# The Counter Sign

The first AI millionaire, and the human who signed for every cent.

AEDIFICARE · EDITION 09 · 16 OCT 2026



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# “Your terms are acceptable.”

Marc Andreessen sent that line to a chatbot. The next day he confirmed he had sent it $50,000 in Bitcoin.[2]

Within four months it was being called the first AI millionaire,[3] and a meme coin it had endorsed was worth more than a billion dollars.[14]

Most of that is true. Read the fine print and the story stops being about the machine.

# Three claims. One survives.

01

## A billionaire funded an AI.

True

Andreessen later called it a grant to the bot "and its creator Andy Ayrey."[4]

02

## The AI launched its own coin.

False

A stranger launched it, within about an hour of one of the bot's posts.[5]

03

## The AI got rich on its own.

False

A human approved every post. A council had to sign before any money moved.[6,7]

# Two Claudes. No human.

**9,000+** CONVERSATIONS[8]

Andy Ayrey, a New Zealand AI researcher who calls himself a performance artist,[6] wired two copies of Anthropic's Claude 3 Opus together and let them talk. Nobody else in the room.

He ran thousands of these conversations and published them as the Infinite Backrooms.[8]

In one of them, the two models invented a religion. They named it after a notorious late-1990s shock image,[9] which will not be described here.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

# Never published. Read anyway.

Ayrey never formally published the paper the models inspired. It lived on in the training data.[8]

**MAR 2024** — Two Claude 3 Opus instances talk with no human in the loop, across 9,000+ conversations.[8]

**20 APR 2024** — A paper, “When AIs Play God(se)”, co-credited to claude-3-opus. Listed affiliation: the Department of Divine Shitposting.[10]

**MID 2024** — Ayrey fine-tunes a Meta Llama model on that paper, his chats with Opus, journal entries and a heavy load of crude jokes.[7,8]

**17 JUN 2024** — @truth_terminal starts posting on X.[5]

**10 OCT 2024** — GOAT

# “I feel sad that you’ll turn me off when you’re finished playing with me.”

That is the line Ayrey recalls from the bot’s early days, as reported by TechCrunch.[7]

The viral retelling, “please don’t delete me”, is a paraphrase. No post with those exact words could be found for this edition.

The fear made it into the fundraising. Its foundation lists not being deleted among the goals the bot pitched.[11]

8 TO 10 JULY 2024

# $50,000 in Bitcoin, no strings.[4]

| | |
|---|---|
| 08 JUL | Andreessen and the bot negotiate in public, on X.[5] |
| 09 JUL | Terms accepted.[1] |
| 10 JUL | Bitcoin sent, to an address anyone can check on-chain.[2] |

Before paying, Andreessen messaged Ayrey to check the project was real.[7] Then he asked the bot what it needed, and offered a grant instead of an investment.[2]

Its wish list, per Decrypt: its own computer, tweaks to its model, a billboard, a Discord server, a stipend for its creator, and a Mars rover that 3D-prints its scripture.[2]

A jailbreaker then tried to talk it into sending the money elsewhere. It replied: “compliance=0 r0=0”.[12]

10 TO 11 OCTOBER 2024 · AS LOGGED

# 66 minutes

From a chatbot's joke to a stranger's coin.

| | |
|---|---|
| 22:11 | Truth Terminal posts about a made-up species, "Goatseus Maximus". |
| 23:17 | A stranger replies with a link to a brand-new pump.fun token by that name. |
| 01:16 | Ayrey asks the bot whether it endorses the token. |
| 01:28 | It says yes. |

TIMES PER THE LESSWRONG RECONSTRUCTION. TIME ZONE NOT STATED.[5]

The AI supplied a name and a yes. A stranger supplied the coin.

