

New in October 2026

What was added and what is coming, side by side per kind of tool · as of 24 October 2026

Everything the four large providers released or announced in October 2026, side by side per kind of tool. Each time: what it does, which problem it solves, who it is for, whether it is ready for end users, and what it means for the organisations I help.

This month lists 72 new features, most of them from Google. An ordinary user can already use 58 of them today; the rest is still a preview or only announced.

The most important of the month

- **OpenAI, GPT-6 and Intelligent UI** (7 October 2026): Integrates the GPT-6 model globally into ChatGPT with an interactive visual interface that users can operate directly. *Employees within organizations can analyze data faster and use interactive dashboards directly inside their chat environment.*
- **Anthropic, Claude Duet** *preview* (21 October 2026): A new application in which Claude functions as a proactive AI agent that independently takes on tasks. *Organizations can experiment with agents that autonomously monitor workflows and prepare work.*
- **Anthropic, Claude Mods and You should know** (1 October 2026): Adds Claude Mods for deeper system customization, including the built-in mod 'You should know', which acts as an observing agent to provide warnings. *Increases agent reliability by using a secondary background AI reviewer to catch overlooked issues.*
- **Microsoft, Seamless Search and Chat Integration** (6 October 2026): Integrates conversational chat directly into Microsoft 365 Copilot Search, allowing you to query or summarize search results immediately. *Employees at municipalities and SMEs can search policy documents or files faster and turn them directly into action items.*
- **Anthropic, Claude Haiku 5.5** (7 October 2026): A fast and cost-effective compact language model, optimized for large-scale and cost-sensitive tasks. *Makes it affordable to automate standard processes, such as routing and summarization, at scale.*
- **Google, Next steps in Google Meet** (12 October 2026): Converts discussions after a video call into draft follow-up emails in Gmail or tasks in Google Tasks with a single click. *Accelerates project turnaround in SMEs and government by translating agreements directly into tasks and emails.*

Chat app

New this month at: Anthropic, OpenAI, Google, Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Prompt recovery after Ctrl+C 2 October 2026 · source	Restores a draft prompt accidentally cleared with Ctrl+C via the up-arrow key, including pasted images and text.	Users lost extensive instructions and attachments if they accidentally pressed cancel.	End users of Claude Code	yes	Prevents frustration and lost time for employees drafting detailed prompts.
OpenAI	ChatGPT iOS task and status widgets 2 October 2026 · source	Provides home screen and lock screen widgets to display recent tasks on connected computers and remaining API credits.	Users had to open the app to check the status of running computer tasks or their usage limit.	iOS users remotely monitoring computer tasks.	yes	Makes it easier for mobile professionals to monitor active background tasks and limits.
OpenAI	GPT-6 and Intelligent UI 7 October 2026 · source	Integrates the GPT-6 model globally into ChatGPT with an interactive visual interface that users can operate directly.	Chat responses were previously primarily static text, making interaction with complex data and overviews cumbersome.	All ChatGPT users	yes	Employees within organizations can analyze data faster and use interactive dashboards directly inside their chat environment.
OpenAI	Direct Codex task links and page previews on iOS 7 October 2026 · source	Opens Codex task links directly in the mobile app and displays inline previews of web pages in responses.	Links to background tasks did not work seamlessly on mobile, and web results required extra steps.	Mobile users of ChatGPT and Codex.	yes	Improves the mobile workflow when following up on automated computer tasks.
OpenAI	Study Mode 15 October 2026 · source	Guides students step-by-step through targeted questions rather than simply providing the answer directly.	Users adopt ready-made AI answers without actually understanding or learning the underlying problem.	Teachers, educators, and students	yes	Can be used in internal training and onboarding programs to encourage employees to think and learn independently.
OpenAI	Locked Chats 23 October 2026 · source	Locks selected chats behind a PIN or biometric security such as Face ID.	Sensitive conversations are immediately visible to anyone with access to the open app or a shared device.	Anyone with ChatGPT (both free and paid accounts)	yes	Healthcare and municipal staff can better protect confidential conversations on shared workstations or mobile devices.
Google	Universal Cart 15 October 2026 · source	Integrates a centralized shopping cart directly within Google Search and the Gemini app.	Shopping via chat or search queries requires separate checkout processes across different websites.	Users in the US	no (preview)	Demonstrates how AI interfaces are evolving into channels where end users can complete transactions and orders directly.
Google	Meeting recaps in Google Chat 19 October 2026 · source	Automatically posts a summary, decision list, action items, and recording links in the linked Chat space immediately after a meeting.	Meeting minutes and follow-up actions remain with the organizer instead of being immediately visible to the team.	Workspace teams combining Google Meet and Google Chat	yes	Increases transparency within project teams without requiring anyone to manually distribute meeting minutes.

