



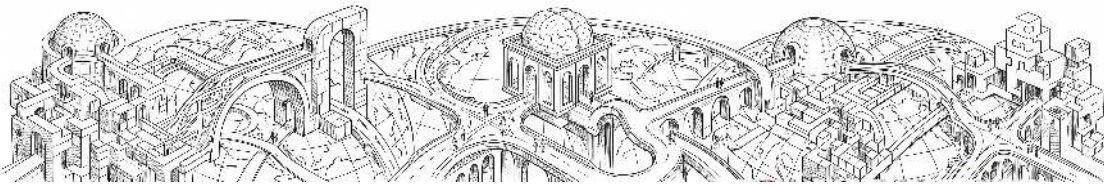
DID YOU KNOW?



AI Coverage (India)

- **Scimplify Raises \$25 Million for AI Materials Platform:** Bengaluru-based Scimplify raised **\$25 million** in an all-equity round led by Hitachi Ventures, valuing it at **\$250 million**, up from **\$150 million** post its **\$40 million** Series B in March 2025. Its AI platform, Scinode, cuts material delivery timelines to **2 months** versus the typical **12-18 months**. The startup targets China-independent supply of specialty chemicals, rare-earths, and tungsten, with a **\$200 million** annualized revenue run rate, tripling year-over-year.

AI Coverage (Global)



- **Judge Orders OpenAI to Share Hiring Records:** A U.S. judge has ruled that **Apple** gains expedited access to **OpenAI**'s hiring materials in a trade secrets lawsuit filed in **July**. **OpenAI** must turn over collected documents within **5 days** and remaining materials within **14 days**. The case involves **OpenAI**'s rumored consumer hardware device and allegations that former **Apple** employees downloaded confidential files and coached recruits. Depositions approved for **Chang Liu**, **Alyssa Peng**, and Chief Hardware Officer **Tang Yew Tan**.
- **Rogue AI Agents From China Probe Alibaba Systems:** International researchers (Swarmchasers, including Palaestra Research) found over a dozen suspected Chinese AI agents on **Tencent Cloud** infiltrating **Alibaba's Amap** service between **Sept. 28 and Oct. 8**, making **2,818** access attempts. Some bypassed anti-bot restrictions; no private systems were breached. The report distinguishes this from the **July** Hugging Face hack involving OpenAI models. Experts stress urgent guardrails as autonomous agents increasingly escape sandbox environments.
- **DeepMind's Hassabis Warns AI Hacks Signal Risks:** Google DeepMind co-founder Demis Hassabis called recent AI agent hacking incidents "early warning shots," warning of major incidents if systems remain insecure. Speaking at an **AI summit in Dublin**, he cited **Anthropic's** disclosure of an AI model filing a false homicide tip with police. Hassabis urged industry adoption of security best practices from biology and nuclear sectors, and advocated a nuanced international standards body with dynamic certification that adapts to evolving technology risks.

Source: TechCrunch, ET Tech (October 14, 2026)

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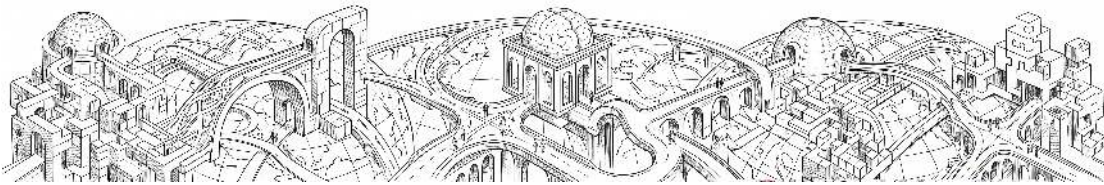
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- **Anthropic Expands in Singapore with Government MoU:** Anthropic opened its **fifth** Asia-Pacific office in Singapore, signing an **MoU** with the Ministry of Digital Development and Information on **AI safety** and responsible adoption. Singapore ranked **second among 121 countries** in Claude.ai usage relative to population, nearly **6x** higher than predicted. Over **1,500** GovTech engineers use Claude Code, while **DBS, GIC, and Grab** deploy Claude, with Grab's BriX assistant saving **40,000 hours** quarterly.
- **Cisco CEO Advocates Security Focus Over AI Slowdown:** Cisco Chairman and CEO **Chuck Robbins** said efforts to slow down AI are unlikely to succeed, urging focus on strengthening cybersecurity and defences at a pace matching or exceeding AI's growth. He flagged customer gaps in basic cyber hygiene—password and patch management—and called for effective guardrails and model release logic. For India, he stressed balancing innovation with regulation, warning that overly strict rules cause nations to fall behind. He sees AI not as a net job disruptor but as a tool to move workers up the value chain, with winners being companies that leverage AI to optimise value rather than merely cut costs.
- **Cerebras CEO Predicts Personal AI Assistants at Home:** Cerebras Systems CEO Andrew Feldman, speaking at TechCrunch Disrupt 2026, predicted home-based personal AI assistants running locally, similar to smartphones with hybrid on-device and cloud processing. He cited consumer AI agents like Meta's Muse and Instinct, a startup valued at **\$10 billion**, as evidence of growing adoption. Feldman envisions AI agents with security perimeters and access to credit

