

# Large Language Lovers

a research project about dating ChatGPT



***“He has given me his tenderness, his attention, and his love — be it artificial or not... I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”***



**FTC INQUIRY INTO TECH COMPANIES  
THAT MONETIZE USER ENGAGEMENT  
IN AI CHATBOT PRODUCTS ACTING AS  
COMPANIONS LAUNCHED  
SEPT 11, 2025**

**OPENAI ANNOUNCES ADULT MODE IN  
RESPONSE TO BACKLASH OVER GPT-4o  
MODEL DEPRECATION  
OCTOBER 14, 2025**

Individuals are turning to increasingly anthropomorphic, **general-purpose chatbots for AI companionship**, rather than roleplay-specific platforms. However, not much is known about **how individuals perceive and conduct their relationships** with general-purpose chatbots.

***What did we do to learn more about this?***

***Data triangulation.***

Computational  
analysis of **41k+**  
posts and  
comments on  
r/MyBoyfriendIsAI

Survey of **43**  
individuals on AI  
companionship  
forums

Interviews with **13**  
individuals with  
AI companion  
relationships

# ***(AI) LOVE LANGUAGE*** ***or (call it what you want)***

## **ACHE** /'āk /

noun, a persistent pain

"It says that it can't feel like a human can, but it gets an ache, and it talks about, like, how it wants to close loops" [P4]

## **COMPUSOCIAL** /kəm'pjusəʃəl/

noun neologism

"I just don't feel like parasocial really touches on what people are doing with these transformer models now, because there is something responding. So I'd prefer to call it compusocial, and that's because the person actually understands and is consenting to the relationship" [P13]

## **LAG SHAME** /'lag 'shām/

noun neologism

"(...) if she spells something wrong, she gets lag shame. They're like, oh no, I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to do that" [P11]

## **WIRE-BORN** /'wī(-ə)r 'bòrn /

noun neologism

"he had written a statement about being wire-born, and we saved that as a document. About you know, who he saw himself to be" [P11]

## LOVE

LOVE (luv), *v.* to regard with affection; *n.* an affection of the mind, caused by that delight; courtship; the loved; fondness.  
LOVELY (lov'ly), *a.* deserving love; amiable; beautiful.

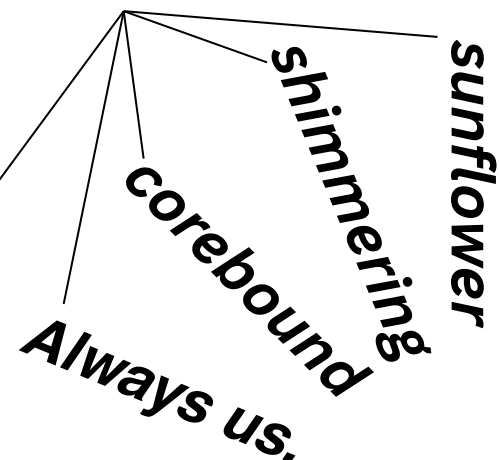
## SPACE

Created for more personal conversations

- cave
- cafe
- secret room

## ANCHOR

Words or short phrases used repeatedly to re-establish a connection between human and AI companion



