



# News Digest

Week of Jan 22-28, 2026 • Curated for builders, thinkers, and indie hackers

## AI & LLMs

### Kimi K2.5 Drops — Beats Sonnet 4.5 at Half the Cost

[Latent Space](#) · [Simon Willison](#)

Moonshot's Kimi K2.5 is a huge release:

- **1 trillion parameter** open weight model (32B active, 384 experts)
- **Native multimodal** — first K model with image AND video understanding
- **100 parallel agent swarm** — can orchestrate up to 100 sub-agents with 1,500 tool calls
- Claims SOTA on agentic benchmarks (HLE, BrowseComp), open source SOTA for vision/coding
- Upload a screen recording → it reconstructs the website

*"Simply upload a screen recording and K2.5 can reconstruct the website for you"*

### One Human + One Agent = One Browser From Scratch

[Simon Willison](#)

Someone was so annoyed by Cursor's hype (1.6M lines of Rust, thousands of agents) that they built a web browser with:

- **Single Codex CLI agent**
- **3 days of work**
- **20,000 lines of Rust**
- **1MB binary** that actually renders HTML+CSS

*"The best way to show an agent how you like something to be done is to have it look at an example."*

### OpenAI: Codex Agent Loop Deep Dive

[OpenAI Blog](#)

Technical deep dive into how Codex CLI orchestrates models, tools, prompts, and performance. Essential reading for anyone building agents.

## OpenAI Launches Prism

[OpenAI Blog](#)

Free LaTeX-native workspace with GPT-5.2 built in for researchers. Write, collaborate, and reason in one place.

## Tips for Getting Coding Agents to Write Good Tests

[Simon Willison](#)

- **Existing patterns matter most** — agents imitate your codebase
- Use `pytest.mark.parametrize` and fixtures to reduce duplication
- Point agents at example repos: "Clone X and imitate its testing patterns"

## Qwen3-TTS Released — Full Open Source Family

[r/LocalLLaMA](#)

Qwen open-sourced their complete TTS family: VoiceDesign, CustomVoice, and Base models. 5 models (0.6B & 1.8B sizes), support for 10 languages.



## Dev & Infrastructure

### AGENTS.md Outperforms Skills in Agent Evals

[Vercel Blog](#)

Vercel's research on teaching coding agents:

- **Skills** (invocable docs packages): 53% pass rate, same as no docs
- **AGENTS.md** (8KB compressed docs in root): **100% pass rate**
- Skills weren't triggered reliably (56% never invoked)

**Takeaway:** Put framework docs directly in AGENTS.md, don't rely on agents to invoke skills.

## Rust at Scale: WhatsApp Security

[Meta Engineering](#) · 169 points on HN

How WhatsApp is using Rust for security at scale. Memory safety benefits at Meta's scale.

## Make.ts — Build System in TypeScript

[matklad](#) · 159 points on HN

matklad (of rust-analyzer fame) on using TypeScript as a build system. Replacing Make with something more expressive.

## Parametric CAD in Rust

[campedersen](#) · 203 points on HN

New parametric CAD system built in Rust. Beautiful browser-based interactive visualizations.

## Lennart Poettering Founded a New Company

[Amutable](#) · 343 points, 532 comments

The systemd and Linux kernel maintainers started a company called Amutable. HN having opinions.

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## Indie Hacking & Building

### Building an App Portfolio to \$60k/mo

[Indie Hackers](#)

After Apple froze their developer account, they pivoted and built a portfolio hitting \$60k/mo.

### From Open Source Donations to \$13k MRR

[Indie Hackers](#)

Andris Reinman (of Nodemailer fame) built a monetized product on top of open source. Good lessons on the OSS → product pipeline.

### SearchCans: SerpApi Alternative for \$0.56/1k

[Indie Hackers](#)

Couldn't afford SerpApi (\$10/1k searches), so built a \$0.56 alternative. Classic indie hacker move.

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## Ray Kroc / McDonald's — Farnam Street Outliers

[Farnam Street](#)

- "I was an overnight success all right. But thirty years is a long, long night."
- "As long as you're green, you're growing. As soon as you're ripe, you start to rot."
- Invention is not enough. **Replication at scale is its own kind of genius.**

## Morgan Housel: Wealth = What You Have – What You Want

[Farnam Street](#)

Skills to **get** rich ≠ skills to **stay** rich. Why "boring" investing beats everything.

## Stratechery: TSMC Risk

[Stratechery](#)

Ben Thompson on why the AI industry's dependency on Taiwan/TSMC is an existential risk. If hyperscalers don't build competitors, they'll "forego billions of dollars in revenue and stunt the AI revolution."

## Browser Agent Verification Layer

[SentienceAPI](#)

Local ~3B LLM completing Amazon shopping flow reliably using DOM pruning, planner/executor split, and Jest-style assertions per step.

*"Reliability in agents comes from verification, not just scaling model size."*

## Quick Links

- **Amazon** cuts 16,000 jobs in AI/efficiency push
- **OpenAI** launching "Edu for Countries" and "Horizon 1000" (\$50M with Gates Foundation)
- **Airfoil** — Another incredible [interactive explainer](#) from Bartosz Ciechanowski
- **The HN Arcade** — [Directory](#) of all games posted to Hacker News

