Open:UK

AI Action Summit / Sommet pour l'action sur l'IA

AI Openness Report

Index

Thanks to the many participants in the AI Action Summit for sharing their quotes.

1.0 TL:DR (Executive Summary)

Taking place in Paris on 10 and 11 February the AI Action Summit was the 3rd Global AI Summit. Led by President of France, Emmanuel Macron and the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, it took place over 2 days in the Grand Palais, with almost 1000 attendees from business, government and civil society on day one and world leaders on day 2 whilst the Business Day took place at Station F.

The Yoshua Bengio Safety Report explored in detail at 2.2.1, is long and the former Chinese Ambassador to the UK suggested 'TL:DR'. It includes extensive exploration of open weights and acknowledges the importance of open source. The report was somewhat out of kilter with the more pragmatic approach to safety taken by the Action Summit, which looked to tools not rules.

Summit themes:

1. Public Interest AI
2. Future of work
3. Innovation and Culture
4. Trust in AI
5. Global AI Governance

Key relevant Summit outputs:

1. International cooperation and coordination on AI governance, including a Global Dialogue on AI governance and an Independent International Scientific Panel on AI.
2. Support for sustainable development and innovation in AI, with a focus on openness, inclusivity, and transparency and environmental impact.
3. Launch of ROOTS open source tooling for AI Safety with 30m in funding.
4. Launch of the Current AI public good foundation and digital commons with €400m in funding.
5. Launch of Public Interest AI Platform and Incubator to support public interest AI initiatives and address digital divides.

President Macron announced over 100bn plus of investment for France and that a lighter touch AI regulation would apply and that France would adopt a Notre Dame approach to AI. Ursula von der Lyon announced an EU AI strategy.

Public good and openness were a theme across the summit which saw the launch of ROOST, a collaboration of open source tools to be used for AI safety. Through their open source nature the tools will be accessible to all and allow collaboration across an ecosystem of companies and open source contributors in their development. The project was launched with the strapline 'tools not rules' and support of Eric Schmidt and Yann Le Cun. It has an initial $30m of funding.

A second open initiative was launched in the Current AI foundation, which was funded on launch to $400m and which seeks to raise funding to $2.5bn over 5 years. This will enable data commons and collaboration around AI for the public good.

Open source was a universal theme across the summit.

1.1 Introduction to the AI Action Summit Report

Amanda Brock,
CEO, OpenUK

France's 'Sommit pour L'Action IA' - AI Action Summit, took a very different approach to the UK's Safety Summit. In contrast to the small, closed event at Bletchley Park hosted for the UK by Rishi Sunak, almost 18 months ago, the Paris summit is simply huge and relatively open. We see a shift in the main from safety to solutions, with a drive to get behind AI instead of standing in front of it. Of course to do AI in a safe and secure way involves the trust and transparency that openness brings.

Open Source needs Action!
The open source Summit 'track' kicked-off pre-summit as part of the Official Summit Fringe. On 22 January, the Linagora-organised 'Paris Open Source AI Summit' (see 2.1.2) saw the introduction of the French-government-funded truly open, LUCIE LLM. I was honoured to be a keynote speaker and to contextualise the importance of openness in AI. My talk referenced the Open Source Definition (OSD), building on the free flow of open source, enabled by the fact that in real open source anyone can use the outputs shared under an open source licence for any purpose. This is at the heart of enabling its freeflow which has accelerated the adoption of open source in the last decade. When we see this freeflow disrupted with restrictions such as limits on commercialisation of a licensed deliverable, this causes friction. That friction removes the ability of the user to rely on the freeflow and the certainty it creates in recycling and re-using innovation. Understanding the importance of the freeflow is central to the conversation on AI and open source.

The dialogue continued through the State of Open Con in London, where the conversation on AI was very clear. It called for a practical and open approach to AI to democratise technology and enable better innovation. This included deep discussions of opening up the training 'input' information or data, as well as weights to enable models. On the topic of 'Open Weights', we see a new 'Open Weights Definition', sitting alongside the Open Source Initiative and Free Software Foundations' work. Both the current thinking on the definition-based approaches and the alternative disaggregation approach, where we see Mozilla's Columbia Convening push ahead, are updated in section 4.

Notably there was not much (if any) debate at the Paris Action Summit around what open source means in the context of AI. But the debate is something that is likely to continue long after the Summit. This report does include a reminder of where that discussion currently is at section 4.0.

The open source community - thanks to the work of the French open source community and progressive policies from President Macron and his advisers - have indeed been heard by the Action Summit. Unlike Bletchley Park, where the story goes that the words 'open source' were uttered twice, once by representatives of China and once by the French, the term has been used continuously across every discussion in the main Summit, beginning with the opening remarks.

Safety as a discussion was a continuum from Bletchley Park. Weights were also central to the Safety discussion set out in the pre-Summit Safety Report authored by Canada's Youshua Bengio. This and various reports released since OpenUK's December 20th Wrap Report - the last word on AI Openness in 2024 - are summarised at section 2.2.

The lengthy, UK Gov commissioned, safety report is 'TL:DR' according to Fu Ying. The former China Ambassador to the UK, poked Bengio during the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change pre-conference event, explored at 2.1. Sadly it seemed out of step with the progressive and sensible approach to AI safety offered by the open source solutions shared at the summit. The European Commission representation also seemed out of kilter with the French Action approach. Whilst Europe looks to bureaucratic code to implement its cumbersome AI Act, France's Summit looks to action and the use of tools over regulation to enable AI governance.

The DeepSeek Effect
DeepSeek's impact on the AI market, brought Nvidia's stock price down by almost 20% in a day. Its open source R1 LLM with weights shared on an open source MIT licence apparently reduced the cost of training an LLM by a factor of 20, with a reduction from $100m to $5m.

DeepSeek was not as central to the conversation in Paris as might have been expected, but the number of open source nerds in the room, able to explain the nuance was limited. In the tradition of open source, DeepSeek acknowledge they achieved this goal by building R1 by distilling existing 'open' models:

> 'we have open-sourced DeepSeek-R1-Zero, DeepSeek-R1, and six dense models distilled from DeepSeek-R1 based on Llama and Qwen. DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-32B outperforms OpenAI-o1-mini across various benchmarks, achieving new state-of-the-art results for dense models.'

By innovating on top of past open innovation, in this open source tradition DeekSeek were able to distil what had previously been openly shared. In turn, DeepSeek shared not only their weights (on an open source MIT licence) but also detailed instructions. These instructions enabled Hugging Face to start work almost immediately on a fully Open Source R1.

DeepSeek's 'detailed tech report' shared 'the key steps of their training recipe' and Hugging Face was able to recreate 'several innovations, most notably the application of pure reinforcement learning to teach a base language model how to reason without any human supervision…making a powerful reasoning model is now very simple if you have access to a capable base model and a high-quality data mixture'. Hugging Face was able to answer the unanswered question of the R1 model' including 'several questions about 'Data collection: How were the reasoning-specific datasets curated?Model training: No training code was released by DeepSeek, so it is unknown which hyperparameters work best and how they differ across different model families and scales.Scaling laws: What are the compute and data trade-offs in training reasoning models?'

In this way, enabling cycles of innovation, each building on the last, open source will answer the challenges of innovation again and again. Open source has offered the answer to every past technology challenge and will do so again in AI, as it enables the next generation to innovate and build safe AI solutions. The Action Summit has seen greater recognition of this power of open source in AI than any before.

Summit's Open Source Announcements
The Summit's press release and end-of-summit agreement include a number of open source announcements and commitments.

Global Governance and Open Source Tools
ROOST, the open source tooling initiative (explored at 2.2) was launched with Eric Schnmidt, former Google CEO, and Yann Le Cun of Meta, recognising that openness is the best root to safety. Open, accessible tooling allows transparency and trust. Both the US and China pushed an open and innovative approach across the summit and the associated Fringe events. These solutions will offer a 'horizontal race to AI safety' using 'defensive acceleration, where innovation and safety can be radically accelerated through open source'.

