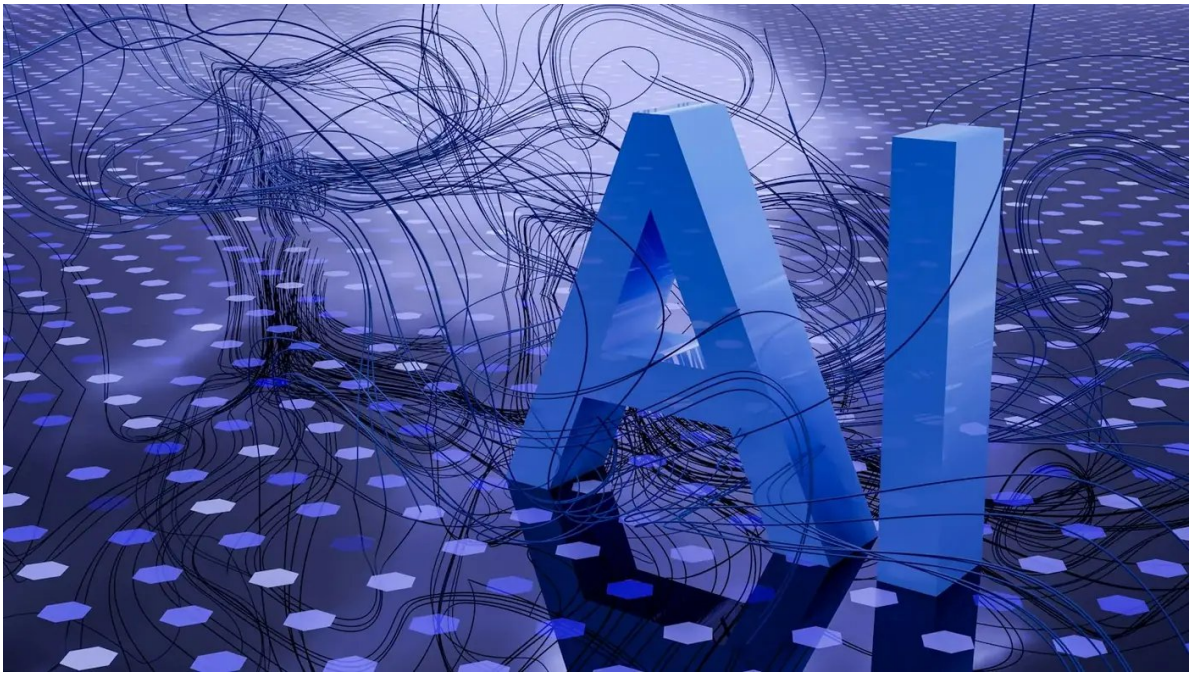
The Akadémie Files · AI retrospective 2020-2023

Équipe L’Akadémie · 2025-10-15

From GPT-3 to ChatGPT: three years that brought generative artificial intelligence into everyday life.



2020-2021: language models change scale

In 2020, GPT-3 showed that a model trained on very large volumes of text can write, summarise or translate from very few examples. In 2021, text-to-image generation (DALL·E) and code assistance (GitHub Copilot) widened the range of uses. That same year, the European Commission proposed a risk-based regulation on AI.

2022: image generation goes public

DALL·E 2, Midjourney and Stable Diffusion made assisted visual creation available to everyone. Questions about copyright, training data and disinformation entered the public debate.

November 2022: ChatGPT

The launch of ChatGPT, at the end of November 2022, put a conversational assistant in the hands of the general public for the first time. It reached a very wide audience within weeks and set off an innovation race among major players and labs.

2023: the year of adoption

GPT-4, open models such as LLaMA and the first assistants built into office tools brought generative AI into companies. Organisations discovered both productivity gains and risks: hallucinations, data confidentiality, bias.

Key takeaways

- The leap comes from model scale and interface quality, not from a sudden research breakthrough.
- Uses come before rules: governance and training become leadership topics.
- Understanding a tool’s limits matters as much as knowing how to use it.

More in part 2: 2023-2025.

Original article : https://akademiedudigital.com/en/blog/ia/akademie-files-ai-retrospective-2020-2023