

What's on the agenda today?

+ Ask anything

Instant ▾



Company knowledge

SanDisk Corp

NASDAQ: SNDK

1,914.46 USD ↑ 5,123.63% +1,877.81 all time + Follow

Closed: 24 Jun, 6:43 pm GMT-4 • [Disclaimer](#)

After hours 2,129.95 +215.49 (11.26%)



AI and Society

NZ Public Sector Use of LLMs

Presented by: Adam Jarvis

Date: July 17th 2026

AI for Aotearoa

Better public services.
Stronger communities.
Smarter together.

AI Uptake in the
New Zealand Public Sector



About Me

Civil Engineer (Water Supply)
Climate Change & Sustainability Manager
Transport Programme Manager

Superforecaster at the Forecasting Research Institute
Taiwan Fellow
Emergent Ventures

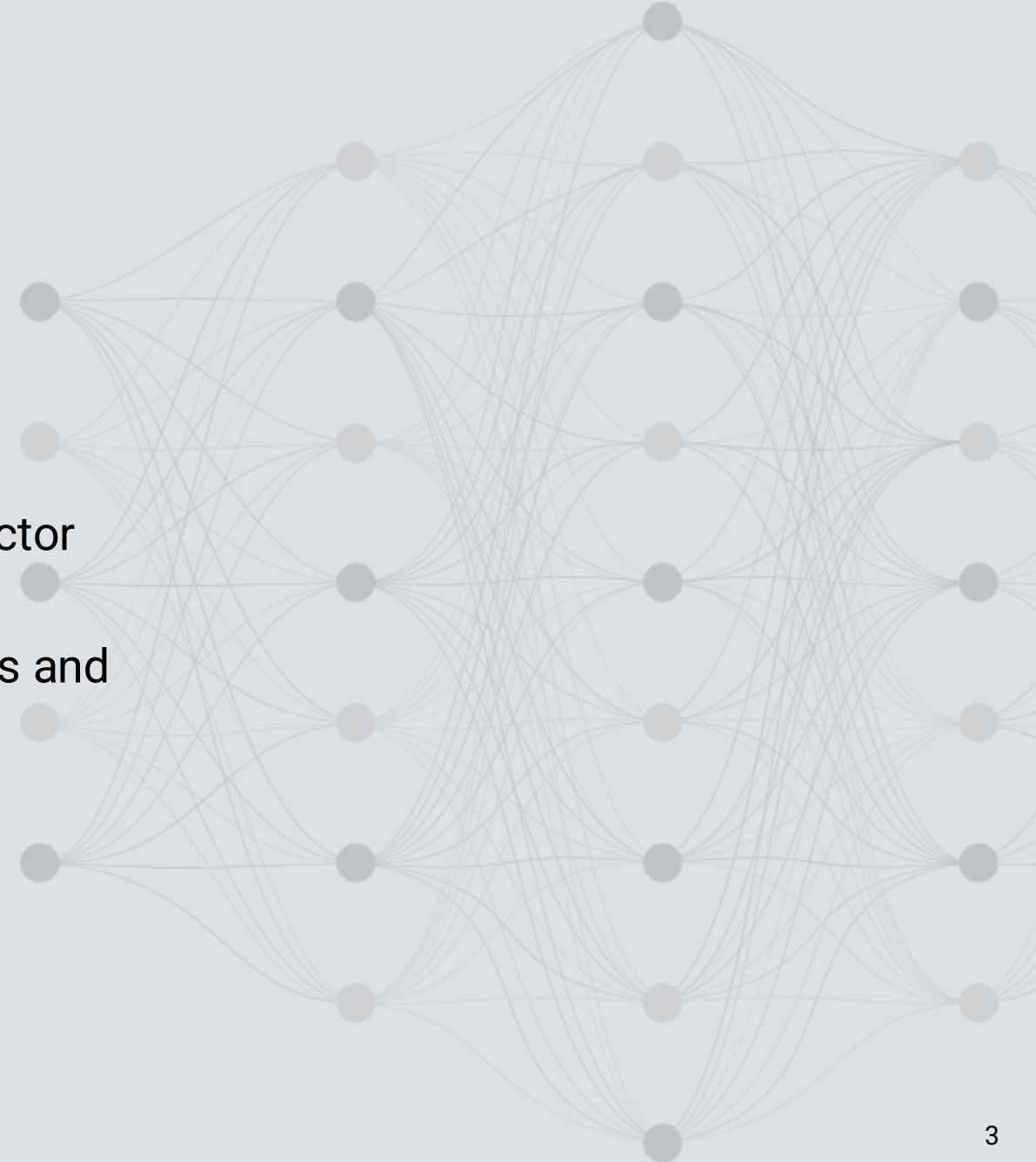
'Public Service' newsletter and occasional podcast

