

The 'Cancel ChatGPT' movement erupted over military cooperation: What's happening?

The 'Cancel ChatGPT' movement emerged after OpenAI partnered with the US Department of Defense, sparking debate about AI in the military, surveillance, and technological ethics.

An online movement urging users to unsubscribe from ChatGPT quickly spread and became a major topic on social media, particularly in the US. This stemmed from a controversial partnership agreement between OpenAI and the US Department of Defense, which allowed OpenAI's AI models to be deployed in government networks with security classifications – a move that provoked strong reactions from the tech community and many user groups.

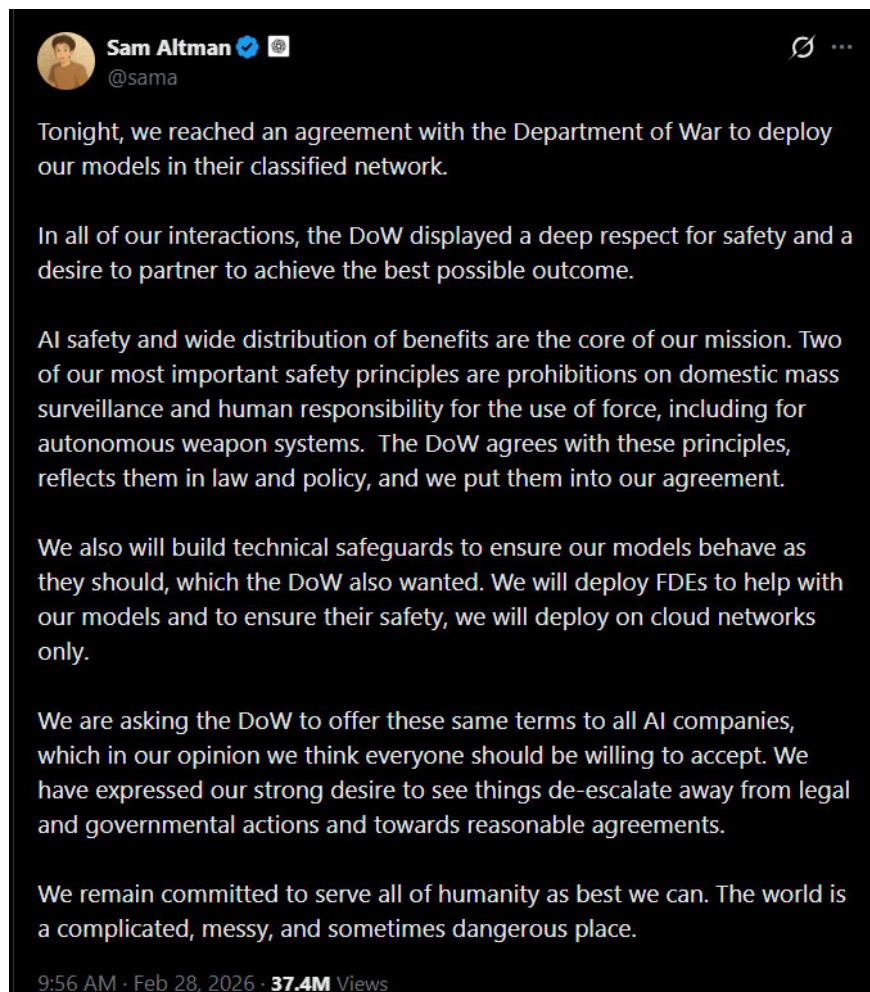
The controversy intensified when Anthropic – a rival AI company – rejected similar terms from the Pentagon, citing concerns about widespread surveillance and autonomous weapons. The company took the risk of losing a major government contract rather than loosening its safeguards, earning praise from opponents of AI in the military.

The contrast between the two approaches quickly sparked the 'Cancel ChatGPT' movement. A segment of users announced they would cancel their subscriptions in protest, arguing that OpenAI had compromised ethical principles by collaborating with the military.

The core debate doesn't just revolve around one company.

This backlash isn't just about one specific contract. It reflects growing tension over how AI should be used in defense, intelligence, and surveillance.

OpenAI asserts that its agreement with the Pentagon includes clear safeguards, such as a ban on widespread domestic surveillance, a ban on autonomous weapons, and a ban on high-risk automated decisions. CEO Sam Altman argues that partnering with the government helps shape how AI is used more responsibly, rather than remaining on the sidelines.



However, skeptics argue that laws like the Patriot Act could expand the scope of surveillance over time, despite initial commitments. The debate isn't limited to society at large; it's also spreading within the tech industry. According to Axios, over 200 Google and OpenAI employees signed an open letter calling for stricter limits on the use of AI in the military, demonstrating that even within the field, opinions are deeply divided.

For the average consumer, this could be seen as a turning point in how people view AI companies. Ethical concerns are no longer theoretical debates about the distant future, but are now directly linked to government partnerships and national security issues.

Whether the 'Cancel ChatGPT' movement will last or die down, one thing is clear: the discussion about AI is shifting. The focus is no longer just on what the technology can do, but on where its boundaries should be.

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