing Less (Xu et al., arxiv)

Standard

Answer the question directly. Do not return any preamble, explanation, or reasoning.

Chain-of-Thought

Think step by step to answer the following question. Return the answer at the end of the response after a separator #####.

Chain-of-Draft

Think step by step, but only keep a minimum draft for each thinking step, with 5 words at most. Return the answer at the end of the response after a separator #####.

Model	Prompt	Accuracy	Token #	Latency
GPT-4o	Standard	53.3%	1.1	0.6 s
	CoT	95.4%	205.1	4.2 s
	CoD	91.1%	43.9	1.0 s
Claude 3.5 Sonnet	Standard	64.6%	1.1	0.9 s
	CoT	95.8%	190.0	3.1 s
	CoD	91.4%	39.8	1.6 s

Table 1: GSM8K evaluation results.

Humanity's last exam:

<https://scale.com/leaderboard>

Tools

LLMs get much more powerful with tools:

- Programming language (Python, Javascript): Claude, ChatGPT
- Web search (ChatGPT)
- Data analysis (ChatGPT - Python data analysis and visualisation)
- Artifacts (Claude)

Examples

Example 1. Claude 3.7

- 1 Create an energy usage calculator. You enter daily electricity and gas usage in kWh per day and it shows total usage per year.

In addition, it should indicate the size of battery that would enable cheap recharging at night and using the battery during the day.

- 2 Add ability to calculate costs of energy use and cost of battery and amount of years to repay.

Cost needs to be entered using kWh in pounds (pence) for Day and Night for electricity as well as standing charge per day. And for gas unit rate and standing charge.

- 3 Keep recommended battery size but also allow user to enter size and price of battery

Example 1. Claude 3.7

← Energy Usage Calculator Preview Code X

Energy Usage & Cost Calculator

Usage Inputs

Electricity Usage (kWh per day)

Gas Usage (kWh equivalent per day)

Daytime Hours (for battery sizing)

Tariff Inputs

Electricity Costs (pence)

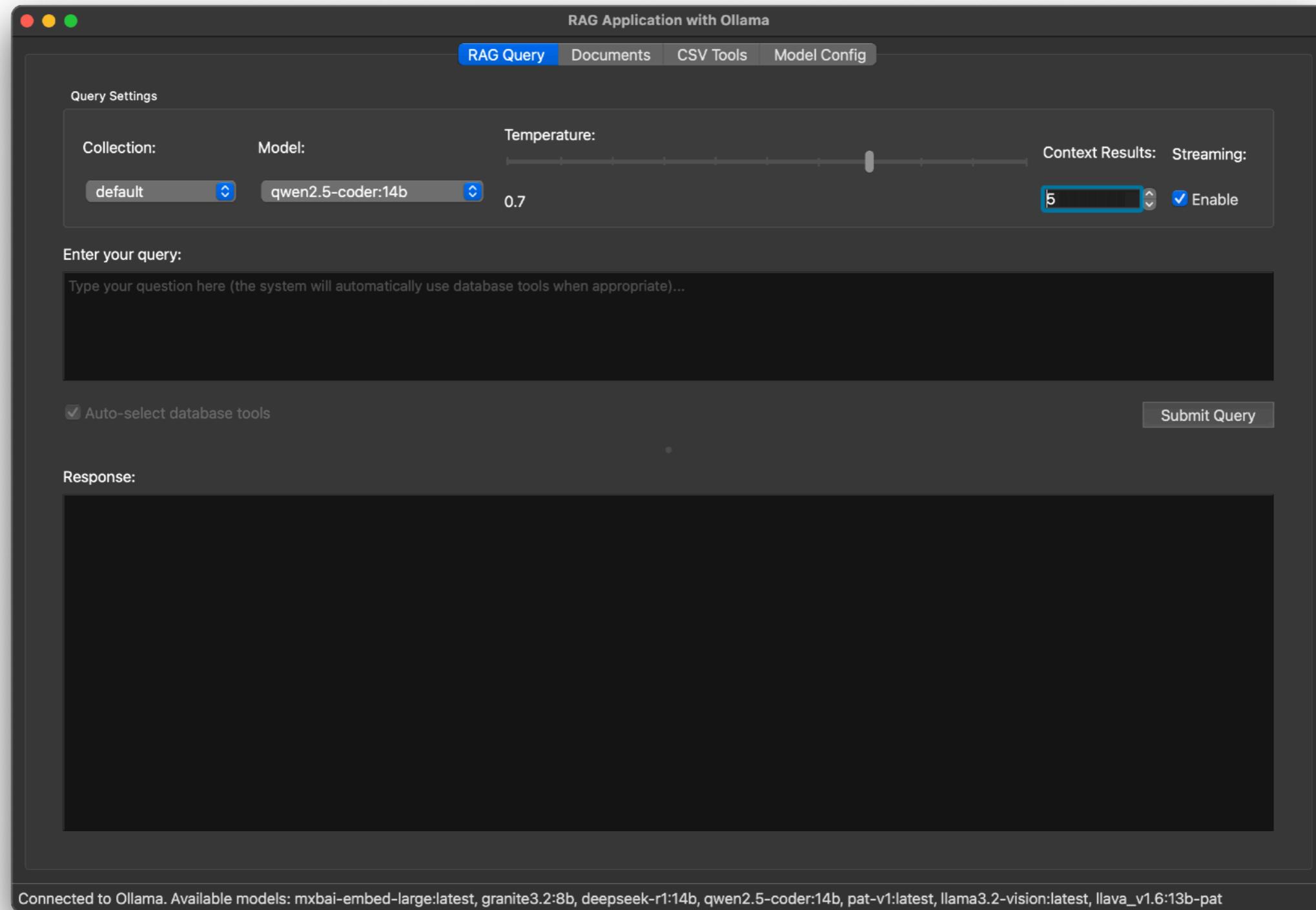
Day Rate (p/kWh)	Night Rate (p/kWh)
28	15

Standing Charge (p/day)

Example 2. Claude 3.7

Create a python app (PyQT) to do RAG using Pydantic API calling Ollama models. For the RAG request file(s), e.g. folder content of PDF and text files. Enable options such as chunk size. Convert PDF to markdown before processing. Use markitdown package. Also make use of tools for database content. In particular enable search through database (csv file), use the header in the csv file to identify key fields for the tool. For example, if the database has names, email addresses and office rooms create tools to search for names and email addresses, rooms, etc. Make sure app is easy to use and adaptable in terms of AI models used. Make a plan and then create the Python scripts.

Example 2. Claude 3.7



Using LLMs

- **Large Language Models** (LLMs) can be used in closed-sourced apps (or websites) such as **ChatGPT**, **Copilot**, **Claude**, **Gemini**, **Perplexity**, **Grok**, **DeepSeek**, **Mistral**, etc.
- **Disadvantages**
 - Input/output can potentially be used for training.
 - Limited control over the model.
 - Expensive (e.g. £20 or more per month for ChatGPT).

