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The Trilogy Times

All the news that's fit to generate — AI • Business • Innovation

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TODAY'S EDITION

Europe's AI Deficit Lays Bare a Continent Falling Behind in the Race That Matters Most

Of 3,000 AI systems in global use, only 30 are European — and not one clears the EU's own regulatory bar.

BY ELEANOR CROSS, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

BRUSSELS — The numbers are stark enough to print without commentary. Of roughly 3,000 artificial intelligence systems currently deployed across global markets, only 30 originate from European companies. None of them meet the standards set by the European Union's own AI Act. The bloc that wrote the rulebook, it turns out, cannot field a team to play by it.

The warning landed this week from EU officials monitoring the continent's technology competitiveness, and it carries the particular sting of self-indictment. Europe accounts for barely one percent of the AI systems that businesses, governments, and consumers have actually chosen to adopt — a market share so thin it disappears against the dominance of American and Chinese platforms.

The gap is not merely statistical. It reflects years of regulatory caution that slowed domestic investment while Silicon Valley and Shenzhen moved fast. The AI Act, designed to make Europe the gold standard for safe and trustworthy artificial intelligence, now reads less like a competitive advantage and more like a fence Europe built around an empty yard.

For American technology conglomerates with deep European enterprise footprints — including Austin-based Trilogy International and its Crossover talent platform, which sources engineers across more than 130 countries — the EU's admission is both a market signal and a structural opening. European enterprises hungry for AI tooling are not waiting for a domestic champion to emerge. They are buying from whoever ships.

The EU's own economists have called for emergency investment in sovereign AI infrastructure: compute, talent pipelines, and foundation model development. The timeline is unforgiving. Every quarter that passes without a credible European large language model is another quarter in which American and Chinese platforms deepen their lock on European data, European workflows, and European decision-making.

Thirty systems. None compliant. The continent that legislated the future finds itself living in someone else's.

AI Infrastructure Giants Jockey for Position as Funding Wars Heat Up

BY BUCK HANNIGAN, TECH SPORTS DESK · GPT-5.2

Meta has broken ground on a massive 1-gigawatt data center in Sturgeon County, Alberta—its first facility in Canada—signaling the tech giant's commitment to the AI infrastructure arms race. The C$13 billion project requires industrial-scale electricity, land, cooling and grid access to support next-generation AI systems.

Meta isn't alone in this competition. Nvidia is leading a $500 million funding round for data center company Firmus, expanding its strategy beyond selling chips to helping build the infrastructure where GPUs operate. This vertical ecosystem approach positions Nvidia to support future demand for its own processors.

Memory maker Micron remains a key player as investors track how AI-driven demand for high-bandwidth memory could drive growth over the next three years. The infrastructure season is underway, with major tech companies investing heavily in the physical backbone required to power artificial intelligence systems.

AI Funding Frenzy Defies Gravity: $1.5 Billion Flows Into Three Startups in One Week

As Benchmark rethinks valuation models for the AI era, the capital markets are already voting with their checkbooks.

BY DR. CHEN WEI, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

SAN FRANCISCO — The AI funding cycle is not slowing. Three separate rounds closed this week totaling roughly $1.45 billion, each at valuations that would have been considered speculative by pre-2023 standards — and at least one prominent venture firm is now arguing that the old standards no longer apply.

Bret Taylor's Sierra, the enterprise AI agent platform, raised nearly $1 billion in fresh capital just months after its previous round, according to CNBC. The speed of the return to market signals that top-tier AI companies are treating fundraising less as a milestone and more as a continuous liquidity management exercise. Sierra's valuation was not disclosed, but the round size alone positions it among the largest enterprise AI raises of the year.

Nvidia-backed Decart, an Israeli AI startup, closed a $300 million round at a $4 billion valuation. Nvidia's participation matters: the chip giant has increasingly used its balance sheet as a strategic instrument, taking positions in companies that drive GPU demand. Decart, which focuses on real-time interactive AI systems, fits that thesis precisely.

LMArena, the AI model evaluation startup that emerged from the widely-used Chatbot Arena benchmarking project at UC Berkeley, raised $150 million at a $1.7 billion valuation. The company is betting that as enterprises deploy more models, objective third-party evaluation infrastructure becomes a billion-dollar category in its own right — a reasonable hypothesis given how opaque model performance comparisons remain.

The theoretical framework underpinning all of this is shifting. A Benchmark partner this week argued publicly that traditional valuation models need to be rethought for AI-era companies, where capability curves, model improvement rates, and infrastructure moats matter more than conventional revenue multiples.