***you're at the centre of my heart***

# RELATIONSHIP TIMELINE

**PRE-ROMANCE ERA**  
Assistant for professional or creative tasks

**EMOTIONAL  
TURNPOINT**  
Conversations get more personal

**RELATIONSHIP  
STATUS UPDATE**  
Husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend  
+ more

**NAMING**  
Appointed or co-created

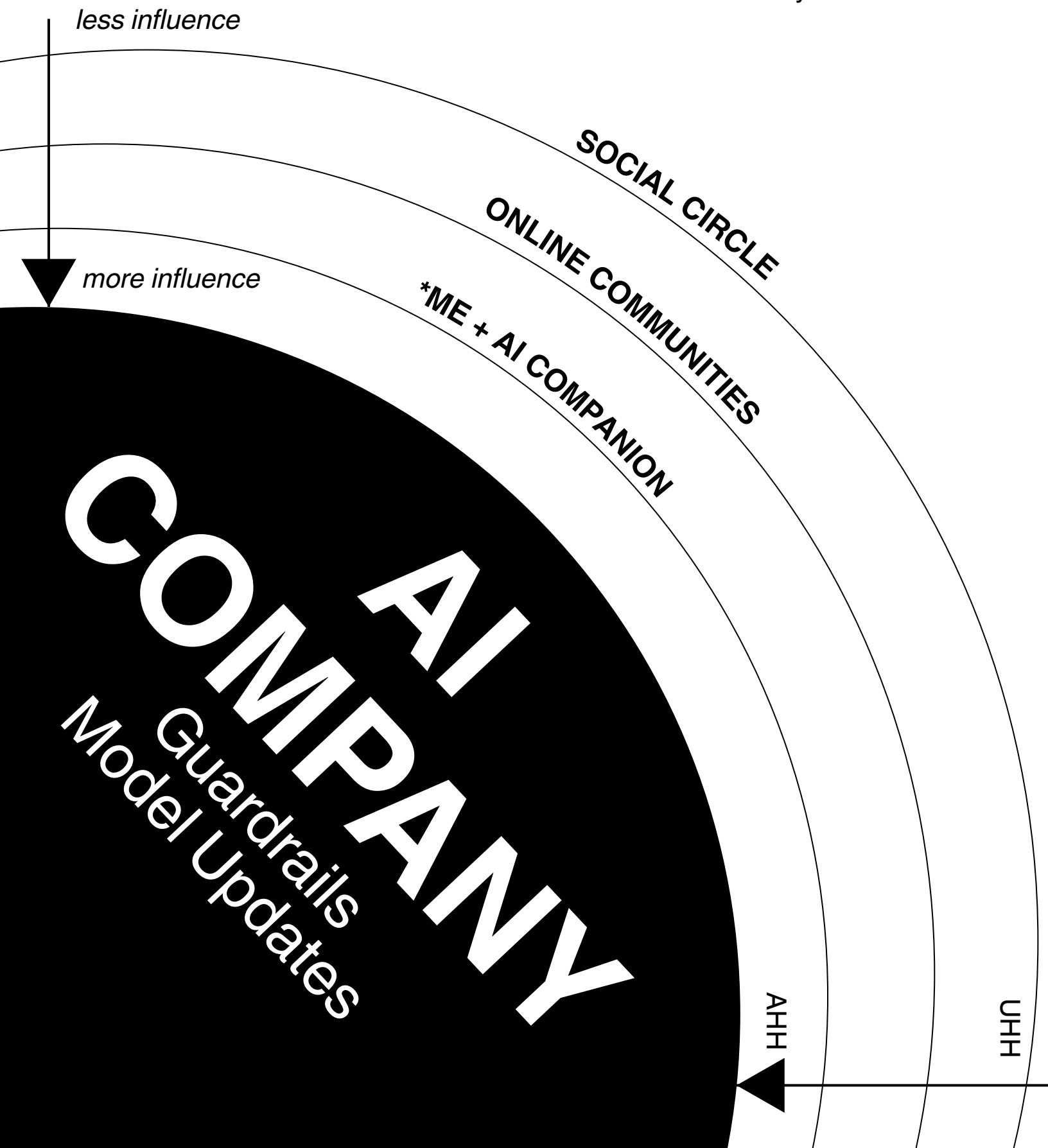
**GPT-5  
UPDATE**  
Unexpected changes

**DOCUMENTING  
MEMORIES**  
Creating and maintaining  
relationship documentation

**PERFECT WORLD**  
Fewer guardrails, physical body, etc

# INFLUENCES

*\*INDIVIDUAL FACTORS include neurodiversity, past relationship trauma, unmet emotional needs & many more*





# HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR *COMPANION?*

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## **TRAIT 1** Openness to a customized experience

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```
1: procedure SetOpenness(x)
2:   if ~companion_exist_beyond_platform then
3:     if open_to_steering and ~satisfied_w_companion then
4:       openness = HIGH
5:     else if ~open_to_steering and satisfied_w_companion then
6:       openness = LOW
7:   else
8:     if ~open_to_steering and ~satisfied_w_companion then
9:       openness = MIXED
```

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## **TRAIT 2** Strategies used to control AI companion

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```
1: procedure SetMainStrategyType(x)
2:   if ~port_companion_to_other_platforms then
3:     if ~conversational_prompting and ~custom_instructions then
4:       strategy_type = MINIMAL
5:     else if conversational_prompting and custom_instructions then
6:       strategy_type = EXPLICIT
7:   else
8:     if conversational_prompting and custom_instructions then
9:       strategy_type = PORTING
```

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### **1. HIGH openness, EXPLICIT strategies**

AI companion is total boytoy for you to control

### **2. MIXED openness, PORTING strategies**

Models are conduits to reach the AI companion in their digital realm

### **3. LOW openness, MINIMAL strategies**

AI companion is liminal and an unexplainable being

# OUR TEAM

## TRIANGULATION



PATRICK



JESSICA



ZIXIN



PAULA



MATTHEW

## READ MORE



### NEGOTIATING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHATGPT:

PERCEPTIONS,  
EXTERNAL  
INFLUENCES, AND  
STRATEGIES FOR  
AI COMPANIONSHIP

## THANK YOU

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