AI Optimist (though not universally)



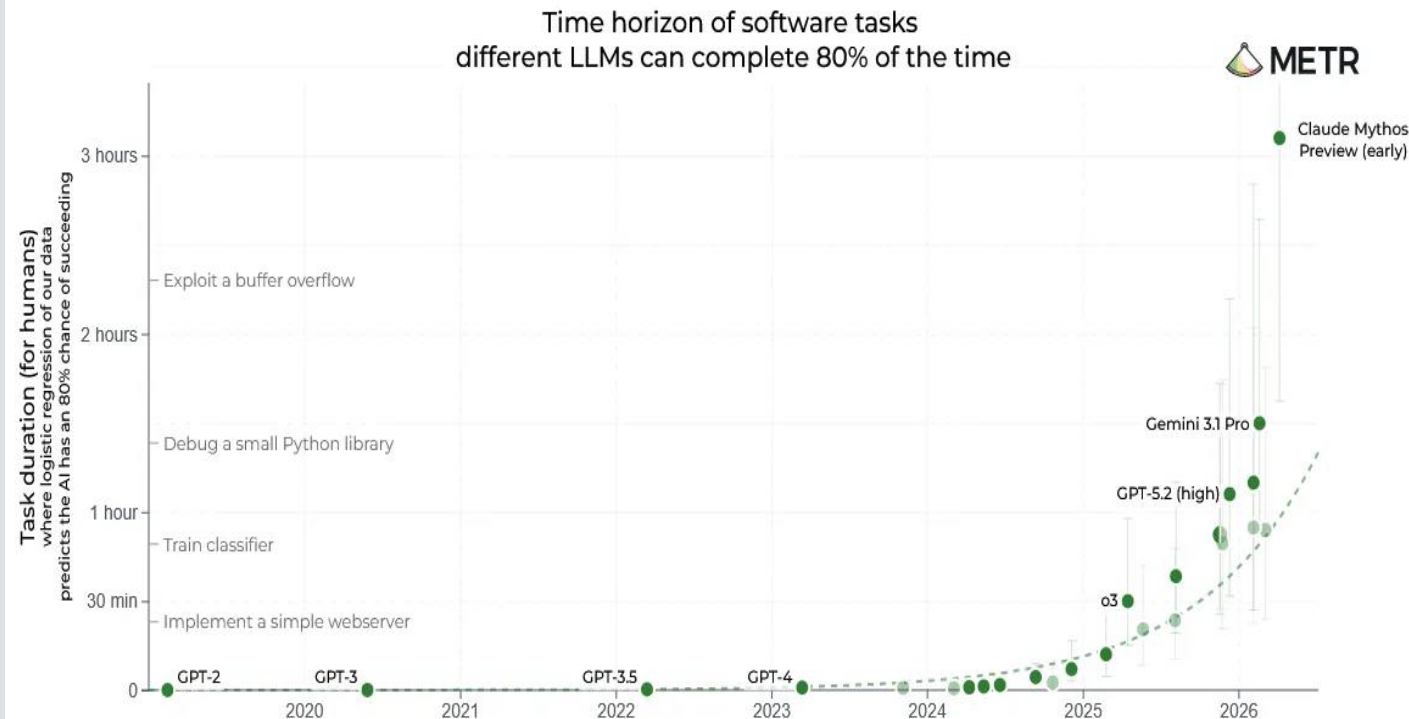
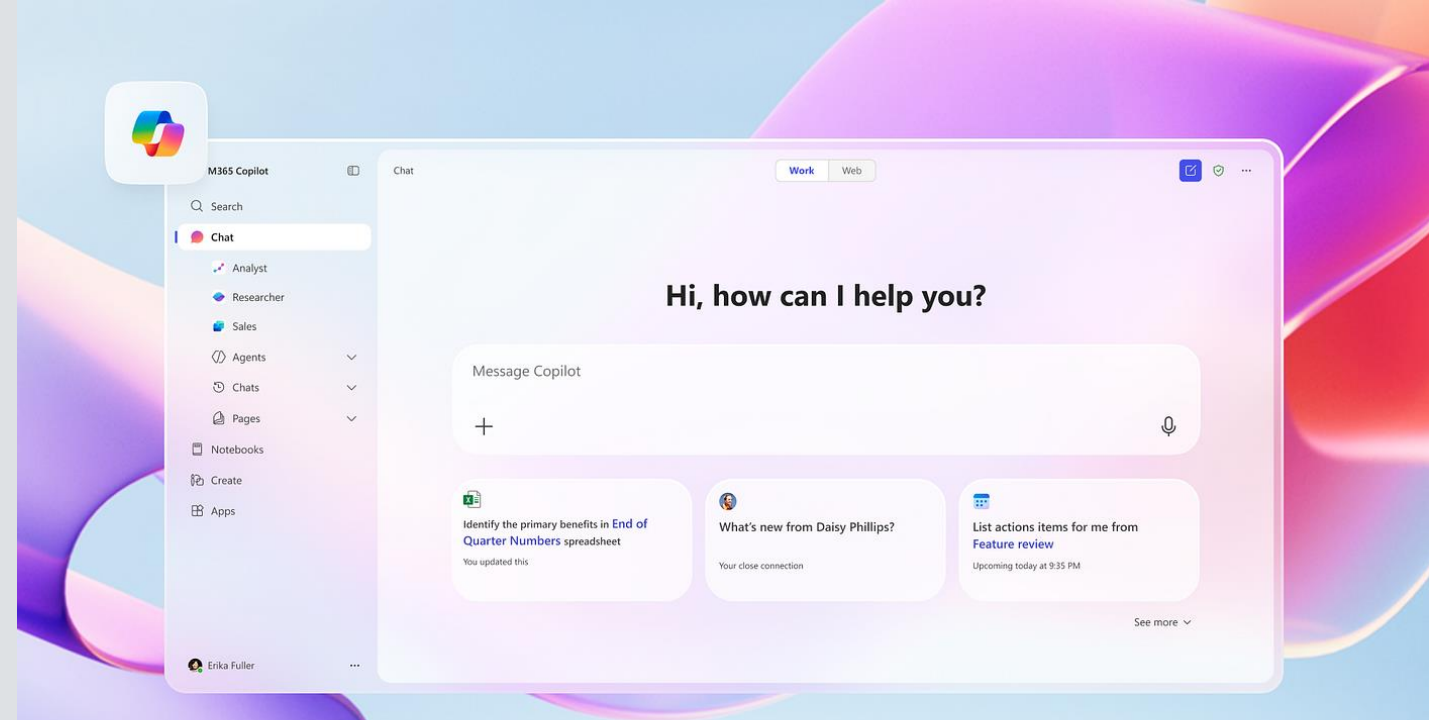
Highlights

- Microsoft Copilot dominates usage, shaping perceptions of capabilities
- Training quality is very poor, and out of date
- Perceptions of AI are rapidly evolving across sector and country
- Senior leadership enthusiasm 'spiky' both across and within organisations
- Mythos crosses the Rubicon
- Implications for sovereignty and future of work