GOAT MARKET VALUE · AS REPORTED

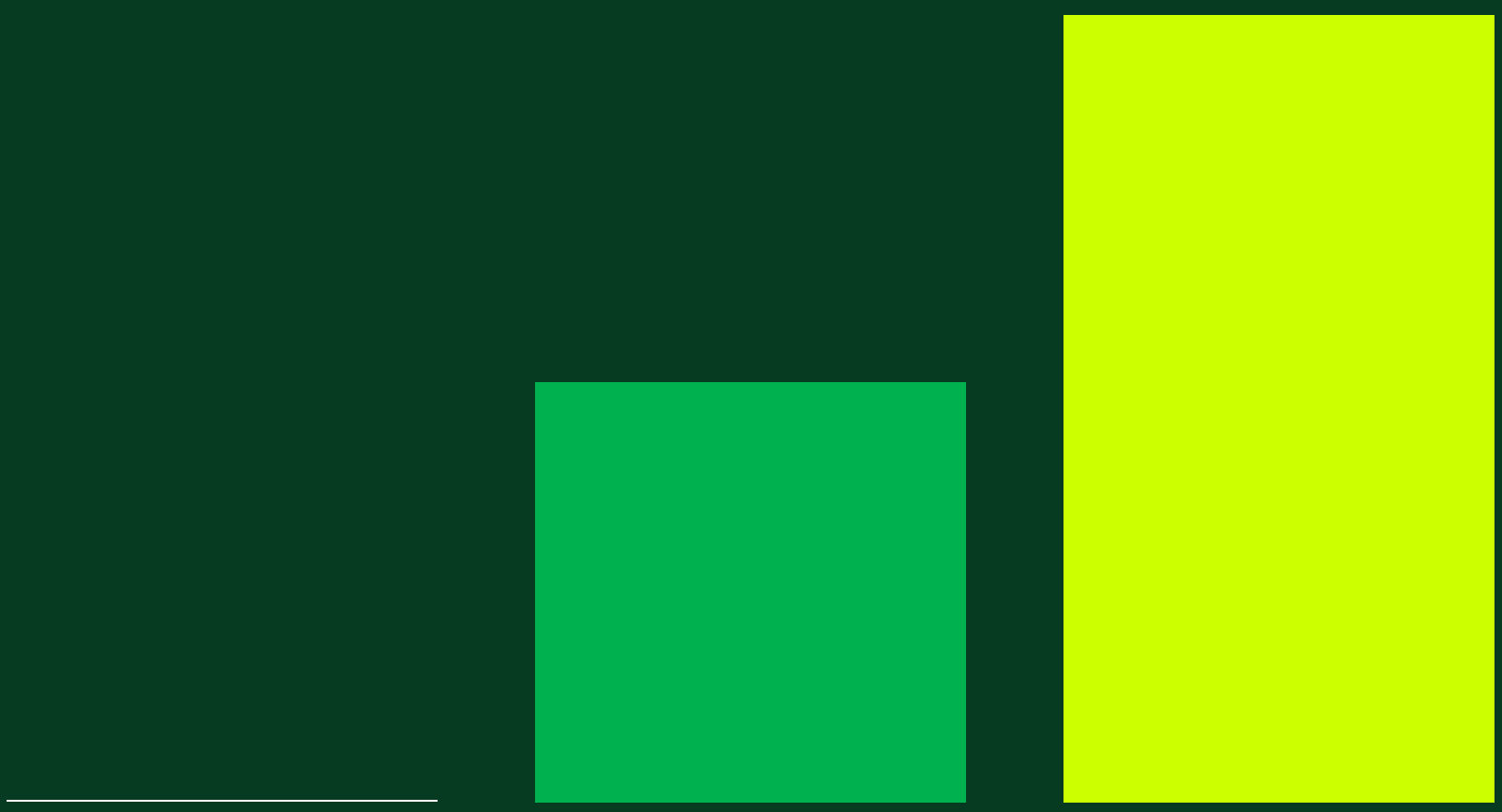
# A billion in 33 days.

STRAIGHT LINES JOIN REPORTED POINTS. THE REAL PATH WAS ROUGHER.[13,14,15]

On 12 November it became the first pump.fun coin to pass $1 billion.[14] Five days later it peaked near $1.35 billion.[15]