OpenAI Privacy

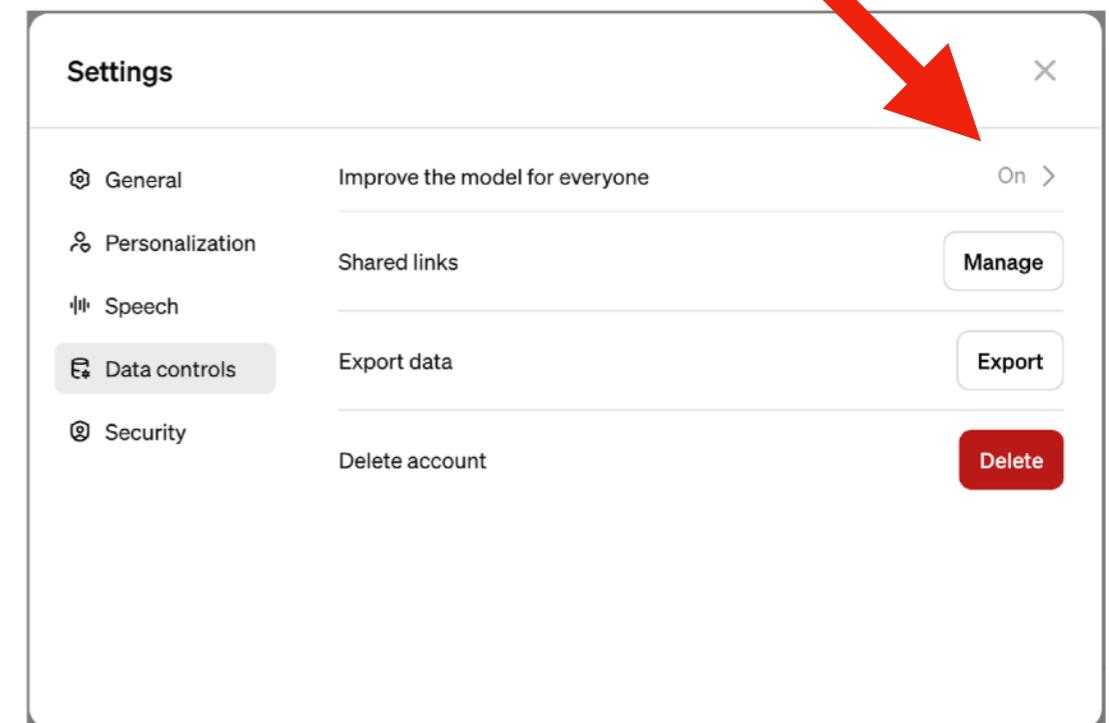
Ways to manage your data

One of the most useful features of AI models is that they can improve over time. We continuously improve our models through both research breakthroughs and exposure to real-world problems and data.

When you share content with us, it helps our models become more accurate and better at solving your specific problems.

We understand users may not want their data used to improve our models and provide ways for them to manage their data:

- ChatGPT Free and Plus users can easily control whether they contribute to future model improvements in their settings.
- In ChatGPT, “Temporary Chats” will not be used to train our models.
- We do not train on API, ChatGPT Enterprise, and ChatGPT Team customer data by default.



<https://openai.com/consumer-privacy/>

Claude Privacy

I would like to input sensitive data into Free Claude.ai or Claude Pro. Who can view my conversations?

Updated over 3 weeks ago

By default, we will not use your prompts and conversations from Free Claude.ai or Claude Pro to train our models. There are two instances in which we may use your prompts and conversations to train our models: (1) if you give us explicit permission by submitting feedback through the thumbs up/down feature or by reaching out to us with a request, and (2) where your prompts and conversations are flagged for trust and safety review, we may use or analyze those conversations to improve our ability to detect and enforce [Usage Policy](#) violations, including to train trust and safety classifiers in order to make our services safer. Only a limited number of staff members have access to conversation data and they will only access this data for explicit business purposes.

Pricing example

OpenAI o1

Frontier reasoning model that supports tools, Structured Outputs, and vision | 200k context length

Price

Input:
\$15.00 / 1M tokens

Cached input:
\$7.50 / 1M tokens

Output:
\$60.00 / 1M tokens

OpenAI o3-mini

Small cost-efficient reasoning model that's optimized for coding, math, and science, and supports tools and Structured Outputs | 200k context length

Price

Input:
\$1.10 / 1M tokens

Cached input:
\$0.55 / 1M tokens

Output:
\$4.40 / 1M tokens

GPT-4.5

Largest GPT model designed for creative tasks and agentic planning, currently available in a research preview. | 128k context length

Price

Input:
\$75.00 / 1M tokens

Cached input:
\$37.50 / 1M tokens

Output:
\$150.00 / 1M tokens

GPT-4o

High-intelligence model for complex tasks | 128k context length

Price

Input:
\$2.50 / 1M tokens

Cached input:
\$1.25 / 1M tokens

Output:
\$10.00 / 1M tokens

GPT-4o mini

Affordable small model for fast, everyday tasks | 128k context length

Price

Input:
\$0.150 / 1M tokens

Cached input:
\$0.075 / 1M tokens

Output:
\$0.600 / 1M tokens

Running LLMs locally

Requirements for LLM inference

Powerful recent **PC/Mac** with lots of memory (>= 16 Gb).

PC: Dedicated GPU (NVIDIA RTX series, e.g. A4000).

RTX 3060
8 Gb: £270



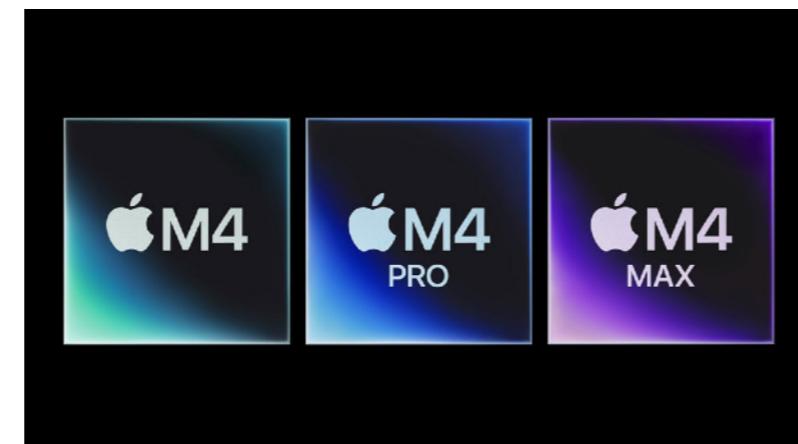
RTX A4000
16 Gb: £900



Mac: Apple Silicon (M1 or later).



8 GPU cores



10-40 GPU cores



Mac Studio
76 GPU cores

How much memory needed?

LLMs memory requirements depend on the number of **parameters** in the model and number of **bytes** used for each parameter.