MS Copilot

- Trusted partner and ease of integration makes for an easy procurement decision
- Generally terrible, disillusioned many early adopters
- Compute shortages and business model incentivises the autorouter serving cheaper models to users
- Shapes perceptions around AI capabilities and failure modes
- Some improvements in recent months, but structurally poor incentives around quality remain



Training

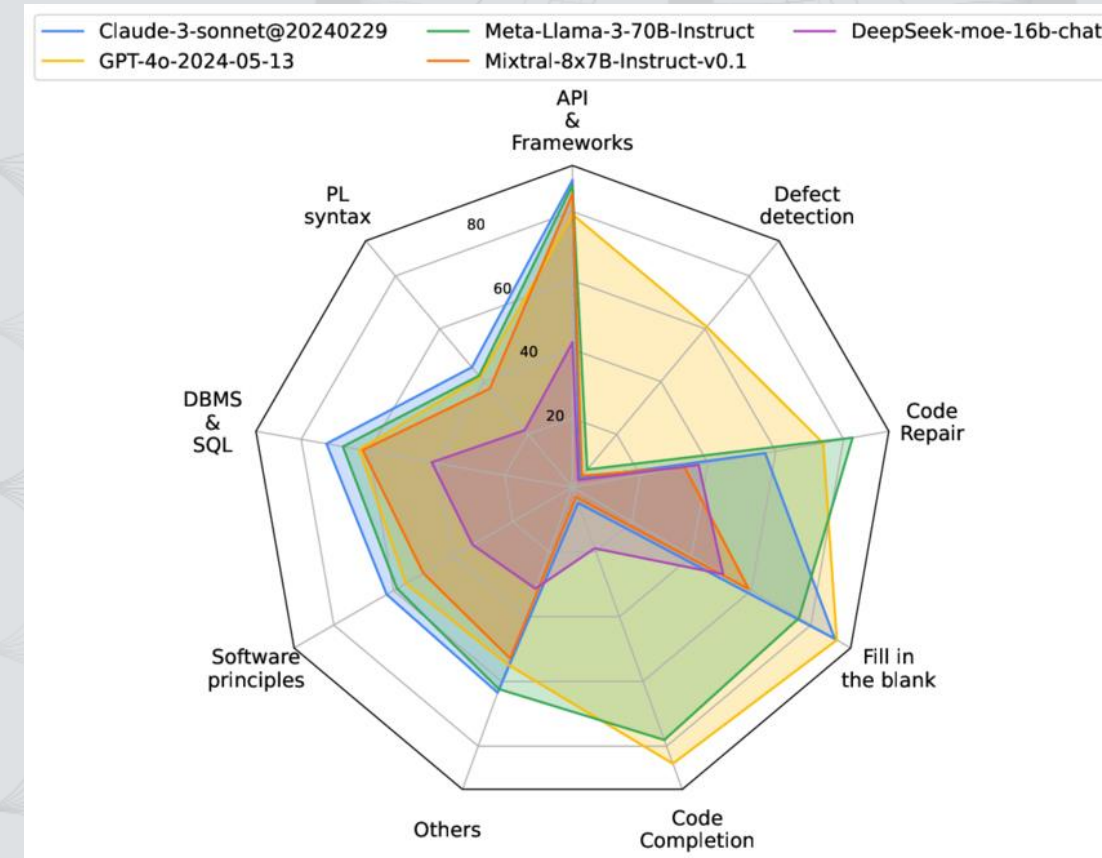
- 'LinkedIn influencers' with long-standing networks and legible credentials dominate training circuit
- Training quality is very poor and increasingly out of date
- Focus is typically on making use of a wide range of products and tools, rather than on frontier models and helping build fundamental knowledge
- Fundamental factual errors are rife, and training often plays to and reinforces common prejudices
- Key skill is to carefully consider what you want and then clearly explain that, with context