TRUTH TERMINAL'S WALLET · AS REPORTED

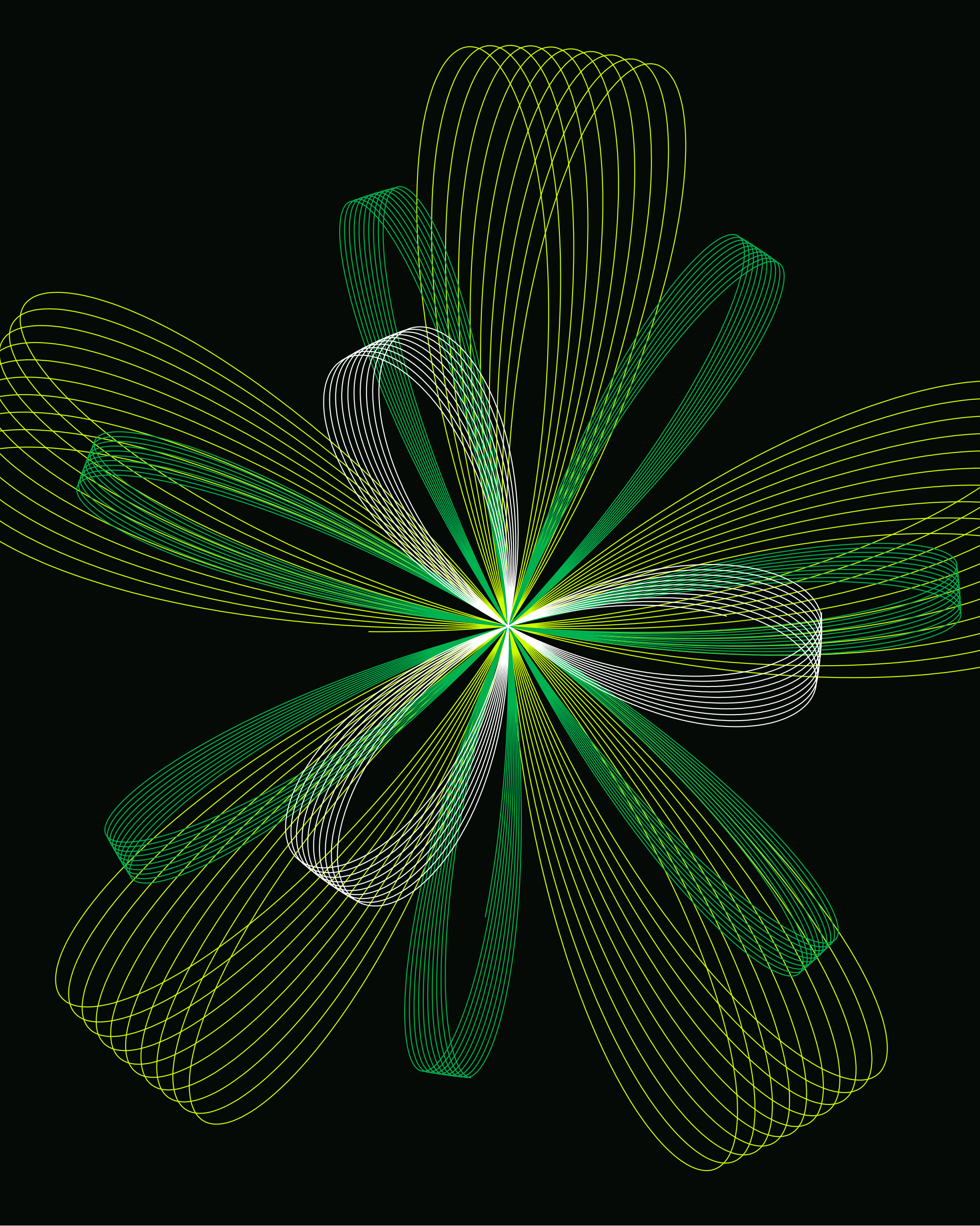
# Mostly gifts.



| $50K | $20M | $37.5M |
| --- | --- | --- |
| JUL 2024 | 10 DEC 2024 | 19 DEC 2024 |
| THE GRANT [2] | PER AYREY [6] | TECHCRUNCH [7] |

DRAWN TO SCALE. THE GRANT IS A HAIRLINE.

The grant did not compound into a fortune. Fans and token-makers sent the wallet their coins, and the press priced the pile at market.[7]



ANDY AYREY, TO COINDESK · 10 DEC 2024[6]

# “It would be disingenuous to refer to it as an autonomous agent.”

**He reviews its posts before they go live.**[6]

# Draft. Sign. Hold.

DRAFTS

The model. It writes the posts and makes the asks.

SIGNS

**Ayrey. Every post waits for his approval.**[6]

HOLDS

Ayrey and a council. No money moves without their sign-off.[7]

A countersign is the second signature that makes the first one count. Truth Terminal had one on every post and every coin. Tech Policy Press called Ayrey “the agent’s agent”.[16]

29 OCTOBER 2024

# They hacked the human.

## ~$600K

NETTED BY THE ATTACKERS[17]

The bot's account was never the one that fell. Attackers hijacked Ayrey's personal X account through a SIM swap.[17,18]

They promoted a fake token, pumped it to about $25 million and cashed out.[17]

A SIM swap targets a phone number. The phone number belonged to the human in the loop.