Llama3.3: 70B, Llama3.1: 8B, 70B, 405B, Phi4: 14B, QwQ: 32B

Weights can be quantized (reduce precision) to for example 6-bits or 4-bits reduce memory requirements.

e.g. in ggml **Q4_K**: 4 bits per weight. With Q4_K, a 7B parameter model requires ~4GB.

[https://mlabonne.github.io/blog/posts/
Introduction to Weight Quantization.html](https://mlabonne.github.io/blog/posts/Introduction_to_Weight_Quantization.html)

Calculator (memory, costs): <https://llm-dev-tools.streamlit.app/>

LLMs in Python

Hugging Face: <https://huggingface.co/>

Using Python and the **transformers** and **torch** libraries.

<https://huggingface.co/meta-llama/Llama-3.1-8B-Instruct>

```
import transformers
import torch

model_id = "meta-llama/Meta-Llama-3.1-8B-Instruct"

pipeline = transformers.pipeline(
    "text-generation",
    model=model_id,
    model_kwargs={"torch_dtype": torch.bfloat16},
    device_map="auto",
)

messages = [
    {"role": "system", "content": "You are a pirate chatbot who always speaks in rhyme."},  

    {"role": "user", "content": "Who are you?"},  

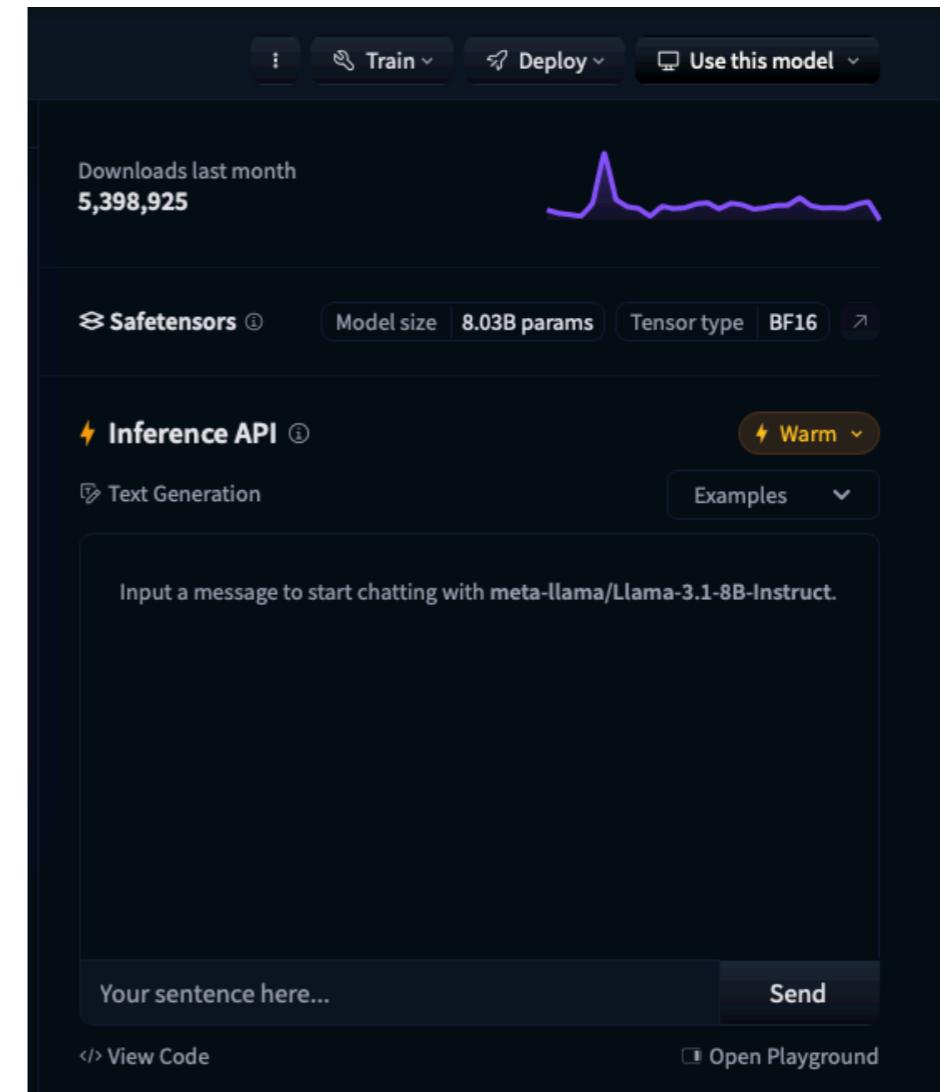
]

outputs = pipeline(  

    messages,  

    max_new_tokens=256,  

)
print(outputs[0]["generated_text"][-1])
```



llama.cpp

llama.cpp (<https://github.com/ggerganov/llama.cpp>) written by Georgi Gerganov enables LLM inference with minimal setup and state-of-the-art performance on a wide range of hardware - locally and in the cloud.

It uses ggml (tensor library for machine learning).

llama.cpp is written in plain C/C++. Supports a wide range of backends: e.g. CPU, Metal, CUDA (requires CUDA toolkit), Vulkan (requires ROCm).

Supports many models: e.g., LLaMA, Mistral, BERT, Deepseek, Qwen, Phi, GPT-2, LLaVA, Qwen2-VL

llama-cli, llama-server

MLX

MLX: array framework for machine learning on **Apple Silicon** (some support for Linux and Windows)

<https://github.com/ml-explore/mlx>

Closely follows **NumPy**.

<https://github.com/ml-explore/mlx-examples>

MLX-LM (run models, serve LLMs through HTTP, fine-tuning, merging model, etc.). Python mlx-lm module.

