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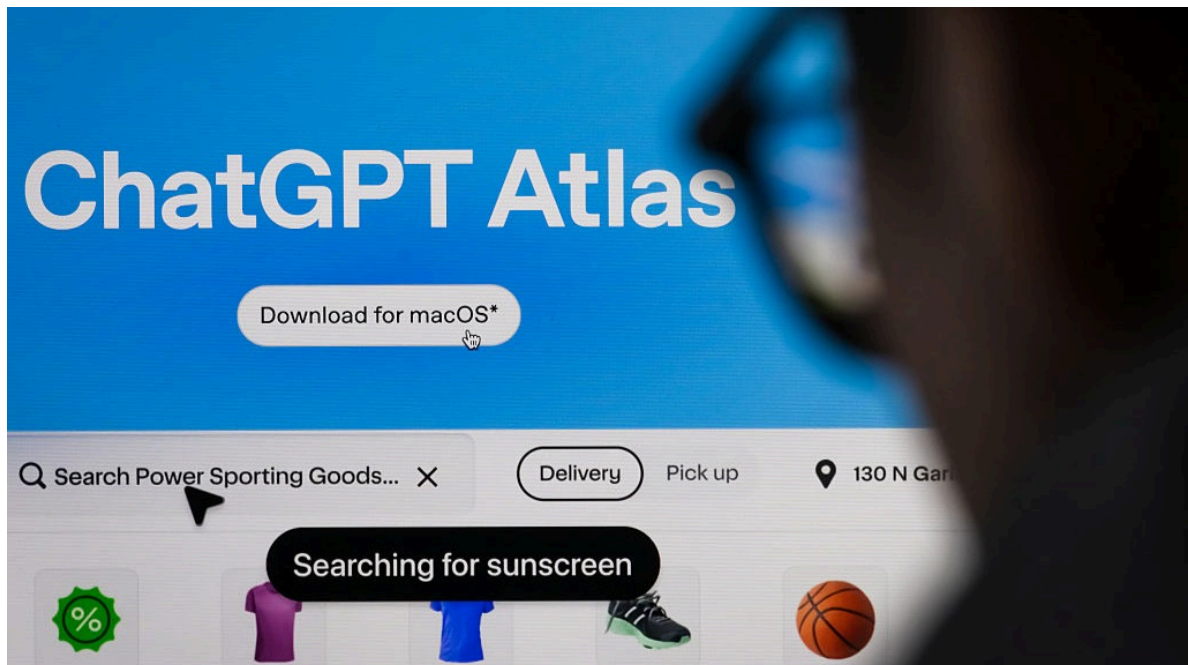
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Hello. This week, OpenAI launched its own web browser in a move seen as a direct challenge to Google. Atlas integrates with ChatGPT and comes with impressive capabilities like an in-built AI agent. But taking on Google Chrome, which dominates the browser market, won't be easy as I explain below. We also look at the new smart glasses for Amazon delivery drivers and explore the best ways to repel drones.

THE DOWNLOAD

Can OpenAI crack the browser market?



OpenAI says Atlas will "rethink" the browser experience. Credit: Reuters

OpenAI's decision to **launch its own browser** makes sense on a number of levels. Surveys suggest people are increasingly using chatbots like ChatGPT **in place of search engines**, and OpenAI is also seeking ways to monetise its products.

Atlas brings some compelling new features to the browser party, including a sidebar window people can use to ask ChatGPT questions about web pages they visit, and an in-built AI agent that can complete tasks from start to finish on your behalf, such as researching and shopping for a trip.

The aim, OpenAI boss Sam Altman said, is to "rethink what a browser can be about". But shaking up a sector so dominated by one player won't be easy. Research from StatCounter shows Google Chrome controls about 72% of the global browser market, followed by Apple's Safari on 14% and Microsoft Edge on 5%.

To date, attempts to **curb Google's power** have have little impact and even in the EU, where all gatekeeper companies must now prompt users to set a default web browser, most people still choose Chrome.

The market leaders are also integrating AI at speed, such as Google with Gemini or Edge and Microsoft Copilot (which is powered by ChatGPT). "An AI-enabled browser alone isn't a differentiator," said Stephanie Liu, a senior analyst at Forrester. "OpenAI will have to find a meaningful value proposition to pull in more users."

Mozilla Firefox offers a lesson on the difficulties of cracking this market. The browser launched in 2004 to challenge the now-defunct Internet Explorer and was initially a hit. But despite heavy investment, Firefox's market share dwindled over time, in part because of intense competition from its rivals.

OpenAI will be determined to avoid this happening. The question is whether it can convince the billions of people whose default browser is Chrome, Safari or Edge to switch to Atlas.

The download: As the stakes rise in AI, it makes sense for the ChatGPT maker to release its own browser - but dislodging the incumbents won't be easy.

TOP STORIES



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Changpeng Zhao, founder of the world's largest crypto exchange Binance, served time in jail last year for breaking money laundering laws.

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Amazon tests prototype AI smart glasses

The glasses are designed for Amazon's delivery drivers and include a camera and built-in display.

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The global outage at Amazon's cloud business this week has reignited a debate about whether countries are too dependent on a handful of tech giants.

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SOMETHING DIFFERENT

The best ways to detect and repel drones



Danish firm MyDefence uses powerful radio waves to jam drone control systems. Credit: MyDefence

Industry figures say demand for anti-drone systems is rising fast, and it's not just the military buying them, but also big companies looking to protect critical assets. New technologies are under development, ranging from acoustic sensors that listen for a drone's buzzing to advanced optical cameras and radars. **Adrienne Murray** met some of **the innovators in the field**.

PODCAST PICK



Red lines for AI

More than 200 prominent individuals and 70 organisations are calling for stronger AI guardrails to protect humanity.

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And finally...

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Erowid, a website that collects and publishes firsthand reports of people's experiences using legal and illegal drugs. Visitors can find thousands of colourful anecdotes (including so called "trip reports") as well as share information on drug toxicology. But Erowid has also become vital to academic research - **here's why**.



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