News

Anthropic is rapidly accelerating AI development amid slowdown calls, outside research group says

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Anthropic is developing its artificial intelligence systems around twice as quickly as it was a year ago amid the CEO's calls to slow down the technology's pace of improvement, according to an analysis released Thursday by an independent monitoring group.

Anthropic invited researchers from the Berkeley, California-based nonprofit, Model Evaluation and Threat Research, to review its internal data and interview staff as it prepares for its Wall Street debut with debate swirling over the potential for AI models to elude human control with catastrophic consequences.

The findings are significant because details about the technology — and its risks — have been provided primarily by AI companies, which have been encouraged by President Donald Trump's administration to police themselves on matters of safety.

It was during the research group's assessment period that Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei called for the AI industry to slow its work so safety measures can catch up. In a Sept. 12 essay responding to mounting concerns about runaway AI, he urged the AI world to "slow the pace at which we improve the capabilities of AI models."

Sam McCandlish, one of Anthropic's co-founders, responded to the report Thursday in a lengthy post on X, writing that many of METR's conclusions match his own. "AI is speeding up our research, but it's hard to say exactly how much," he wrote.

The San Francisco-based company is planning to go public later this month in what could be the biggest initial public offering of stock ever.

AI is playing a bigger role in its own improvement

METR estimated that Anthropic is improving the capabilities of its models to do "well specified tasks" around twice as fast as it was a year earlier. The nonprofit's researchers said they believed much of the reason for the faster development is the help of AI itself.

Anthropic has said its Claude chatbot increasingly is helping the company develop newer, more advanced versions of itself.



Pages from the Anthropic website and the company's logo are displayed on a computer screen in New York, Feb. 26, 2026

PHOTO COURTESY OF AP PHOTO



Dario Amodei, CEO and co-founder of Anthropic, attends the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 23, 2025

PHOTO COURTESY OF AP PHOTO

METR has conducted evaluations on model capabilities for Anthropic, OpenAI and other labs for years. The nonprofit is funded through donations and does not accept compensation for its work, but AI companies it has partnered with for evaluations have provided access and tokens, which METR uses for evaluations, research and engineering.

One of its two reports was based on analysis of Anthropic's internal data provided by the company over a period of about 11 weeks, from mid-August through late October, as well as employee interviews.

METR said its assessment focused on a few key questions, including whether the growth rate of Anthropic's internal capabilities has accelerated and how much of that was attributable to AI. The group said it was given "unprecedented access to internal data" at Anthropic.

METR also reviewed both a public risk report Anthropic published in August and a private version, as well as other nonpublic data, and the organization said the public report "overall understates the level of acceleration that was occurring."

Anthropic's redactions to the report limited how METR could communicate more detailed estimates of acceleration, the nonprofit said.

McCandlish acknowledged in his statement that the redactions make it harder for others to "check METR's work," but added that the company decided that sharing "exactly what is driving the speedup isn't the right thing to do," because it's both "commercially sensitive" and "risks handing out a road map for others to go faster."

He said this work with METR is separate from the evaluators the company is welcoming as part of its "commitment to pacing the frontier," and he said it shows why they are a good idea.

"How quickly AI progress is accelerating has many important safety implications, since it determines how quickly the risks from advanced models increase," wrote McCandlish, who is also Anthropic's responsible scaling officer. "But, because most research happens within the frontier labs, it's difficult for external observers and policymakers to get a strong sense of what that rate is."

Assessors see little holding back AI's progress

The report was peppered with caveats. METR said it could be overstating its findings, because the acceleration might only be limited to "well-specified tasks."

METR said it was able to "confidently" rule out the growth of computing power used in training AI models as the reason for the acceleration. Traditionally, the amount of computing power, known as compute, is directly related to how well an AI model performs. The researchers said their guess was that the improvement owed to using AI itself to improve AI.

A key concern, METR said, is that using AI to improve itself could start to compound the acceleration. Researchers found there were no "bottlenecks" such as restrictions on computing power or data holding back Anthropic's AI progress.

"We understand that AI is not yet able to make highly significant and fully autonomous contributions to the most important parts of the model training process," the report said. However, Anthropic researchers described significant "signs of life" implying that could happen soon, METR said.

Amodei touched on this issue in his September essay, saying AI advances have been driven primarily by the concept of recursive self-improvement, or what he defined as "AI's growing ability to build the next generation of AI."

In that same essay, Amodei championed the idea of having external evaluators embedded within the leading AI labs and specifically highlighted METR as an appropriate third-party evaluator. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said at the time that he also supported the idea of independent evaluators with employee-like access.

The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at Daily Campus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers.
Thanks for reading.

Want to advertise in print or online?
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

Corrections and Clarifications:
Send Corrections to EIC@dailycampus.com

Friday, November 6, 2026
Copy Editors: Vangmayee Upadhyay, Ayyan Tamjeed
News Designer: Yuhan Gao
Life Designer: Emma Huynh
Sports Designer: Ellie Cremin
Opinion Designer: Camille Kiang
Photo Producer: Morgan Blanchard

Samantha Brody, Editor-in-Chief
Isabella Kulawik, Managing Editor
Pierce Colfer, Business Manager
Connor Lafferty, Digital Editor
Camille Kiang, Associate Managing Editor
Lilli-Ann Hanlon, Associate Managing Editor
Joshua Cummings, Associate Digital Editor

Mikayla Bunnell
News Editor
Kevin Guinan
Associate News Editor
Avery Becker
Sports Editor
Jake McCreven
Associate Sports Editor
Madison Hendricks
Photo Editor
Nora Mariano
Associate Photo Editor
Maleena Muzio
Life Editor
Ayyan Tamjeed
Associate Life Editor
Patrick Minnerly
Opinion Editor
Gianna Cassino
Associate Opinion Editor
Lillian LaFemina
Artist Editor
Colbi Loranger
Associate Artist Editor
Uzoma Chukwurah
Outreach/Social Media Coordinator
Sofiyah Shiwnarine
Associate SMOC
Aleia Bischof
Circulation Manager
Valley Publishing Company
Derby, Conn.

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:
Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

Prefer to read our content online?
Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.
Instagram · The_DailyCampus
Facebook · The Daily Campus
Twitter · The_DailyCampus

Want to write, photograph or draw for The Daily Campus?

The Daily Campus welcomes writers, photographers and artists of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it's as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
opinion@dailycampus.com
News (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
news@dailycampus.com
Life (Meetings at 6 p.m.)
life@dailycampus.com
Sports (Meetings at 7 p.m.)
sports@dailycampus.com
Photo (Meetings at 9 p.m.)
photo@dailycampus.com
Artists (Meetings at 9 p.m.)
artists@dailycampus.com