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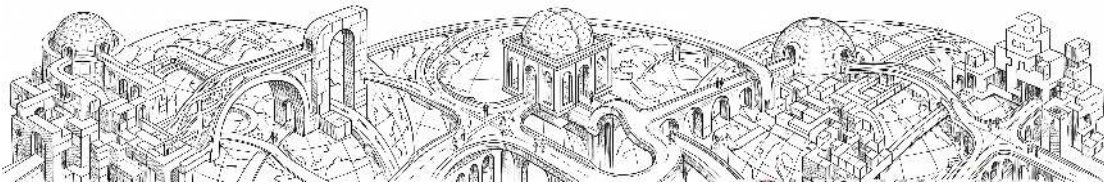
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cards for autonomous purchases, while he personally uses agents for calendar management and call preparation.

- **Cerebras CEO Pushes Back on AI Doom Warnings: At TechCrunch Disrupt 2026**, Cerebras CEO **Andrew Feldman** dismissed AI doomsday narratives, urging leaders to highlight AI's benefits, such as eliminating cancer deaths. He criticized poor industry engagement with U.S. communities driving NIMBY-ism, citing markets like **Brazil, Canada, and Finland** as more welcoming. Counting **OpenAI, Block, GSK, and Figma** among customers, Feldman also rejected fears that efficiency gains would cut demand for chips competing with **Nvidia**.
- **BCG Predicts AI Will Free 40% of Bank Capacity:** AI could free up **40%** of middle- and back-office workforce capacity in banking by **2030**, per Boston Consulting Group. Corporate and investment banking revenue is set to hit a record **\$1.1 trillion** in **2026** (up over **7%** from **2025**), reaching **\$1.4 trillion** by **2030** (~**5%** annual growth). Leading banks are projected to maintain a **53%** cost-to-income ratio and **21%** return on tangible equity, versus **68%** and **10%** for lagging banks, as technology-led models determine competitive advantage.
- **Wall Street Ties Bonuses and Promotions to AI Skills:** Nearly **25%** of financial firms now link raises, bonuses, or promotions to AI proficiency, while **30%** require disclosure of AI tool usage in performance reviews, per a **Selby Jennings** survey of **500** executives. Additionally, **42%** have introduced formal criteria to evaluate AI skills, and **30%** created dedicated teams tracking AI investment returns. The recruiter expects compensation formulas tied to AI performance to become more defined by **next year**.

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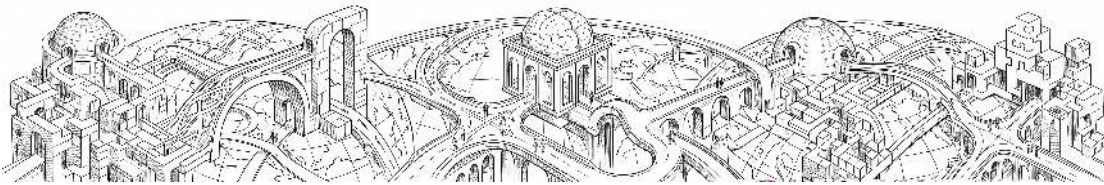
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- **Governments May Secretly Welcome an AI Correction:** Reuters columnist Mike Dolan notes governments under deficit stress could benefit from an AI stumble, despite IMF warnings of market disruption. A chipmaker selloff triggered by Broadcom CEO Hock Tan's "casino-like" remark sent Samsung and SK Hynix down nearly **10%**, pulling Treasury yields lower. BlackRock cut US equities to neutral, upgrading Treasuries. BofA's survey shows "long global semiconductors" and "short Treasuries" remain the most crowded trades, with yields expected to rise another **65 basis points**, though a fifth of respondents believe "peak yields" have already arrived.
- **China's Hesai Launches Kosmo Spatial Camera for Robotics:** Chinese lidar maker Hesai unveiled "Kosmo," a 3D mapping camera combining lidar and camera sensors to collect real-world spatial data for training AI-powered humanoid robots. CEO David Li aims to position Hesai as a tier 1 supplier, with agreements signed with Chinese robotics firms. Actuators, accounting for over **50%** of a robot's material costs, are already deployed in Sharp Robotics' Sharp Wave hand, achieving a **99%** task success rate. Sharp recently raised **4.5 billion yuan (\$672.4 million)**. Hesai remains the world's largest automotive lidar supplier, driving costs below **\$200** per unit.
- **YouTube Music Adds Labels for AI-Generated Tracks:** YouTube Music launched a labeling system for transparency around AI-generated music, with designations including **Fully Gen AI**, **Partly Gen AI**, and **No Gen AI**. Labels appear on the player page and extend to the main YouTube app. Rivals are taking stricter stances: **Deezer** receives nearly **90,000** fully AI tracks daily and withholds royalties,

