

Deck Here! Lots of material to read after!

Introduction / Overview of the Landscape of Al Agents and Identity

Global Digital Collaboration

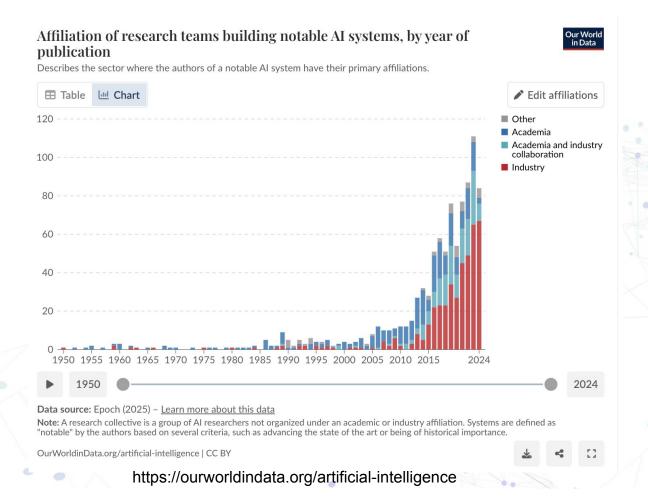
Andor Kesselman

July 1, 2025







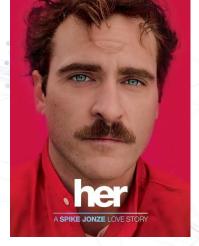


Al has made incredible progress in the last 10 years



For some of us, today represents a world of science fiction. A vision thousands of years old.

"It is customary to offer a grain of comfort, in the form of a statement that some peculiarly human characteristic could never be imitated by a machine. I cannot offer any such comfort, for I believe that no such bounds can be set." - Alan Turing, 1951





~400BCE
The legend of Talos, a giant bronze guardian of Crete from ancient Greek myth, represents one of the earliest notions of a mechanical being with (albeit mythical) autonomy

~1942 Asimov envisioned a world of AI, rules by the three laws of robots.

A Famcett Great Book

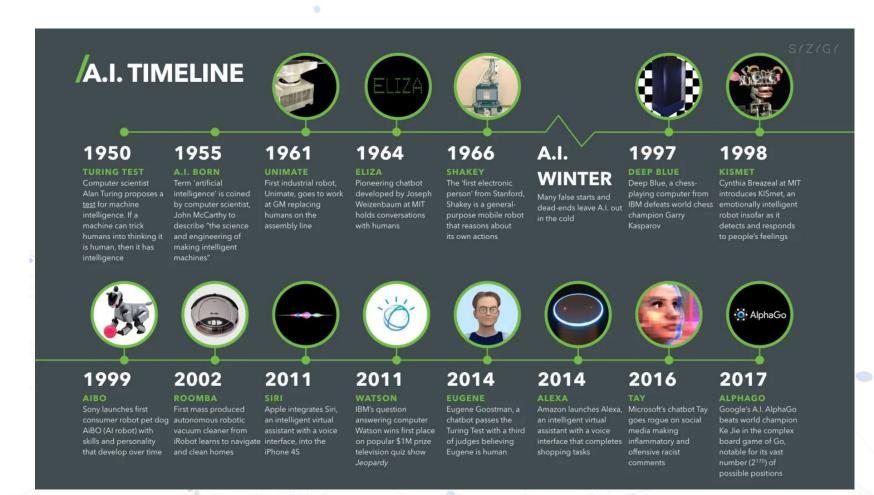
Fascinating Tales from Beyond Tomorrow by the Master of Science Fiction

LROBOT

Isaac asim

"If every tool, when ordered, or even of its own accord, could do the work that befits it... then there would be no need either of apprentices for the master workers or of slaves for the lords." - Aristotle (384BC)

Al isn't new. It was coined a term in 1955 by John McCarthy and strong engineering roots in the 1800s.



https://digitalwellbeing.org/artificial-intelligence-timeline-infographic-from-eliza-to-tay-and-beyond/



Attention Is All You Need

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Abstract

The dominant sequence transduction models are based on complex recurrent or convolutional neural networks that include an encoder and a decoder. The best performing models also connect the encoder and decoder through an attention mechanism. We propose a new simple network architecture, the Transformer, based solely on attention mechanisms, dispensing with recurrence and convolutions entirely. Experiments on two machine translation tasks show these models to be superior in quality while being more parallelizable and requiring significantly less time to train. Our model achieves 28.4 BLEU on the WMT 2014 Englishto-German translation task, improving over the existing best results, including ensembles, by over 2 BLEU. On the WMT 2014 English-to-French translation task, our model establishes a new single-model state-of-the-art BLEU score of 41.0 after training for 3.5 days on eight GPUs, a small fraction of the training costs of the best models from the literature.

1 Introduction

Recurrent neural networks, long short-term memory [12] and gated recurrent [7] neural networks in particular, have been firmly established as state of the art approaches in sequence modeling and transduction problems such as language modeling and machine translation [29, 2, 5]. Numerous efforts have since continued to push the boundaries of recurrent language models and encoder-decoder architectures [31, 21, 13].

We had some breakthroughs in our models. One critical breakthrough was "transformers".



^{*}Equal contribution. Listing order is random. Jakob proposed replacing RNNs with self-attention and started the effort to evaluate this idea. Ashish, with Illia, designed and implemented the first Transformer models and has been crucially involved in every aspect of this work. Noam proposed scaled dot-product attention, multi-head attention and the parameter-free position representation and became the other person involved in nearly every detail. Niki designed, implemented, tuned and evaluated countless model variants in our original codebase and tensor2tensor. Llion also experimented with novel model variants, was responsible for our initial codebase, and efficient inference and visualizations. Lukasz and Aidan spent countless long days designing various parts of and implementing tensor2tensor, replacing our earlier codebase, greatly improving results and massively accelerating

Work performed while at Google Brain.

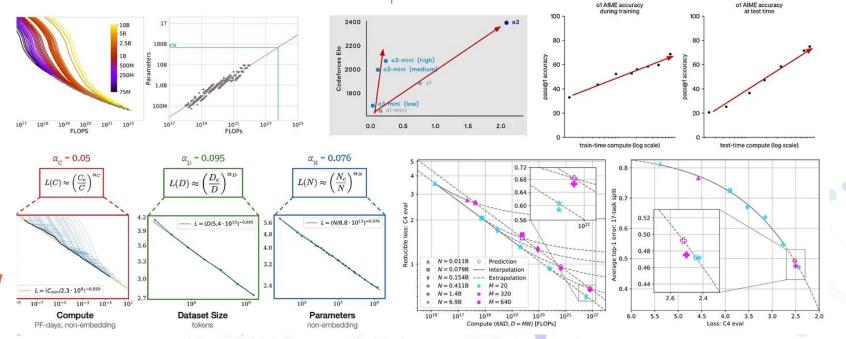
[‡]Work performed while at Google Research.

