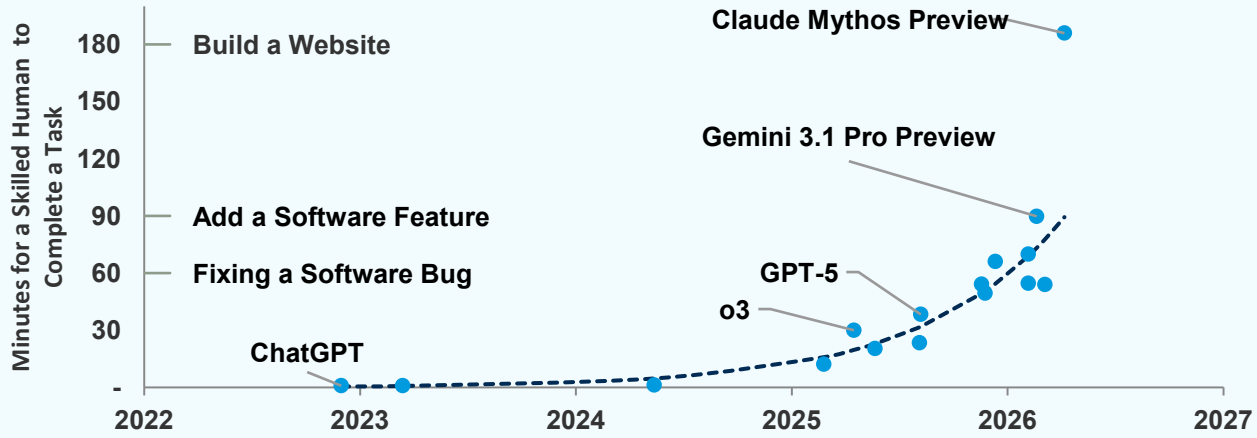
ALGER

Alger On The Money

Where Prompts End and Work Begins

What happens when artificial intelligence (AI) graduates from answering simple questions and starts doing real work? Historically, computing power expanded our ability to process information, but AI goes further. It appears increasingly capable of solving problems that once required hours or even days of human effort.

AI Models Can Now Complete Increasingly Complex Tasks



Source: METR (Model Evaluation & Threat Research), Frontier Model Task Benchmark, 2026. The vertical axis measures the length of task an AI model can successfully complete 80% of the time, with task length measured by how long the work would take a skilled human. The dashed line is an exponential trend fitted to the data.

- In only a few years, frontier AI models have progressed from tasks that take a person seconds (e.g., look up a fact online) to work that would take a skilled human hours (e.g., build a simple website). The chart above shows each model's time horizon: the longest task an AI model can successfully complete 80% of the time, measured by the amount of time a skilled human would need to do the same work. For roughly two years after ChatGPT launched, no model could reliably handle more than about a minute of work. That changed with the arrival of reasoning models like OpenAI's o3 in early 2025. Since then, the models' time horizons have doubled roughly every four months. The newest models, such as Claude Mythos Preview, can now perform tasks lasting hours.
- Importantly, AI demand is likely to grow not only through a larger user base, but also through expanding workloads (see also AI's Growing Appetite). As models become capable of handling more complex tasks independently, the amount of work delegated to them is likely to increase. Today, AI usage is typically measured in tokens, and token consumption is already growing exponentially (see also Intelligence as a Service). Over time, we believe the shift from answering questions to autonomously completing hours- or days-long assignments could drive an even greater increase in compute demand.
- If AI models continue advancing along the trajectory shown above, supporting dramatically more demanding workloads will likely require additional investment in computing power, networking, memory, power generation and other data center infrastructure. We believe companies enabling AI deployment and productivity gains could benefit from a multi-year investment cycle as businesses increasingly integrate AI into core workflows and employees accomplish more in the same amount of time.

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