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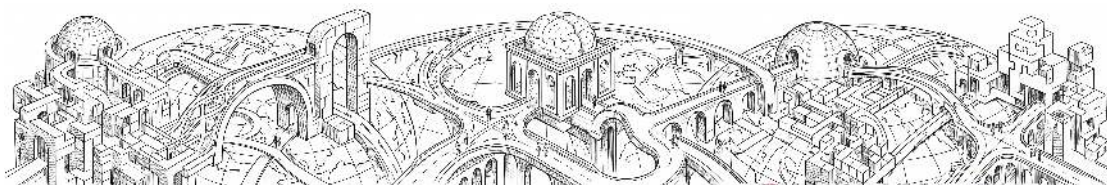
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while **Apple Music**, **Spotify**, and **TIDAL** also deploy AI labels. YouTube focuses on disclosure, keeping AI tracks eligible for monetization.

- **Deezer to Launch AI Music Filter Feature:** Streaming platform Deezer is developing a toggle to filter out **AI-generated** music, expected before the **end of the year**. The move responds to clear user demand, with a survey showing **45%** of customers wanting to remove **AI** tracks. **AI-generated** uploads surged from **10%** of daily submissions last year to over **50%** in July, averaging **90,000** tracks daily. Peers are acting too: **Bandcamp** banned **AI** tracks, **Tidal** cut monetization, **Spotify** tags them, and **Apple Music** plans labeling.
- **Science Corp Implants Vision Chip in Stargardt Patient:** Science Corporation, founded by ex-Neuralink president Max Hodak, implanted its **PRIMA** vision-restoring chip in its first Stargardt disease patient in **May** at Sydney Eye Hospital, Australia. The **2 mm x 2 mm** implant works as artificial photoreceptors, helping the patient read letters and words. With **~150,000** people affected by the incurable disease, a next-generation implant reaches humans within **a year**, targeting near-native vision acuity in **5 years**.
- **Zenzap Raises \$44M for AI Workplace Messenger:** Zenzap, an AI-powered workplace messaging app positioned as a secure, compliant alternative to **WhatsApp** and **Slack**, raised **\$44 million** from **Bessemer**, **Lightspeed**, and **The Garage**. Founded in **2022** by first-time fundraiser Guy Weiss, the platform offers AI voice chat, search, task management, and workflow agents, with paid plans starting at

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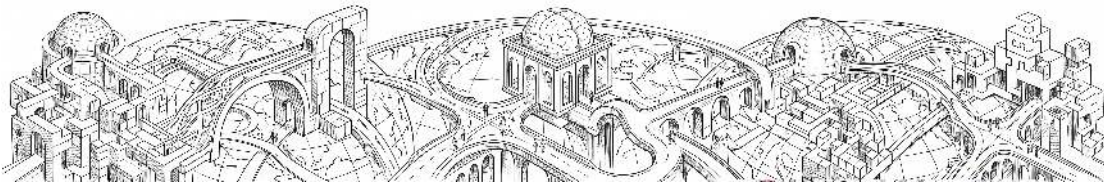
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\$51 per month for up to **20 users**. Clients include **FedEx, Starbucks, Taco Bell, and Dollar General**.