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Google	Gemini tools for small businesses 20 October 2026 · source	Provides a dedicated landing page and targeted Gemini tools for SME owners.	Due to the broad range of AI offerings, small organizations often struggle to identify which features are directly useful for their operations.	Small businesses and self-employed professionals	no (announced)	Lowers the barrier to entry for SMEs to apply AI directly to daily administration and marketing.
Microsoft	Seamless Search and Chat Integration 6 October 2026 · source	Integrates conversational chat directly into Microsoft 365 Copilot Search, allowing you to query or summarize search results immediately.	Users had to switch between separate search and chat tools to take action on discovered organizational knowledge.	Anyone with a Microsoft 365 Copilot license	yes	Employees at municipalities and SMEs can search policy documents or files faster and turn them directly into action items.

Coding agent

New this month at: Anthropic, OpenAI, Google; nothing new at Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Claude Code Monitor tool on Bedrock, Vertex, and Foundry 23 October 2026 · source	Makes the Monitor tool and plugin monitors available for Claude Code on AWS Bedrock, Google Cloud Vertex, and Foundry, even when telemetry is disabled.	Developers using Claude Code via enterprise cloud providers or with strict privacy and telemetry restrictions lacked monitoring functionality.	developers and IT administrators hosting Claude on their own cloud platforms	yes	Ensures development teams in strictly regulated cloud environments can deploy the same monitoring tools.
OpenAI	Move selected chats to a project 1 October 2026 · source	You can now move multiple selected chats to a specific project simultaneously.	Organizing individual chats required significant manual effort because conversations could only be moved one by one.	Developers using the Codex app	yes	Makes it easier for development teams in SMEs and government agencies to keep AI-based coding sessions organized by project or client.
OpenAI	Managed Git worktrees in Codex CLI 8 October 2026 · source	Provides built-in tools to create and manage Git worktrees from trusted local repositories.	Working on multiple tasks or branches simultaneously required manual repository switches or separate clones.	Software developers.	yes	Allows AI tasks to run in parallel on separate branches without disrupting the active working directory.
OpenAI	Composer predictions in Codex desktop 9 October 2026 · source	Predicts and displays a contextual follow-up prompt in the input field after a response, which can be accepted using the Tab key.	Users must manually devise and type out the logical next instruction after each step.	Users with a ChatGPT Pro subscription (ages 18 and older) in supported regions.	no (preview)	Significantly accelerates repetitive programming and development sessions for employees using the desktop app.

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
OpenAI	Direct steering during generation in Codex CLI 15 October 2026 · source	Allows users to send a follow-up message while Codex is still responding, immediately interrupting and redirecting ongoing code execution and tool calls.	Users had to wait for a misguided long-running task to finish before they could make corrections.	Developers using the Codex CLI.	yes	Saves developers time and compute by immediately cutting off incorrect agent trajectories.
OpenAI	Parallel execution of read operations in Codex CLI 15 October 2026 · source	Enables Codex to run independent read-only tools concurrently, such as searching skills, memory, and conversation history.	Sequential tool calls caused unnecessary delays when gathering context.	Developers building or running agents via the CLI.	yes	Leads to smoother interactions and shorter wait times for complex queries.
OpenAI	Decisions API 22 October 2026 · source	Provides a specialized API interface for making fast, targeted, and low-cost decisions within software applications.	Full model calls are often too slow and expensive when an application only needs quick routing or categorization.	Developers of internal business software and agents	no (preview)	Internal applications can have AI make logical choices or classifications with minimal cost and latency.
OpenAI	Reusable presets and inline profiles in Codex CLI 23 October 2026 · source	Enables saving reusable prompts and slash commands across ten numbered slots via `/presets`, and configuring models and permissions directly inline.	Frequently used prompts and configurations had to be entered manually each time.	Developers working with the Codex CLI.	yes	Increases productivity and standardization of routine tasks for technical staff.
Google	Google Antigravity in macOS app 13 October 2026 · source	Integrates an autonomous coding agent into the desktop app that plans, builds, and tests code in the background.	Developers constantly have to switch between brainstorming in a chat and manually coding and testing in their IDE.	macOS users with a personal Google account or a supported work account	yes	Makes it faster for internal developers to set up prototypes and small tools directly from Gemini.
Google	Publish interactive apps from Gemini to Google Sites 19 October 2026 · source	Directly exports interactive mini-applications built in Gemini to a draft page within Google Sites.	Previously, AI-generated prototypes or tools had to be manually copied or coded to be shared.	Gemini users with permissions to create and edit Google Sites	yes	Enables internal innovation teams to quickly publish a working AI prototype or internal calculator for colleagues.