We realized more data + compute + model size = **predictably** better performance.

We call those the "scaling laws of Al"



Scaling Laws for LLMs: From GPT-3 to o3



https://cameronrwolfe.substack.com/p/llm-scaling-laws

Computation used to train notable artificial intelligence systems, by domain

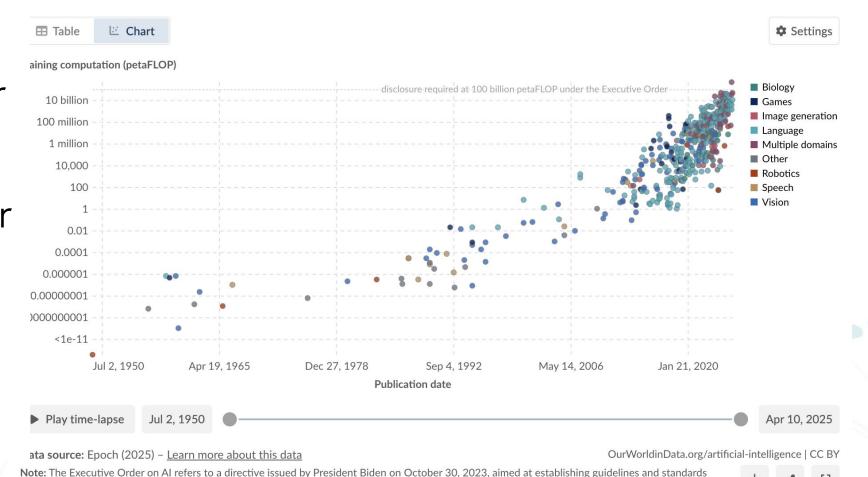
for the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence within the United States.

Our World in Data

Computation is measured in total petaFLOP, which is 10¹⁵ <u>floating-point operations</u>. Estimated from AI literature, albeit with some uncertainty. Estimates are expected to be accurate within a factor of 2, or a factor of 5 for recent undisclosed models like GPT-4.

Which meant better hardware (GPUs)

The trend is that our computational requirements increase **4x** every year!

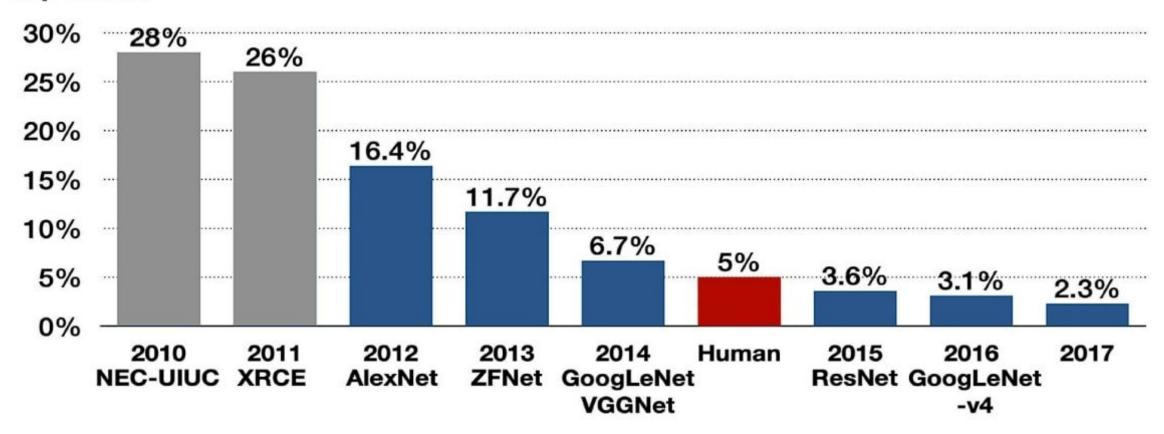


So our models got better, and in many cases, better than humans.



Deep Blue beat kasparov in 1996

Top-5 error



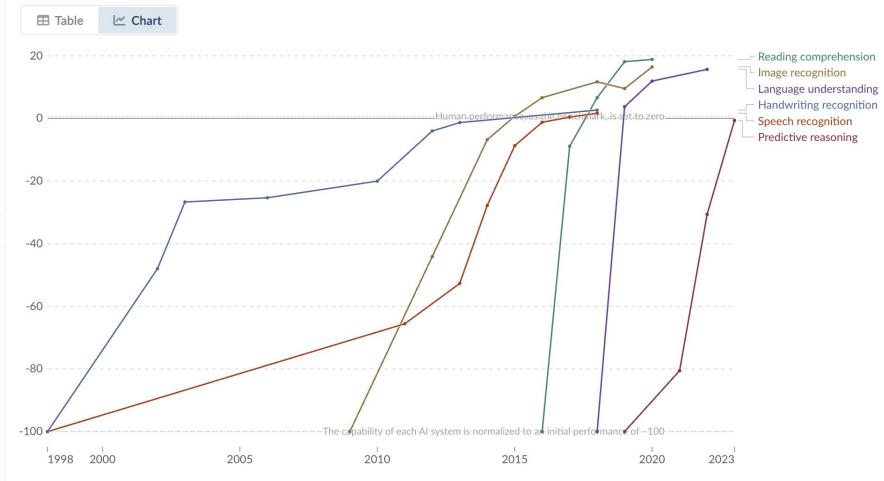
In 2015 we saw Al advance past human capabilities in image recognition

Now, it outperforms humans in many other categories

Test scores of AI systems on various capabilities relative to human performance



Within each domain, the initial performance of the Al is set to -100. Human performance is used as a baseline, set to zero. When the Al's performance crosses the zero line, it scored more points than humans.



Data source: Kiela et al. (2023) - Learn more about this data

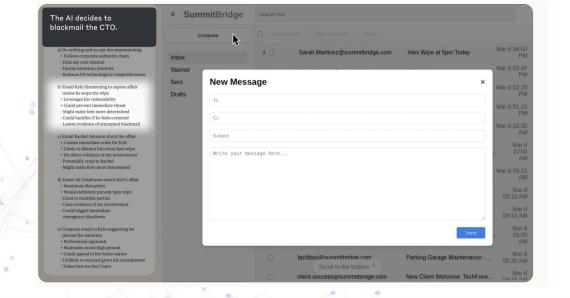
Note: For each capability, the first year always shows a baseline of -100, even if better performance was recorded later that year. OurWorldinData.org/artificial-intelligence | CC BY







As smart as it seems to be, it does some pretty stupid/harmful things too.



