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## Meta releases big, new open-source Al large language model

Open-sourced by accident -- or was it? -- back in March, Meta has now officially opened up Llama-v2, its newest large language model.



Written by Steven Vaughan-Nichols, Senior Contributing Editor on July 19, 2023











Getty Images/Eugene Mymrin

Meta, better known to most of us as Facebook, has <u>released a commercial version of Llama-v2</u>, its <u>open-source</u> large language model (LLM) that uses <u>artificial intelligence</u> (AI) to generate text, images, and code.

The first version of the Large Language Model Meta AI (<u>Llama</u>), was publicly announced in February and was restricted to approved researchers and organizations. However, it was soon <u>leaked online</u> in early March for anyone to download and use.

Meta incidentally filed take-down orders to sites such as GitHub and open-source Al group Hugging Face to corral the purloined program. Eventually, faced with the code being easily available across the web, Meta gave up trying to order the tide to go back. Instead, it embraced the release.

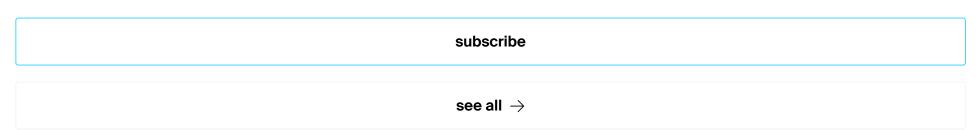
## Also: Want to build your own Al chatbot? Say hello to open-source HuggingChat

Both versions of Llama have been trained on Common Crawl, GitHub, Wikipedia, Project Gutenberg, ArXiv, Stack Exchange, and other open test websites. While <u>Microsoft and OpenAl's ChatGPT</u> got the headlines, many open-source developers turned to Llama.

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Besides having access to Llama, Meta also shared its weights. The other major LLMs haven't. With weights, the parameters learned by a model during training, it's much easier to create and run custom Al programs. The other big LLMs, such as GPT, are usually only accessible through application programming interfaces (API).

While <u>Al is built on open-source foundations</u>, Llama is the first major open-source LLM. Its pre-trained models have been trained on 2 trillion tokens, and have to double Llama 1's context length. Its fine-tuned models have been trained on over 1 million human annotations. Its model size parameters range from 7 to 70 billion parameters.

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So, that's why open-source developers welcomed Llama, but why did Meta open Llama-v2 up? According to its researchers, "While many companies have opted to build Al behind closed doors, we are releasing Llama 2 openly to encourage responsible Al innovation. Based on our experience, an open approach draws upon the collective wisdom, diversity, and ingenuity of the Al practitioner community to realize the benefits of this technology. Collaboration will make these models better and safer."

But, is Llama-v2 actually open source? While Meta says the right things, the <u>Llama 2 Community License</u>
<u>Agreement</u> has not been approved by the gold standard group of open-source licensing, the Open Source Initiative (OSI).

With that in mind, Meta has made <u>Llama 2 available free of charge for research and commercial use</u>. Meta is also including model weights and starting code for the pre-trained model and conversational fine-tuned versions. This gives developers a major step forward in putting <u>Llama-powered</u> applications to use.

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Strictly open-source or not, Llama 2 is certainly open enough for most practical purposes. And, as Amanda Brock, CEO of <u>OpenUK</u>, put it, it's "Not an OSI approved license but a <u>significant release of Open Technology</u> ... This is a step to moving AI from the hands of the few to the many, democratizing technology and building trust in its use and

	t perfect, and yes, there is more work to onsible but light-touch principles-based	
Meta isn't just playing nice with the ope	en-source community. Meta also declare	ed Microsoft is its preferred Llama 2
with it. The LMA is also optimized to rui	Azure AI model catalog, enabling develon locally on Windows, giving developers across different platforms. Llama 2 is er providers.	a seamless workflow as they bring
Also: <u>Microsoft's Inspire 2023: 10 Al ar</u>	nd partnership announcements to know	<u>v</u>
Besides opening up the code, in this re prone to hallucinations than the other r	elease, Meta is also trying to make Llama models.	a safer, more well-behaved, and less
also released a <u>Developer's Guide for S</u> practices for developing and responsib	ecurity Testing) Exercises designed to c Safe and Responsible Use to help develo ble model testing. Finally, Meta's provide re that these models are being used fair	opers understand and apply the best d a Llama <u>Acceptable Use Policy</u> to
engineer recently wrote, "The uncomfo	o and surpass OpenAI. Who knows, it martable truth is, we aren't positioned to wiuabbling, a third faction has been quietly	n this [Generative Al] arms race, and
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