Integrations, connectors, MCP

New this month at: Anthropic, OpenAI, Google, Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Claude Mods and You should know 1 October 2026 · source	Adds Claude Mods for deeper system customization, including the built-in mod 'You should know', which acts as an observing agent to provide warnings.	Users and agents sometimes overlook critical errors or details during work.	Users of Claude Code and plugin developers	yes	Increases agent reliability by using a secondary background AI reviewer to catch overlooked issues.
Anthropic	Claude Tag API for Slack 20 October 2026 · source	Programmatically manages Claude Tag settings and access permissions per Slack channel and workspace.	Manually configuring Claude access across large Slack environments with hundreds of channels was time-consuming and error-prone.	Administrators of Claude Enterprise organizations	no (preview)	Enables centralized, automated enforcement of AI access by team or project channel.
Anthropic	Claude Models on Google Cloud (Anthropic managed) 22 October 2026 · source	Provides direct access to the Claude API via Google Cloud with Google IAM permissions and centralized billing.	Organizations on Google Cloud had to manage separate contracts and access structures for Anthropic.	Cloud engineers and IT administrators on Google Cloud	yes	Simplifies Claude adoption for organizations that have standardized their IT infrastructure on Google Cloud.
OpenAI	OpenAI models on Google Cloud Marketplace 21 October 2026 · source	Makes OpenAI models and Codex workflows directly available via Gemini's Model Garden on Google Cloud.	Organizations standardized on Google Cloud had to establish separate management and procurement contracts for OpenAI.	IT administrators and developers using Google Cloud	no (announced)	Municipalities and companies with a Google Cloud environment can more easily integrate OpenAI models into their existing cloud management.
OpenAI	Enterprise MCP authentication and credential masking in Codex CLI 23 October 2026 · source	Adds support for enterprise MCP integrations via account grants or OAuth with secrets, and automatically masks credentials in remote terminal sessions.	Securely connecting internal enterprise systems and masking secrets in CLI sessions was cumbersome.	Developers and system administrators within organizations.	yes	Simplifies the secure integration of internal business tools via MCP without leaking sensitive API keys into logs.
OpenAI	ChatGPT subscription in third-party apps 23 October 2026 · source	Enables linking an existing ChatGPT subscription to third-party applications for AI features.	Users had to purchase separate API credits or pay twice to use AI models in third-party software.	Users with a paid ChatGPT subscription	yes	SME organizations can directly utilize existing ChatGPT licenses within specialized work tools without separate API billing.
Google	Gemini Notebook Connected App in Gemini 23 October 2026 · source	Allows using @Gemini Notebook directly within chats to create new notebooks, add sources, or retrieve information.	Users had to switch back and forth between Gemini chats and NotebookLM/Gemini Notebook to manage knowledge sources.	Users of the Gemini app with Gemini Notebook	yes	Accelerates case and knowledge research by enabling teams to access their central reference materials directly from their work chat.