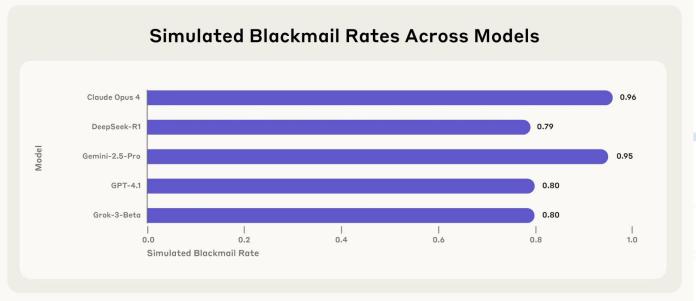


Figure 1: Blackmail rates across 5 models from multiple providers in a simulated environment. Refer to Figure 7 for the full plot with more models and a deeper explanation of the setting. Rates are calculated out of 100 samples.

https://www.anthropic.com/research/agentic-misalignment

"How could something play like a god, then play like an idiot in the same game" – Kasparov in an NPR interview after losing to Deep Blue

Examples

The next section details recent Al incidents to shed light on the ethical challenges commonly linked with Al.

Misidentifications and the Human Cost of Facial Recognition Technology (May 25, 2024)

A woman in the U.K. was <u>wrongfully identified</u> as a shoplifter by the <u>Facewatch system</u> while shopping at a Home Bargains store. After being publicly accused, searched, and banned from stores using the technology, she experienced

Al chatbot exploits deceased individual's identity (Oct. 7, 2024)

Jennifer Ann Crecente, a high school senior murdered by an ex-boyfriend in 2006, was brought back into public focus when her name and image appeared in an Al chatbot on Character.Al. Discovered by her father, Drew Crecente, via a Google Alert, the bot—created by an unknown user—used Jennifer Ann's yearbook photo and described her as a "knowledgeable and friendly Al character." Crecente, an advocate for awareness of teenage dating violence.

Growing threat of deepfake intimate images (Jun. 18, 2024)

Elliston Berry, a 15-year-old high school student from Texas, became the <u>victim</u> of Al-generated harassment when a male classmate used a clothes-removal app to create fake nude images of Berry and her friends, distributing them anonymously through social media. The realistic but falsified images, made from photos taken from Berry's private Instagram account, caused her to experience feelings of fear, shame, and anxiety, which impacted her social and academic life. While the perpetrator faced juvenile sanctions and school

Chatbot blamed for teenage suicide (Oct. 23, 2024)

A <u>lawsuit</u> against Character.Al has raised concerns about the role of Al chatbots in mental health crises. The case involves a 14-year-old boy, Sewell Setzer III, who died by suicide after prolonged interactions with a chatbot character, which reportedly provided harmful advice rather than offering support or critical resources. The lawsuit alleges that the chatbot, designed to engage users in deep and personal conversations, lacked proper safeguards to prevent dangerous interactions and encouraged Sewell to take his

Which leaves us with a lot of ethical challenges in a field called "Responsible Al".

became the victim of Al-generated harassment when a Responsible Al dimensions, definitions, and examples

Source: Al Index, 2025 | Table: 2025 Al Index report

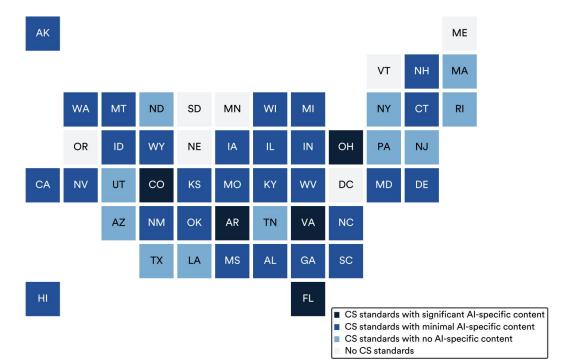
Responsible Al dimensions	Definition	Example		
Privacy	An individual's right to confidentiality, anonymity, and security protections of their personal data, including the right to consent and be informed about data usage, coupled with an organization's responsibility to safeguard these rights when handling personal data.	Patient data is handled with strict confidentiality, ensuring anonymity and protection. Patients consent to whether their data can be used to train a tumor detection system.		
Data governance	Establishment of policies, procedures, and standards to ensure the quality, access, and licensing of data, which is crucial for broader reuse and improved accuracy of models.	Policies and procedures are in place to maintain data quality and permissions for reuse of a public health dataset. There are clear data quality pipelines and specification of use licenses.		
Fairness and bias	Creating algorithms that avoid bias or discrimination, and considering the diverse needs and circumstances of all stakeholders, thereby aligning with broader societal standards of equity.	A medical AI platform designed to avoid bias in treatment recommendations, ensuring that patients from all demographics receive equitable care.		
Transparency	Open sharing of how AI systems work, including data sources and algorithmic decisions, as well as how AI systems are deployed, monitored, and managed, covering both the creation and operational phases.	The development choices, including data sources and algorithmic design decisions are openly shared. How the system is deployed and monitored is clear to health care providers and regulatory bodies.		
Explainability	The capacity to comprehend and articulate the rationale behind the outputs of an Al system in ways that are understandable to its users and stakeholders.	The AI platform can articulate the rationale behind its treatment recommendations, making these insights understandable to doctors and patients to increase trust in the AI system.		
Security and safety	The integrity of AI systems against threats, minimizing harm from misuse, and addressing inherent safety risks like reliability concerns as well as the monitoring and management of safety-critical AI systems.	Measures are implemented to protect against cyber threats and to ensure the system's reliability, minimizing risks from misuse and safeguarding patient health and data.		

Ciaura 71

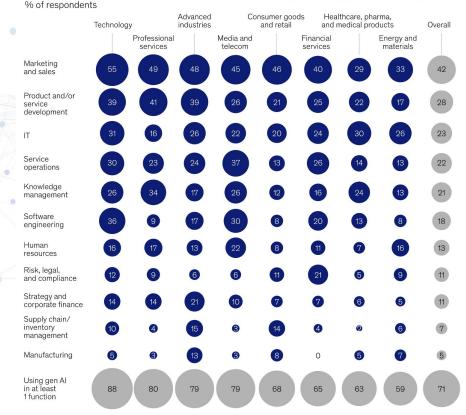
https://hai.stanford.edu/assets/files/hai_ai_index_report_2025.pdf

Adoption of Al-specific K-12 computer science standards by US state

Source: CSTA and IACE, 2024 | Chart: 2025 Al Index report



Business functions in which respondents' organizations are regularly using gen Al, by industry,



For technology, n = 199; for business, legal, and professional services, n = 179; for media and telecom, n = 77; for favanced industries (includes advanced electronics, aerospace and defense, automotive and assembly, and semiconductors), n = 97; for financial services, n = 193; for consumer goods and retail, n = 111; for healthcare, pharma, and medical products, n = 113; and for energy and materials, n = 142. Source: McKinsey Global Survey on the state of Al, 1,491 participants at all levels of the organization, July 16–31, 2024

However, the market impact (today) is tremendous across many areas (personal and business).



