

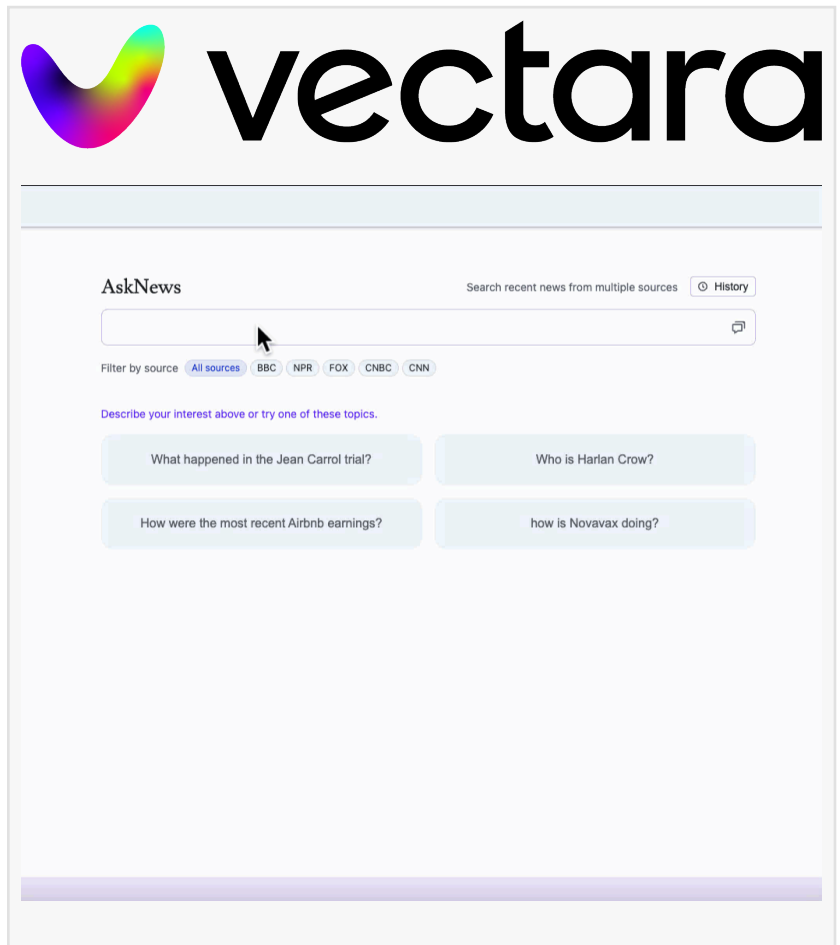
Vectara Announces AskNews: A GenAI Application for Answering Questions About the News, Powered by Vectara

Search recent news events using Vectara's Grounded Generation, which returns a summarized answer to your question with citations to facts from the top 5 sources

PALO ALTO, CA, UNITED STATES, June 13, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Vectara, the Generative AI (GenAI) conversational search platform, announces [AskNews - a GenAI application](#) for answering questions about the news, powered by Vectara's Grounded Generation platform and built using Vectara's open source tools [vectara-ingest](#) and [vectara-answer](#).

As GenAI applications continue to become more mainstream, one of the biggest challenges facing pre-trained large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT is hallucinations, and in particular, when it comes to being up-to-date on recent news. AskNews is a powerful demonstration of Vectara's Grounded Generation approach to building GenAI applications that are based on recent data and thus all but eliminates hallucinations.

"ChatGPT is trained on a dataset that has information ending on September 2021, so if someone asks ChatGPT 'who owns Silicon Valley Bank' it gives the wrong answer since it is not aware of the recent collapse of SVB," said Ofer Mendelevitch, Head of Developer Relations at Vectara. "With AskNews, the response is based on recent news from five different news sources: CNN, BBC, NPR, Fox News and CNBC. Using relevant news articles about Silicon Valley Bank allows AskNews to provide a response that is accurate and based on the right facts."



Hallucinations in large language models continue to be an area of concern for many enterprises that apply GenAI to applications like AI-based customer service bots, workplace search, customer-facing productivity tools, or other research tools within their business.

As companies that build foundation models often train their models on user data, data privacy is a key concern for business customers to avoid data leaks as a result of using these LLMs within their organization.

“The privacy of your data is of utmost importance to us, and customer data is never used to train models,” said Dr. Amr Awadallah, Co-founder and CEO of Vectara. “The AskNews sample app demonstrates this - we do not train on the news articles; instead, our zero-shot Grounded Generation algorithms extract the most important facts from these articles and use that to provide accurate summarized answers.”, he added.

“

The privacy of your data is of utmost importance to us, and we never train our models on your data.”