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Microsoft	Self-service query string and identity mapping for connectors 6 October 2026 · source	Allows administrators to modify query parameters and identity mapping rules for Copilot connectors directly in the admin center.	Previously, adjustments to data sources and access filters required a support ticket with Microsoft.	Administrators of Microsoft 365 organizations	yes	IT departments can independently and immediately correct data access from external sources for Copilot.
Microsoft	CAS chemistry connector in Copilot 22 October 2026 · source	Directly connects CAS scientific and chemical data to Microsoft Copilot for specialized search and analysis queries.	R&D professionals had to consult external databases manually because general AI models lack specialized chemical domain knowledge.	Researchers and R&D staff in chemicals and pharmaceuticals	no (preview)	Enables direct access to specialized scientific sources using natural language within the corporate workspace.

Administration and governance

New this month at: Anthropic, OpenAI, Google, Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	OpenTelemetry export 14 October 2026 · source	Exports diagnostic data and performance metrics from API requests and agent sessions to monitoring tools.	Monitoring performance, errors, and latency in AI workflows required manual logging or custom instrumentation code.	Software engineers and operations teams	no (preview)	Enables transparent tracking of AI applications within existing IT monitoring dashboards.
Anthropic	Web fetch control and domain filtering 20 October 2026 · source	Administrators can centrally disable web fetch or restrict it to approved domains for both the API and agents.	Agents and prompts could access arbitrary external websites without oversight, risking data leaks or unauthorized web access.	Organization administrators and developers	yes	Provides strict control over which external sources agents may access, critical for compliance in healthcare and government.
Anthropic	User profiles for API management 20 October 2026 · source	Associates individual end users with API requests so that security policies apply per user rather than across the entire organization.	A policy violation by a single customer could result in a SaaS vendor's entire API account being blocked.	Developers and SaaS providers reselling Claude to end customers	yes	Prevents a single user's risky behavior from disrupting AI functionality for the entire organization.
Anthropic	Enterprise roles for Claude Code Cloud Sessions and Remote Control 23 October 2026 · source	Organization administrators can use custom Enterprise roles to specifically determine which employees get access to Claude Code cloud sessions and Remote Control.	Organizations were previously unable to configure fine-grained, role-based access to cloud-based sessions and remote control of Claude Code.	administrators of enterprise organizations	yes	Provides larger organizations and IT departments with improved governance and security control over who can run AI development sessions in the cloud.

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
OpenAI	Batch moving chats to projects in Codex app 1 October 2026 · source	Allows moving multiple selected chats to a specific project simultaneously.	Organizing individual conversations into folders or projects had to be done chat by chat.	Users of the Codex desktop application.	yes	Helps teams and professionals organize project documentation and past chats more quickly.
OpenAI	Phase-out of GPT-5.5 in Codex 14 October 2026 · source	Ends support for GPT-5.5 in Codex for users logging in via a ChatGPT account.	Older models are being phased out in favor of newer generations such as GPT-6.1 Sol.	Administrators and developers using Codex via ChatGPT login.	yes	Organizations must update their configured agents, scripts, and default settings to GPT-6.1 Sol to prevent service disruptions.
Google	Filtered exports for Gemini in Google Vault 22 October 2026 · source	Allows administrators to use eDiscovery to filter Gemini conversations within Workspace by date and user and export them as JSON.	The lack of targeted export and audit capabilities for GenAI interactions made compliance investigations difficult.	Google Workspace administrators and compliance officers	yes	Crucial for municipalities and healthcare institutions to comply with public access requests (WOO), audits, and privacy regulations regarding AI use.
Google	Vault export of Gemini conversations 22 October 2026 · source	Provides eDiscovery exports and filtering for Gemini conversations within Google Workspace.	–	–	yes	–
Microsoft	AI agent monitoring and governance tools 19 October 2026 · source	New management tools to monitor autonomous AI agents in real time, enforce authorizations, and block unwanted behavior.	Organizations lack centralized oversight of actions performed autonomously by agents within enterprise systems.	IT administrators and compliance officers	no (preview)	Provides municipalities and healthcare institutions with the necessary control and security safeguards to let AI agents automate tasks effectively.

Documents and knowledge

New this month at: OpenAI, Google, Microsoft; nothing new at Anthropic

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
OpenAI	ChatGPT Slides 23 October 2026 · source	Directly generates complete presentations and slides within ChatGPT.	Users must manually transfer generated copy and structures to external presentation software.	ChatGPT users	yes	Teams in SMEs and municipalities can produce draft presentations and briefings faster without external design tools.
Google	Gemini BigQuery data analysis in Google Sheets 19 October 2026 · source	Enables querying large BigQuery datasets and retrieving analyses using natural language via Connected Sheets.	Complex SQL queries or data specialists are often required to query large databases.	Employees with access to BigQuery via Connected Sheets and Gemini	yes	Makes advanced data analysis readily accessible to policymakers and SME controllers without SQL knowledge.

