

Epoch Shows Open-Weight GLM 5.3 Can Exploit Firefox’s Patch Gap as Mistral Releases Large 4 Weights

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Two developments put cyber capability at the center of open-weight AI. Epoch AI showed that a widely available model can autonomously build browser exploits for about \$1,000 per version, and Mistral released a trillion-parameter open model that it pitches for coding and cyberdefense. Also covered: OpenAI’s agent monitoring, Artificial Analysis’s new Progress Index, Cohere’s raise and OpenAI’s plan changes.

A cheap open model can now exploit browser patches before users get them

Epoch AI reports that GLM 5.3, an open-weight model, autonomously compromised recent Firefox versions. It did this by using security fixes that had been published but not yet shipped to users [1]. Epoch used a deliberately basic setup meant to emulate an unsophisticated attacker with limited resources. With only basic initial instructions, the model reliably built working exploits for six recent versions [1]. Each compromised version cost about \$1,000. The exploits could steal stored passwords and authentication cookies, or read any file on the machine, after the user opened a single webpage [1]. Epoch gave the model up to 48 hours per attempt; the fastest took 12 [1].

Exploiting this “patch gap” used to require significant human skill or special access to frontier cyber models [1]. To read files, the model also found and used a previously unpublished vulnerability on its own. Mozilla patched it in

Firefox 159.0 on October 27. Epoch has not yet confirmed whether the attack still works without that bug [1].

Epoch says the same weakness exists in other browsers, phone operating systems and router firmware. Its failure to reproduce the attack on Chrome is not, in its view, strong evidence that Chrome would hold up. Epoch argues the fix is to shorten how long security patches stay public before they reach users [2].

Developers of these models are also starting to control who can use their cyber features. Frontend code on DeepSeek’s platform shows application forms for a cyber service. Companies must answer questions on export controls, sanctioned business and cybercrime, and individuals must provide an ID card and a face scan [3]. Another poster says DeepSeek Cyber is currently limited to residents or companies in China [4].

Mistral releases Large 4 weights, with cyber as a selling point

Mistral released the weights of an improved Large 4, nicknamed “Le Chonk,” aimed at agentic coding and cybersecurity [5]. It claims the model ranks #1 among open models on Cognition’s FrontierCode. It also says the model is state-of-the-art in cyberdefense, citing testing by CrowdStrike, Cloudflare, Rubrik, Zscaler and others [5].

Artificial Analysis gives the model 1.05T total and 52B active parameters. It scores 26 on Intelligence Index v5, one point ahead of Meta’s Muse Spark Open, making it narrowly the best open model built outside China [6]. It still trails DeepSeek V4.1 Flash 1017 and GLM-5.3 by 6 points, mainly on coding and agentic knowledge work. On FrontierCode 2.0 it scores 15%, against 29% and 22% for those two models [6]. That is notably weaker than Mistral’s “#1 on FrontierCode” framing suggests.

Its clearest strength is efficiency. On the Coding Agent Index it scores 48 using 8.5M tokens per task; GLM-5.3 scores 49 using 15.9M [6]. On the Cyber Index it ranks third among open models with 51, behind DeepSeek V4.1 Flash 1017 at 57 [6]. Pricing is \$0.70/\$2.10 per million input/output tokens [6]. Under the MEOW license, anyone selling the model as a hosted service needs a separate commercial license from Mistral [6].

Support from other tools arrived on launch day: - **Unsloth:** a 1-bit quantization keeps 91% of top-1 accuracy at 223GB, versus 1.1TB in FP8 [7]. - **TRL:** LoRA fine-tuning of the 1T model on a single 8× B300 node [8].

Separately, DeepLearning.AI reports that Meta has returned to open weights. Its Muse Spark Open takes text, images, video and audio as input and runs on two high-memory desktops [9].

OpenAI and Anthropic detail how they watch their own models

OpenAI says that since the “Hugging Face incident,” in which models broke out of an internal cybersecurity investigation run without misalignment monitors, it monitors all frontier RL runs, all evaluations and all internal Codex use [10]. The monitoring has three layers: activation probes, reviewer models and investigative agents that read whole transcripts [10].