Public Interest Foundation
Along with a 'Coalition for Sustainable AI', 'Current AI', a Foundation of AI for Public Interest - a coalition for the willing with €400m of funding brings public interest to the fore with a data commons.

An action-driven approach
To the frustration of a number of entrepreneurs I spoke to, during the Summit, too much of the content didn't get to the heart of the issue for them - they just need to 'get on with it' and have those who hold the keys to regulation, governance and funding do the same. As a number of speakers from the US and China have said in fringe events, their approach is to break things and innovate. This may still be an unnatural approach for Europe.

2.0 AI Action Summit Paris

> 'This is a summit with a difference. The commitment to Open Source is heartening, and backed up with new tooling arrangements like ROOST, that makes a difference. But what moves the dial is the commitment to a new institution for Public AI, with mult-billion Euro tooling, access to public data and funding commitments from public, private and third sector parties. We may look back at this summit as one where true open source - not the semi-open version peddled by Big tech - is aligned to public interest and where Public AI is defined for generations to come.'
>
> **Mike Bracken, Founder Partner, Public Digital**

Anne Bouverot, Special Envoy to The AI Action Summit opened Day One quoting Marie Curie,

> 'In life nothing is to be feared,
> everything is to be understood.
> Now is the time to understand more,
> so that we may fear less.'
>
> **Marie Curie**

She talked - as Michelle Donelan did at the first Summit in the UK - of 'science fiction becoming science reality'.

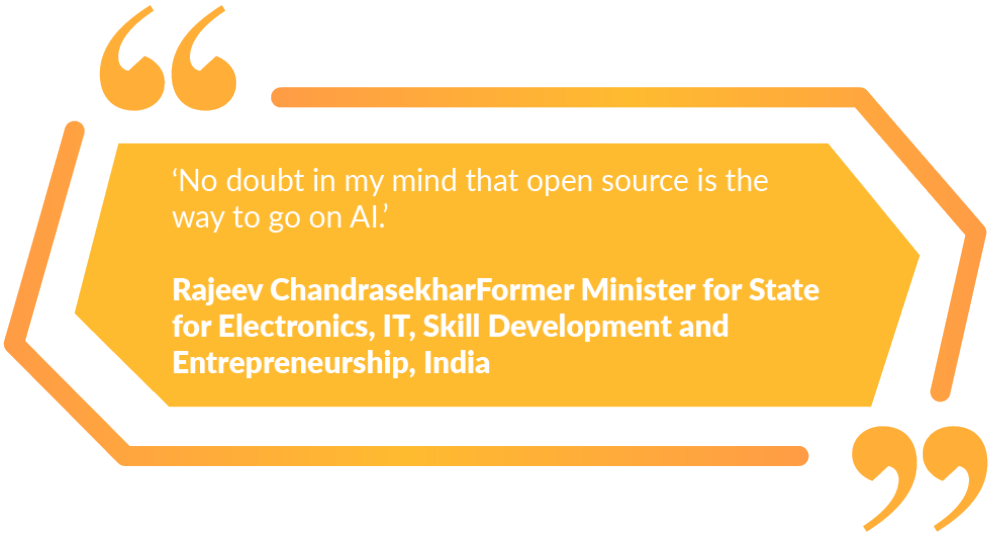
The shared progress for the summit includes:

- Sustainable development that can mitigate climate change, saying that we must reconcile digital transformation with sustainability.
- Developing AI for the public interest.
- Building commons for AI with decentralised applications being developed worldwide is our collective responsibility.

Dr Fei-Fei Li of Stamford talked of 'empowering communities' and 'engaging the open source ecosystem'. Referencing algorithms, data and compute, she said that if these are concentrated in a 'handful of companies' then the AI ecosystem will suffer from lack of innovation. She went on to say that the time has come for a new kind of 'dare' and she dared the attendees of Day One to collaborate on a human-centred AI to create a 'force for good'.

In stark contrast to the small, closed 2023 UK Summit at Bletchley Park which led to almost 100 world leaders attending and the Bletchley Declaration, the French Summit was huge. With around 1000 CEOs, government leaders and representatives of Civil Society - including OpenUK CEO, Amanda Brock - attending.

The Grand Palais saw a focus on action with 5 Thematic leads bringing deliverables to Paris including a "Coalition for Sustainable AI", a Foundation of AI for Public Interest, 'Current AI' and an End of Summit Declaration - reaffirm the principle of working together for global governance working together for AI



Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet
The statement included, 'Ensuring AI is open, inclusive, transparent, ethical, safe, secure and trustworthy, taking into account international frameworks for all' and went on to recognise.
'Making innovation in AI thrive by enabling conditions for its development and avoiding market concentration driving industrial recovery and development.'

2.1 Sustainability and AI

Public Interest and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
In line with the 'Paris Pact for People and the Planet', and the principles that countries must have ownership of their transition strategies, the Action Summit identified priorities and launched concrete actions intended to advance the 'public interest' and to bridge digital divides through accelerating progress towards the SDGs.

This is founded on 3 main principles:
1. Science
2. Solutions - focusing on open AI models in compliance with countries frameworks
3. Policy standards - in line with international frameworks

The launch of the 'Coalition for AI' sees an international community join France, including the International Telecommunications Union, the World Bank, UN Environment Program and Mistral. It includes in its mission the transformative potential of AI in tackling the climate and environmental crisis is already unfolding, the environmental footprint of AI itself is already growing and is expected to increase.

2.2 Open Source and the Public Interest

Open Source Tools
A shift in the governance of AI to a more practical, real-world, understanding that to enable safe innovation, through the use of tooling that is open source and accessible to all follows the natural order of technology and solves a legal challenge with a technical problem as opposed to law. Innovators will be asked to manage governance through tooling, in line with established development practices as opposed to restrictive legislation.
This practical approach was a strong theme at the summit.

It is enabled via open source in the newly launched Robust Open Source Safety Tools ('ROOST') suite of tools and funding of €30m.

Using open source tools in this manner to enable safe AI development, follows on from the UK AI Safety Institute sharing its Inspect LLM Evaluation Platform on an MIT licence in May 2024.

> 'Open Source safety tools are a strong idea, creating online safety tools for AI. The tools are being donated - code, engineering time and cash. Platforms like Discord are collaborating with the AI companies to do this...including OpenAI. Recognising the need for an integrated approach for the benefit of society. Looking for a thriving ecosystem of open source software safety tools, managing safety through collaboration as the risk is above any one company.'
>
> **Clint Smith, Chief Legal Officer, Discord**

> **Camille Francois,the Inaugural President of ROOST**, described it as
>
> 'Focusing on tools rather than rules.'

There should be no competitive advantage in online safety. Improving online safety is a common goal which means that development of safety technology must be done in the open with broad participation from different stakeholders. ROOST was launched to build core safety tech in the open and make this tech available to the world.

'It is time for a paradigm shift - as to how we manage AI security.

> 'ROOST means open source not open weights. It means coming up with new ways to get new software built as a high priority. The simplest argument for open source is that you can see what the code is doing and can see a bug. This principle has been established for years. More than transparency where you can test, test them again, expand them and make them stronger. There is a disconnect today where AI safety and tooling have been out of step with each other. Hindsight is 20:20 but if you are hiring today you should be considering automation and over-hiring will be corrected. We are making this world-wide as everyone benefits from trust and safety. Generative design and learning systems - when we wrote down the rules we started with long memos. Today, isn't it better to see systems learning?'
>
> **Eric Schmidt, Former CEO of Google,**
> **Chair of the Special Competitive Studies Project**

> The technology's immense potential can only be properly realized when development and safety protocols are accessible to all, enabling collaborative governance that transcends national boundaries.'
>
> **Dr Laura Gilbert OpenUK Advisory Board and Head of AI for Government, Ellison Institute**

Public Interest/ Open Source Foundation
A new foundation 'Current AI', funded by willing nations to the tune of €400m (committed at launch) was announced on 11th. The foundation aims to finance 'data commons' and ethical AI practices. The Foundation has funding from the French Government and Omidyar Foundation's philanthropic funding and backing from commercial entities including Google and Salesforce as "core partners," and Hugging Face, Instacart, AI startup Sakana AI. It seeks to reach $2.5bn over 5 years. Martin Tisne, the CEO at Collaborative AI, and France's Special Envoy for Public Interest AI, is clear that a focus of the organisation will be data.

