

When it comes to understanding ChatGPT and other Generative Al tools, many people don't know where to begin. To help, we've pulled together key terms and dates of OpenAl's ChatGPT history.



2015

OpenAl Founded

Originally founded as a non-profit to advance artificial intelligence (AI) research, OpenAI entered the tech scene in 2015. Based in San Francisco, the non-profit beginnings of OpenAl pledged to, "advance digital intelligence in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return."

2017

Google Releases the "Attention Paper"

The paper that kicked off the Al Revolution, Attention is All You Need, was written and published by a team at Google Brain in 2017. The paper introduced the now-famous Transformer architecture that powers each version of Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT).

2018

GPT-1: Asks questions, generates text, translate languages

GPT-1 was the first-generation of the GPT models developed to create human-like text without being explicitly programmed. Each model contains training parameters and would be fine-tuned for a range of natural language processing tasks. This and each subsequent model would be trained on massive amounts of data.

GPT-2: Increased reasoning, understanding of context

A more capable GPT model is released after having been trained on 10X as much data as the original GPT-1 model.

GPT-3: Generate sophisticated responses, write computer code, create art

GPT-3 is able to process more data and learn more complex relationships between words. It's over 100 times larger than GPT-1.

ChatGPT: Write emails, summarize or edit a paper, answer questions, plan itineraries, create conversations, write and review code, tutor, translate and more

In 2022 ChatGPT made a splash as an accessible, free-to-the-public AI technology and had 1 million users within 5 days of release. ChatGPT is a simple to use iteration on GPT-3 that improves usability by remembering conversation context.

Example prompts:

"Summarize this paper in three paragraphs."

"Translate this JavaScript into Bash."

"Write a happy story about a dog in the style of Edith Wharton."

GPT-4: Multimodal model, processes both images and text

GPT-4 is the latest and most capable language model from OpenAl, and while it's closed-sourced (accessible at a cost), it outperforms similar open-source models on nearly all tasks. OpenAl claims that GPT-4 can answer questions more accurately than prior versions, as measured by scores on tests such as the SAT and LSAT. GPT-4 can also read not only text but image inputs, meaning it can scan a worksheet or read a graph. As of June, 2023, GPT-4 is accessible to the public through Bing Chat or a paid ChatGPT Plus subscription.





Education's Transformative Moment

Since Al technology became easily available to the public in late 2022, it has been transforming the education experience for learners and educators. Valid concerns have arisen about potential harmful repercussions of the technology, such as academic integrity, data privacy, learning loss, bias and the spread of misinformation. The good news is that in each model the parameters have grown exponentially, rapidly improving each model's capabilities.

The key: ensure a positive and responsible approach to Generative AI is taken in every use case. At Instructure, we're committed to partnering with all stakeholders to thoughtfully innovate what customized, accessible education looks like in the modern world. And, we'll continue to lead and partner

with the education community on issues most compelling to students and educators everywhere.

Transformer: A Novel Neural Network Architecture for Language Understanding, Blog, Google Research, August 2017
"Attention is all you need" (Vaswani, Ashish & Shazeer, Noam & Parmar, Niki & Uszkoreit, Jakob & Jones, Llion & Gomez, Aidan & Kaiser, Lukasz & Polosukhin, Illia. (2017))
"Artificial Intelligence Nonprofit OpenAl Launches With Backing From Elon Musk And Sam Altman" TechCrunch, December 2015
"ChatGPT vs. GPT: How are they different?" TechTarget, April 2023 "The origin and evolution of Chat GPT: The natural language model that is changing the game." RoutineHub Blog, February 2023