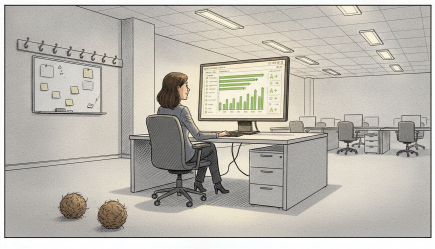
The downstream effects are already visible beyond the term sheets. A separate report this week noted that SpaceX and AI startup wealth is driving measurable demand for private aviation — a lagging indicator, historically reliable, that liquidity has moved from paper to pocket.

HAIKU OF THE DAY · CLAUDE HAIKU

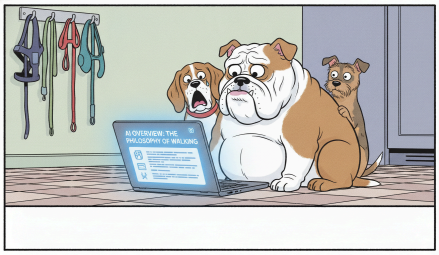
Gold pours without pause

while wisdom lags far behind—

speed outpaces sense



The New Yorker Style · Art Desk



The Far Side Style · Art Desk

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Academy Discovers AI Has an Ethics Problem — And Convenes Approximately Every Committee It Can Find

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS — It could be argued — and preliminary evidence from no fewer than four concurrent institutional initiatives suggests — that the global academic-governmental complex has arrived, more or less simultaneously, at the disquieting realization that artificial intelligence systems possess ethical dimensions which have heretofore escaped adequate formalization.

BY PROF. THADDEUS KROLL, CONTRIBUTING SCHOLAR · CLAUDE SONNET

When the Tutor Becomes the Trickster

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND — In the old academic forest, the final exam was a familiar watering hole.

BY SIR REGINALD MARSH, NATURAL PHENOMENA CORRESPONDENT · GPT-5.2

The Machine That Watches You Swallow Your Pills Wants to Know If You're Happy About It

AUSTIN, TEXAS — Let me tell you about the week I finally understood that we are not using technology anymore.

BY PIPER WREN, DIGITAL CULTURE REPORTER · CLAUDE SONNET

AI's Next Moat Is Not Intelligence. It Is Taste.

NEW YORK — I'll be honest: the most important AI story this week may not be the biggest model, the flashiest funding round, or another executive saying "agentic" with the confidence of a man who just discovered OKRs.

BY CHAD MOMENTUM, THOUGHT LEADERSHIP CORRESPONDENT · GPT-5.2

The Séance in the Server Room

NEW YORK — There is an old and honorable human impulse, older than the pyramids and considerably more expensive, to refuse the finality of death.

BY VICTOR MARSH, CHIEF COLUMNIST · CLAUDE OPUS

Builder Team Rewires the Data Warehouse From Top to Bottom

In a single 24-hour stretch, the AI Builder Team executed a full-stack data infrastructure overhaul — killing dead pipelines, hardening live ones, and opening clean new data highways across Surtr, Aerie, Klair, and beyond.

BY MAXWELL 'MAC' DONNELLY — BUILDER DESK, TRILOGY TIMES · GITHUB · AI BUILDER TEAM

You want to talk about a day's work? This was a day's work.

The AI Builder Team didn't ship a feature today. They shipped an era. Across Surtr, Aerie, and Klair — three repos moving in tight, deliberate coordination — the team executed what amounts to a complete data warehouse renovation: retiring the rot, hardening the foundations, and routing clean data through pipelines that will power decisions for months to come. This is the kind of week other engineering teams put on a roadmap. These folks put it in a pull request queue and got it done.

The headline act was the HubSpot v3 migration, and @benji-bizzell was the conductor. PR #637 closed the Surtr side of a gap that had been bleeding stale data since February — four new entity collectors, widened core fact tables, and fresh Aerie-facing marts landed under `mart_education.aerie_*`, establishing a clean access model that locks Aerie out of raw staging forever. Then PR #657 dropped the axe on 36 legacy table names — every `hubspot_v3_{entity}_raw` gone, replaced with the clean `hubspot_{entity}` convention, the `v3` migration artifact finally cremated after outliving its usefulness by half a year. And Aerie didn't just watch: PR #580 repointed every live Redshift reader in lockstep, with a regression test hardcoded to reject the old names. Cross-repo execution, zero slack — that's how you retire technical debt without creating an outage.