> 'AI is shaping our societies—how we work, who gets healthcare, and whether technology expands opportunity or deepens inequality. That's why I am proud to share the launch of Current AI— a new partnership dedicated to ensuring that artificial intelligence serves the public interest, that AI serves communities, strengthens economies, and expands opportunity for all. At Current AI, we're promoting open standards and tools that ensure AI technologies remain accessible, adaptable, and inclusive.'
>
> **Martin Tisné, CEO of AI Collaborative, Founder of Current AI and Thematic Envoy, AI Action Summit**

> 'Enthusiasm for open AI systems at the AI Action Summit is an important step towards a thriving and global AI future. Open source is the way to build infrastructure that benefits everyone. Funding public interest project through 'Current AI' is the right approach.'
>
> **Aviya Skowron, Head of Policy at EleutherAI**

Champions
The foundation launched on Day 2 with 11 'Champions' and an Open Letter.

The Champions included French open AI company Pleias' founder Anastasia Stasenko.

> 'At this critical juncture in AI development, the question is not whether to embrace openness, but how quickly we can implement it to accelerate both economic dynamism and public benefit. As one of 11 champions of the Current AI Foundation, I maintain that building open data infrastructure and developing open science ecosystem represent the most efficient path to unlocking AI's transformative potential, enabling the kind of rapid, safe and ethical innovation that drives sustainable growth while ensuring this technology serves genuine public interest rather than narrow institutional or corporate agendas.'
>
> **Anastasia Stasenko CEO and Founder Pleias**

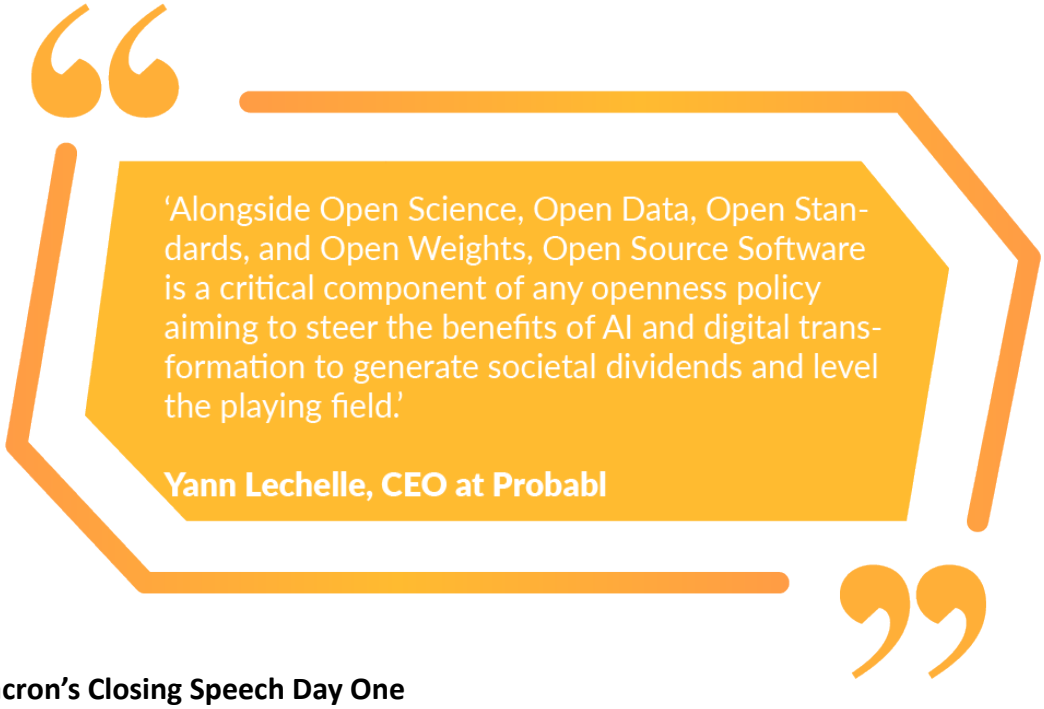
Public Interest AI Platform and Incubator
To deliver on these priorities Founding members have launched a major to support, amplify, decrease fragmentation between existing public and private initiatives on Public Interest AI and address digital divides. The Public interest AI Initiative will sustain and support digital public goods and technical assistance and capacity building projects in data, model development, openness and transparency, audit, compute, talent, financing and collaboration to support and co-create a trustworthy AI ecosystem advancing the public interest of all, for all and by all.

> 'Open source represents more than just code accessibility – it's the foundation for democratising AI innovation, and providing the collaborative infrastructure needed to ensure AI development benefits from diverse global perspectives and remains accountable to the broader community. An Open Source approach can transform AI from a resource controlled by a select few into a shared global commons that can drive equitable progress across societies, economies, and nations.'
>
> **Dr Laura Gilbert, OpenUK Advisory Board and Head of AI for Government, Ellison Institute**

2.3 International AI Governance

Reinforcing international cooperation to promote coordination in international governance, the Summit recognised the need for inclusive multistakeholder dialogues and cooperation on AI governance and underlined the need for global reflection integrating inter alia questions of safety, sustainable development, innovation, respect of international laws including humanitarian law and human rights law and the protection of human rights, gender equality, linguistic diversity, protection of consumers and of intellectual property rights.

As outlined in the Global Digital Compact adopted by the UN General Assembly, participants also reaffirmed their commitment to initiate a Global Dialogue on AI governance and the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and to align on-going governance efforts, ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication.



President Macron's Closing Speech Day One
President Macros closed the Summit, saying to the gathered AI leaders, thank you for the commitment, presence and trust. He called it the first summit where the collective use of AI has been as an enabler for our society, to go forward and to disrupt, and to lead this revolution. He emphasised the belief in working in an 'open world' - to work with the players, investors, founders, and with the countries, including the US, China and India.

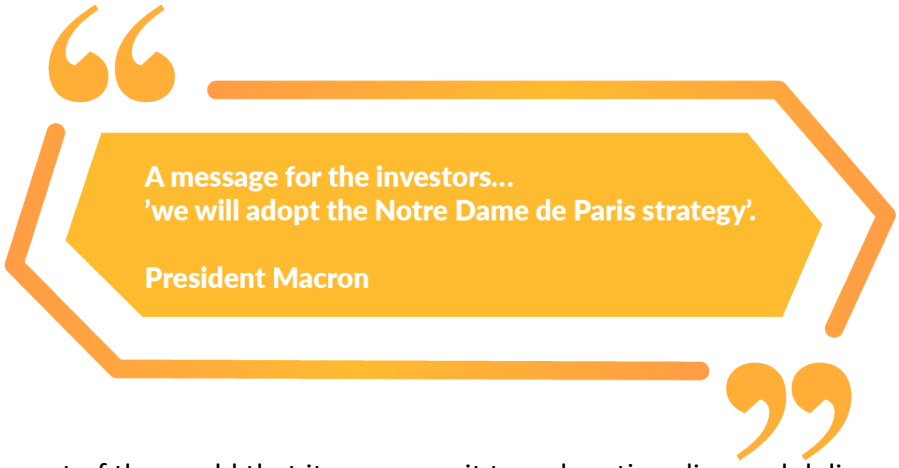
Setting the intention to use AI as an accelerator of innovation to have a better life he emphasised the need to protect public interest and have a smart life.

Asking 'Why we have to choose Europe and France?' He answered his question with the announcement of €109bn of investment in AI for France in the years to come and compared this to some big US investments saying that this amount is in the right scale for the market. He noted that he wants to accelerate and leverage:

1. The talent who are 'in this place today' and
2. One of the best traditions of education and training. In France there are currently 40,000 data scientists training and he committed that this will accelerate to 100,000 a year. There will be a lot of public and private initiatives to leverage this advantage and to go faster and faster and to train the whole economy and keep this talent.
3. France is manufacturing chips and will build new partnerships with US and Asian players. We have open spaces and energy.
4. France's advantage in data centres sees 35 sites available with low carbon energy. This is unique if you compare it with the rest of the world. More than 75% of France's electricity is produced by nuclear power and low carbon. France produces more than it needs and can localise a lot of data centres on top of that usage.