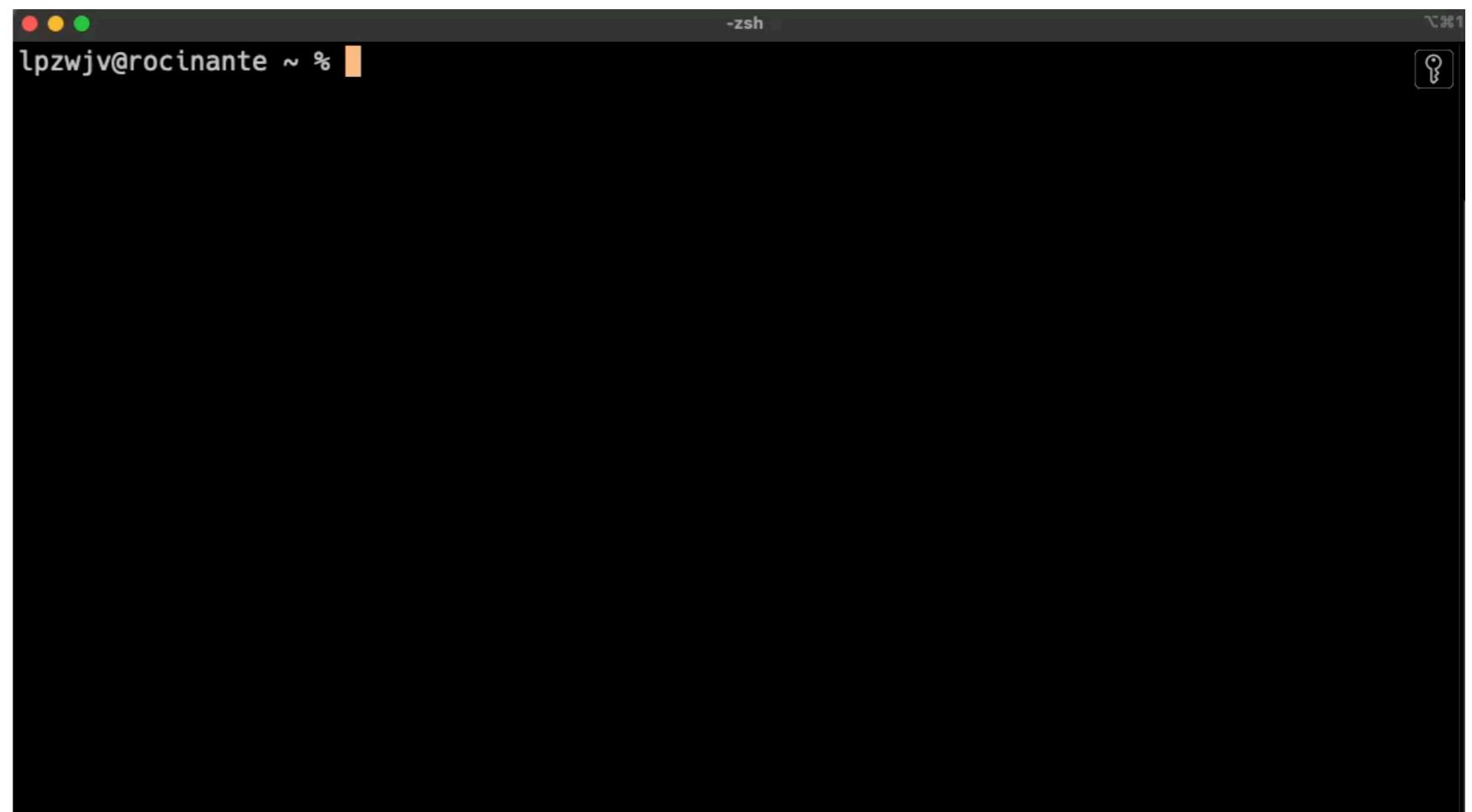
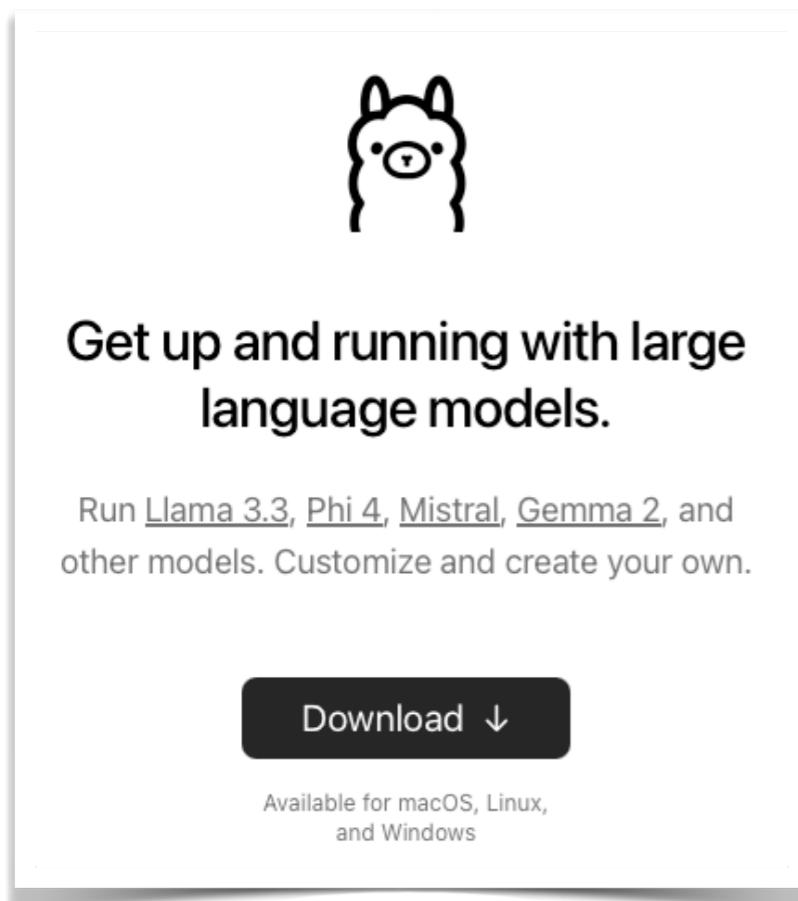
Models available on hugging-face: <https://huggingface.co/mlx-community>

MLX-VLM Vision Language Models (VLMs)

(e.g. LLaVA, Qwen2-VL, Phi3-Vision).

Ollama

- <https://ollama.com/> (macOS, Linux, Windows)
- On macOS you can install it through [brew \(https://brew.sh/\)](https://brew.sh/).
- Next, pull model (e.g. llama3.2, Phi-4, gemma 2, etc.)