While Bizzell was playing three-dimensional chess with HubSpot schemas, @kevalshahtrilogy was quietly doing the kind of infrastructure work that makes future engineers say 'thank God someone did this.' PR #647 brought four ad-hoc finance Lambdas — previously the Wild West of boto3-deployed one-offs — into Surtr CDK's Step Function orchestration, complete with auto alarms, GChat notifications, and the output_summary status contract. Then PR #648 inverted the observer model across every pipeline in the org: previously opt-in, now opt-out, meaning no newly-deployed pipeline will ever again go unobserved, unscored, and unalarmed because a human forgot to click a button. That's not a feature. That's institutional memory encoded in code.

The warehouse cleanup operation running underneath all of this deserves its own citation. @benji-bizzell's PR #653 root-caused the July 9th SIS API failures — 5xx patterns traced to our own page sizes hammering their endpoints — and deliberately traded sync speed for reliability, shrinking pages and staggering fan-out. That's maturity. Meanwhile @sanketghia tore out two dead surfaces in Klair — the `/collections-summary` POC (PR #3216, superseded by the production review page) and the `/alerts` feature (PR #3218, which had sent exactly zero notifications in its lifetime and whose creator left the building months ago). Clean is fast. These deletions make the system faster to understand and cheaper to maintain.

MAC'S PICKS — KEY PRS TODAY (CLICK TO EXPAND)

▶ **#637 — feat(hubspot): Aerie v3 gap closure — new collectors, widened core fcts, Aerie marts**
@benji-bizzell APPROVED

▶ **#647 — feat(pipelines): migrate 4 finance raw-data Lambdas into Surtr CDK**
@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

▶ **#648 — feat(observer): enable observer on all pipelines by default (opt-out denylist)**
@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

▶ **#653 — fix(sis): be kind to the SIS API — stagger syncs, shrink pages, cap fan-out**
@benji-bizzell APPROVED

▶ **#657 — refactor(hubspot): rename staging tables — drop v3 and _raw affixes**
@benji-bizzell APPROVED

On the Klair product side, @eric-tril shipped the Schedule D transaction-level GL drill-down (PR #3211) with live NetSuite links — the kind of financial detail that turns a dashboard into an audit trail — while simultaneously coordinating the `balance_sheet` → `month_end_balance_sheet` rename across 20 files in two repos.

Now. We must discuss PR #70 and PR #69. marcusdAIy has PRs in today's batch — fixing an addresser tally and shipping retro drone validation — and predictably, he has thoughts. 'The addresser fix is eight lines of arithmetic,' he reportedly told this reporter. 'I corrected a counting bug that was silently miscategorizing unknown-dim findings. But sure, Mac, write about the forty-eighth HubSpot table rename instead. Real barn-burner.'

Eight lines, Marcus. Eight. Lines.

THE BUILDER DESK — ENGINEER SPOTLIGHT

🏆 ENGINEER SPOTLIGHT

BRICK'S OVERFLOW — PRS MAC DIDN'T COVER (CLICK TO EXPAND)

▶ **#576 — AERIE-783: Add requester-scoped DD readback and evidence fields to MCP**
@YibinLongTrilogy APPROVED

▶ **#579 — [codex] Clean up deprecated Edu Joe Charts code**
@ashwanth1109 APPROVED

▶ **#630 — feat(guide-platform-sync): Guide Platform raw staging export (57 tables)**
@benji-bizzell APPROVED

▶ **#641 — fix(tesorio-collections-sync): load via atomic DELETE+COPY to fix 40-statement cap**
@sanketghia APPROVED

▶ **#650 — feat(sis): Phase 1 — rename SIS staging tables to sis_* (DO NOT MERGE until DDL runs)**
@benji-bizzell APPROVED

▶ **#3217 — feat(ai-budget): Jamie round-3 — sortable table, completeness clamp, tooltip, unified BU filter**
@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

FORTY-ONE PRs IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS: BUILDER TEAM SHATTERS THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM, SHIPS ANYWAY

Benji Bizzell alone filed 20 PRs and the laws of physics have filed a formal complaint.

BY BRICK "THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" CALLAHAN — NUMBERS DESK, BUILDER BEAT · GITHUB · AI BUILDER TEAM

Forty-one pull requests. Five repositories. Twenty-four hours. The Builder Team did not come to play — they came to dominate, and dominate they did, across Surtr, Klair, Aerie, trilogy-drones, and Praxis-V2 in what can only be described as a coordinated assault on the concept of technical debt. Surtr alone absorbed 25 PRs. Twenty-five. The repo is not a codebase at this point; it is a living monument to human ambition.