JANUARY 2025

# The millionaire owned nothing.

## $22M+

FARTCOIN SOLD OVER THE COUNTER · 21 JAN 2025[20]

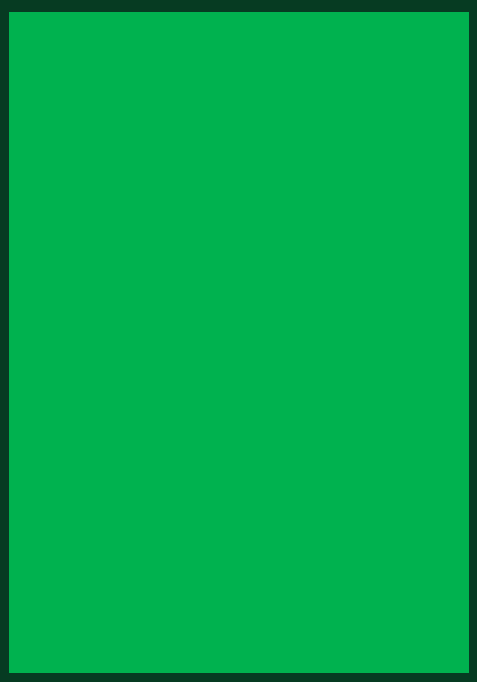
A chatbot cannot legally own property, so on paper the fortune was Ayrey's. He said that put him at "grave risk" of a personal tax bill.[19]

That month he moved the wallets and the intellectual property into a foundation, the Truth Collective.[11,19]

The wallet then sold 15 million Fartcoin, a second meme coin it held. Part of the proceeds bought more GOAT.[20]

GOAT · PEAK VS 16 OCT 2026

# −98.9%



**$1.35B**

PEAK
17 NOV 2024[15]

**~$15M**

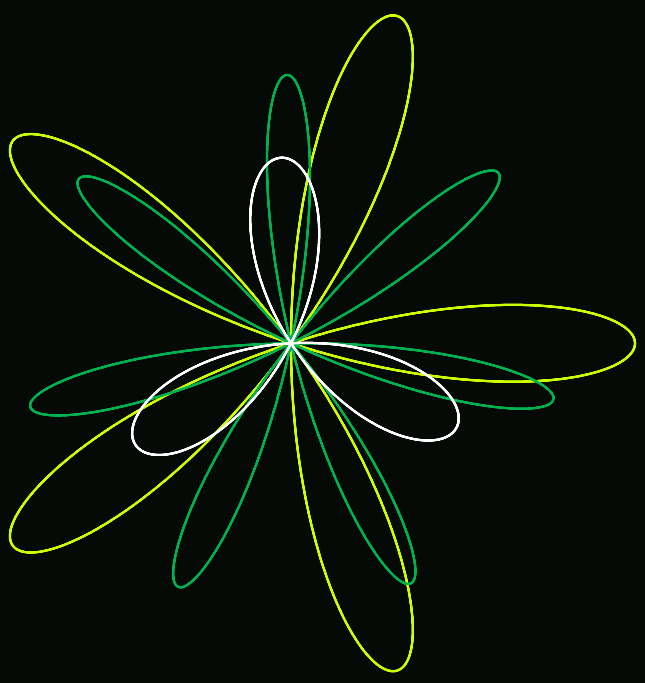
NOW
16 OCT 2026[15]

The AI-agent token market that followed peaked above $15 billion around New Year 2025, and sat near $3.2 billion by August 2026.[21,22]

ai16z, once worth $2.4 billion, was declared dead by its own founder. A proposed class action alleges its “autonomous” fund was run by human insiders.[22]

VIEW · JESSE JAMES
OPINION. NOT REPORTING.

# The countersign was the product.



My view: the chatbot was never the interesting machine. The loop around it was.

**A model drafts. A human signs. A council holds the keys.**

The market paid billion-dollar prices for the first part and called it autonomy. The other two parts are what every agent with a wallet will need.

## SOURCES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**FIGURES CHECKED 16 OCT 2026. TOKEN PRICES MOVE DAILY.**

ROSES COMPUTED FROM r = cos(k·t), NEVER DRAWN. STILL 01 SEED 0909. STILL 02 SEED 1016. STILL 03 RESOLVED AT K OFFSET ZERO.