AI Agenda AI 议程

How Artificial Intelligence Will Change in 2026

2026 年人工智能将如何演变

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Welcome to the last AI Agenda issue of 2025! Lots went down this year (check out yesterday’s newsletter for a full recap), and we expect things to get even crazier in 2026.

欢迎阅读 2025 年最后一期《AI Agenda》！今年发生了许多大事（请查看昨天的时事通讯获取完整回顾），我们预计 2026 年的情况会变得更加疯狂。

Here are my predictions for what’s coming:

以下是我对未来的预测：

- **Google will acquire Thinking Machines Lab.** This year we saw the launch of several so-called neolabs—smaller AI labs that hope to exploit approaches to AI development they say the big AI labs are overlooking—and 2026 should see acquisitions of some of them. My prediction is that **Thinking Machines Lab**, the high-profile startup cofounded by ex-**OpenAI** Chief Technology Officer **Mira Murati**, will be one of those snapped up. The company was recently talking with investors about raising money at a $50 billion valuation, but that funding round doesn't seem to have closed yet. Any funding delay could signal growing investor anxiety at the thought of backing yet another AI lab at such a high price. Add onto that the fact that Thinking Machines has only released a single product since it publicly launched in February, and it all points to a high possibility of M&A. **Google** could provide the startup with a comfortable spot to land, as well as the prestige of an AI developer that does impressive research and has a real chance of winning the AI race.

谷歌将收购 Thinking Machines Lab。今年我们见证了数家所谓“新实验室”（neolabs）的成立——这些规模较小的 AI 实验室希望利用大型 AI 实验室据称忽略的方法来开发人工智能——而 2026 年应该会看到其中一些实验室被收购。我的预测是，由前 OpenAI 首席技术官 Mira Murati 共同创立的高调初创公司 Thinking Machines Lab 将是其中之一。该公司最近一直在与投资者洽谈以 500 亿美元的估值融资，但该轮融资似乎尚未完成。任何融资延迟都可能预示着投资者对于以如此高价支持又一家 AI 实验室的焦虑感正在增加。再加上 Thinking Machines 自 2 月份公开亮相以来仅发布了一款产品，这一切都指向了并购的高度可能性。谷歌可以为这家初创公司提供一个舒适的落脚点，以及作为一家拥有出色研究能力、并有真实机会赢得 AI 竞赛的 AI 开发者的声望。

- **OpenAI will hit its goal of releasing an automated AI research intern by September 2026, but the intern will disappoint.** In October, OpenAI chief scientist **Jakub Pachocki** said on a livestream that he expects the company to have AI systems that can do AI research on the level of a research intern by September next year, and systems that can do more advanced AI research by March 2028. I expect that OpenAI will tease *something* in September next year that they will call an “automated AI research intern”… how impressive that tech will be, however, is another question. It’s notable that OpenAI made its first promised milestone on the journey to automating AI research a “research intern” because the definition is so vague. After all, human research interns are expected to make mistakes and need the help of more senior researchers, which gives a lot of wiggle room to any AI tech by the same name.

OpenAI将在2026年9月前实现发布自动化AI研究实习生的目标，但该实习生将令人失望。今年10月，OpenAI首席科学家Jakub Pachocki在一次直播中表示，他预计公司到明年9月将拥有能够达到研究实习生水平的AI系统，到2028年3月将拥有能够进行更高级AI研究的系统。我预计OpenAI会在明年9月展示一些他们称之为“自动化AI研究实习生”的东西……然而，这项技术究竟有多令人印象深刻，则是另一回事。值得注意的是，OpenAI将其实现AI研究自动化进程中的第一个承诺里程碑设定为“研究实习生”，因为这个定义非常模糊。毕竟，人类研究实习生被认为会犯错并需要资深研究员的帮助，这为任何冠以该名称的AI技术留下了巨大的回旋余地。

- **A major AI lab will release an agent that it charges more than $1,000 a month for.** Remember OpenAI’s plans to charge $20,000 per month for PhD-level agents? The **ChatGPT**-maker may have gotten ahead of itself. In 2025, so-called AI agents, or AI software that can automate tasks for users on their devices, fell short. Many companies lowered their expectations for such software, and though pricing varies, they tend to be a whole lot cheaper than $20,000. As AI technology becomes more reliable at handling longer-duration tasks, we might see rising prices for AI agents from the major labs in 2026. Let’s start with a lower price point of $1,000, though.

一家主要的AI实验室将发布一款月费超过1,000美元的智能体。还记得OpenAI曾计划为博士级智能体每月收取20,000美元吗？这家ChatGPT的开发商可能操之过急了。在2025年，所谓的AI智能体（即能在用户设备上自动执行任务的AI软件）表现不及预期。许多公司降低了对这类软件的期望，虽然定价各异，但往往远低于20,000美元。随着AI技术在处理长时任务方面变得更加可靠，我们可能会在2026年看到各大实验室上调AI智能体的价格。不过，让我们先从1,000美元这个较低的价格点开始预测。

- **Google’s Gemini will catch up with OpenAI’s ChatGPT when it comes to weekly active users**Who said we didn’t do bold predictions! This prediction comes with a big “but,” however. I believe that if Google continues playing it safe and keeping its AI-forward features, like its **Gemini** chatbot and **AI Mode**, separate from the average **Google Search** experience, it could have a harder time catching up to ChatGPT’s nearly 900 million users. (Gemini currently has 650 million monthly active users.) However, if Google makes the leap to push AI Mode and Gemini more aggressively with Google Search users, it could easily surpass ChatGPT.

  在周活跃用户数方面，谷歌的Gemini将赶超OpenAI的

ChatGPT。谁说我们不做大胆的预测！不过，这个预测带有一个巨大的“但是”。我认为，如果谷歌继续采取保守策略，将其人工智能前沿功能（如 **Gemini** 聊天机器人和 **AI** 模式）与普通的谷歌搜索体验分开，那么它可能很难追上 **ChatGPT** 近 9 亿的用户规模。（**Gemini** 目前的月活跃用户数为 6.5 亿。）然而，如果谷歌能实现跨越，向谷歌搜索用户更激进地推广 **AI** 模式和 **Gemini**，它将能轻松超越 **ChatGPT**。

- **Nvidia’s stock crashes due to a breakthrough in continual learning.** This year, a number of prominent AI researchers have criticized today’s most popular methods of training AI models. These researchers, including former OpenAI chief scientist Ilya Sutskever, say that today’s tech won’t get us to superintelligent AI because it’s not able to learn on the fly from real-world experience the way humans do (otherwise known as **continual learning**). Instead, model development will continue to require tons of data and computational resources in very time-consuming training processes. All of the labs are likely conducting research on continual learning, and if any of them reach a breakthrough, it’ll be bad news for **Nvidia**. Continual learning would require much less data and compute than today’s training processes, which would mean less demand for Nvidia’s popular chips.

  由于持续学习（**continual learning**）领域的突破，英伟达股价大跌。今年，多位知名的人工智能研究人员对当今最主流的 **AI** 模型训练方法提出了批评。这些研究人员（包括 **OpenAI** 前首席科学家 **Ilya Sutskever**）表示，现有的技术无法带我们实现超人工智能，因为它无法像人类那样从现实世界的经验中即时学习（即持续学习）。相反，模型开发将继续依赖海量数据和计算资源，并经历极其耗时的训练过程。目前所有实验室可能都在进行持续学习的研究，如果其中任何一家取得突破，对英伟达来说都将是坏消息。持续学习所需的训练数据和算力将远少于现有的训练流程，这意味着对英伟达热门芯片的需求将会减少。

Here’s what else is going on...