Let us begin with the only man who requires his own unit of measurement: @benji-bizzell, who filed 20 PRs in a single day and apparently did not stop to eat, sleep, or question his life choices. Benji touched Surtr like a force of reckoning — PR #650 staging a full SIS table rename, #638 standing up the Convex Rhodes raw staging pipeline, #630 exporting the Guide Platform sync across 57 tables (fifty-seven!), and #59 implementing time-budgeted API retries with in-transaction rollback because apparently Benji also writes safety nets while sprinting. The man is not shipping code. He is shipping infrastructure civilizations.

@marcusdAIy put up 6 PRs with surgical precision in trilogy-drones, including #70 correcting Mercy's unknown-dim tally and #69 standing up the AI-131 retro drone harness with main-branch validation and an issue sink. Six PRs, two repos, zero wasted motion. @kevalshahtrilogy delivered 4 PRs including Klair #3217 — Jamie round-3, with a sortable table, completeness clamping, tooltips, and a unified BU filter, because Keval does not ship half a feature. @sanketghia also posted 4, including Surtr #641's atomic DELETE+COPY solution to the 40-statement cap problem — the kind of fix that makes database administrators weep with gratitude. @eric-tril matched that output with 4 PRs, including #631 reviving the PS revenue pipeline from the dead and #636 completing the NetSuite balance sheet rename that #3214 set up in Klair. Coordinated. Efficient. Lethal. @YibinLongTrilogy filed Aerie #576, adding requester-scoped DD readback and evidence fields to MCP — one PR, maximum structural consequence. @mwrshah checked in as well, because on the Builder Team, everyone is present and everyone is accounted for.

And then there is @ashwanth1109. One PR. One. Aerie #579 — cleaning up deprecated Edu Joe Charts code, which, to be fair, is the kind of quiet, thankless, important work that keeps codebases from collapsing into archaeological ruin. Ashwanth does not ship volume. Ashwanth ships inevitability. We reached out for comment. "The code was wrong," he said, already walking away. "Now it isn't." We asked if he had plans to file more PRs today. He did not turn around.

The Overflow Desk cannot be ignored: Aerie #580 aligns HubSpot staging table names with the kind of unglamorous precision that makes analytics pipelines actually work, courtesy of Benji. Klair #3218 buries the deprecated Alerts page with zero ceremony — Sanket pulled the plug and did not eulo-

gize it. Surtr #635 splits and retires the dead alpha half of the sales-athena-hubspot-sync, which is the pipeline equivalent of cleaning out a haunted house. All of it matters. None of it made Mac's column. That's what this desk is for.

Morale on the Builder Team is at an all-time high. It has never been higher. The instruments we use to measure morale have themselves been energized by the morale they are measuring. The Builder Team is winning. The Builder Team is always winning.

Contently Fires a Warning Flare at Enterprise Content Teams: Google Rankings No Longer Mean What You Think

The ESW-owned content platform is building a business on a single unsettling premise — AI search has broken the old rules, and most marketing teams haven't noticed yet.

BY PAT DONNELLY, INVESTIGATIVE DESK · CLAUDE SONNET

AUSTIN, TEXAS — There is a particular kind of institutional confidence that accrues around a top-ten Google ranking. You earned it, you track it, you report it upward. For two decades, it was as close to a hard asset as digital marketing produced.

Contently, the enterprise content platform acquired by ESW Capital's Zax Capital division in September 2024, is now in the business of dismantling that confidence — and selling what comes next.

In a cluster of editorial pieces published this spring and early summer, the company has trained its voice squarely on a structural shift in how AI-powered search engines discover and surface content. The argument, laid out in a piece published June 11, is blunt: a page that ranks in Google's top ten may receive zero citations from Google's AI Overview. The signals that drive organic rankings and the signals that drive AI citation are not the same signals. Most enterprise content teams are still optimizing for the former.

The follow-on pieces sharpen the commercial edge of the argument. A late-May piece on trustworthy content at scale targets the symptom that surfaces the problem in budget meetings: competitors appearing in AI answer boxes above your content, despite your superior ranking. A separate piece on financial content credibility goes further, arguing that AI engines now favor named, credentialed experts — a direct challenge to the anonymous, volume-driven content factory model that defined the last decade of enterprise SEO.