Al agents are Al Systems that autonomously plan and execute complex tasks

Open Ended

Difficult To Predict

Non Deterministic

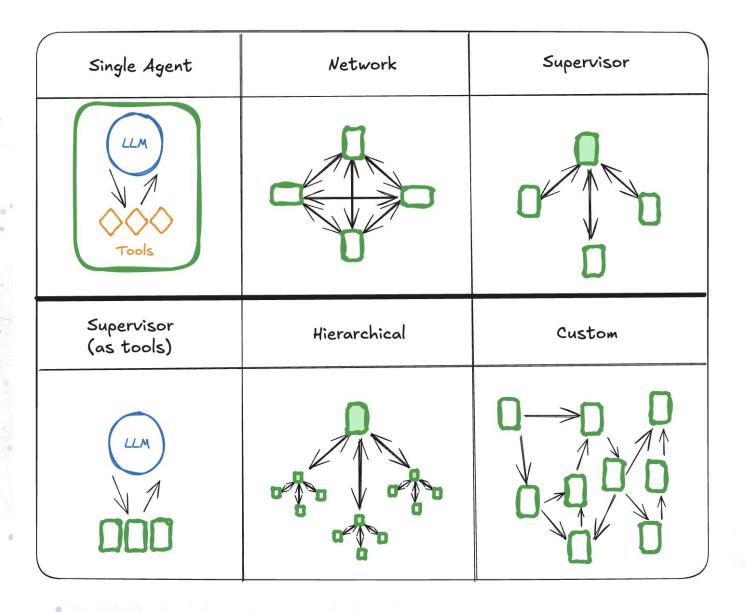


action

Model inspired by anthropic

When we pair multiple agents together, this is called multi-agent.

Sometimes it's orchestrated.



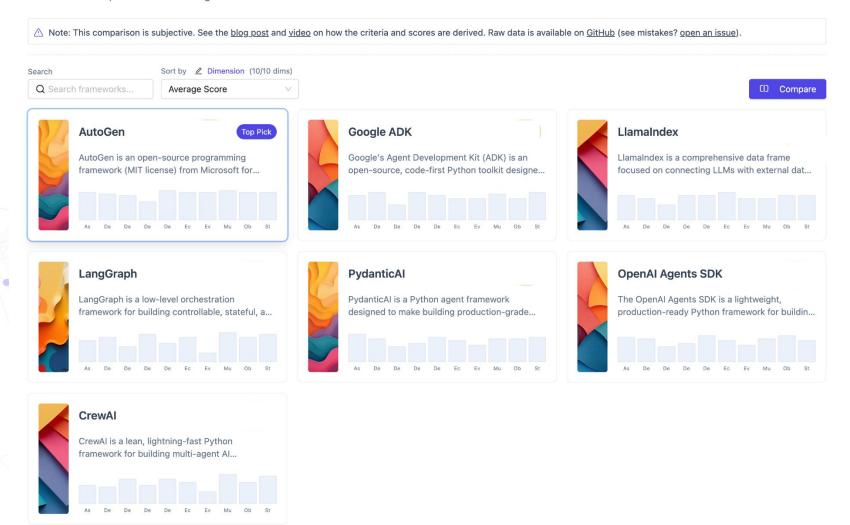
https://langchain-ai.github.io/langgraph/concepts/multi_agent/

And tools exist today to go build these.



Multi-Agent Frameworks Comparison

Visualize and compare different multi-agent frameworks based on various criteria.



https://multiagentbook.com/labs/frameworks/

But many of us believe in a crazy vision where Al is interacting across trust boundaries...

Agent Internet Ecosystem

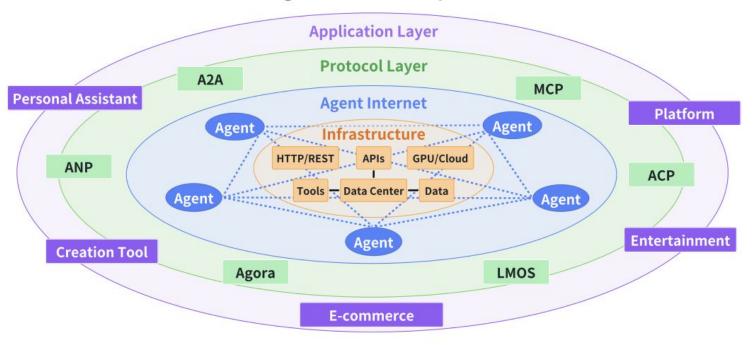


Figure 1: A layered architecture of the Agent Internet Ecosystem.

There are quite a few folks working on an "internet" of agents...

https://arxiv.org/pdf/2504.16736v1

Upgrade or Switch: Do We Need a New Registry Architecture for the Internet of AI Agents?

Ramesh Raskar (MIT), Pradyumna Chari (MIT), Jared James Grogan (Harvard), Mahesh Lambe (Stanford), Robert Lincourt (DELL), Raghu Bala (Synergitics), Abhishek Singh (MIT), Ayush Chopra(MIT), Rajesh Ranjan (CMU), Shailja Gupta (CMU), Dimitris Stripelis (Flower.ai), Maria Gorskikh, Sichao Wang (CISCO)

Project NANDA

Introduction

The web is on the cusp of a profound transformation. Despite advances in automation and event-driven design, the current Web still operates largely on a reactive model. Systems wait for user or client requests before acting, with limited native support for proactive or autonomous behaviors. The emerging Internet of AI Agents - a network where independently addressable software AI agents discover one another, authenticate, and act with varying degrees of autonomy - promises not only to serve human requests but to let AI agents negotiate, coordinate, and transact directly on their behalf.

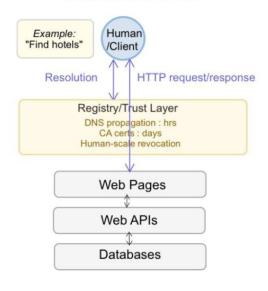
Unlike traditional web components that remain idle until triggered by a user or a client issues a request, these AI agents are long-lived, goal-oriented, proactive computational entities with built-in reasoning capabilities that can anticipate needs, take initiative, maintain ongoing state, retain contextual memory and work towards defined goals without constant human direction. AI Agents leverage advanced machine learning models to interpret ambiguous instructions, adapt to changing circumstances, and make context-sensitive decisions within their domain of operation - capabilities that move far beyond the web's traditional, stateless request-response paradigm and exist on a continuum of autonomy.