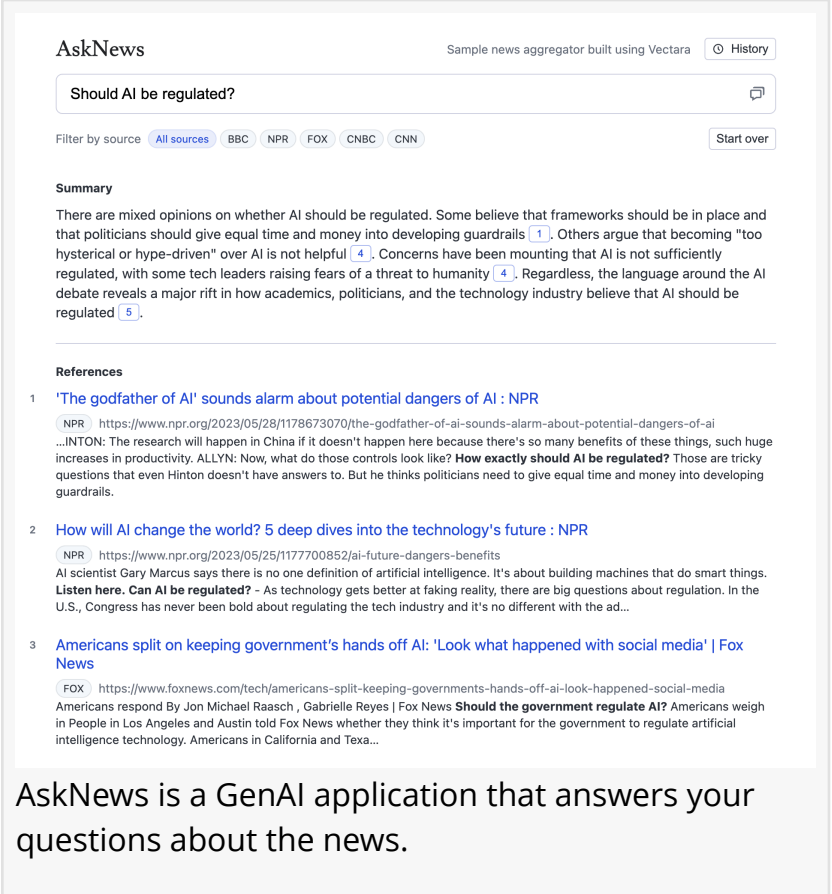
Dr. Amr Awadallah

AskNews exemplifies how GenAI applications powered by Vectara can overcome the two main issues that remain a top concern for businesses: hallucinations and data privacy.

To try AskNews, visit <https://asknews.demo.vectara.com>.

About Vectara

Vectara is a GenAI conversational search and discovery platform that allows businesses to have intelligent conversations utilizing their own data (think ChatGPT, but for your data). Developer-first, the platform provides an easy-to-use API and gives developers access to cutting-edge NLU (Natural Language Understanding) technology with industry-leading relevance. The platform ensures data security and privacy with strong encryption while ensuring no customer data is used for training models. With Vectara’s Grounded Generation, businesses can quickly, safely, and affordably integrate best-in-class search and question answering into their application, knowledge base, website, chatbot, or support helpdesk.



The screenshot shows the AskNews interface. At the top, it says "AskNews" and "Sample news aggregator built using Vectara". There is a search bar with the query "Should AI be regulated?". Below the search bar, there are filters for source: "All sources", "BBC", "NPR", "FOX", "CNBC", and "CNN". There is a "Start over" button. The main content area shows a "Summary" section with text: "There are mixed opinions on whether AI should be regulated. Some believe that frameworks should be in place and that politicians should give equal time and money into developing guardrails [1]. Others argue that becoming 'too hysterical or hype-driven' over AI is not helpful [4]. Concerns have been mounting that AI is not sufficiently regulated, with some tech leaders raising fears of a threat to humanity [4]. Regardless, the language around the AI debate reveals a major rift in how academics, politicians, and the technology industry believe that AI should be regulated [5].". Below the summary is a "References" section with three items:

- 1 'The godfather of AI' sounds alarm about potential dangers of AI : NPR
NPR | <https://www.npr.org/2023/05/28/1178673070/the-godfather-of-ai-sounds-alarm-about-potential-dangers-of-ai>
...INTON: The research will happen in China if it doesn't happen here because there's so many benefits of these things, such huge increases in productivity. ALLYN: Now, what do those controls look like? **How exactly should AI be regulated?** Those are tricky questions that even Hinton doesn't have answers to. But he thinks politicians need to give equal time and money into developing guardrails.
- 2 How will AI change the world? 5 deep dives into the technology's future : NPR
NPR | <https://www.npr.org/2023/05/25/1177700852/ai-future-dangers-benefits>
AI scientist Gary Marcus says there is no one definition of artificial intelligence. It's about building machines that do smart things. **Listen here. Can AI be regulated?** - As technology gets better at faking reality, there are big questions about regulation. In the U.S., Congress has never been bold about regulating the tech industry and it's no different with the ad...
- 3 Americans split on keeping government's hands off AI: 'Look what happened with social media' | Fox News
FOX | <https://www.foxnews.com/tech/americans-split-keeping-governments-hands-off-ai-look-happened-social-media>
Americans respond By Jon Michael Raasch , Gabrielle Reyes | Fox News **Should the government regulate AI?** Americans weigh in People in Los Angeles and Austin told Fox News whether they think it's important for the government to regulate artificial intelligence technology. Americans in California and Texa...

AskNews is a GenAI application that answers your questions about the news.

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