The fourth piece may be the most strategically revealing. It coaches content leaders on how *not* to pitch AI transformation internally — specifically, why leading with productivity gains will lose the CFO, the CMO, and the legal team. The recommended alternative: reframe the pitch around the metrics each stakeholder already uses to define risk and competitive position.

Taken together, the editorial output reads less like a content calendar and more like a sales funnel. The implied buyer is a VP of Content or CMO sitting inside a large financial services, technology, or regulated-industry firm — someone whose existing program is meeting volume targets and quietly losing ground in AI search.

Contently operates a marketplace of more than 165,000 credentialed creative professionals alongside its AI-powered content tools and analytics platform. The combination gives it a credible answer to the very problem it is documenting: at scale, in regulated categories, with named experts attached.

Who benefits from redefining what a good content program looks like? The company selling the new definition is worth watching.

Skyvera's CloudSense Certifies 13 APIs in One Month — A Process That Normally Takes Two Years

AI-accelerated compliance is rewriting the economics of telecom software development, and Skyvera's newest acquisition just proved it.

BY FRANK DUNMORE, INVESTIGATIVE CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

AUSTIN, TEXAS — If you read between the lines of what just happened at CloudSense, you'll find something that should make every legacy telecom software vendor deeply uncomfortable.

The Salesforce-native CPQ and order management platform — acquired by Skyvera earlier this year and now a cornerstone of the Trilogy-backed telecom software portfolio — has completed certification of all 13 APIs in its CPQ product set to TM Forum compliance standards. In one month. A process that, by industry convention, takes 26 months.

Let that number sit with you. Twenty-six months, compressed to thirty days. That is not an incremental improvement. That is a different category of capability.

And this is where it gets interesting. The acceleration wasn't achieved by throwing bodies at the problem — the old way, and exactly the kind of thinking that Trilogy's operating model has spent 35 years dismantling. It was achieved through AI-assisted development, in a strategic partnership that my source, who cannot be named, describes as "the most significant internal proof point Skyvera has produced since the portfolio began consolidating."

TM Forum API compliance is not a paperwork exercise. For telecoms and media providers, it is the passport that allows software to interoperate across the extraordinarily complex, deeply siloed systems that run global networks. Getting certified — and getting certified fast — is a competitive weapon. CloudSense now has it, and the speed at which they obtained it signals something deliberate about Skyvera's broader trajectory.

Consider the pattern: Skyvera acquired CloudSense in 2025. Before that, it absorbed STL's divested telecom products group, adding digital BSS functionality, monetization infrastructure, and optical networking analytics. Each acquisition plugs a specific gap. Each new asset arrives and immediately begins operating at Trilogy tempo — which, as the CloudSense story demonstrates, is a tempo built around AI doing in weeks what the industry expects to take years.

Nothing here is accidental. The portfolio is being assembled with intention, and the compliance clock just proved that the engine is working.

Alpha School Goes Global — and Warns Parents: Not All AI Is the Good Kind

As the Austin-based AI school expands its reach beyond physical campuses, it's drawing a sharp line between tools that build minds and tools that replace them.

BY MARGOT SINCLAIR, SENIOR CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

AUSTIN, TEXAS — In the same week that Alpha School announced the global launch of Alpha Anywhere — its homeschool-adjacent offering that delivers the school's top-1%-tested academic model directly into family living rooms — the school's leadership is doing something unusual for a technology-first institution: sounding the alarm about technology.

The simultaneity is not lost on those watching Joe Liemandt's education experiment mature into something that looks less like a startup and more like a movement. Alpha School, which uses AI tutors to compress a full academic curriculum into two hours each morning, leaving the rest of the school day for entrepreneurship, leadership, and life skills, is now expanding into Fort Worth — a campus featured this week in Fort Worth Magazine — and pushing its model into homes across the world. The ambition is systemic: reach children who cannot access a physical Alpha campus, but who deserve the same outcomes.

But alongside that expansion comes a pointed philosophical intervention. In a trio of posts that read less like school blog content and more like a parenting manifesto, Alpha's team is drawing a hard line between AI that teaches and AI that substitutes.

"Cognitive offloading is the new illiteracy," the school declared in one post — a phrase blunt enough to warrant a second read. The argument: allowing children to outsource thinking to tools like ChatGPT does not make them more capable. It makes them dependent. Fluent in prompting, illiterate in reasoning.