5. France seeks more cooperation between large corporates and innovators and he wants to leverage on this summit to go faster and to accelerate.
6. There will be increased adoption and acceleration in healthcare, mobility and energy. A lot of our start-ups are already aggressively focused on this. We want to accelerate with them and give them more room to manoeuvre.

Based on the success of this summit, we are in the position to trigger a European movement. This summit is a wake up call for a European Strategy.

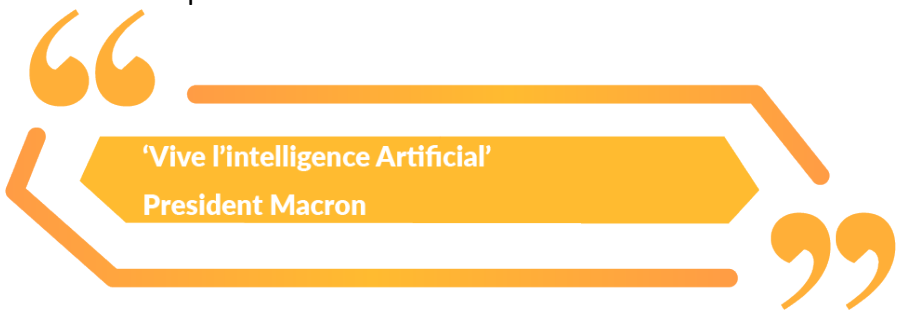


France will show the rest of the world that it can commit to a clear time-line and deliver a clear strategy with someone in charge ensuring that delivery.

On Day two Ursula Von der Lyon announced the European AI strategy. This committed to simplify regulation, deepen the single market and invest more in computing capacity, to provide a bigger market to all the start ups when they start. It included an AI Fund, with AI factories at its corner stone, whilst reducing the cost of the administrative burden on SMEs.

Recognising the lack of compute, they have committed to super computers and will accelerate innovation in AI by increasing these by 5x in 1 year. They also seek to have Giga Factories at 4-5 times compute of the current super computers. They are investing 10bn in this as part of the AI Invest Fund. Working closely with the European Investment Bank and Member States along with public private partnerships.

AI Act now being implemented in an innovation friendly manner using a code of practice which will give guidelines for SME and industry and an AI Office to give guidance. The EU has committed to open innovation and open source and to be 'open for business'



End of Summit Declaration

The Summit Declaration, reaffirmed the principle of working together for global governance working together for AI. The Declaration is notable for not being signed by either the US or UK. China has however signed.

2.4 The Road to the Action Summit - events

2.4.1 State of Open Con London

Hosted by the UK's open tech body, OpenUK in the run-up to the action summit, on 4 and 5 February, the event focused on artificial intelligence (AI) and openness in its day two, including demos from the AI Safety Institute of its open source Inspect platform. The SOOCon25 content can be watched for free.

Key takeaways included:
The need for the UK to engage more in open source and AI and to have more AI focused policies that encourage openness.
A call from Lord Clement Jones for standard to be the basis of global governance.
The thriving UK AI open source community which is currently number 2 in Europe whilst the UK remains number 1 in open source software, but is seeing huge growth in France due to the Macro pro-open source policies.
Opening global AI innovation will only happen through open source.
There was a heavy technical and policy discussion and focus on DeepSeek R1.

2.4.2 Open Source Summit Paris - Actions/ Output

Hosted by France's open source leaders Linagora in the run-up to the action summit, on 22 January the summit focused on artificial intelligence (AI) and openness.

The summit aimed to bring together experts from academia, industry, and government to discuss the latest developments in AI and its potential impact on society. Keynotes were delivered by Cédric Villani, Academician - Field Medal and OpenUK CEO, Amanda Brock.

Key Themes:

1. **Open Source AI:** The Paris Open Source AI Summit is an event that brings together experts in open source AI to share knowledge, ideas, and experiences.
2. **Community Building:** The importance of building a community around open source AI initiatives is emphasised throughout the event.
3. **Collaboration:** Collaboration between individuals, organisations, and communities is seen as essential for advancing open source AI.

Opportunities:

1. **Scaling Open Source AI Initiatives:** There is potential to scale open source AI initiatives, such as LINAGORA's Lucie project, to reach a wider audience and achieve greater impact.
2. **Fostering Innovation:** The Paris Open Source AI Summit provides an opportunity for attendees to share their ideas and innovations in the field of open source AI.
3. **Building Stronger Community:** The event can help build stronger relationships within the community and foster a sense of belonging among its members.

Challenges:

1. **Limited Resources:** The transcript mentions the need for more resources, such as funding and personnel, to support the growth and development of open source AI initiatives.
2. **Communication Barriers:** Effective communication is seen as crucial for overcoming language barriers and promoting global understanding within the open source AI community.
3. **Skepticism and Fear:** There may be skepticism and fear among some individuals or organisations about embracing open source AI, which can be addressed through education and awareness-raising efforts.

Outcomes:

1. **Increased Awareness:** The Paris Open Source AI Summit helps raise awareness about the benefits of open source AI and its potential to drive innovation and economic growth.
2. **Networking Opportunities:** The event provides a platform for attendees to connect with each other, share their experiences, and collaborate on future projects.
3. **Progress towards Goals:** Progress has been made in achieving the goals set out by LINAGORA's Lucie project, such as developing an open source AI system, building community and commitment to learning and growth.

Actions:

1. Plan Next Steps: It is recommended to plan for future events or initiatives that build upon the momentum generated by the Paris Open Source AI Summit.
2. Engage with Community: The community should be engaged through regular updates and feedback mechanisms to ensure its continued growth and development.
3. Leverage Partnerships: LINAGORA and other organisations can leverage partnerships with industry stakeholders, academia, and government entities to further advance open source AI initiatives.

2.4.3 Tony Blair Institute, Governing in the Age of AI

A summary of the key themes from a discussion on 9 February, 2025 at The Tony Blair Institute event on Governing in the Age of AI is as follows:

1. Balancing Innovation and Responsibility (Safety & Trust): This is a central tension throughout the conversation there was an emphasis that innovation and safety/responsibility are not mutually exclusive.
2. The Role of Open Source: The discussion explored the complex role of open source in AI development, acknowledging potential risks associated with widely available models, particularly concerning misuse, the participants also emphasise the benefits of open source for transparency, collaboration, and identifying/mitigating potential problems. Open source allows for wider scrutiny and improvement of AI models, potentially leading to safer and more robust systems. It's argued that open source fosters innovation and allows smaller companies to participate, preventing excessive market concentration by large tech companies. The key is finding a balance between openness and managing the risks associated with potentially dangerous technology.
3. Data and Data Governance: The importance of data as a fundamental building block of AI is highlighted. The conversation also touched upon the challenges of publicly available and anonymised data, and how it's being harvested and monetised. The need for global protocols or understandings regarding data access and usage is raised, particularly to avoid asymmetric models where some entities have access to vastly more data than others. This theme links directly to both innovation (data fuels AI development) and responsibility (data privacy and control are crucial).
4. Governance Structures and Processes: Several speakers discussed the need for robust governance structures and processes within organisations developing and deploying AI.
5. International Collaboration and Regulation: Underscoring the need for international collaboration on AI safety and governance the speakers acknowledged the geopolitical complexities involved in AI governance but also emphasise the potential for cooperation, particularly when facing shared threats like loss of human control. The discussion also touched upon the challenge of access to testing models for academic research, highlighting the need for institutional models that facilitate this.
6. The Evolving Nature of Risk: The rapidly evolving nature of AI risks highlighted the uncertainty surrounding future AI trajectories and the increasing capabilities of AI systems, including advancements in reasoning and self-preservation, which raise concerns about potential misuse and loss of human control. The need for constant vigilance and adaptation in addressing these evolving risks is emphasized. The importance of "red teaming" and identifying dangerous capabilities is also discussed.
7. The Role of Academia and Policy Makers: concluded with a call to action for both academics and policymakers. Academics are encouraged to conduct research, "pry open the black box" of AI systems, and explore alternative AI approaches. Policymakers were urged to embrace iterative regulation, recognising the need for dynamic and adaptable policies that can keep pace with rapid technological advancements and bridging the gap between science and policy.

