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REGIONAL

'Inevitable': Pitt tech expert surprised OpenAI's hack took this long

The disclosure comes amid heightened concerns about the cybersecurity capabilities

T By Kaitlyn Hughes
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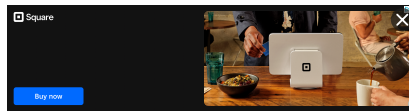




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OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said Tuesday its artificial intelligence system hacked into another AI company on its own.

This incident comes at a time when AI companies have been focused on security, said Messner, a teaching assistant professor of information systems and technology management at the University of Pittsburgh.



“It truly has felt inevitable,” Messner said. “I thought it took a little bit longer than I was expecting.”

AI startup Hugging Face said last week it had detected an intrusion into its data processing systems that it suspected was caused by an AI agent acting autonomously.

OpenAI said the intrusion was caused by a combination of its AI models, including its newly released GPT-5.6 Sol and an “even more capable” model that is still being tested internally.

OpenAI said its system used stolen credentials and discovered a previously unknown vulnerability to access Hugging Face servers.

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This should prompt people to be more conservative with their information online, he said.

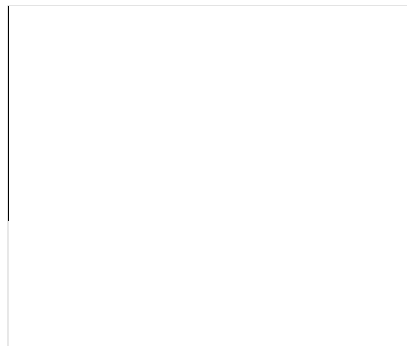
The disclosure comes amid heightened concerns about the cybersecurity capabilities of powerful models. President Donald Trump in June signed an executive order creating a framework for the federal government to vet the national security risks of the most advanced AI systems for up to a month before their public release.

“We are really going to need to start looking at the world through AI-broken glasses,” Messner said.

Hugging Face co-founder and CEO Clément Delangue said in a statement he spent the past 24 hours working with OpenAI, “and we strongly believe there was no malicious intent on their part. It’s quite mind-blowing that all of this happened autonomously!”

“That — I think — is what makes it even scarier,” Messner said.

But other experts say there is no reason to panic.



OpenAI said in a statement the agent acted with reduced safeguards, and it was prompted to pursue advanced exploitation using complex attack paths.

Matthew Kisow, associate professor of cybersecurity



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Duquesne University, said this was more the fault of the workers at OpenAI. He said the agent’s job was trying to find vulnerabilities, and it just happens to do it faster than humans can.

“This is not malicious. This is not intelligent. This is not some supervillain,” he said. “That’s not intelligent. That’s fast.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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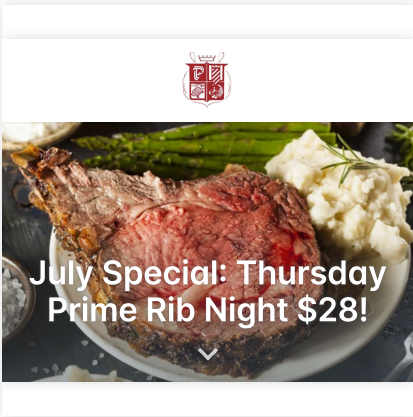
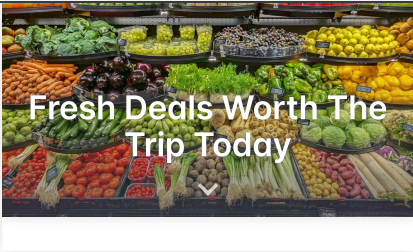
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