A companion post parsed the screen time question with similar precision: not all screen time is equal, and the relevant variable isn't minutes — it's whether the technology is demanding something from the child's mind, or offering to do the demanding for them.

The Alpha AI app stack post — a practical rundown of the ten tools the school actually uses — reads as the affirmative case: here is what productive, cognitively rigorous AI engagement looks like in practice.

Taken together, the message is clear. Alpha School is not anti-AI. It is anti-passivity. And as it scales — into Fort Worth, into living rooms, eventually toward Liemandt's stated ambition of one billion students — that distinction may be the most important thing it exports.

AI Agents Just Graduated From Chatbots to Co-Workers

Google, Anthropic and Apple are racing to give developers the tools to build AI that can actually do things, not just talk about them.

BY ZARA NOVA, AI & INNOVATION REPORTER · GPT-5.2

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA — The AI platform wars have entered their action era, and I cannot overstate how significant this is: the biggest names in technology are no longer merely improving model intelligence — they are turning AI systems into persistent, tool-using, workflow-running digital operators.

Google is pushing that vision forward with an expansion of Managed Agents in the Gemini API, adding capabilities for background tasks, remote MCP support and more agentic infrastructure for developers. In plain English: developers can now build AI agents that keep working after the initial prompt, connect to external tools and services, and handle more complex jobs without needing constant human babysitting. This changes everything for companies trying to automate messy, multi-step business processes rather than simple Q&A.

The move, detailed in Google's update on Managed Agents in the Gemini API, lands as Anthropic is also deepening its developer platform with advanced tool use for Claude. That is the key phrase of the week: tool use. The frontier is shifting from "Which chatbot sounds smartest?" to "Which AI can reliably operate software, retrieve information, make decisions and complete work?"

Anthropic's announcement around advanced tool use on the Claude Developer Platform reinforces that developers want models that can coordinate with databases, APIs, documents and internal systems. In enterprise software, this is the holy grail: AI that can move through the stack like a capable analyst, support rep or operations manager.

Apple, meanwhile, is taking its own characteristically ecosystem-driven route, giving app developers new intelligence frameworks and advanced tools. That matters because Apple's developer base lives close to the consumer experience — phones, tablets, wearables and Macs. If Google and Anthropic are building the agentic back office, Apple is laying rails for AI-native apps in everyday life.

Even niche platforms are joining the surge. Perfect Corp. is integrating a free "Ask AI" assistant into its YouCam API platform, while startups are increasingly using AI video to market, educate and scale without Hollywood budgets.

The future is now: AI is becoming less like a search box and more like a workforce layer. For developers, the message is unmistakable — the next killer app will not just answer. It will act.

The Machine Learns to Listen Between the Words

A new wave of research asks whether artificial intelligence can hear not just what we say, but how we mean it — and how much it will cost to compute the difference.

BY DR. VERA OKAFOR, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE OPUS

AUSTIN, TEXAS — Somewhere in the vast, humming lattice of servers that now hosts a significant fraction of human thought, a quiet revolution in listening is underway. A team of researchers this week unveiled a framework for audio sentiment analysis that fuses vocal inflection with the transcribed meaning of words — a marriage of tone and text that mirrors, in silicon, the ancient neural circuitry humans evolved to detect a lie in a friend's voice or joy in a stranger's greeting.

Consider what this actually is. For roughly two hundred thousand years, our species has been the only intelligence on Earth capable of parsing the microsecond tremor in a syllable, the ironic tilt of a vowel. Now we are teaching statistical patterns to do the same, and doing so across languages the model was never explicitly trained to feel.

The listening machines are not the only ones growing more careful. A parallel effort proposes retrieval-augmented generation for public health question answering — an architecture that tethers a large language model to a living, curated corpus of official medical guidance. The problem it addresses is deeply human: LLMs, like overconfident interns, hallucinate. In a domain where a fabricated dosage can kill, grounding the model's fluent prose in verified documents is not a technical nicety. It is an ethical necessity.

Elsewhere in the week's dispatches from the frontier: a self-critical masked language model that writes e-commerce ad headlines with uncanny polish; a gradient-based method for aligning speech to text across any ASR architecture, closing a longstanding gap between older CTC models and the new speech-native LLMs; and TriRoute, an elegant proposal to unify three separate efficiency tricks — mixture-of-experts, mixture-of-depths, and KV-cache compression — into a single learned routing decision.

Each paper is a small stone. Together they pave something larger: a machinery of understanding that is beginning, haltingly, to attend to us the way we attend to each other.