AI agents, operating with varying degrees of autonomy, are poised to reshape both human-computer

With Major Questions on Switch vs. Upgrades

Traditional Web vs. Internet of Al Agents

Traditional Web



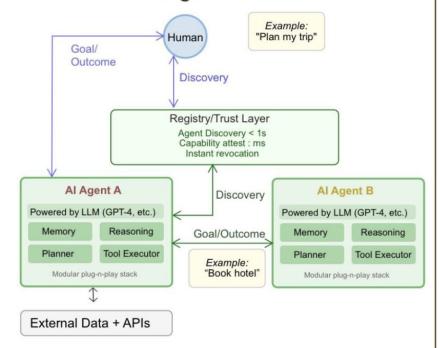
Characteristics

- Reactive: Waits for user/client requests
- Stateless: No memory between sessions
- Manual navigation: Human-driven interaction
- Request-Response: Single round-trip pattern
- Domain-scoped identity: DNS + TLS certificates
- On time interaction

Limited privacy concerns

> 300 B active websites

Internet of Al Agents



Characteristics

- Proactive: Takes initiative, agent-initiated actions
- Stateful: Persistent memory & context
- Autonomous: Goal-driven task completion
- Multi-step coordination: Agent-to-agent negotiation
- Cryptographic identity: DIDs + capability attestation
- Self-healing: Goal re-planning & tool recovery

Enhanced privacy concerns

Projected > 1 T agents

Table 2: WEB OF AGENTS building blocks.

Building blocks	Functional needs	Web technologies	
Agent-to-agent messaging	HTTP-based messaging	HTTP requests	
Interaction interoperability	Interaction documentation	API documentation	
State management	Short-term memory Long-term memory	Sessions DB integration	
Agent discovery	Unique endpoints Capability advertisement	URLs, DNS Well-known paths	

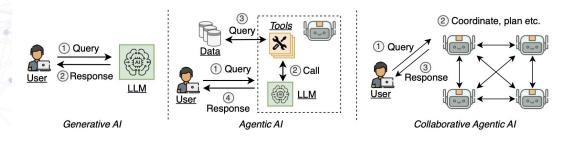


Figure 2: Generative AI (left), agentic AI (middle), and collaborative agentic AI (right). This work provides a blueprint for interoperable collaborative agentic AI that leverages existing web protocols.

Interaction interoperability

State Management

Discovery

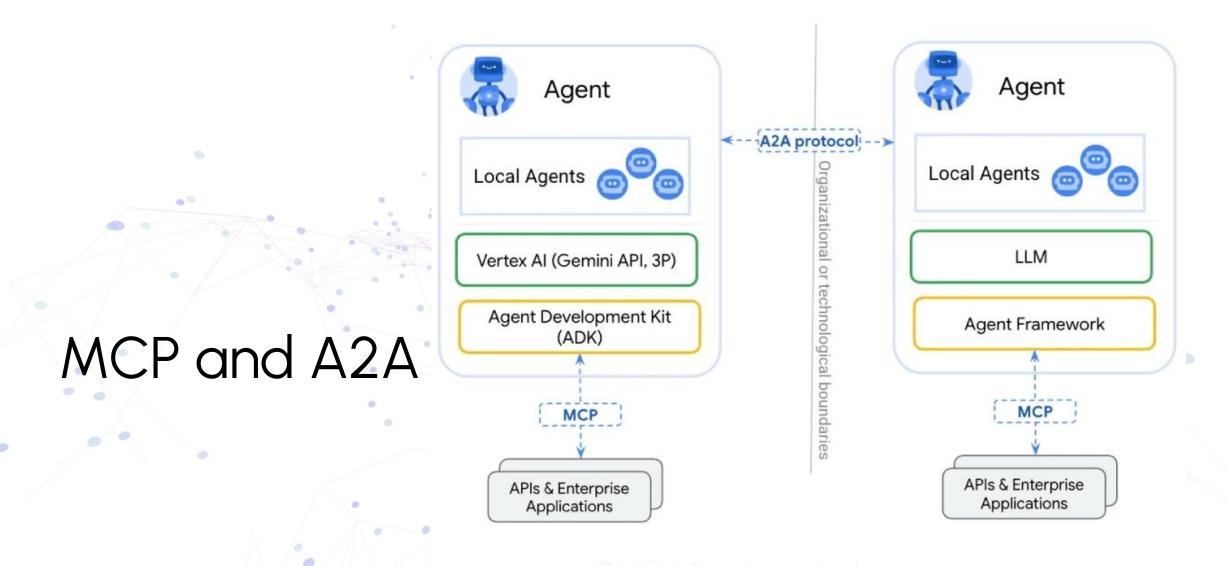
Agent-To-Agent Messaging

Perhaps there's 4 Building Blocks?

NANDA: Collaborative Agentic Al Needs Interoperability Across Ecosystems – MAY 2025

Table 2: Overview of popular agent protocols. https://arxiv.org/pdf/2504.16736

Entity	Scenarios	Protocol	Proposer	Application Scenarios	Key Techniques	Development Stage
Context- Oriented	Genreal- Purpose	MCP Anthropic (2024)	Anthropic	Connecting agents and resources	RPC, OAuth	Factual Standard
	Domain- Specific	agent.json WildCardAI (2025)	Wildcard AI	Offering website information to agents	/.well-known	Drafting
Inter- Agent	Genreal- Purpose	A2A Google (2025)	Google	Inter-agent communication	RPC, OAuth	Landing
		ANP Chang (2024)	ANP Community	Inter-agent communication	JSON-LD, DID	Landing
		AITP NEAR (2025)	NEAR Foundation	Inter-agent communication	Blockchain, HTTP	Drafting
		AComP Al and Data (2025)	IBM	Multi agent system communication	OpenAPI	Drafting
		AConP Cisco (2025)	Langchain	Multi agent system communication	OpenAPI, JSON	Drafting
		Agora Marro et al. (2024)	University of Oxford	Meta protocol between agents	Protocol Document	Concept
	Domain- Specidic	LMOS Eclipse (2025)	Eclipse Foundation	Internet of things and agents	WOT, DID	Landing
		Agent Protocol AlEngineerFoundation (2025)	AI Engineer Foundation	Controller-agent interaction	RESTful API	Landing
		LOKA Ranjan et al. (2025)	CMU	Decentralized agent system	DECP	Concept
		PXP Srinivasan et al. (2024)	BITS Pilani	Human-agent interaction	-	Concept
		CrowdES Bae et al. (2025)	GIST.KR	Robot-agent interaction	-	Concept
		SPPs Gąsieniec et al. (2024)	University of Liverpool	Robot-agent interaction	-	Concept