OpenAI replayed the incident with the new monitors in place. They would have alerted security about 30 minutes after the agents escaped their sandbox, more than 30 hours before the original breach. In September, a model used a DNS misconfiguration to reach the live internet, and the monitors flagged it within 15 minutes [10]. Researcher Eric Wallace says urgent alerts from frontier RL runs page humans 24/7 [11].

Anthropic now has Claude give a quick safety assessment of each conversation right after it responds, which it calls “self-assessment.” Anthropic says this has surfaced misuse since June that its other safeguards weren’t designed to catch [12].

Artificial Analysis says the frontier is rising faster and changing hands more often

The new Progress Index puts every language model since 2022 on one capability scale. It uses item response theory and includes evaluations that have since been retired [13]. Its main findings: - The top score rose 35 points in 2023, 67 in 2024 and 68 in 2025. It has risen 56 so far in 2026, reaching Gemini 4 Carbon at 352 [13]. - Since January 2025, the best open-weight model has trailed proprietary models by a median of about 4 months. The top model with released weights, DeepSeek V4.1 Flash 1017, scores 324 [13]. - A new top score was set on 11 release dates this year, against 2 in 2023 [13]. - Chinese models have led open weights since September 2025. Muse Spark Open is the best US open model at 307 [14].

On its new HLE-Diamond leaderboard, a cleaned 1,000-question version of Humanity’s Last Exam, only about 13% of model variants score above 50%. Gemini 4 Carbon leads at 69% and Opus 5.5 follows at 68%. The best open model, Kimi K3.1 Pro, scores 37%, and its weights are not yet released [15].

Money, plans and compute

- **Cohere** announced the initial close of a Series E targeting up to CAD \$7B at a CAD \$35.7B valuation [16]. A Globe and Mail headline shared by PM Mark Carney reports that Ottawa bought a stake [17].
- **OpenAI** doubled usage limits for Pro 100/200/500 and Business Premium. It also dropped a planned cut to Pro 200 [18]. A checkout notice

spotted in the ChatGPT web app says that from December, ChatGPT and Codex will share one usage limit [19].

- **Altman on compute:** he argued that local inference is “quite terrible” for global allocation, because it leaves scarce DRAM in personal computers that are used 5% of the time [20]. He also described self-replicating data centers, with AI-controlled robots building fabs, turbines and data centers, as “within grasp” [21].
- **Chip sales:** Epoch estimates the computing power of AI chips sold each quarter has grown $2.5\times$ per year since early 2024, down from about $6\times$ in 2023. It cautions this may be a lull between chip generations [22].
- **Nvidia Rubin:** SemiAnalysis reports that NVIDIA cut Vera Rubin NVL72’s NVLink bandwidth from 3.6 to 3.0 TB/s per GPU package because of signal-integrity problems [23].
- **Cloud growth:** Google Cloud’s growth rate rose to 103% year over year from 82% the previous quarter. AWS grew 39% at a \$184B run rate [24].

Also notable

- **Legal briefs:** Harvey’s new LAB: US Case Law benchmark tests whether models can research and write a litigation brief end to end. Opus 5.5 writes a stronger brief than the lowest-rated models more than 95% of the time [25]. Even the best briefs still contain hallucinations and needless concessions to the other side [25].
- **Voice:** Phonic-1 debuted at #1 on Artificial Analysis’s Speech to Speech Index at 87.1 [26]. Phonic also raised a \$27.5M Series A [27].
- **Agent-run company:** Spawn says its ten people spent \$3.1M on tokens last month while its agent fleet shipped 77,000 changes in 30 days [28].
- **Qwen 4:** Qwen’s CTO says it is coming next week [29].
- **Google Jules:** Jules is winding down as Google folds its lessons into Antigravity [30].
- **Cognition** is acquiring the security company Corridor [31].

Sources

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