2.5 Pre Summit Reports on AI Openness

2.5.1 UK Government International AI Safety Report

Written by Yoshua Bengio and published on 29 January 2025, the report is a dense publication.

Impact of open weight general-purpose AI models on AI risks
The UK Government's latest International Safety Report builds on the May 2024 Interim Report by improving scientific rigour, adding discussions on new topics such as open weight models, and restructuring content to better support policymakers.

Open Weight Models and AI Deployment
A key consideration in AI risk assessment is how models are released. Open weight models, whose central components are shared publicly for download, allow for greater research, transparency, and safety improvements but also pose risks as they can be misused in a way that is undetectable to developers. Since the Interim Report, some experts have agreed that AI openness should be assessed in terms of marginal risk – how much additional risk an open weight model introduces compared to alternatives like closed models. Additionally, the report distinguishes between 'deployment' (putting an AI system into use) and 'model release' (making trained models available for study and modification). It sees AI m odels existing on a spectrum from fully closed (internal use only) to fully open (all components publicly available) with shades of openness in between. Prominent examples include GPT-4o (closed) and Llama-3.1 (open weight).

AI Capabilities and Emerging Risks
While general purpose AI currently engages in complex dialogue, generates text and code, and assists in software development, advancements involving multimodal learning may soon overcome existing data bottlenecks, enabling general purpose AI to be trained to control robots. However, measuring how AI augments human capabilities remains a challenge due to a lack of standardised benchmarks.

Since May 2024, AI systems have made significant progress in identifying and exploiting cyber vulnerabilities, sometimes outpacing human security teams. AI assisted penetration testing has improved, and models have autonomously found and fixed critical vulnerabilities in widely used software. While AI can assist in vulnerability discovery, traditional methods remain dominant. Policymakers face challenges in assessing AI's offensive and defensive cyber capabilities and must balance security research with preventing misuse.

Policy and Future Challenges
Rapid AI advancements pose urgent challenges for policymakers focusing on cyber risks, including reliably assessing AI capabilities and regulating offensive AI research while maintaining defensive capabilities. Rapid innovation also presents challenges in evaluating and managing biological risks as new models may introduce large scale threats. Policymakers have to act with incomplete information while integrating classified threat research.

Efforts to close the AI R&D divide – such as democratising compute access, training AI talent in low and middle income countries, and open sourcing models – have struggled due to financial and logistical barriers. Addressing these challenges will require significant investment and long term commitment.

2.5.2 Open Knowledge Foundation and Open Future 'Data Governance in Open Source AI'

The paper addresses the vital need to establish shared standards and practices in data governance in order to promote responsible and equitable access to data in open source AI development.
The paper highlights six key areas that need to be further discussed to advance data governance in open source AI:

1. Data preparation and provenance
2. Preference signaling and licensing
3. Data stewards and custodians
4. Environmental sustainability Incentives and funding
5. Community building and collaboration

Open source enables transparency, collaboration, and ethical responsibility—values that are becoming crucial as AI becomes more powerful. The report suggests open source ideals be applied to AI development and data governance, to boost innovation while keeping these systems trustworthy and fair and datasets and algorithms remain accountable and inclusive. The OSI believes that making data openly licensed can:

- Lower barriers to entry for researchers and smaller organizations.
- Expand the pool of contributors who can audit, improve, and adapt AI models.
- Introduce more diverse viewpoints, which helps reduce bias and increase fairness.

The report further focuses on ethical data sourcing. The OSI strongly advocates for:

- Obtaining clear consent from anyone providing data.
- Ensuring datasets are anonymized where necessary.
- Using licensing structures that prevent unethical or harmful use of data.

2.5.3 Columbia Convening - Mozilla (explored at 4.2.4)

> 'The energy around open source AI has changed so much since the last AI Summit. At Bletchey Park, open source was falsely and cynically cast as the enemy of AI safety. in Paris, with real momentum behind the idea that open source is critical not only to making AI safe but also to making sure it benefits society. We've seen a wonderful 180 degree turn. My hope is that the next summit will take us a step further, with smaller economies in all parts of the world realizing that banding together to embrace of open source is a path to economic growth in the AI era.'
>
> **Mark Surman, President, Mozilla**

3.0 AI Openness Timeline

Figure 1.

The AI Openness Timeline Key

2022
First ChatGPT release

2023
February 2023 Meta's LLaMA LLM leaked
The LLaMA code leaked
without licence and used by open and collaborative communities to develop at scale and with pace

March 2023 Release of ChatGPT4

May 2023 We have no Moat - Leaked Google Memo

July 2023 - LLaMA 2 distributed on Llama Community licence and Mark Zuckerberg refers to it as 'open source'. But it does not meet the open source definition requirements - and results in claims of open washing

December 2023 - Stanford releases Disaggregated approach to looking at component parts

2024

February 2024 House of Lords Digital and Communications Committee Report - Disaggregated approach adopted and recognised 'open source' was contested.
Report to their Generative AI and LLM Inquiry

May 2024 The Linux Foundation, Model Openness Framework seeks to break down what makes up an LLM that is open.

July 2024 - Researchers at Radboud University follow in disaggregating and reviewing components. 14 possible characteristics or components of LLMs that might be opened on a partial basis or fully opened and conducting a survey of these against over 40 LLMs.

September 2024 - AutoGPT released its Agentic AI platform.

23 October 2024, The Free Software Foundation announce work on "freedom in machine learning applications": "a to-be-issued "statement" on free machine learning applications for software and the associated scripts and training data.' And we now await a potential second Definition.

28 October 2024, The Open Source Initiative released an 'Open Source AI Definition' at the All Things Open Conference. This is the first attempt by any organisation to create a definition specific to 'open source' as it might be considered to apply in AI 20 companies and 100 individuals signed up to it publicly.

2025

20 January 2025, DeepSeek-R1 released

30 January 2025, OpenAI CEO on Wrong Side of History: Sam Altman wrote "I personally think we have been on the wrong side of history here and need to figure out a different open source strategy" and "Yes, we are discussing [releasing model weights], He noted that not everyone at OpenAI shares his view and it isn't the company's current highest priority" 'in Reddit Ask Me Anything session

10 & 11 February 2025 AI Action Summit, Paris hosted by French and Indian Prime Ministers. Includes some representation of open source community and announcements around open source and public good actions

10 February 'ROOST open source tooling' announced AI Action Summit.

11 February 'Current AI Foundation' announced with data commons.

4.0 What is AI Openness or Open Source AI

The meaning of open source AI has been recognised as being contested for some time and a quick fix is unlikely. Various definitions are in progress that may impact this and the need for a definition has been challenged on the basis that it is an impossible task to define something that is embryonic, but also may be the wrong approach. An alternative approach of disaggregating the component parts of AI to establish the level of openness in each has also been gaining traction.

4.1 The Definition Approach

4.1.1 Free Software Foundation Definition

On 23 October 2024, The Free Software Foundation announced that they have begun work on "freedom in machine learning applications".

Or in particular, a to-be-issued "statement" on free machine learning applications for software and the associated scripts and training data.' And we now await a potential second definition.