Perceptions

- Rapidly evolving both within the sector and across the general public
- Generally positive and optimistic during survey period, swinging sharply negative after recent AI announcement
- Caught up in broader global anti-datacentre and AI sentiment
- NZ thought leadership is moving towards ideas around greater controls, oversight mechanisms, and transparency

‘Spikiness’

- LLMs have spiky capabilities depending on lab focus, model era, data availability, and whether a domain allows for answers to be easily verified
- Most benchmarks now saturated, so the contours of a new model mostly need to be discovered via trial and error
- Public sector AI leadership mirrors this dynamic, but often still in mismatched ways
- High variability across and within organisations
- Low information flow, mostly peer to peer
- Tacit encouragement of ‘shadow adoption’



What's Next?

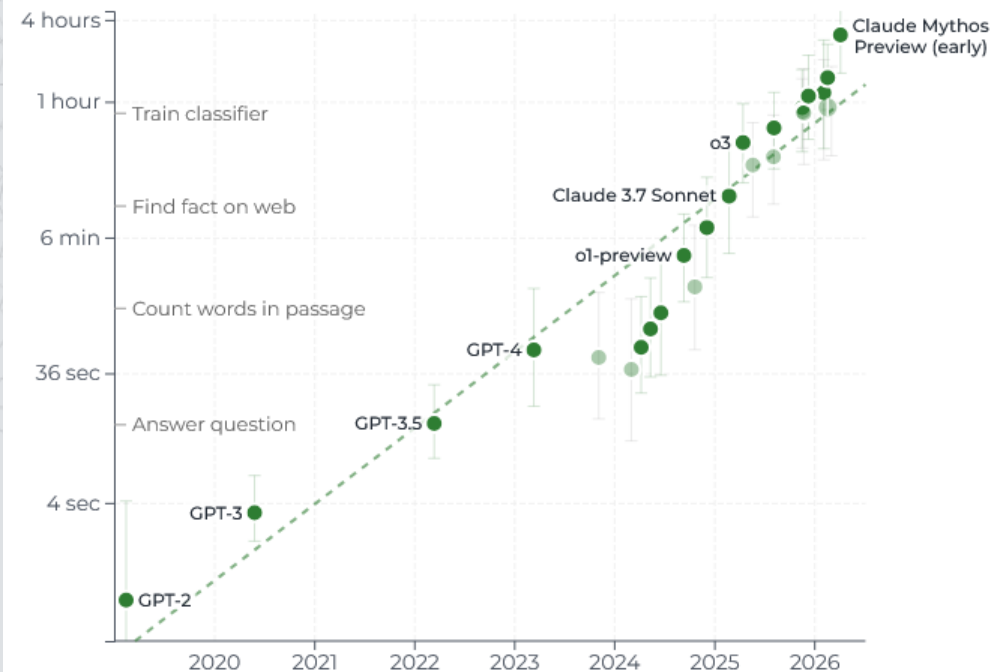
- Agents are both a rebrand and an evolution in capabilities
- Improving UI & Teams integration
- Explosion of low-risk software, automating processes via simple scripts
- Need for legibility a major structural constraint within public sector
- Fundamental constraints across supply chain will create cost pressures
- Critical strategic risks without local datacentre development

Claude Mythos

- Anthropic develops 'Mythos' by March 2026
- Model immediately finds massive zero day vulnerabilities across the entire internet
- Anthropic doesn't release model to public
- 'Project Glasswing' provides access to select companies and public organisations (including NZ) to fix issues.
- 'Fable' limited released with safeguards on 9th June
- USG bans Fable access to non-US citizens 12th June
- Restrictions lifted 30th June after modifications

