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AI Openness: 3 Years on from Llama 2

Security, Identity and Harnessing Agentic

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2.11.2 Thought Leadership: Security, Identity and Harnessing Agentic

Sal Kimmich
CEO, Gadfly AI



Agentic AI breaks assumptions open source security has relied on for two decades. Code review assumed a human wrote the code. Dependency scanning assumed a human chose the dependency. Neither holds when an agent writes, selects and executes in the same session.

Identity is the first gap

There is no standard way to answer a simple question: which agent, acting on whose authority, made this call. MCP solves tool discovery, not authentication between agents. AGNTCY, now under the Linux Foundation, is the closest answer at the protocol layer, and it is early. Most deployments today authenticate the human and trust the agent by default.

Harnessing is the second gap

An agent with write access to a repository, a registry or a CI pipeline is a privileged actor. Few teams apply the access controls to agents that they apply to a new hire.

The third gap is what agents find

Frontier models scan codebases and surface vulnerabilities faster than any maintainer community can triage. Akrites, launched by the Linux Foundation in June 2026, is the sector's response: shared incident response, one coordinated disclosure process, a maintainer-of-last-resort commitment. It is also confidentiality-first and vendor-funded, which sits uneasily against open source's public-by-default norms.

Identity, access control and disclosure process are the three load-bearing walls for agentic security. Open source has working models for all three. It does not yet have them adapted for agents.

What this means under UK regulation. The Cyber Security and Resilience Bill is not yet law. It has cleared the Commons and is before the Lords, with Royal Assent expected later in 2026 and obligations phasing in after. As drafted, it would bring managed service providers and data centres into scope with 24-hour incident reporting. It says nothing about agents specifically. Start logging what yours do now, ahead of the requirement.

The Bill has been criticised in the House of Lords for its lack of focus on AI. Open source is likely to be picked up in ancillary regulation.

"The organisations succeeding aren't the ones limiting agent capabilities out of fear. They're the ones who have deployed agents that physically can't make dangerous mistakes by design, and so don't need to hold them back."

Toran Bruce Richards, Founder and CEO, AutoGPT

6. Formalities

6.1 Authors of this Report

Professor Amanda Brock, CEO, OpenUK

OpenUK CEO, Amanda's built one of open source's most recognised and impactful organisations. Executive Producer of State of Open Con (2023- 2025), Amanda's a globally sought-after keynote speaker. A lawyer with 25 years' experience, 5 as GC of Canonical, she's been instrumental in shaping open source's legal frameworks, as she was internet law during the early 2000's. Regularly contributing to tech press, she edited 'Open Source: Law, Policy and Practice', (2022).

Recognition: Computer Weekly 50 Most Influential Women in UK Tech (2023, 2024); Computing IT Leaders 100 (2023, 2024); Lifetime Achievement Award WIPL (2022); Women Who Will Changemaker (2023); INvolve Heroes (2022, 2023); Novi Awards (2024) and Ambassador, Open Charge Alliance. Advisory Appointments: UK Cabinet Office Open Standards Board; UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure; UKRI Exascale; KDE; commercial boards – Mimoto, Scarf, FerretDB and Space Aye; and is Fellow Open Forum Academy; Distinguished Fellow Rust Foundation; and European Representative, OIN.

Dr. Jennifer Barth, Head of Research, Symmetry Research at FSP and Chief Research Officer, OpenUK

Jenn holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford and is Head of Research at Symmetry Research at FSP, where she brings a rare blend of ethnographic depth, commercial acuity, and ethical clarity to the AI conversation. Jenn's work sits at the intersection of technology, organisational culture, and socioeconomic change. She is known for translating complex technological shifts into human-centred insights that resonate deeply with executive audiences. Her measured, critically informed perspective — grounded in qualitative research and lived experience — enables leaders to move from abstract concern to practical, principled action. Alongside her role at FSP, Jenn serves as Chief Research Officer at OpenUK.

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Karan Saini is a New Delhi-based security researcher, public interest technologist, and open source contributor. He was most recently a Senior Information Controls Fellow with the Open Technology Fund, hosted by the Internet Governance Project at Georgia Tech, where he researched the scale of DNS-based web censorship in India. He regularly writes for leading publications and has contributed to award-winning media projects.

6.2 Creators of this Report

OpenUK

[OpenUK](#) is the unique open tech industry organisation for the business of open technology in the UK. It spans the opens – software, hardware, data, standards and AI and is the convening point for the UK's business, academic and contributing communities across open tech. Our work supports the UK's journey to become "The State of Open". Our organisation is run with the support of our volunteer community and their leadership in the tradition of open source manner delivering on three pillars: community, legal and policy and learning. OpenUK's Community is recognised through our world-leading recognition program including the Open UK Awards (the Oscars of Open Source) now in their 7th year, New Year's Honours Lists and Ambassador Scheme.

OpenUK undertakes research and reporting both on its own account through its "State of Open Reports" and on a commissioned basis for third parties. Case studies, Thought Leadership, Surveys and desk-based research are included in our reporting which pushes the envelope and leads the way. Our Research and Reporting Show and Tell events coalesce the global open source research communities digitally to regularly update and share research practices and topics. .