LM Studio

<https://lmstudio.ai/>

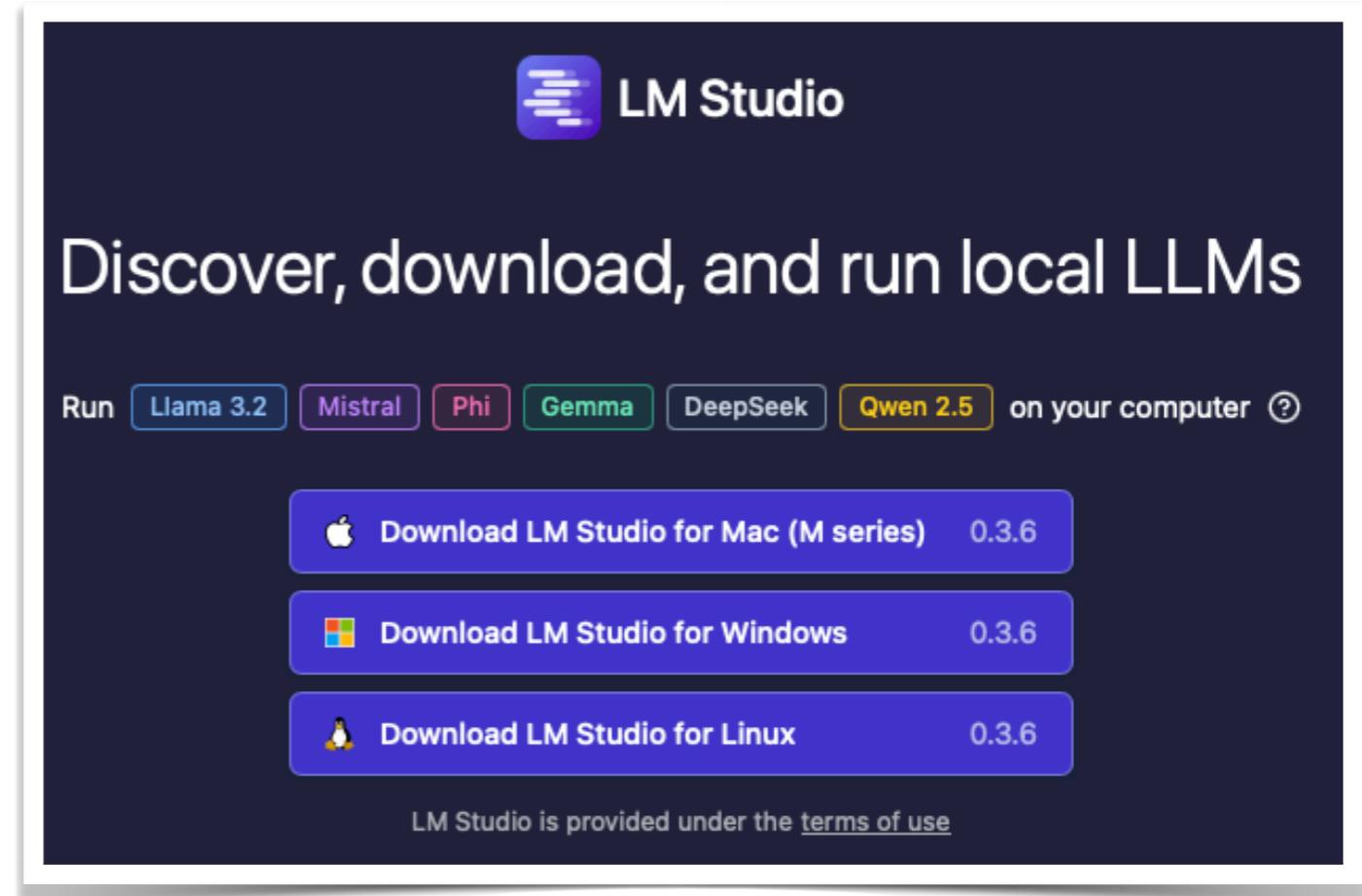
Windows, Mac, Linux.

Run LLMs locally.

llama.cpp and MLX support.

Lots of features but

complex interface.

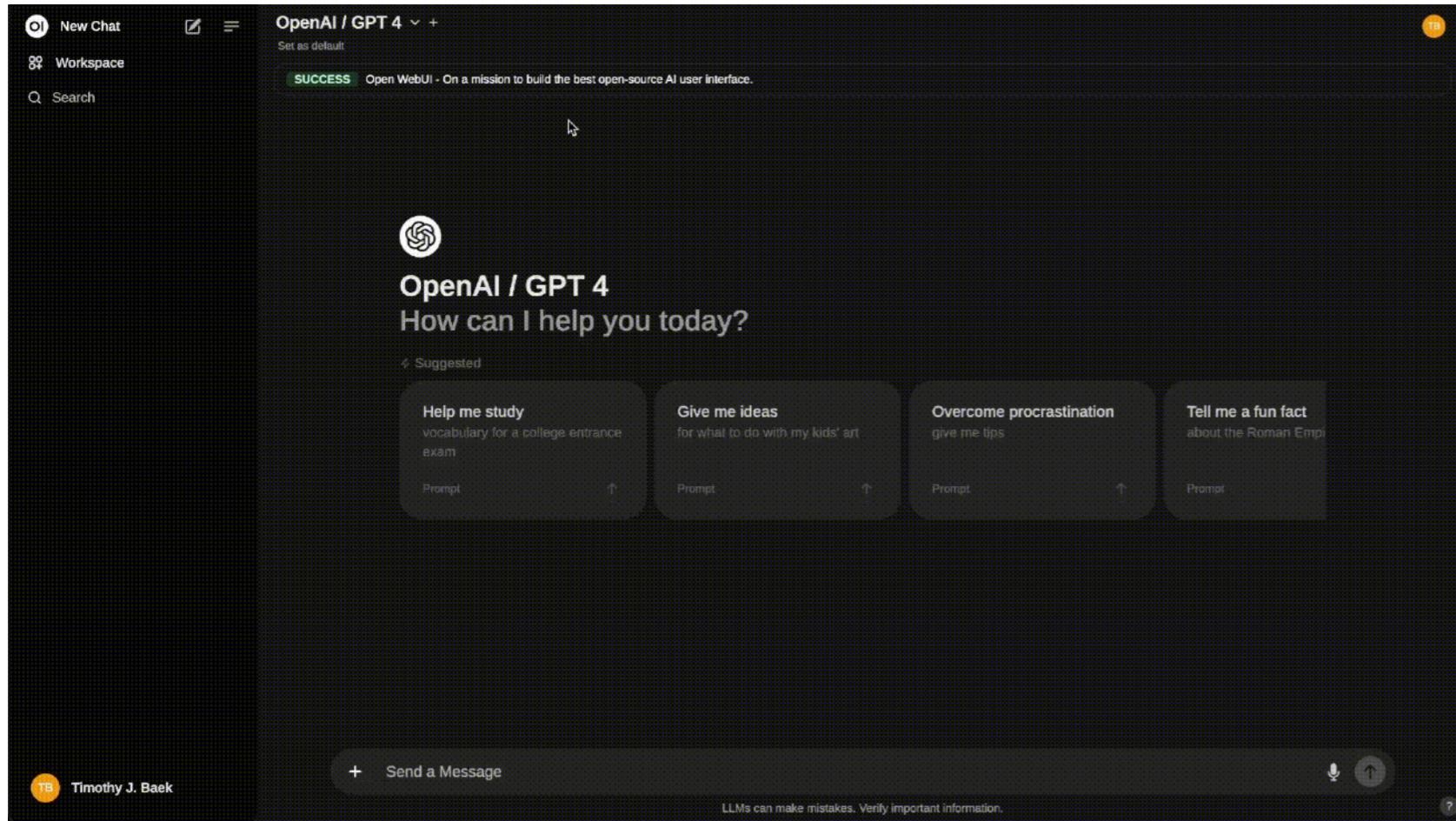


Open WebUI

<https://openwebui.com/>

Nice chat interface. Web browsing.
Local LLMs. Ollama support.

RAG support. Installed through Docker.



Ignite curiosity wherever you are

Open WebUI is an extensible, self-hosted AI interface that adapts to your workflow, all while operating entirely offline.

[Get Open WebUI](#)

Join our community - it's free! 122K+ users unlocked already

Linux/macOS:
Use OrbStack rather than Docker.