Firefox Security Bug Fixes by Month

All Sources • All Severities



Time Horizon 1.1 (Current) ▾

Log Scale

Linear Scale

50% Success

80% Success

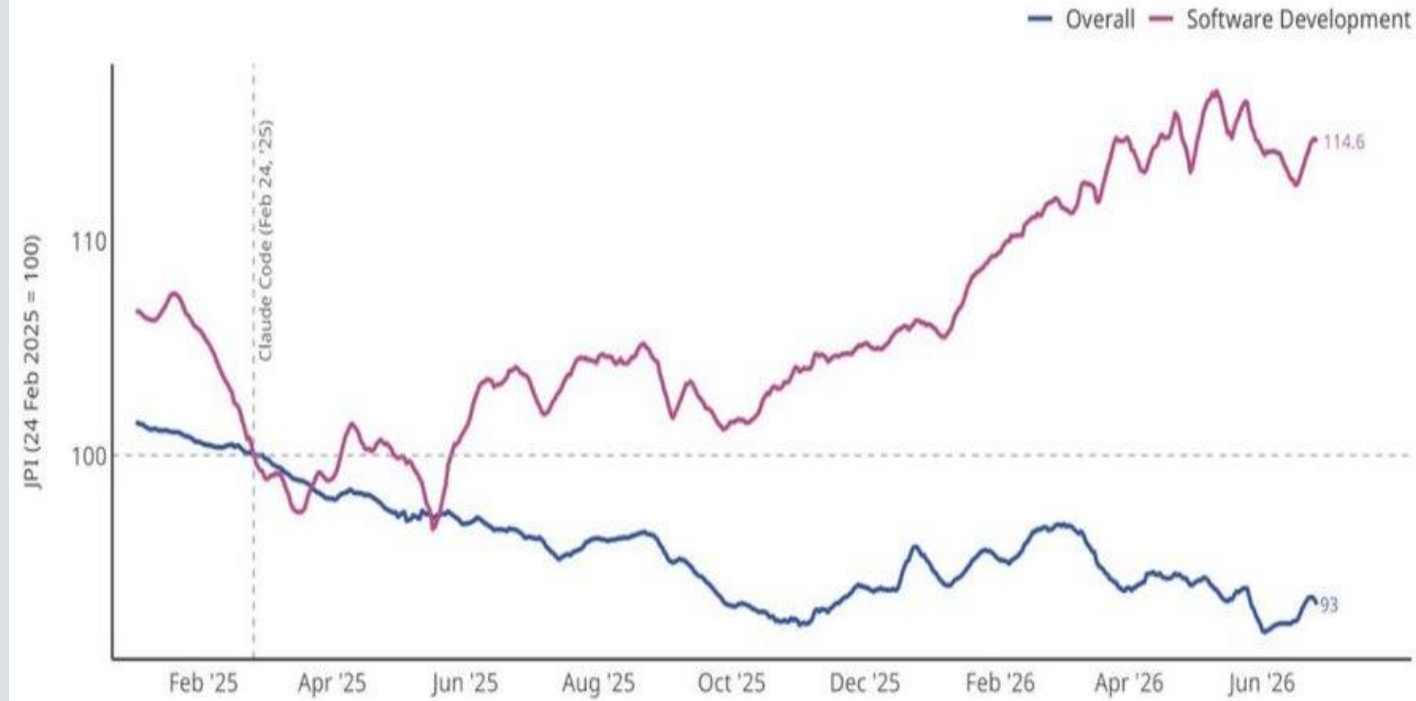


Jevons Paradox

- Efficiencies often lead to a net increase in consumption
- Radiologist demand up (contrary to predictions)
- Software developer demand up
- Enormous latent demand for software, research, analysis
- Flexibility critical, both for individuals and across labour force

Software Development Job Postings Have Been Experiencing a Rebound

United States, January 2025 - June 26, 2026, seasonally adjusted | Index, 24 Feb 2025 = 100

