

Welcome to our monthly newsletter for Tech-Talk members. We hope you find this useful, but as always, please contact us for further help or if there are any topics you wish to discuss.

A Key Update on ChatGPT 5 & What it Means For Accountants!

OpenAI has launched ChatGPT 5, which it describes as a significant step towards more advanced artificial intelligence. The model shows major improvements in accuracy, creativity and problem-solving compared with earlier versions, and is designed to behave in a more balanced and less deferential way when responding to prompts.

CEO Sam Altman has called it like having a PhD-level expert in your pocket. However, GPT 5 still stops short of what many would consider true artificial general intelligence. It cannot continuously learn once deployed, and therefore lacks the ability to adapt on its own in real time.

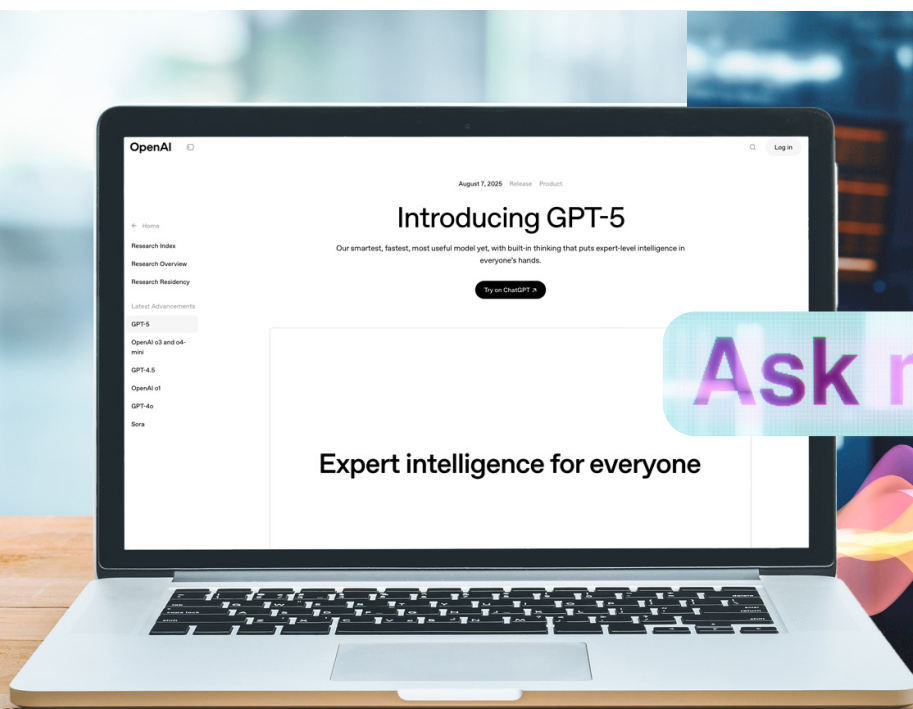
So, what stands out in this release?

- **Sharper performance:** The system produces fewer factual errors and offers more reliable information.
- **Improved creativity:** It can generate functional code and nuanced written content with much greater fluency.

- **Smarter safety handling:** Instead of flat refusals, GPT 5 engages more constructively with sensitive prompts and provides clearer reasoning when it cannot answer.
- **Personal integration:** It can now connect with everyday tools such as Gmail, Google Calendar and Contacts, edging closer to a genuine digital assistant.

For firms, this means access to a more capable assistant that can support daily workflows and client communications. While not a substitute for professional judgement, it will free up time and streamline repetitive tasks.

The bigger picture is that the race towards artificial general intelligence continues at pace, with competitors such as Google and Meta pushing hard on their own programmes. GPT 5 is a milestone, not the end of the journey. For now, it is a more sophisticated, safer and more practical tool that accountants and finance teams can put to work immediately.



Ask me anything...

Vinyl seed funding and feature release

Vinyl has announced a successful seed funding round of 2 million AUD to expand its AI meeting assistant, developed specifically for accounting and bookkeeping firms.

The tool is designed to transform client meetings into structured notes, action items and follow-ups without manual effort. Research shows firms lose around 6.6 hours per week to post-meeting admin, which can add up to over 40 working days a year. Vinyl's aim is to eliminate that lost time.

Since launching in beta, Vinyl has processed more than 7,500 hours of meetings across 400 firms in Australia, the UK and the US. Average usage now sits at 150 hours of meeting content per day. The product already integrates with practice management platforms such as Xero Practice Manager, Karbon and FYI.

The funding round was led by Tidal Ventures, alongside the founders of Dext, Ignition and KeyPay, highlighting strong confidence from experienced leaders in accounting technology. With this backing, Vinyl plans to enhance its feature set and scale internationally.

For firms, this promises a simple and effective way to reclaim valuable hours and focus on higher-value client work.



HMRC Using AI to Scour Suspected Tax Cheats on Social Media

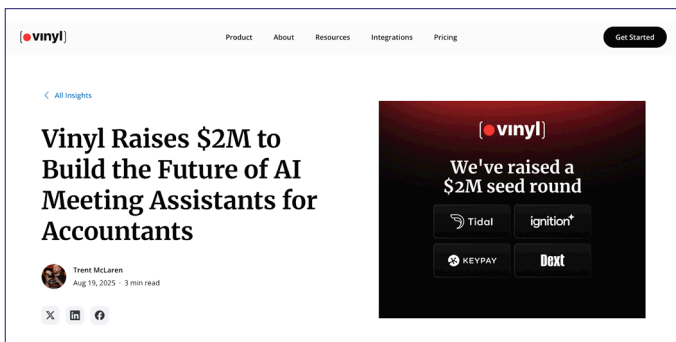
HMRC is turning to artificial intelligence to help identify suspected tax evasion. The technology is being used to analyse social media posts and cross-check what people share publicly with their declared tax records.

Images of luxury cars, holidays or lifestyles that appear out of line with reported income are being flagged automatically by machine learning systems. These alerts then go through to human investigators for further review.

The approach is intended to close the gap between digital activity and financial compliance, particularly as more business moves online and traditional reporting trails become harder to track.

Critics have raised concerns around privacy and the potential for false positives. HMRC has stressed that the technology is designed to support existing investigation processes, not replace them. All flagged cases are still subject to human assessment before any action is taken.

For taxpayers and advisers, the message is clear. Digital footprints matter, and compliance processes are catching up with the way people live and work today.



Software spotlight: Sage acquires Fyle to simplify expenses

Sage has acquired Fyle, an expense management platform that uses artificial intelligence to reduce admin for finance teams. The acquisition is aimed at helping small and mid-sized businesses simplify expense tracking and reporting.

Fyle allows employees to capture receipts directly in everyday apps, receive real-time transaction alerts, and submit expenses seamlessly from any device. It works across multiple card types and integrates smoothly with major accounting platforms.

Currently serving more than 1,600 customers directly, along with many more through partnerships, Fyle will now sit within Sage's wider ecosystem. Planned integrations with Sage Intacct and Sage 300 Construction and Real Estate will expand its reach further across key markets.

The move reinforces Sage's focus on freeing finance teams from repetitive processes, enabling them to deliver more value in analysis and strategy. By combining user-friendly design with automated compliance, Sage and Fyle aim to deliver a practical solution that saves time and strengthens control.