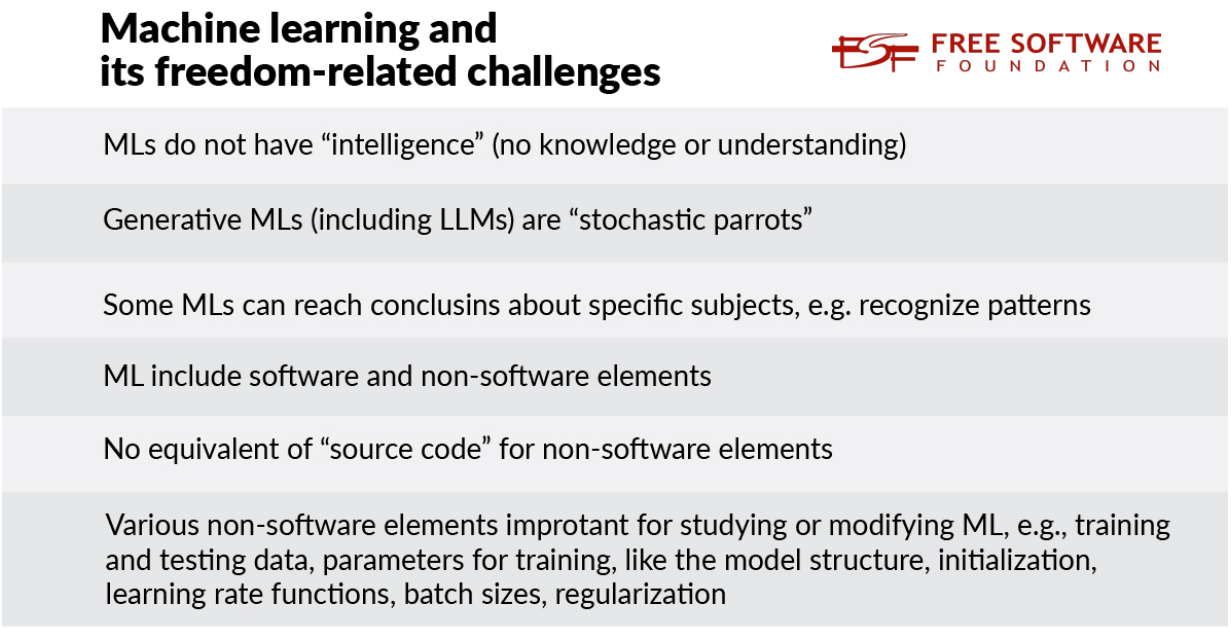


Figure 2.
Source: Source: Free Software Foundation

4.1.2 Open Source Initiative Open Source AI Definition (OSAID)

The OSAID was released after 3 years of work at All Things Open on 28 October 2024 and seeks to apply four freedoms to both fully functional systems and to discrete elements of a system. The OSAID has been controversial, both as to the need for its existence when there is already an Open Source Definition (OSD) for open source software as well as to its content. The particular concerns about the definition generally focus on the lack of requirements around disclosure of data, whether the OSI risks undermining the OSD by creating a second definition and whether a second definition is necessary.

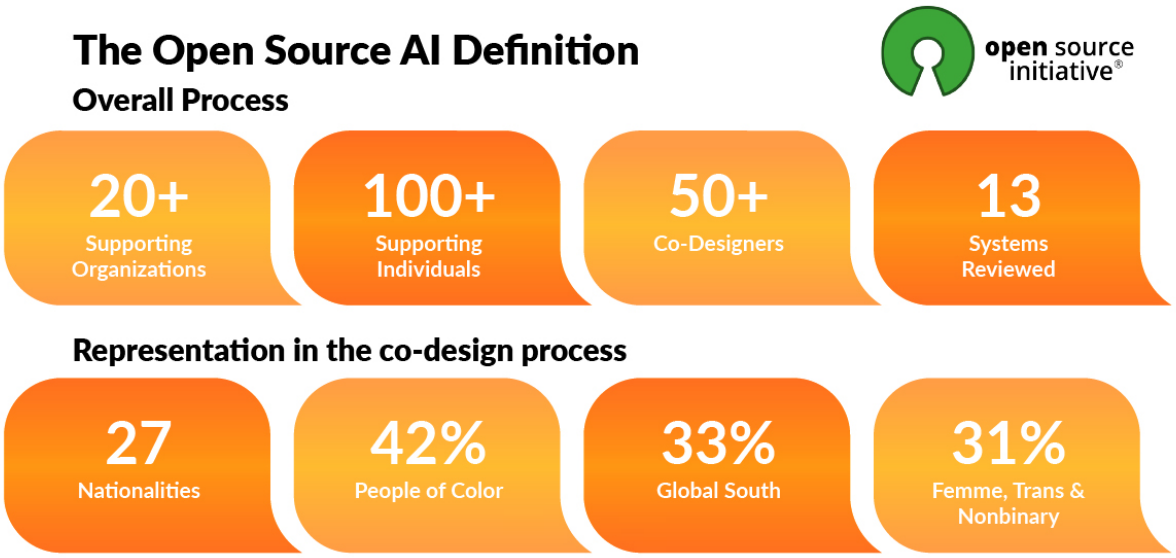


Figure 3.
Source: Open Source Initiative

Even the debate over the definition has allowed organisations like Meta to describe their products - in Meta's case LLaMA as 'open source AI' when the product does not meet the basic requirement of the OSD that anyone can use the licensed product for any purpose. LLaMA's launch web site carefully described it as Open Innovation not open source on the basis that the 'LLaMA Community License' on which LLaMA is distributed contains restrictions on commercialisation. That would stop the licence meeting the OSD or being called open source and has two impacts:

1. It disrupts the free flow of anyone being able to use the licensed product for any purpose and relying on the freeflow that is fundamental to the concept of open source; and
2. Meta is in reality guaranteed the option of a financial 'cut' of whatever winning product is based on its 'open' distribution of LLaMA as anyone who is successful in having 700 million users of a derivative will require a commercial licence from Meta on unknown terms. This sits counter to the impact of open source on commercialisation - that anyone is able to use the code (or in this case AI) for any purpose.

The OSI website OSAID Endorsement page shows that the definition has been endorsed by 20 (mainly small) companies. The launch statement that stated 20 companies and 100 individuals had endorsed has been removed from the site.

4.1.3 Open Source Alliance Open Weights Definition

The approach of defining weights sits between the definition and disaggregation approach. The Open Source Alliance is a new organisation set up in 2025, and focusing on the official AI convergence challenge of the French AI Action Summit. Its purpose is to usher in global governance of open source for the AI era. By identifying national standard bearers, the OSA aims to give countries a voice in matters relating to their digital sovereignty. The OSA has been formed in response to the controversial release of the OSI definition of AI openness.

In order to take the pressure off open source, the Open Weights Definition is due to be announced at the AI Action Summit as its first action.

The purpose of the Open Weight Definition is to take the pressure off open source by giving vendors who aspire to call their products open source an alternative that only guarantees protection of two of the four freedoms - i.e. to use and share - with limited opportunity to study or modify. It's not meant to be a competitor to open source, rather a complement.

4.2 The Disaggregation Approach

4.2.1 Stanford AI Index Report 2024

According to the AI Index Report (2024) by Stanford University's Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HCAI) Institute, 'disaggregating' refers to the process of breaking down the components that contribute to the overall AI ecosystem. This work builds on their December 2023 report which was amongst the first to adopt this approach and includes breaking down a broader category (e.g., "AI research") into more specific subcategories (e.g., "NLP", "Computer Vision", etc.); identifying and isolating individual elements within each subcategory (e.g., specific research papers, authors, institutions, or metrics); and investigating the connections between these decomposed components to gain insights into how they interact and influence one another.

The 2024 AI Index report highlights a significant acceleration in the development of large language models (LLMs), with the number of new models released worldwide doubling compared to the previous year. Notably, two thirds of the models released in 2023 were open source, a substantial increase from previous years, where open source models accounted for 44.4% in 2022 and just 33.3% in 2021. Beyond the development of LLMs, the proliferation of AI-related projects on GitHub underscores the increasing democratisation and engagement within the AI ecosystem.

4.2.2 House of Lords LLM Report

The importance of the UK House of Lords LLM and Generative AI Report for open source, lies in its recognition of both the shades of openness and that the term open source in the context of AI is disputed. The report was published in February 2024, before the EU's AI Act.