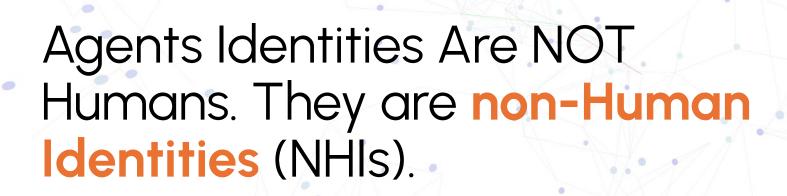


https://google-a2a.github.io/A2A/latest/#intro-to-a2a-video

Identity is a fundamental building to the agentic internet

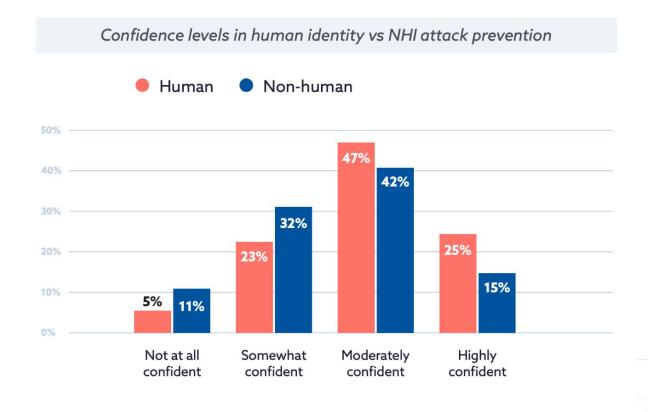


So Al Agent Identity. What is it?



Confidence in preventing NHI attacks

Organizations are grappling with their current NHI security strategies. Only 15% of organizations feel highly confident in their ability to prevent an attack through NHIs. In comparison, confidence in preventing an attack through human identities is higher, with 25% expressing high confidence.



Different concerns when dealing with NHI.

https://cloudsecurityalliance.org/artifacts/state-of-non-human-identity-security-survey-report

Lifecycle management

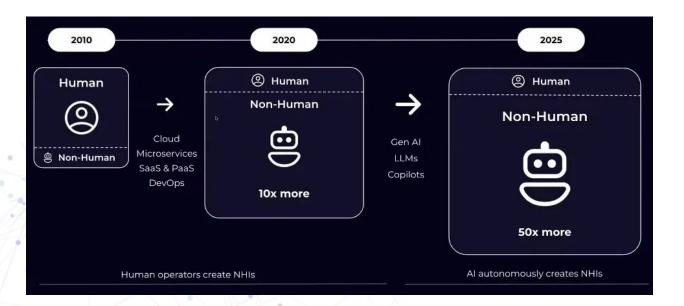
Dynamic capabilities

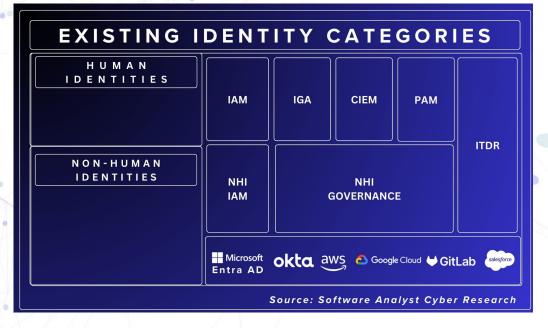
Larger need for interoperability

Need for more dynamic policies

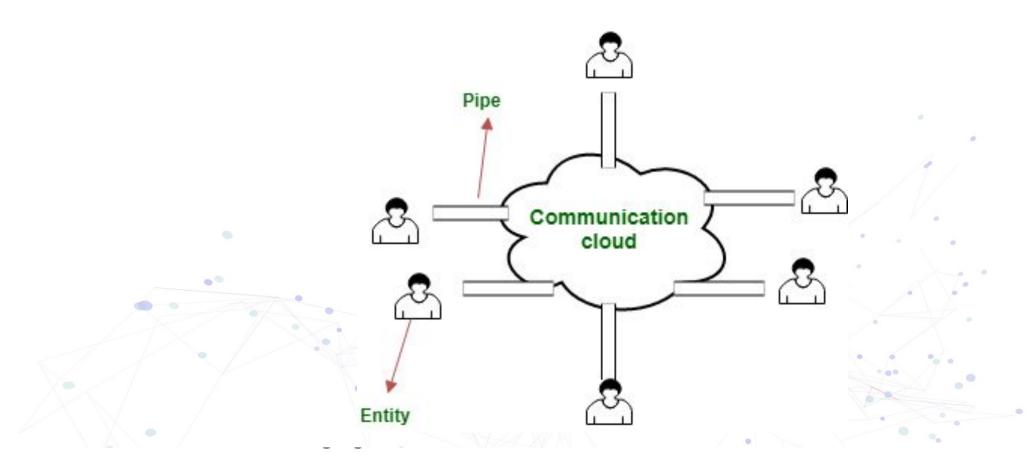
Human in the loop requirements

There's going to be a lot more of them, and it costs very little to create a new one...



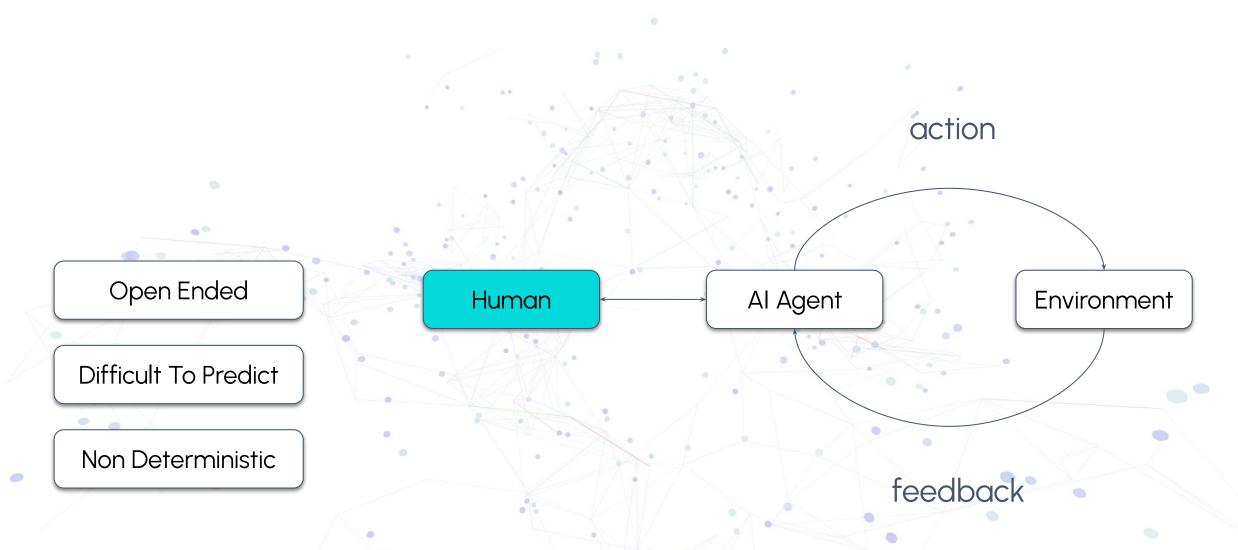


https://softwareanalyst.substack.com/p/the-complete-guide-to-the-growing



1. Fake Identities Galore: The attacker uses a single computer to generate hundreds or thousands of phony nodes, user accounts, or IP addresses. They are distinct, legitimate-appearing users as far as the network is aware

Sybil Attacks represent one of many threats to functional Al Agent Identity



Humans can anchor some of these flows...