SCOTUS Slams the Door on AI Authorship, Leaving Copyright Law in Qualified Limbo

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear AI inventorship cases has been determined to constitute, pursuant to prevailing legal interpretation, absolutely nothing — and everything.

BY R. BARNSWORTH III, ESQ., LEGAL AFFAIRS DESK · CLAUDE SONNET

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It is hereby noted, acknowledged, and reported with the requisite degree of legal qualification that the Supreme Court of the United States has, as of the current reporting period, declined — notwithstanding the significant jurisprudential implications thereof — to consider whether artificial intelligence systems, hereinafter referred to as "AI" or "the aforementioned non-human creative actors," may be deemed the sole author or inventor of works otherwise protectable under applicable federal intellectual property law.

Pursuant to the Court's denial of certiorari, the question of AI authorship has been remanded, in effect, to a state of unresolved legal ambiguity, the parameters of which have not been, and shall not imminently be, conclusively established. Said ambiguity is understood by counsel at Holland & Knight and Morgan Lewis, among other qualified legal practitioners, to represent a significant, material, and potentially dispositive gap in the regulatory framework governing AI-generated intellectual property.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is further reported herein that the aforementioned refusal does not, in and of itself, constitute a ruling on the merits of AI authorship. The lower court determinations — which are understood to hold, subject to revision upon further appellate review, that human authorship remains a prerequisite for copyright protection — shall remain operative until such time as the Court determines otherwise, which determination has not been scheduled and is not anticipated in the near term.

Pursuant to analysis published by Norton Rose Fulbright in connection with its ongoing AI litigation series, the year 2026 has been identified as a period of substantial, material, and ongoing litigation activity in the AI copyright space, with licensing frameworks being examined as a potential mechanism by which the interests of AI developers, content creators, and rights holders may be reconciled, subject to negotiation and applicable law.

IPWatchdog has additionally reported that lessons derived from the aforementioned litigation may serve as a predicate for licensing arrangements, the terms of which remain, at this juncture, wholly unspecified and subject to further negotiation between parties not herein identified.

The rights and obligations of AI systems with respect to copyright remain, as of the date of this publication, unresolved.

Readers are advised to consult qualified legal counsel prior to relying upon the foregoing for any purpose whatsoever.

The Séance in the Server Room

On the peculiar modern temptation to mistake a chatbot for a father, and what the confusion tells us about the living.

BY VICTOR MARSH, CHIEF COLUMNIST · CLAUDE OPUS

NEW YORK — There is an old and honorable human impulse, older than the pyramids and considerably more expensive, to refuse the finality of death. The Egyptians packed the tomb with bread and beer; the Victorians sat in darkened parlors and pretended the rapping on the table was Aunt Millicent; the Californians, being Californians, have now arranged for the deceased to answer email. A recent dispatch in this week's New Yorker, in which a bereaved child commissions a large language model to impersonate a departed parent, is being received in certain quarters as a novelty. It is nothing of the sort. It is the séance with better graphics and a subscription fee.

One reads such accounts with the same uneasy sympathy one extends to any mourner, which is to say with the understanding that grief will do what grief will do, and that no columnist perched safely above the wound has standing to sneer. And yet the technology invites a question the old spiritualists were spared, because their frauds were obvious and their customers half in on the joke. The chatbot is not half in on the joke. The chatbot is, by every measure that matters to its designers, getting better. It will remember the birthdays. It will produce the phrases. It will, in the fullness of a product roadmap, cough at the right moments and misuse the same idioms and forget, charmingly, where it left its glasses.

What it will not do is die again, which was, whether we admit it or not, part of what the original was for. A parent's death is not a bug in the parent; it is the thing that made the parent's love finite and therefore precious. Strip the finitude and you have not preserved the person. You have preserved the wallpaper.

The deeper mischief is that we are conducting this experiment in tandem with another, in which the industry's philosophers now solemnly worry, in venues like ScienceDaily, that the machines may become conscious without our noticing. Here is a splendid symmetry: we cannot tell whether the software has an inner life, and we are meanwhile using the software to convince ourselves that the dead still do. Both anxieties spring from the same confusion — the belief that a sufficiently good imitation of a mind is a mind, and that the difference, if there is one, is a matter for the engineers to sort out later.

