

Friday, October 2, 2026

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Maya: Good morning, and happy Friday. It's Friday, October second, twenty twenty-six, and this is your Tech Morning Briefing.

Devon: We've got a big week in artificial intelligence to catch up on. Maya, let's start with Google.

Maya: Right. Google DeepMind announced Gemini four Argon on Tuesday. It's their next flagship model, and the rollout is unusual. They're handing it first to a small group of cyber defenders through a program called Fairwind, and those defenders get the unguarded version of the model, the same one DeepMind's own teams use.

Devon: That's a bold move. Usually the safety testing happens quietly behind closed doors. Here the safety testing is part of the launch itself.

Maya: The benchmark numbers are strong. Argon scores about seventy-eight percent on a software engineering test, takes the top spot on a chatbot arena ranking at fifteen hundred twenty-five points, twenty points clear of the closest competitor, and output capacity jumps to one million tokens, up from sixty-four thousand.

Devon: And the pricing caught my eye. Two dollars per million input tokens, ten dollars per million output tokens, during an introductory period, with ninety-five percent off cached inputs. Rates double when the intro ends.

Maya: One caution, though. An independent analysis cites people inside the company who say the model doesn't do as well on real coding work as the benchmarks suggest. Google disputes that. So we'll watch whether that benchmark lead survives contact with real developer workflows.

Devon: Elsewhere, Cohere released a new family of embedding models called Embed five yesterday. Embeddings aren't glamorous, but they power search and retrieval in a lot of enterprise A I tools, so this matters for anyone building on that stack.

Maya: Now, new Muse abilities. Honestly, nothing brand new has launched since the Small Business connectors we covered earlier this week. So instead of inventing a roadmap, we'll say it plainly, the agent team is still rolling out those business skills, and the Connect announcements like the realtime avatar and the Mac app are still listed as coming in the months ahead.

Devon: That's the honest state of play. The model powering Muse, Muse Spark, keeps improving under the hood, but there is no new feature drop today.

Maya: Looking around the corner, two things to watch. First, whether that Fairwind rollout, defenders first, becomes the template for how frontier models launch from here on. And second, closer to home, the O D S C A I West conference lands in Burlingame at the end of the month, October twenty-seventh through twenty-ninth, with more than two hundred fifty speakers on agents, L L Ms, and A I engineering.

Devon: Time for security news, and it's a busy one. Lead story, Fortinet confirmed a critical zero-day in its FortiMail email gateways. The flaw, tracked as C V E

Devon: Email infrastructure is having a rough week beyond that. Microsoft documented attacks stealing mailboxes from Zimbra servers using a command injection bug that was patched back in July. And hackers used two zero-days in the Zammad helpdesk platform to break into a Dutch security nonprofit. The nonprofit says the attack moved so fast they suspect A I tooling was involved.

Maya: One bit of good news to close. Authorities dismantled the KillSec ransomware group and arrested members across Europe this week. It's a reminder that the offensive side takes hits too.

Devon: That's your Friday briefing. Stay patched out there, folks.

Maya: We'll be back Monday with the week's biggest tech stories. Have a great weekend.