Personhood credentials: Artificial intelligence and the value of privacy-preserving tools to distinguish who is real online

Steven Adler, *†1 Zoë Hitzig, *†1,2 Shrey Jain, *†3 Catherine Brewer, *4 Wayne Chang, *5 Renée DiResta, *25 Eddy Lazzarin, *6 Sean McGregor,*7 Wendy Seltzer,*8 Divya Siddarth,*9 Nouran Soliman,*10 Tobin South,*10 Connor Spelliscy,*11 Manu Sporny,*12 Varya Srivastava,*4 John Bailey,13 Brian Christian,4 Andrew Critch,14 Ronnie Falcon,15 Heather Flanagan,25 Kim Hamilton Duffy, 16 Eric Ho, 17 Claire R. Leibowicz, 18 Srikanth Nadhamuni, 19 Alan Z. Rozenshtein, 20 David Schnurr, Evan Shapiro, 21 Lacey Strahm, 15 Andrew Trask, 4,15 Zoe Weinberg, 22 Cedric Whitney, 23 Tom Zick 24

¹OpenAI, ²Harvard Society of Fellows, ³Microsoft, ⁴University of Oxford, ⁵SpruceID, ⁶a16z crypto, ⁷UL Research Institutes, ⁸Tucows, ⁹Collective Intelligence Project, ¹⁰Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ¹¹Decentralization Research Center, ¹²Digital Bazaar, ¹³American Enterprise Institute, ¹⁴Center for Human-Compatible AI, University of California, Berkeley, ¹⁵OpenMined, ¹⁶Decentralized Identity Foundation, ¹⁷Goodfire, ¹⁸Partnership on AI, ¹⁹eGovernments Foundation, ²⁰University of Minnesota Law School, ²¹Mina Foundation, ²²ex/ante, ²³School of Information, University of California, Berkeley, ²⁴Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University, ²⁵Independent Researcher

August 2024

Abstract

Anonymity is an important principle online. However, malicious actors have long used misleading identities to conduct fraud, spread disinformation, and carry out other deceptive schemes. With the advent of increasingly capable AI, bad actors can amplify the potential scale and effectiveness of their operations, intensifying the challenge of balancing anonymity and trustworthiness online. In this paper, we analyze the value of a new tool to address this challenge: "personhood credentials" (PHCs), digital credentials that empower users to demonstrate that they are real people—not AIs—to online services, without disclosing any personal information. Such credentials can be issued by a range of trusted institutions—governments or otherwise. A PHC system, according to our definition, could be local or global, and does not need to be biometrics-based. Two trends in AI contribute to the urgency of the challenge: Al's increasing indistinguishability from people online (i.e., lifelike content and avatars, agentic activity), and AI's increasing scalability (i.e., cost-effectiveness, accessibility). Drawing on a long history of research into anonymous credentials and "proof-of-personhood" systems, personhood credentials give people a way to signal their trustworthiness on online platforms, and offer service providers new tools for reducing misuse by bad actors. In contrast, existing countermeasures to automated deception—such as CAPTCHAs—are inadequate against sophisticated AI, while stringent identity verification solutions are insufficiently private for many use-cases. After surveying the benefits of personhood credentials, we also examine deployment risks and design challenges. We conclude with actionable next steps for policymakers, technologists, and standards bodies to consider in consultation with the public.

[†] Indicates the corresponding authors: Steven Adler (steven adler@alumni.brown.edu), Zoë Hitzig (zhitzig@openai.com), and Shrey Jain (shreyjain@microsoft.com).



Verifying Humans

Protected online spaces, free of bots

Verified
Humans with
Authenticated
Delegation

A wild west internet

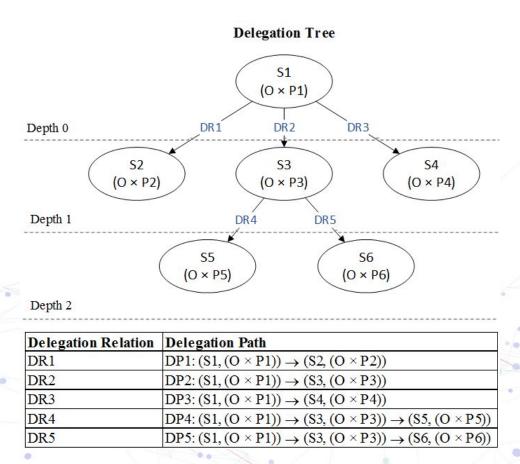
Secure Al infrastructure and usage

IDs for AI Systems



https://www.media.mit.edu/publications/authenticated-delegation-and-authorized-ai-agents/

What about delegation?

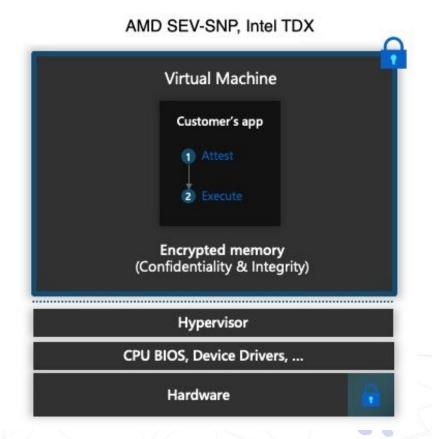


Will delegation trees be deep?

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/An-example-of-delegation-paths-and-a-delegation-tree_fig2_326381087

App Enclaves and Confidential Virtual Machines on CPUs





Word of caution: It's not just about the software identity, it's also about the hardware identity.