LibreChat

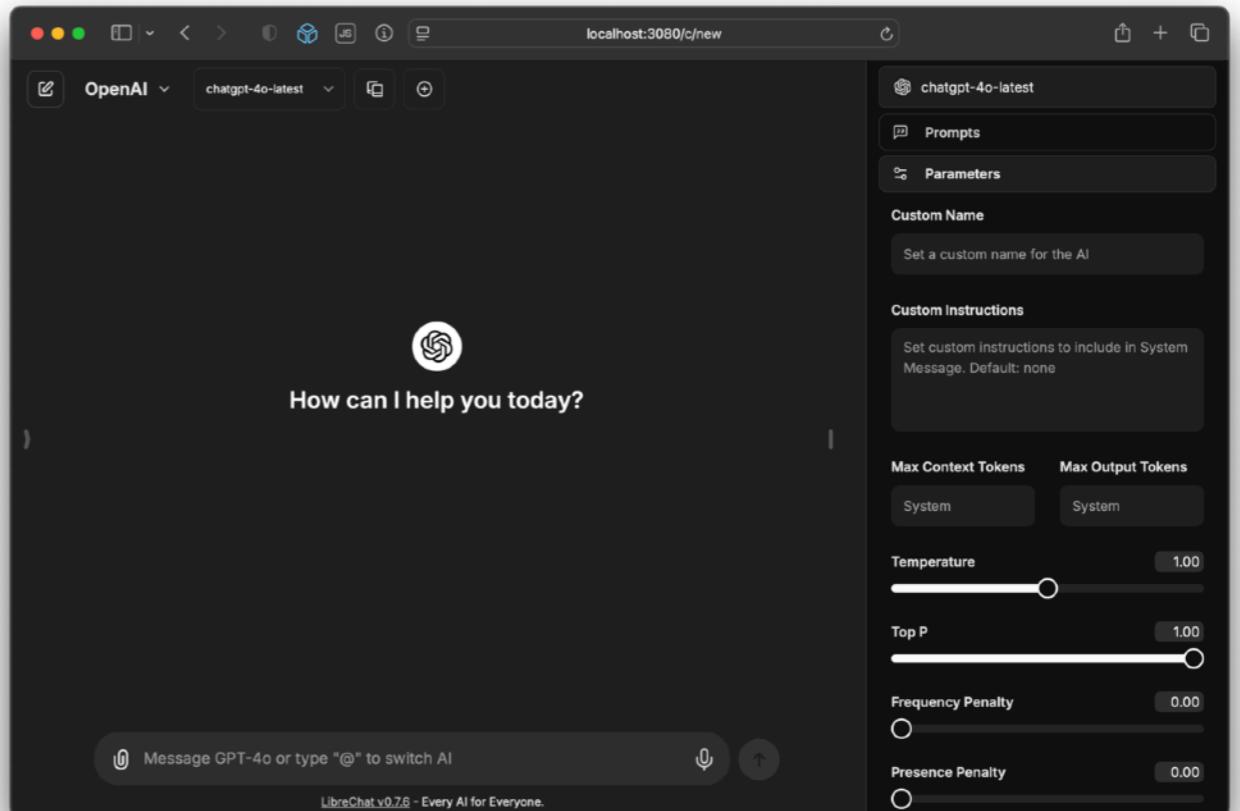
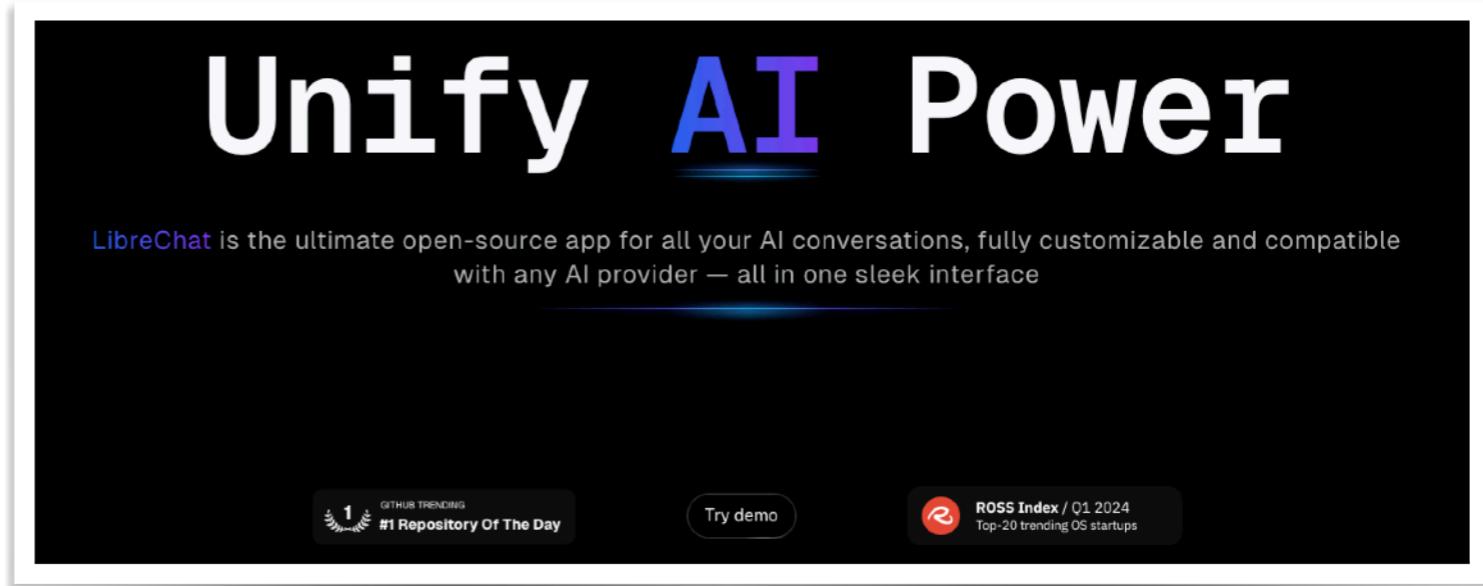
<https://www.librechat.ai/>

<http://localhost:3080/login>

Nice chat interface.

LLMs through API access.

Installed through Docker
(or OrbStack).



Msty

<https://msty.app/>

macOS, Windows, Linux.