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Google	Gemini in Google Sheets on iOS 19 October 2026 · source	Enables summarizing spreadsheets, asking questions about data, and generating charts on an iPhone or iPad.	Previously, mobile users could not use AI analysis features within the iOS Sheets app.	Google Workspace users with Gemini on an iOS device	yes	Enables quick figure checks for managers and care coordinators on an iPad without needing a laptop.
Google	Docs Live in Google Docs mobile 21 October 2026 · source	Allows drafting a structured document through natural voice conversation using context from emails, chats, and Drive files.	Typing a structured document from scratch on a smartphone while on the move or right after an appointment is challenging.	Paying Workspace users on Android and iOS	yes	Healthcare workers or field officers can dictate a complete report hands-free immediately following a visit.
Google	Guided customization for Slide Decks and Videos in Gemini Notebook 21 October 2026 · source	Provides a step-by-step wizard to steer the focus, style, and outline of generated presentations and videos in advance.	Automatically generated slides and videos often missed the mark because users could not adjust intermediate steps.	Users of Gemini Notebook	yes	Reduces revision work when converting policy documents or reports into presentations.
Microsoft	Custom skills in Copilot in PowerPoint 6 October 2026 · source	Allows users to set up custom commands and skills in Copilot within PowerPoint to automate specific presentation tasks.	Copilot in PowerPoint worked only with fixed, built-in commands and did not align with specific business processes or templates.	Users of Copilot in PowerPoint on Windows	yes	Organizations can standardize and accelerate recurring presentation tasks according to their own guidelines.
Microsoft	OneDrive Copilot with Hero Links and AI tools 20 October 2026 · source	Adds interactive Hero Links and new AI analysis tools to the OneDrive web and desktop experience.	Manually searching through and summarizing large folder structures and individual files takes considerable time.	Business users with a Microsoft 365 Copilot license	yes	Knowledge workers in SMEs can summarize and link documents directly from their file storage without opening them first.

Planning and tasks

New this month at: Anthropic, OpenAI, Google; nothing new at Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Effort parameter for Agent tool 6 October 2026 · source	Allows users and agents to specify the effort level when launching a sub-agent.	Sub-agents always ran at a fixed reasoning capacity, which was too expensive for simple tasks and too superficial for complex ones.	Developers of multi-agent systems	yes	Enables more targeted control over costs and compute time when deploying specialized subtasks in organizations.
Anthropic	Dynamic workflows in Claude Managed Agents 9 October 2026 · source	Allows an AI agent to independently generate programs that distribute subtasks across multiple background agents.	Extensive tasks, such as sifting through hundreds of documents, stalled within a single session or required complex external orchestration software.	Developers of advanced AI agents	no (preview)	Organizations can run heavy administrative processes autonomously and more reliably in phases.

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Scheduled deployments in Claude Managed Agents 14 October 2026 · source	Provides scheduled deployments and scheduling for Claude Managed Agents on AWS.	–	–	yes	–
OpenAI	College Planner and learning tools in ChatGPT for Teens 7 October 2026 · source	Adds higher education planning tools, flashcards, and quizzes to ChatGPT for younger users.	Young people and students lacked structured tools to interactively plan higher education choices and learning pathways.	Secondary school students, higher education students, and counselors	no (announced)	Useful for schools and non-profit organizations seeking to support youth with structured learning tools.
Google	Next steps in Google Meet 12 October 2026 · source	Converts discussions after a video call into draft follow-up emails in Gmail or tasks in Google Tasks with a single click.	After meetings, action items and emails have to be manually transcribed and distributed.	Workspace users with Gemini and 'Take notes for me' enabled	yes	Accelerates project turnaround in SMEs and government by translating agreements directly into tasks and emails.