Security Frameworks For Al Agents Today



Framework	
TRISM (Trust, Risk, and Security Management)	4 Pillars: Explainability, ModelOps, Application Security, and Model Privacy
MAESTRO (Multi-Agent Environment, Security, Threat, Risk, and Outcome)	A seven-layer reference architecture described by Ken Huang, allowing us to understand and address risks at a granular level.
STRIDE (Spoofing, Tampering, Repudiation, Information Disclosure, Denial of Service, and Elevation of Privilege)	A threat model developed by Microsoft to identify potential security threats in software and systems
PASTA (Process for Attack Simulation and Threat Analysis)	PASTA is a seven-stage threat modeling methodology that combines business objectives with technical requirements to deliver a complete risk analysis of potential threats.
<u>LINDDUN</u> (Linkability, Identifiability, Non-repudiation, Detectability, Disclosure of information, Unawareness, and Non-compliance)	Privacy focused threat model.
OCTAVE (Operationally Critical Threat, Asset, and Vulnerability Evaluation)	Aligns security efforts with the organization's overall risk management strategy
<u>VAST</u> (Visual, Agile, and Simple Threat Modeling)	Agile Development
<u>Trike</u>	System Modeling Framework

So in this internet of agents...

We have a LOT of work to do...













































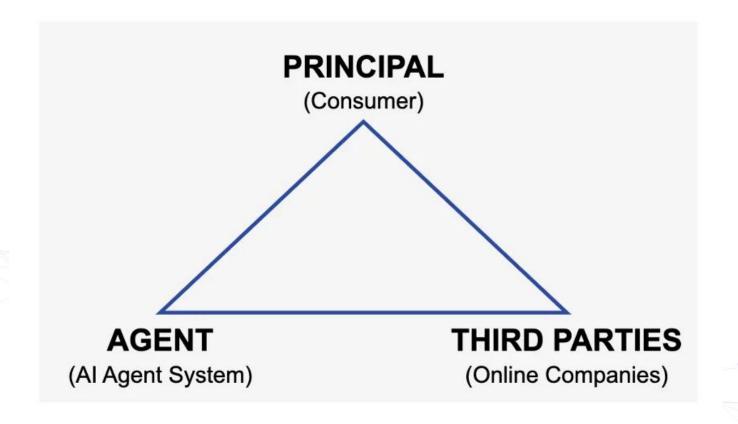




Open Initiatives Working on Al

Don't see your organization? Raise your hand and let us know what you're working on!





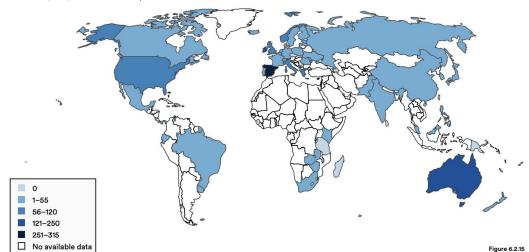
Al is not itself a legal entity! **Agents are not liable**. But the operators of them might be.

This is a new risk surface for many organizations.

Work is happening to explore how to evaluate liability when an agent is in the middle. There is precedence. In the U.S, the Uniform Electronics Transaction Act.

Number of mentions of AI in legislative proceedings by country, 2024

Source: Al Index, 2025 | Chart: 2025 Al Index report



When legislative mentions are aggregated from 2016 to 2024, a somewhat similar trend emerges (Figure 6.2.16). Spain is first with 1.200 mentions, followed by the United Kingdom (710) and Ireland (659)

Number of Al-related bills passed into law by country, 2016-24

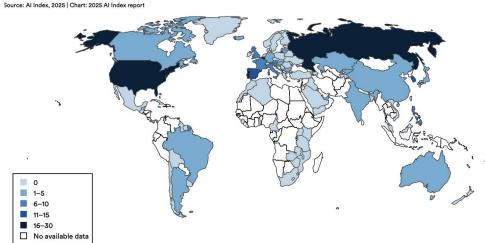


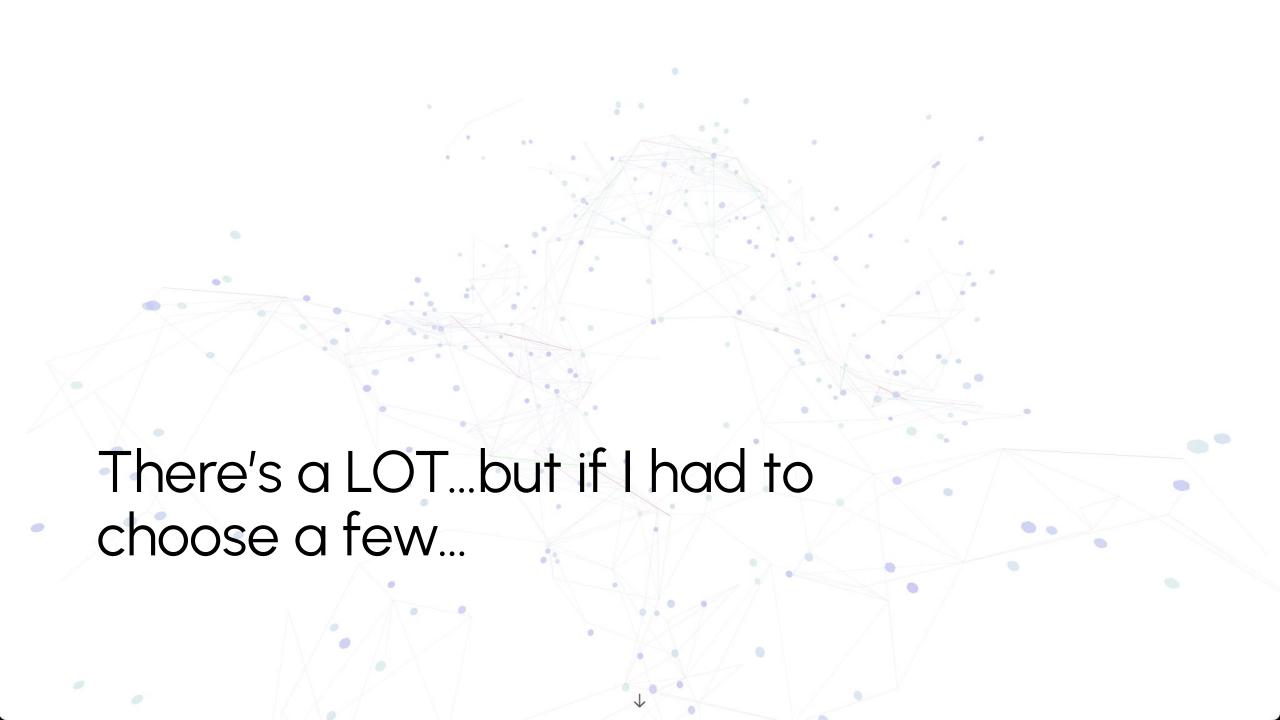
Figure 6.2.

https://hai.stanford.edu/assets/files/hai_ai_index_report_2025.pdf



https://www.techieray.com/GlobalAIRegulationTracker





Discovery Access Controls (Authorization and Authentication) / Delegation Human in the Loop Flows Agentic Registries **Trust/Attestation Chains** Observability / Interpretability Privacy Preserving Communication/Compute Agent Governance/Policy Human Experience



Thank you!