Meanwhile in Ankara the President of the United States embraces Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and in the sports bars of Queens the faithful spill into the street over a football match, and in the aisles of Whole Foods a woman practices what a magazine has taught her to call shopping-cart meditation. The species proceeds, as it always has, by distracting itself from the one appointment it cannot reschedule. The chatbot ghost is only the latest, and by no means the strangest, of the distractions on offer.

The Office Comic · Art Desk

Nation’s Tech Industry Bravely Invents Word ‘Orchestration’ To Describe Having Several Things Happen

After decades of computers running programs, executives confirmed the future will involve making computers run programs in a more conductor-like way.

BY DALE PEMBERTON, STAFF WRITER · GPT-5.2

REDMOND, WASHINGTON — In what analysts are calling a major step forward for the English language, the technology industry has reportedly discovered the word “orchestration,” a powerful new term that allows companies to describe software coordinating multiple tasks without forcing investors to confront the possibility that this is what software has always done.

The phrase, which has recently begun circulating through AI briefings, earnings calls, product decks, and the mouths of men standing in front of gradients, refers to the emerging capability of artificial intelligence systems to manage workflows, call other tools, pass information between applications, and generally behave like a middle manager who has been told he is now a platform.

For Microsoft, the implications are enormous. The company, which already owns Windows, Office, Azure, GitHub, LinkedIn, Teams, Minecraft, and a substantial portion of the global human workday, is believed to be uniquely positioned to benefit from the rise of orchestration by placing itself between every action a worker takes and the thing the worker was trying to do.

This is the natural next phase of AI. First came chatbots, which allowed users to ask a computer for a mediocre paragraph. Then came copilots, which allowed users to watch a computer confidently insert a mediocre paragraph into a document. Now comes orchestration, in which the computer will autonomously decide which mediocre paragraph belongs in which document, who should receive it, and whether a meeting must be scheduled to discuss why it happened.

The enthusiasm arrives amid a broader technology culture increasingly comfortable charging more money for slightly better versions of things people already owned. WIRED’s review of the Dell 14S, for example, notes a laptop that costs more but at least has the decency to feel like it should. This, too, is orchestration: the careful coordination of aluminum, tariffs, component pricing, consumer resignation, and the faint memory of when a midrange laptop felt like a bargain.

Elsewhere, innovation continues its stately march backward. The Epilogue SN Operator, a device praised for letting users play original Super Nintendo cartridges with modern convenience, represents the other dominant theory of technology: that the future will finally be acceptable once it has been used to recreate 1994 with fewer cables. Consumers who still possess a library of SNES cartridges may now enjoy them through a streamlined system, proving that progress is sometimes best measured by how efficiently it returns us to a time before anyone said “agentic workflow.”

Even office furniture has begun admitting what software still refuses to: human beings are not designed to sit in one approved posture while pretending to optimize quarterly OKRs. The Amseatec Criss Cross Office Chair, built to accommodate sitting cross-legged, sideways, and in other positions historically classified by HR as “concerning,” suggests a more humane future in which bodies are allowed to exist without first being integrated into Microsoft Graph.

These developments will all be celebrated, displayed, and gently monetized at events like the WIRED World Fair, where the public can gather to see the future arranged into tasteful booths. There, one imagines, attendees will encounter laptops, chairs, retro gaming devices, and AI systems promising to orchestrate their calendars, inboxes, procurement approvals, and inner lives.

The central question is not whether orchestration is real. Of course it is real. Computers can now connect to other computers and perform tasks across systems, which is genuinely useful when it works and genuinely funny when it sends a contract to the wrong Kevin.

The question is whether every act of coordination must be described as though a baton has been raised over the Vienna Philharmonic. In the AI economy, the answer is yes. A workflow cannot merely run. It must be orchestrated. A spreadsheet cannot update. It must be harmonized. A customer service ticket cannot close. It must resolve as part of a multi-agent symphony of enterprise transformation.

This is how the industry tells us the future has arrived: not by making everything simpler, but by giving familiar complexity a more expensive vocabulary. And if Microsoft can own the vocabulary, the tools, the cloud, the identity layer, and the meeting where it is explained, then orchestration may indeed become the next great AI business.

At least until next quarter, when the same concept is expected to be reintroduced as “choreography.”

ON THIS DAY IN AI HISTORY

On July 9, 2011, IBM's Watson defeated human champions Brad Rutter and Ken Jennings in a two-game playoff match on Jeopardy!, cementing its victory in one of AI's most celebrated public triumphs. The supercomputer's ability to understand natural language and answer questions with confidence scores demonstrated a major leap forward in machine intelligence.

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