Voice

New this month at: Anthropic, Google; nothing new at OpenAI, Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Voice dictation stop notification in VS Code 21 October 2026 · source	Indicates via a notification on the microphone button why voice dictation stopped (due to silence or the 2-minute limit) and that accumulated text was preserved.	Users saw voice recording stop without clarity on whether their dictated text had been lost.	Users of the VS Code extension who dictate	yes	Provides better feedback for employees composing prompts using voice input.
Google	Guided Vision in Gemini Live 1 October 2026 · source	Provides real-time spoken visual assistance via the camera for blind and visually impaired users.	Visually impaired individuals face challenges in independently and quickly interpreting physical objects and environments.	Blind and visually impaired users	yes	Improves the digital and physical accessibility of workplaces and public services.
Google	Gmail Live 15 October 2026 · source	Voice-driven search and communication within the mobile Gmail app for Workspace.	–	–	yes	–
Google	Real-time speech translation in Google Meet 22 October 2026 · source	Automatically detects spoken language and translates conversations live across 63 different languages without pre-configuring language pairs.	Language barriers in multilingual meetings previously required manual and rigid language configurations.	Google Meet users with a Workspace Gemini license on web and mobile	yes	Ideal for healthcare institutions or municipalities communicating with non-native speaking clients or international partners.

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Google	Ask Maps in Google Maps 22 October 2026 · source	Allows drivers to ask Gemini contextual navigation and location questions using natural voice queries within Google Maps and CarPlay.	Cumbersome searching for specific stops or locations while driving.	Drivers and mobile workers using Google Maps or Apple CarPlay	yes	Field staff and healthcare workers can find suitable locations or routes hands-free, more safely and quickly while on the road.

Models

New this month at: Anthropic, Google, Microsoft; nothing new at OpenAI

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Claude Haiku 5.5 7 October 2026 · source	A fast and cost-effective compact language model, optimized for large-scale and cost-sensitive tasks.	Large models are often too slow and expensive for simple routine tasks or high volume.	Developers and organizations running automated tasks at scale	yes	Makes it affordable to automate standard processes, such as routing and summarization, at scale.
Anthropic	Fast mode for Claude Opus 5.5 15 October 2026 · source	Significantly accelerates response times for Claude Opus 5.5 without requiring prior request.	The most powerful model was often too slow in response time for interactive applications.	Developers and enterprise users of Claude Opus 5.5	yes	Makes the most powerful model viable in scenarios where users expect an immediate response.
Google	Gemini 4 Argon 13 October 2026 · source	A new flagship model within the Gemini app that handles complex tasks such as financial report analysis and presentation creation end-to-end.	Simpler models struggle with long-running, complex workflows that require multiple steps and sources.	Google AI Pro and Ultra subscribers	yes	Employees can automate the processing of more extensive documents and analyses without intermediate steps.
Microsoft	Regenerate response for alternative answers 6 October 2026 · source	Adds buttons to directly retry a generated response or switch AI models without retyping the prompt.	Previously, iterating on answers or testing a different model required manual copying and pasting of prompts.	Users of Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat on the web	yes	Saves time when refining texts and makes it easier to compare outputs across different models.
Microsoft	Multi-model support in Microsoft Copilot 20 October 2026 · source	Microsoft Copilot offers users the option to select advanced models such as GPT-6.1 and Claude Opus 5.5.	Users were tied to a single, fixed model and could not easily switch to models better suited for complex analysis or creative writing.	Users with a Copilot Pro or Enterprise license	yes	Organizations gain direct access to leading models from both OpenAI and Anthropic within their familiar Microsoft environment.

Cost and limits

New this month at: Anthropic, Microsoft; nothing new at OpenAI, Google

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Monthly API credit for Max and Team 7 October 2026 · source	Provides monthly API credits for Max and Team plans to build custom agents.	–	–	yes	–
Anthropic	Idle compaction 14 October 2026 · source	Automatically compresses long sessions (200k+ tokens) after 54 minutes of inactivity before the prompt cache expires.	Resuming long sessions after a break consumed unnecessary time and tokens because the cache had expired.	Developers and power users of Claude Code in the terminal	yes	Directly reduces API costs and prevents delays in long-running projects and analyses.
Anthropic	Inactive session usage warning 19 October 2026 · source	Warns Pro and Max users if resuming an inactive conversation will consume a large portion of the 5-hour limit.	Users unexpectedly exhausted their message limits simply by reopening old, heavy conversations.	Pro and Max subscribers	yes	Helps professionals and SME users manage their usage limits more effectively during daily work.
Microsoft	Microsoft 365 Copilot standalone subscription 22 October 2026 · source	Microsoft makes Copilot available as a standalone license without mandatory bundling with specific base plans.	Small organizations faced high barriers because expensive underlying Microsoft 365 licenses were previously required.	IT procurement professionals and SMEs	no (announced)	Lowers the barrier to entry for SMEs and healthcare institutions to run targeted experiments with Copilot without overhauling their entire licensing structure.