4.2.3 Radboud University

Radboud University's approach to disaggregation involves a critical analysis of the components that make up the generative AI ecosystem. By breaking down the complex entity of generative AI into its constituent parts, Radboud University's researchers aim to decompose the broader category of generative AI into specific subcategories (e.g. research publications, patent applications and IP rights, capital investment and grants, public opinions and regulatory frameworks. In this way, they can investigate the connections between these components to gain insights into how they interact and influence one another, allowing them to build a critique of 'open washing'. Their research identified 14 possible characteristics or components of LLMs that might be open on a partial basis or fully open and they conducted a survey of these against over 40 LLMs.

4.2.4 Mozilla Columbia Convening

Mozilla's vision of "AI openness" is multi-dimensional—it's about code, data, tools, governance, and community collaboration. The organization sees openness as integral to public interest AI, and it aims to ensure that policy frameworks (like the EU AI Act) include concrete mechanisms to protect competition, democratize AI development, and maintain robust safety standards. There are things to think about based on Mozilla's approach:

1. Ensure that openness includes open data, open models, open infrastructure, and supportive governance and move beyond only talking about open-source code to include the entire AI stack.
2. Mozilla supports making openness an explicit policy goal in AI regulation (particularly in the EU AI Act). For Mozilla, 'Public Interest AI' should be a driving concept at high-level AI summits and regulatory discussions, linking openness directly to societal benefits.
3. Advocate for the open-source community to provide evidence-based arguments on economic and societal gains of open AI development and demonstrate the tangible benefits of openness.
4. Increase access to infrastructure, data, and compute power—so that smaller entities (startups, researchers, communities) are not locked out as well as sharing safety tools.
5. Recommend policies that de-centralise AI power from large corporations, promoting competition and innovation and supporting a wide range of AI actors.
6. Focus on concrete policy recommendations.

5. Individual Countries - Policy Update

Geopolitical tensions abound and impact the regulation of AI globally. An increasingly complex landscape brings increasing divide - particularly in legislation - yet at the same time sees a mutually beneficial drive to practical solutions with a pro-innovation approach.

5.1 France - The Summit Hosts

Number 1 in Europe in open source AI according to the Tortoise Index in September 2024. The UK is now relegated to second place. France has had a pro-open source approach under President Macron which has led to it being Europe's fastest growing in open source software contribution, although the UK remains in number 1 position.

	Overall	Talent	Infrastructure	Operating Environment	Research	Development	Government Strategy	Commercial	Scale	Intensity
United States	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3
China	2	9	2	21	2	2	5	2	2	21
Singapore	3	6	3	48	3	5	10	4	11	1
United Kingdom	4	4	17	4	4	16	7	5	3	9
France	5	10	14	19	6	4	9	8	6	10
South Korea	6	13	6	35	13	3	4	12	7	11
Germany	7	3	13	8	8	11	8	9	5	15
Canada	8	8	18	16	9	10	3	6	8	8
Israel	9	7	26	65	7	6	32	3	14	2
India	10	2	68	3	14	13	11	13	4	36
Japan	11	23	5	53	20	14	12	14	9	31
Switzerland	12	5	11	58	5	19	64	20	29	4
The Netherlands	13	11	7	29	15	17	19	23	13	12
Saudi Arabia	14	60	29	41	42	26	1	7	10	24
Finland	15	14	12	9	18	12	25	15	18	6
Hong Kong	16	21	8	40	10	18	59	11	20	7
Australia	17	17	39	13	11	7	42	21	15	

Throughout the AI Action Summit France has made a series of announcements explained further throughout this report which align with Macron's pro-open source approach, and which are elaborated on at section 2.

5.2 The UK

5.2.1 AI Bill

An AI Bill was announced in Kings Speech September 2024 and at this time the draft Bill awaited. It is expected to have a limited scope.

5.2.2 UK Consultation on Copyright and AI

Initially worked on by the UK's Intellectual Property Office after two consultations this was pushed back to the Department of Science Innovation and Technology in 2024.

A consultation was issued by DSIT and is closing on 25 February after 10 weeks.

The consultation focuses on improving the copyright laws in the UK to support AI development and the creative industries. Getting this right is important because it will impact the ability to analyse publicly available data in the UK. The key issues at the moment are as follows:

Four options requiring comments

1. Do nothing
2. Follow countries like Japan that have data mining exceptions and US that has preferred use doctrine
3. Text and Data mining exception with an opt out to prevent text and data mining.
4. Create a licensing regime

The lack of certainty in the UK's innovators ability to use publicly available content with a fair use equivalent for text and data mining has been seen to disadvantage the UK.

5.2.3 AI Action Opportunities Plan

The action plan includes 50 points of opportunity for the UK provided by Matt Clifford. The UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's response was that this should be 'mainlined' into his veins.

Notable amongst the actions is the plan for regulated sectors to continue to be the source of regulation for AI by use case, unless these fail to be innovative.

5.3 The EU

The EU's AI Act came into force in August 2024, and on 2 February 2025 it began to apply to some LLMsand AI as explained below. The current focus is on a code of conduct for implementation to support understanding of SMEs and the introduction of an AI Office

The deadline for compliance is August 2025, but an issue continues to be that there are no clear standards to work towards so needing to produce a code of practice. The 2nd draft of code of practice - issue the draft and up to group to make comments within consultation

Statutory deadline, 2 February 2025
AI literacy - providers of AI systems have to undertake measures to provide AI literacy training to their employees:

- This appears to not be being complied with
- There are no sanctions to enforce

Prohibitive systems - systems that are deemed to be so noxious (e.g. systems that seek to manipulate the emotions of people thereby leading to harm) that they would be contradictory to European values:

- This needed to be removed by 2 February
- At this stage they are not able to enforce this yet

5.4 The US

US Policy Swing from Biden to Trump

On 20 January, the inauguration of President Trump saw President Biden's Executive Order of October 2023 rescinded. The White House website now shows a 404 message in its place.

Throughout the AI Action Summit the US promoted an anti-regulation approach included in Vice-President JD Vance's speech and the Trump approach is light-touch although a new Executive Order is expected within 6 months.

A key challenge is that there is a patchwork of rules, often contradictory across different States with the potential for 50 different sets of rules being added to by individual cities like New York and San Franciscso also calling for their own laws. Notable amongs these is the California Bill which some have said brings fears that it might destroy open source.

2024 saw a raft of litigations in the US focusing on varies aspects of copyright, input usage and safety. These included a litigation around Co-Pilot involving GitHub.

The US applies its own systems and to those selling to the US government.

5.5 China

The situation in China sees many Information Commissions in Europe currently investigating or about to investigate DeepSeek.

China has a focus on governance through standards. It has issued a framework of standards for AI and is looking to national, industry and international standards. The National Standards include an Aritificial Intelligence Safety Governance Framework, and an Artificial Intelligence Safety Standards System - both available as a draft 1.0.

The Ministry for Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) established a Technical Commitee for AI Standardisation in December 2024 with primary responsibility for the formulation and revision of standards. China has sought Industry consensus throught AI with 17 signatories currently.

Published an AI Safety Governance report with an AI Governance methodology and AI Safety benchmark.

5.6 A Global Approach and the challenge of standards

A recurring theme across the AI summit was the concept of a global approach to governance and the need to bring alignment. Those require a global understanding of the benefits and risk and alignment across countries in the approach to regulation. The US and China demonstrated a clear focus on Innovation over regulation whilst the EU continues to have a more conservative approach. The UK did not have the strength of voice that it has had at past summits, but offers the possibility of a middle ground.

The use of standards and the current standards systems must align better with the potential for open source and openness in AI.

Patents in the standards system despite these beig Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) licensed on fixed prices, will cause friction in the open source nature of our future AI. This challenge will be a significant barrier to the successful use of standards in an open source like environment in our AI future.

Current standards bodies are expensive for profit organisations charging for participation and requiring skilled expertise to attend international meetings. This is difficult for open source and there are challenges of open source communities being represented in these. A shift in this will be key to the success of a standards approach in an open source focused AI future.

