Europe 2031

What getting AI wrong means for us

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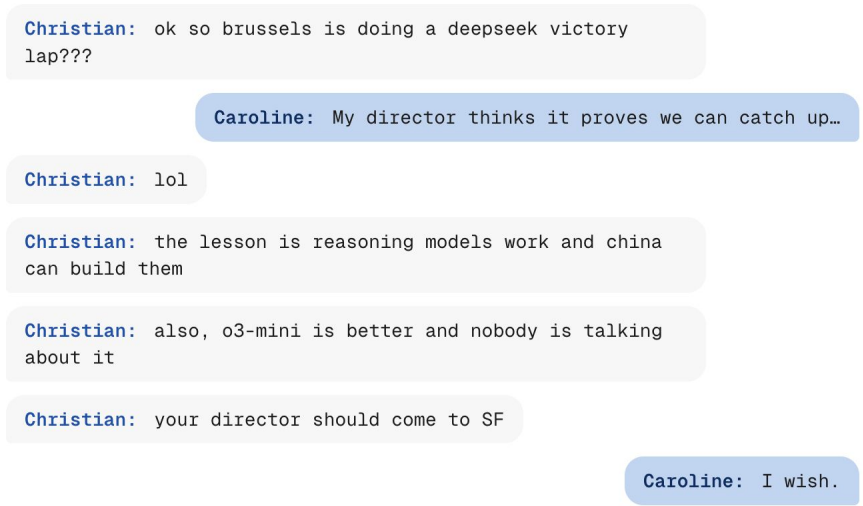
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Joint with: Daan Juijn, Stan van Baarsen, Judith Dada, Maximilian Negele, Lily Stelling, Philip Fox, Alex Petropoulos, and Tom Chivers.

What is Europe 2031?

- A future scenario (2025-2031) about what getting AI wrong means for Europe
- Inspired by AI 2027 but focused more on Europe and on sovereignty instead of safety
- Told through Caroline Dubois in Brussels and Christian Vogt in San Francisco



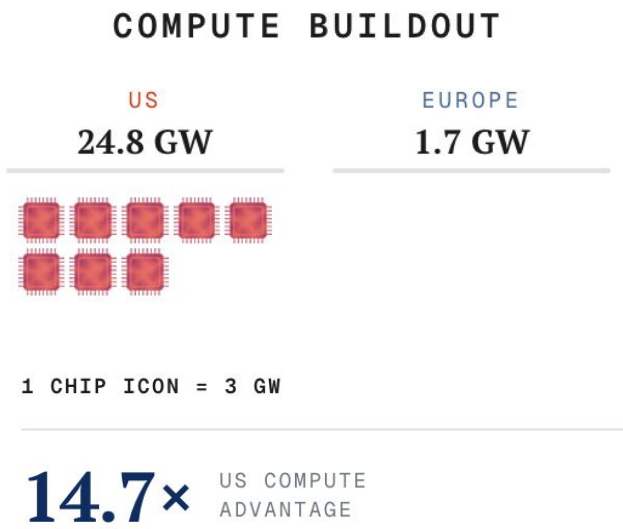
Why we wrote it



- We need a strong Europe to avoid power concentrating in the US!
- Bay Area is bracing for a historic transformation. Europe is still debating whether AI is overhyped.
- We wanted to make the stakes concrete for people who do not normally think about AI.

The core argument

- Europe does not fail through one big mistake. It loses through delays, dependence and shrinking options
- AI will drive future economic, military and scientific progress.
- By the time the crisis is obvious, the good options are gone



The core argument

By early 2031 power is concentrated in two places. American labs hold the cognitive frontier; China still holds the physical one. Atlas [name of the leading US AI company in the scenario] alone is worth more than every listed European company combined. The three largest American AI firms each spend more on compute than the EU spends on defence. The leading Chinese humanoid producer ships more units in a month than Europe ships in a year.

— Europe 2031

What should Europe do instead?



- Build more compute on European soil
- Build leverage, not only sovereign capabilities
- Work with a coalition of middle powers
- Offer a positive vision of what AI can do for society

Where’s the positive vision?

‘We had a negative vision. We were good at negative visions. We were going to be devoured. Every memo I wrote started from a description of what we were losing. But we couldn’t offer a positive vision. You cannot ask people to absorb years of disruption on the basis of *otherwise it gets worse*.

‘We should have told them what the good version of the new thing looked like. But we didn’t know what it would look like. We didn’t even have the vocabulary for it. You know, I tried. I wrote one bad memo. But I should have kept writing them.’

— Caroline, *Europe 2031*

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