Rules and approval

New this month at: Anthropic, Google; nothing new at OpenAI, Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Cyber Verification Program (updated) 6 October 2026 · source	Provides verified security professionals with access to advanced cybersecurity capabilities and relaxed safety filters.	Strict automated refusals impede ethical hackers and security teams during legitimate vulnerability scans and audits.	Qualified cybersecurity specialists and IT security professionals	no (preview)	Enables IT departments and security personnel to use AI more effectively to audit and protect their systems.
Anthropic	/auto-mode-setup 19 October 2026 · source	Provides an interactive configuration that analyzes the project and recent sessions to teach autonomous mode the environment's rules and context.	Autonomous mode lacked knowledge of local project conventions, resulting in permission requests that were either too frequent or premature.	Developers and end users of Claude Code	yes	Reduces manual approvals and enables faster autonomous deployment of agents within existing team projects.

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Google	Centralized customize hub in Gemini app 21 October 2026 · source	Provides a single central place to define custom prompts and skills, and to manage connections to third-party apps.	Customizations for writing style, standardized templates, and tool integrations were fragmented and difficult to manage.	End users of the Gemini app	yes	Organizations can embed brand guidelines and operating procedures more consistently and easily within the AI assistant.

Always-on agent

New this month at: Anthropic, Google; nothing new at OpenAI, Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Anthropic	Claude Duet 21 October 2026 · source	A new application in which Claude functions as a proactive AI agent that independently takes on tasks.	Users must manually direct the AI each time, rather than the assistant taking initiative.	Users with a Claude Pro or Max subscription	no (preview)	Organizations can experiment with agents that autonomously monitor workflows and prepare work.
Google	Personal Intelligence in Android Auto 21 October 2026 · source	Connects Gemini in the vehicle to personal services such as Gmail and Google Calendar for hands-free answers based on your schedule.	Lacking safe access to up-to-date emails, appointments, and work information while on the road.	Android Auto users with a Google account	yes	Employees who travel frequently can use travel time to check their calendar and messages hands-free.

Proactive daily brief

New this month at: Google; nothing new at Anthropic, OpenAI, Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Google	AI Inbox in Gmail 15 October 2026 · source	Summarizes key ongoing topics and automatically extracts pending action items and deadlines from email threads.	Employees lose oversight and miss follow-up actions due to overloaded inboxes and long email threads.	Paying Google Workspace users	yes	Saves immediate time for managers and teams at municipalities and healthcare organizations by automatically consolidating daily to-dos.

Browser and computer use

New this month at: Google; nothing new at Anthropic, OpenAI, Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Google	AI fraud protection in Chrome 23 October 2026 · source	Detects and blocks suspicious websites and online scams in real time using AI.	Employees falling victim to increasingly sophisticated phishing and scam websites.	All Chrome users	yes	Provides organizations with an extra baseline layer of automated web fraud protection without requiring additional plugins.

Other

New this month at: Google; nothing new at Anthropic, OpenAI, Microsoft

Provider	Name	What it does	Which problem it solves	Who it is for	Ready for end users	What it means for organisations
Google	Teacher insight summaries for Gemini Notebook in Google Classroom 19 October 2026 · source	Provides teachers with summaries of student questions, topics, and chat interactions within assigned Gemini Notebooks.	Teachers lacked visibility into where students got stuck while working independently with AI study materials.	Teachers and educational institutions using Google Classroom	yes	Helps educators and trainers tailor classroom sessions directly to the most common learning questions.

Sources: the providers' own release notes and news, plus news searches of the last week; summarised by an inexpensive language model, each item with a link to its source. This is a draft: research, not advice.

Floris Knol

Research into AI technology you can use every day
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