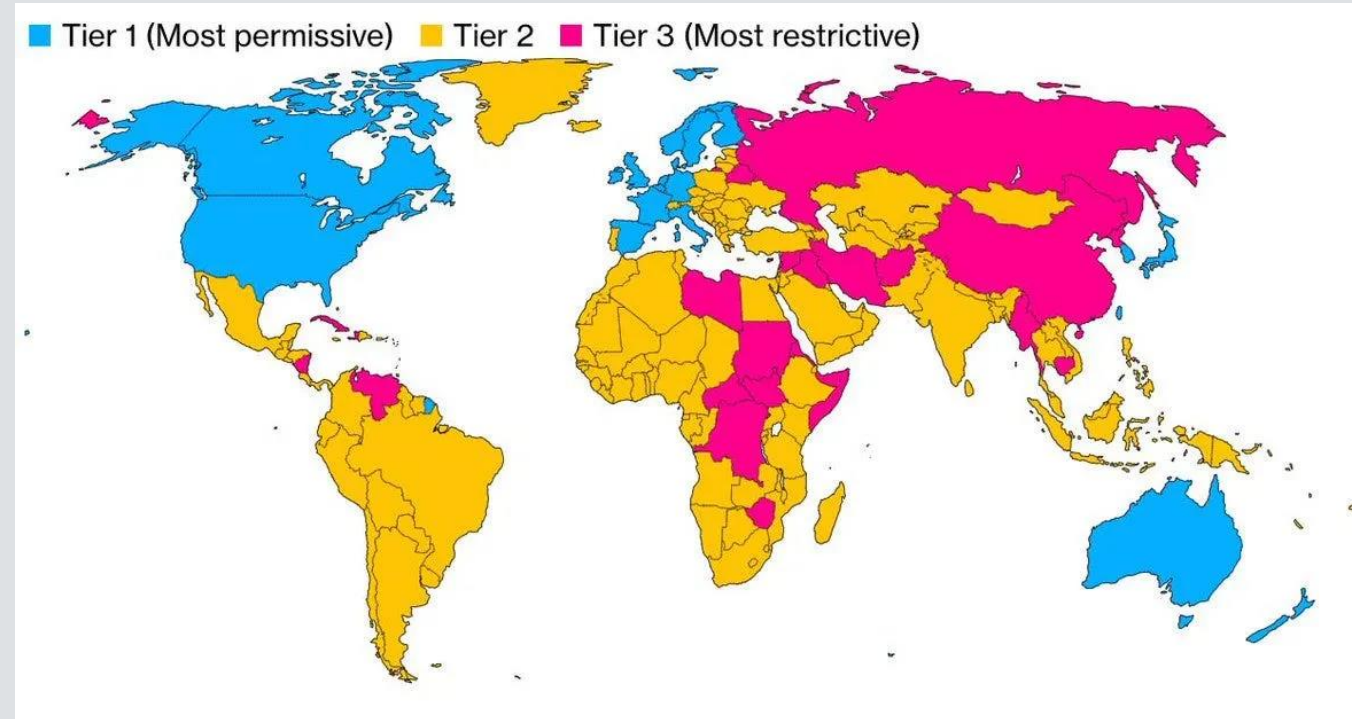


Source: Indeed.



Sovereignty

- No sovereignty without access to AI
- Cybersecurity, economic opportunity, defence
- Precedent across multiple US admins around broadening AI restrictions
- Control grants unprecedented geopolitical and economic leverage
- Local compute and storage essential if 'data sovereignty' is to have meaning
- Open-source models highly capable for everyday workloads & can be run locally



Datacentres

- Water use misinformation
- Enabling large scale generation investment, particularly in geothermal
- \$1.2T+ hyperscaler capex FY2027
- Basic infrastructure of the 21st Century, and NZ doesn't even have to pay for it!
- Certainty and development speed critical
- Local compute critical if NZ is to have some control over destiny

Recap

- Leadership patchy
- 'Shadow adoption'
- Shift from chatbot or productivity tool to mission critical
- Enormous latent demand
- Perception turning negative
- Compounding strategic risks



Questions?

Comments?

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