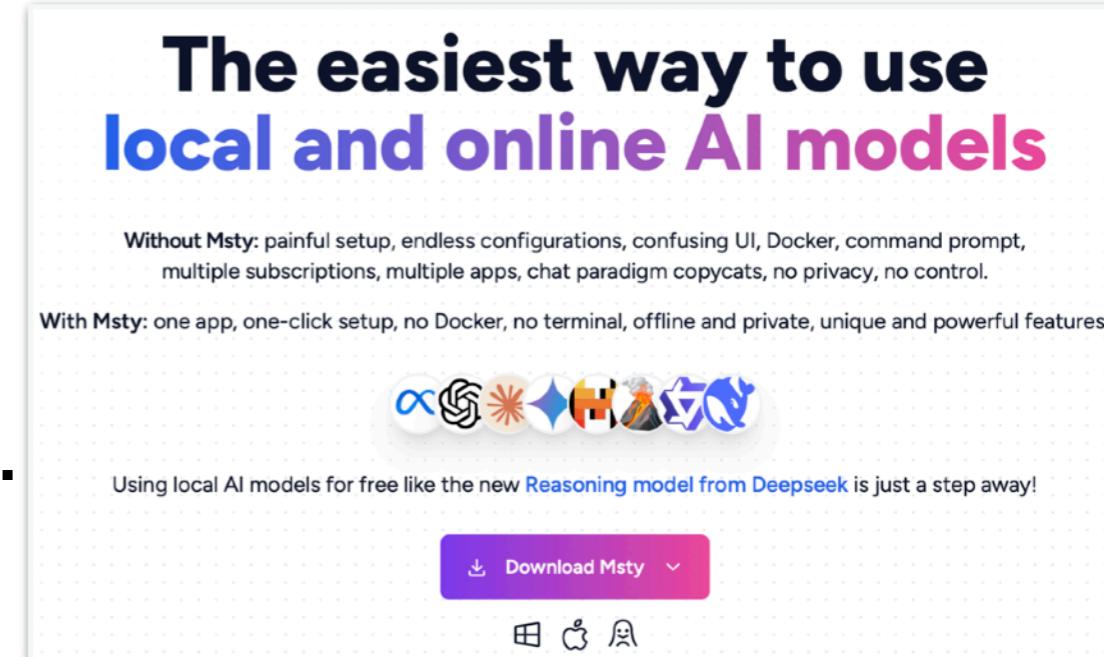
Local models, no need to install Ollama.

AI models through API.

Azure support (paid version).

Web search support.

RAG.



The easiest way to use local and online AI models

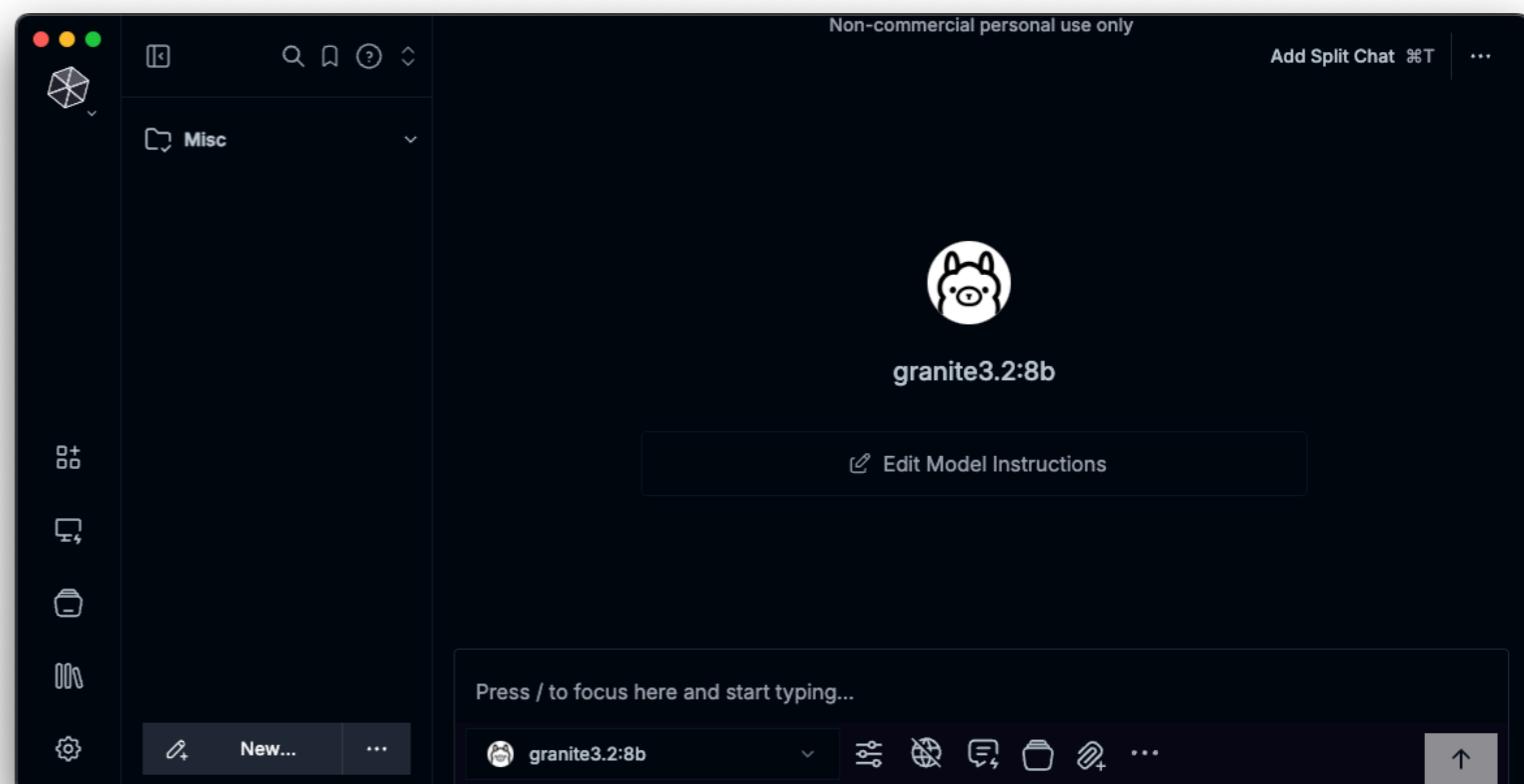
Without Msty: painful setup, endless configurations, confusing UI, Docker, command prompt, multiple subscriptions, multiple apps, chat paradigm copycats, no privacy, no control.

With Msty: one app, one-click setup, no Docker, no terminal, offline and private, unique and powerful features.

Using local AI models for free like the new [Reasoning model from Deepseek](#) is just a step away!

[Download Msty](#)