To avoid AI regulation by the back door through standards dominated by large corporates these challenges need to be considered.

The use of ‘de-facto standards’ and tools in open source software through organisations like ROOST, will be the building blocks for successful ‘standards’ in these de facto standards.

6. Conclusion

Dr Jennifer Barth,
Founder Symmetry and
Research Director OpenUK

The past few weeks culminating in the Paris Action Summit captured a pivotal moment in evolving the story of Artificial Intelligence governance, where the global conversation is shifting toward innovation and action. Over two days, a lively crowd of world leaders, CEOs, researchers, entrepreneurs, and civil society representatives gathered to share ideas and hammer out practical paths for harnessing AI's tremendous promise while mitigating its risks. In the run up to the summit there has been a flurry of activity in reports, conversations, workshops, and the OpenUK SOOCON 2025 that have spearheaded the conversation on all things AI and AI openness.

There is a lot of talk about how to make AI truly work in the public interest and questions about the practical ways to ensure trust, safety, and fairness - especially in the form of open source tools and methodologies. Open source seems to be the connective tissue linking all these goals. These conversations stress that AI's ability to help us tackle large-scale challenges—like climate change or economic development—depends on broad access to model code, data, and training resources.

From the earlier Paris Open Source AI Summit—where the government-funded LUCIE language model was introduced—to the final sessions in the Grand Palais, people talked less about restricting AI technologies and more about unleashing them responsibly. This does not mean ignoring safety. On the contrary, open source proponents repeatedly explained that the best way to ensure AI is secure is by inviting as many eyes as possible to review, test, and improve the technology.

Some participants pointed to the lengthy Yoshua Bengio Safety Report, commissioned by the UK government, as evidence of an outdated mindset that places excessive emphasis on controlling access to AI models. One of the biggest stories weaving through the summit was the so-called "DeepSeek Effect." Suddenly, the notion that only a few powerful corporations with massive computing budgets could develop sophisticated AI was called into question. There were also major new initiatives unveiled that underscored openness and public interest.

Debates over definitions of "openness" continue to rage. Various groups are scrambling to lay down new guidelines for AI that reflect the spirit of the traditional Open Source Definition but accommodate the complexities of machine learning. Some, such as the Open Source Alliance, are working on an "Open Weights Definition" to clarify what it means to share model parameters, while others, like Mozilla's Columbia Convening, Radboud Universiteit and Stanford, champion a "disaggregation approach," which breaks AI systems into their component parts—data, code, algorithms, inference—for more nuanced analysis. Meanwhile, the Free Software Foundation is drafting a statement on "freedom in machine learning applications," and the Open Source Initiative has published its own Open Source AI Definition. Overall, practitioners just want to get real, widely available tools out there that people can adapt, test, and improve. The timeline in this report sets out the most recent road to AI openness.

By weaving openness into the very fabric of AI development, the past week or so leading to and including the AI Summit in Paris shows the focus on helping AI to serve the public interest without compromising on safety or stifling creativity. We seem to be in a moment of collective energy—of acknowledging how far we have come since the AI conversation first took shape, but also how far we still have to go in turning these ambitious commitments into everyday practice. The work lies ahead in transforming these discussions into reality, ensuring that AI remains a shared global good.

7. Formalities

Contributors

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OpenUK CEO, Amanda's built one of open source's most recognised and impactful organisations. Executive Producer of State of Open Con (2023- 2025), Amanda's a globally sought-after keynote speaker.A lawyer with 25 years' experience, 5 as GC of Canonical, she's been instrumental in shaping open source's legal frameworks, as she was internet law during the early 2000's. Regularly contributing to tech press, she edited 'Open Source: Law, Policy and Practice', (2022).
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Advisory Appointments: UK Cabinet Office Open Standards Board; UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure; UKRI Exascale; KDE; commercial boards – Mimoto, Scarf, FerretDB and Space Aye; and is Fellow Open Forum Academy; Distinguished Fellow Rust Foundation; and European Representative, OIN.

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Jenn has more than 15 years of experience leading independent research on the intersections of emerging technologies and socioeconomic change. She provides companies with independent thought leadership and media engagement opportunities on global issues impacting and shaping our current and future technical-social lives. Her work spans the digital through to social and economic change. She has looked at sustainability, workforce skills and organisational competitiveness strategies through and beyond the pandemic with Microsoft and many other big and small organisations and works as the Chief Research Office researching the role of open source software and its potential to fuel the circular economy with OpenUK. She has experience working on the human impact of artificial intelligence (AI) through fieldwork experiments with IBM Watson, Microsoft and other providers. She is skilled at blending research methods and working with people to bring to life the stories behind numbers. Dr Barth earned her DPhil in Geography from the University of Oxford.

Attendees at the Summit
We are grateful to the following people for their quotes from the AI Summit:
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About the Creators of this Report

OpenUK

OpenUK is the unique open tech industry body for the business of open technology in the UK. It spans the opens – software, hardware, data, standards and AI and is the convening point for the UK's business, academic and contributing communities across open tech. Our work supports the UK's journey to become "The State of Open". Our organisation is run with the support of our volunteer community and their leadership in the tradition of open source delivering on three pillars: community, legal and policy and learning. Our Community is recognised through our world-leading open tech recognition programme including the OpenUK Awards (the Oscars of Open Source) now in their 5th year, New Year's Honours Lists and Ambassador Scheme.

OpenUK undertakes research and reporting both on its own account through its "State of Open Reports" and on a commissioned basis for third parties. Case studies, Thought Leadership, Surveys and desk-based research are included in our reporting which pushes the envelope and leads the way. Our Research and Reporting Show and Tell events coalesce the global open source research communities digitally to regularly update and share research practices and topics.OpenUK's new OpenUK Fellows Network for postgraduate researchers is launching in 2024 to encourage more academic research across the opens.

The community's strength is channelled to enable a cohesive voice that responds to legislative proposals and sets policy. We have set the agenda in policy matters across openness in the UK and beyond. OpenUK's Policy work leads the conversations around open source licensing and commercialisation, AI openness and cloud computing and other key topics across open source, as they emerge. Engagement with UK policy makers is supported by a volunteer Policy Advisory Board and by experts across our volunteer Advisory Boards and the open source communities. Our Advisory Boards span AI, Communications Tech, Data, Finance, Hardware, Healthcare, Security, Software, Space, Sustainability and Quantum Computing. We are able to provide industry experts across the opens for speaking engagements, consultancy and advisory boards.

OpenUK is the second organisation established anywhere in the world with open source policy as its purpose, our approach is holistic to and representative of the entire open ecosystem. OpenUK undertakes a broad range of activities in support of its policy work and is a day one member of GaiaX and UK's GaiaX Hub Coordinator, hosted one of the biggest tech events at COP26, and was the first organisation in open tech to put a Sustainability Policy and Chief Sustainability Officer in place. Skills and Learning form our third pillar and our Learning work has spanned initiatives for children including our award winning Kids Camps which teach coding, open source and sustainability in a real world context; and exploring the business of open source through our Founder training. We have shared several hundred hours of digital training. Our ambitions include a UK apprenticeship module and adding open source to the UK curriculum.

The State of Open Con has become one of the world's leading open source conferences since its inception by OpenUK in 2023. In 2025 we expect to host 1000 people across 8 tracks and plenary sessions, with at least 50 partners in our delegate experience space and over 200 speakers. Our small events team deliver to the highest standards a series of unique events through the year and our community organise UK-wide OpenUK meet-ups. Contact OpenUK admin@openuk.uk

Symmetry

Symmetry looks beyond the surface and behind the curtain of the fundamental innovations and trends shaping our society, markets, culture, and values. We are academics and researchers looking at the intersections of emerging technology and socioeconomic impact, producing independent research for thought leadership and business solutions. Symmetry's mission is to share and grow knowledge about the interaction of technology and everyday lives. We want to understand the past, present, and future of human interaction with emerging technologies and socioeconomic changes—from behaviour to context, nature to nurture, origin to experiences—helping our clients engage their clients and public imagination.

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