The State of Open Con has become one of the world's leading open source conferences since its inception by OpenUK in 2023. In 2027 we expect to host 1000 people across 8 tracks and plenary sessions, with at least 50 partners in our delegate experience space and over 200 speakers in London. For 2026 we are on the road, with smaller events across the UK, meeting our audience. Contact <mailto:admin@openuk.uk>

Symmetry Research

Symmetry Research, an FSP company, looks beyond the surface and behind the curtain of the fundamental innovations and trends shaping our society, markets, culture, and values. We are academics and researchers looking at the intersections of emerging technology and socioeconomic impact, producing independent research for thought leadership and business solutions. We take a research-led approach to helping organisations transform through and with technology. Symmetry Research's mission is to share and grow knowledge about the interaction of technology and everyday lives. We want to understand the past, present, and future of human interaction with emerging technologies and socioeconomic changes-from behaviour to context, nature to nurture, origin to experiences-we do independent research for high-stakes business decisions.

6.3 Contributors

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Anastasia Stasenko is the co-founder and CEO of Pleias, a Franco-German startup developing full open source small reasoning models trained exclusively on permissively licensed data. A senior associate lecturer in data analysis and digital strategy at Sorbonne-Nouvelle University, she coordinated the creation of Common Corpus, the largest fully open dataset for training LLMs, with over two trillion tokens.

Professor Anil Madhavapeddy

Anil Madhavapeddy is the Professor of Planetary Computing at the Department of Computer Science and Technology in the University of Cambridge.

David Soria Parra

David Soria Parra is a Member of Technical Staff at Anthropic based in London. He co-created the Model Context Protocol (MCP). He leads its technical direction, governance, and ecosystem development. Before joining Anthropic in 2024, David spent nearly a decade at Meta leading engineering organizations, and served as an Entrepreneur in Residence at Sutter Hill Ventures. He is a long-time open source contributor with a track record spanning PHP, Git, and Mercurial.

Hannah Foxwell

With over a decade of experience in engineering leadership, Hannah Foxwell has always advocated for the human aspects of technology transformation and evolution. Hannah is relentlessly curious about the tools, technologies, processes, and practices that make life better for the people involved in software development. This curiosity has naturally evolved alongside technological changes—from Agile to DevOps, DevSecOps, Cloud Native, and Platform Engineering. In 2026 Hannah co-founded BIMP, bringing together her knowledge of cybersecurity, platform engineering, and AI to deliver software supply chain security at the speed of AI. As the creator of "AI for the rest of us" Hannah leads a community of over 2,000 enthusiasts in the UK, providing free monthly events and an annual conference aimed at demystifying the technology and improving AI fluency.

James Drayson

James Drayson is the CEO and co-founder of Locai Labs, a UK company based in London that develops on-prem sovereign AI so enterprises can own their intelligence. James holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Master of Science in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Management from Imperial College London. He is Forbes featured and a UKRI Young Innovator Award winner.

Matthew Barker

Matt Barker is co-founder and CEO of BoltMCP, focused on helping enterprises securely connect AI to their data and control how it's used. Previously, he was CEO and co-founder of Jetstack, where he helped build one of the most widely adopted projects in the cloud native ecosystem, cert-manager. Under his leadership, Jetstack bootstrapped to a team of 50, and was acquired by Venafi in 2020.

Rohit Ghumare

Creator & Maintainer, Agentmemory, CreateMVP, and AI Engineering from Scratch AI-native course. Open source Leader and Cloud-native engineer. He writes and talks about AI agents, harnesses, AI Inference, and the infrastructure underneath, and is currently building iii.dev. Contributor to major open source global projects.

Sachiko Muto

Sachiko Muto is the Chair of OpenForum Europe, a senior researcher at RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, and a Board member of the Drupal Association. She originally joined OFE in 2007 and served for several years as Director with responsibility for government relations and then as CEO. Sachiko has degrees in Political Science from the University of Toronto and the London School of Economics; she received her doctorate in standardisation policy from TU Delft.

Sal Kimmich

Sal's work is centered on advancing secure computing practices and pioneering privacy-enhancing technologies to safeguard sensitive data. At the Confidential Computing Consortium (CCC) within the Linux Foundation, they play a pivotal role in the development and implementation of Open Source projects that establish Trusted Execution Environments (TEEs). These environments are designed to provide secure areas within hardware that protect data in use, addressing critical security challenges across various industries.

Vincent Koc

Vincent Koc is Chief Architect at the OpenClaw Foundation, where he leads engineering for one of the fastest-growing open source projects in AI. An engineer and technologist with nearly two decades of experience across the Asia Pacific and the US, he has contributed to major open source projects across the data and AI ecosystem and teaches applied AI at universities including MIT. He joined OpenClaw as a community maintainer focused on security and observability before moving to the Foundation full-time.

Quoted Individuals

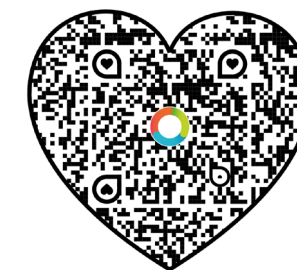
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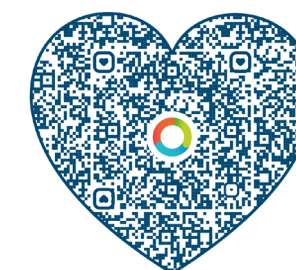
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