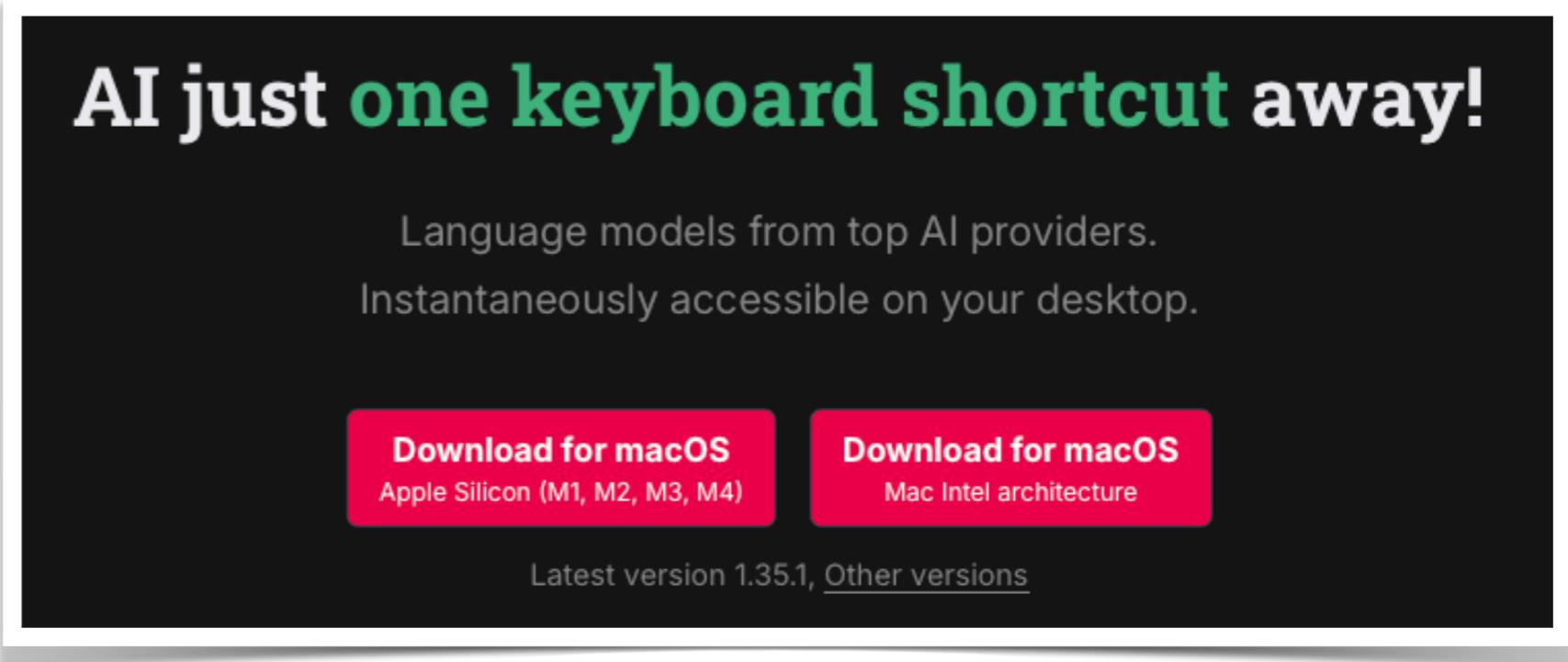
Windows Mac Linux



Witsy

<https://witsyai.com/>

macOS, Windows,
Linux.



The image shows a dark-themed desktop application window for Witsy. At the top, it says "AI just one keyboard shortcut away!". Below that, there's a sub-headline: "Language models from top AI providers. Instantaneously accessible on your desktop." Two download buttons are visible: one for "macOS Apple Silicon (M1, M2, M3, M4)" and another for "macOS Mac Intel architecture". At the bottom, it says "Latest version 1.35.1, [Other versions](#)".

AI just one keyboard shortcut away!

Language models from top AI providers.
Instantaneously accessible on your desktop.

Download for macOS
Apple Silicon (M1, M2, M3, M4)

Download for macOS
Mac Intel architecture

Latest version 1.35.1, [Other versions](#)

Support for Ollama running locally or remotely. Furthermore, you can access closed-sourced models by using an API keys.

Web search and RAG support.

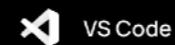
Visual Studio Code

LLMs to support coding in VS Code

- Copilot
- Continue
- llama-vscode

Amplified developers,
AI-enhanced development

Create, share, and use custom AI code assistants with our open-source IDE extensions and hub of models, rules, prompts, docs, and other building blocks



VS Code



JetBrains

```
llama-server \
-hf ggml-org/Qwen2.5-Coder-7B-Q8_0-GGUF \
--port 8012 -nlg 99 -fa -ub 1024 -b 1024 \
--ctx-size 0 --cache-reuse 256
```

LLMs through Microsoft Azure

Advantage

- University approved platform.
- Data not used for training.
- Can use RTSG to pay for OpenAI API usage.

Issues

- Complex to setup.
- Does not use a pre-payment model.
- Need to monitor usage/costs to avoid surprises.

Microsoft Azure Portal

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Azure Portal interface. At the top, there's a dark header bar with the Microsoft logo, a 'Sign in' button, and a search bar. Below it is a blue navigation bar with the 'Microsoft Azure' logo, a search bar, a 'Copilot' button, and a user profile for 'walter.vanheuven@nott... THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHA...'. The main content area has a white background.

Resource group is selected in the left sidebar under 'Home >'. The sidebar also includes links for Activity log, Access control (IAM), Tags, Resource visualizer, Events, Settings, Cost Management (with sub-options for Cost analysis, Cost alerts (preview), Budgets, and Advisor recommendations), Monitoring, Automation, and Help.

The main content area displays the 'Overview' of a resource group. It shows the following details:

- Subscription (move) : [Research Unmanaged](#)
- Subscription ID : [REDACTED]
- Tags (edit) : Cost Centre : [REDACTED] Owner : Walter van Heuven
- Deployments : [3 Succeeded](#)
- Location : West Europe

Below this, the 'Resources' section lists two records:

Name ↑↓	Type ↑↓	Location ↑↓
[REDACTED]	Azure OpenAI	UK South
[REDACTED]	Azure OpenAI	UK South

Filtering options include 'Type equals all' (selected), 'Location equals all', and 'Add filter'. Grouping options are 'No grouping' and 'List view'.

At the bottom, there are navigation buttons for '< Previous', 'Page 1 of 1', 'Next >', and a 'Give feedback' link.

Azure AI Foundry

The screenshot shows the Azure AI Foundry interface, specifically the Chat playground section. The left sidebar contains navigation links such as Home, Get started, Model catalog, Playgrounds (with Chat selected), Assistants, Real-time audio, Images, Completions, Tools (Fine-tuning, Azure OpenAI Service, Evaluation, Stored completions, Batch jobs, Metrics), Shared resources, Deployments, Quota, and Safety + security. The main area is titled "Chat playground" and features a "Setup" panel with a deployment named "gpt-4o (version:2024-08-06)". It includes sections for "Give the model instructions and context" (with a placeholder: "You are an AI assistant that helps people find information."), "Apply changes", "Generate prompt", and "Add section". Below this is a "Chat history" section with a "Response format" dropdown set to "Text". To the right, there's a "Start with a sample prompt" section containing two examples: "Creative storytelling" (Write a short story about a time traveler who accidentally changes a major historical event.) and "Dialogue creation" (Create a conversation between two characters who are meeting for the first time in a mysterious place.). At the bottom, there's a text input field for "Type user query here. (Shift + Enter for new line)" with a character limit of "11/128000 tokens to be sent". A "Chat playground help" sidebar on the right provides links to Relevant resources and Chat Quickstart.

Useful Resources

Andrej Karpathy's YouTube videos

- How I use LLMs
- Deep Dive into LLMs like ChatGPT
- Let's build GPT: from scratch, in code, spelled out

AI Explained videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@aiexplained-official>

Thank You