

SAM ALTMAN

Technology Executive · Entrepreneur · Investor

Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer, OpenAI

San Francisco, California · samaltman.com · [OpenAI](https://openai.com)



EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Technology executive and company builder whose career spans consumer software, startup acceleration, venture investing, artificial intelligence, and advanced energy. Co-founded OpenAI in 2015 and has led the organization as chief executive through the global adoption of ChatGPT and the expansion of frontier-AI research, products, and infrastructure.

Previously led Y Combinator, where he helped broaden the accelerator's ambitions in software, biotechnology, energy, and "hard tech." Earlier co-founded Loopt, a location-based mobile company from Y Combinator's first cohort. Known for long-horizon investments across AI infrastructure, nuclear fusion, fission, biotechnology, financial technology, and digital platforms.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer | OpenAI 2015 – Present | CEO since 2019; returned as CEO in November 2023

- Sets company direction across frontier-model research, product strategy, compute infrastructure, partnerships, capital formation, and responsible deployment.
- Led OpenAI through the launches and scaling of ChatGPT and a growing portfolio of generative-AI systems used by consumers, developers, enterprises, and institutions.
- Represents OpenAI in global discussions with policymakers, researchers, business leaders, and civil society on AI opportunity, safety, access, and governance.

LEADERSHIP SIGNATURE

COMPANY BUILDING

Scaling research-led organizations into globally deployed technology platforms.

CAPITAL & ECOSYSTEMS

Connecting founders, researchers, investors, and infrastructure partners around ambitious missions.

LONG-HORIZON TECHNOLOGY

Concentrated interest in AI, energy abundance, biotechnology, and high-leverage platforms.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President | Y Combinator 2014 – 2019 | Partner from 2011

- Led the influential startup accelerator and early-stage investment platform, succeeding co-founder Paul Graham as president.
- Expanded YC's scope and scale while advocating for ambitious founders in software and capital-intensive technology categories.
- Transitioned from the presidency in 2019 to focus on OpenAI; later ended formal involvement with YC.

Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer | Loopt 2005 – 2012

- Co-founded a location-based social networking mobile application while studying computer science at Stanford.
- Joined Y Combinator's inaugural 2005 cohort and raised venture financing for early mobile location services.
- Led the company through its 2012 acquisition by Green Dot for approximately \$43 million.

Co-founder | Hydrazine Capital 2012 – Present

- Established a venture investment platform after Loopt, backing technology companies across multiple stages and sectors.

SELECTED INVESTMENT & GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY

Public reporting associates Altman with investments or strategic involvement in companies including Stripe, Reddit, Airbnb, Helion Energy, Retro Biosciences, and other technology ventures. The entries below summarize prominent, publicly documented themes rather than a complete private portfolio.

ORGANIZATION	FIELD	PUBLICLY REPORTED CONNECTION
Helion Energy	Nuclear fusion	Major investor and board chair
Oklo	Advanced nuclear fission	Early investor; former board chair
Retro Biosciences	Longevity biotechnology	Founder / principal financial backer, publicly reported
Reddit	Social platform	Investor; briefly served as CEO in 2014

EDUCATION

Computer Science studies | **Stanford University** 2003 – 2005 | *Left before completing a degree to build Loopt*

Received an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree from the University of Waterloo in 2017.

SELECTED RECOGNITION

- TIME100: named among TIME's most influential people in 2023.
- TIME CEO of the Year, 2023.
- Named in Forbes "30 Under 30" in venture capital (2015) and recognized across global business and technology rankings.

SELECTED WRITING & PUBLIC THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Publishes essays on startups, strategy, artificial intelligence, technological progress, and long-term societal change. Representative essays include "The Intelligence Age," "Moore's Law for Everything," "How to Be Successful," and "The Days Are Long but the Decades Are Short."

[Essays and archive — blog.samaltman.com](https://blog.samaltman.com)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Artificial intelligence strategy · Executive leadership · Startup formation and acceleration · Venture investing · Product strategy · Research commercialization · Technology policy · Capital formation · Advanced energy · Public communication

SOURCE & EDITORIAL NOTE

This is an independently prepared public-profile CV, not an official résumé issued or endorsed by Sam Altman or OpenAI. It uses public biographical and company information available through July 11, 2026; private contact details, confidential investments, and unverified claims are intentionally excluded.

Principal references: [OpenAI](#) · [Y Combinator](#) · [Forbes profile](#) · [TIME profile](#) · [Wikimedia Commons biography](#)

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