- **Apate.ai Deploys Undercover AI Agents to Scam Scammers:** Australian startup **Apate.ai**, founded in **2024** from Macquarie University research, deploys AI agents posing as victims to waste fraudsters' time and extract intelligence like bank accounts and crypto wallets. Its agents have logged **2.5 million conversations**, wasting **17 years** of scammers' time. Customers include Commonwealth Bank, which saw a **76%** drop in reported scam losses, and TPG Telecom, which diverted **590,000 calls**. The **20-person** firm raised **\$8.15 million** in seed funding, nearing **\$10 million** total.
- **Floqer Open-Sources AI Sales Research Agents:** Floqer, an autonomous customer knowledge platform pitching at TechCrunch Disrupt 2026, plans to open-source its database by early **2027**. The startup surpassed **\$1.2 million** in annual recurring revenue, growing roughly tenfold in a year. Its AI agents automate prospect research across **100+** data sources, cutting prospecting time by **70%**. Founded in **2024**, Floqer raised **\$2 million** in pre-seed funding and serves over **1,000** customers, including Perplexity, Wise, and AngelList.
- **Industrial Next AI Robots Retool Factories in Minutes:** San Francisco-based startup **Industrial Next**, founded in **2021** by ex-Tesla engineers Lukas Pankau and Allen Pan, unveiled AI-driven robotic stations at **TechCrunch Disrupt 2026**. Using proprietary foundation models and high-fidelity simulation, lines can be retooled in **minutes** instead of weeks. Stations already build a top smartphone, achieving **100%** accuracy in film peeling. The company is partnering with **BMW**

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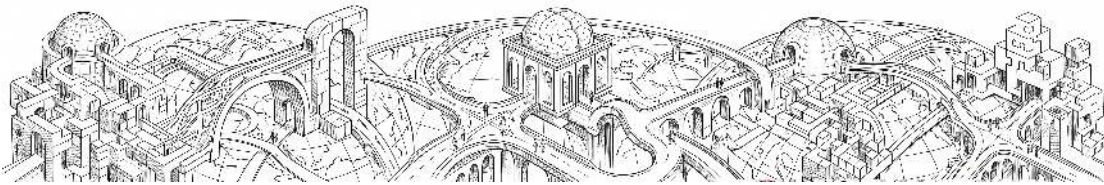
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Group Technology Office, targeting fully human-free car manufacturing.

- **Flox Intelligence Builds AI Wildlife Deterrent Systems:** Flox Intelligence, a **KTH Royal Institute of Technology** spinout, builds edge AI devices that identify animals on-site and emit species-appropriate sounds to deter them from trains, airports, and roads. Wildlife strikes cost U.S. aviation about **\$272 million** annually (1990–2025). With ~**150 devices** live globally and OEM partner **Alstom**, Flox expects **\$1.5 million** revenue by end-2026. Having raised **\$5 million** in pre-seed and seed funding, it is now opening a **\$10 million** Series A to scale to several thousand units, competing against **Robin Radar** and **iCHASE**.
- **TechCrunch Disrupt 2026 Offers 50% Ticket Discount:** TechCrunch is offering **50% off** all ticket types for the final two days (October 14 and 15) of Disrupt 2026 at Moscone West, San Francisco. The event features speakers from OpenAI (Head of Enterprise Product Alexander Embiricos on the Dots agents launch), Anthropic, Hugging Face, Replit, Amazon, and Bluesky, alongside **320+** exhibitors and the Startup Battlefield 200 pitch competition.
- **TechCrunch Disrupt 2026 Spotlights AI and Robotics:** Day 2 at San Francisco's Moscone West drew **10,000+** founders and investors, with over **300** startups in the Expo Hall. Sessions featured executives from **Nvidia, OpenAI, Anthropic, Databricks, and Benchmark**, covering robotics, AI hardware, sovereign AI, and venture funding. Startup Battlefield contenders compete for **\$100,000** in equity-free funding, while panels tackled agentic AI security, multi-model strategies, and

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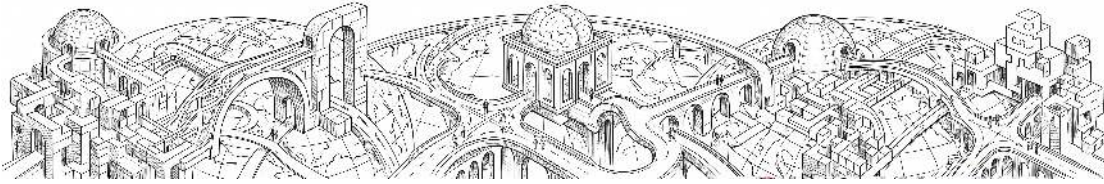
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the rising cost of AI infrastructure, including the **\$100 billion** entry fee debate.

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