

Agentarius Launches an Independent Platform for Comparing AI Tools

The platform helps professionals compare AI tools by features, pricing, limitations, privacy and suitability for real-world work.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, UNITED STATES, August 27, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- An analysis of [150 leading artificial intelligence software products](#) by Agentarius, an independent AI discovery platform, has found that free access is considerably more common among leading AI coding tools than among automation and agent products.

Eighteen of the 22 coding and software development tools reviewed by Agentarius offer a free tier, equivalent to 82%. By comparison, 20 of the 33 automation and agent tools offer a free tier, equivalent to 61%.

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'What is the best AI tool?' is the wrong question. Best for whom, for what job, at what price and under what constraints? Once you ask those questions, the useful list becomes much smaller.”

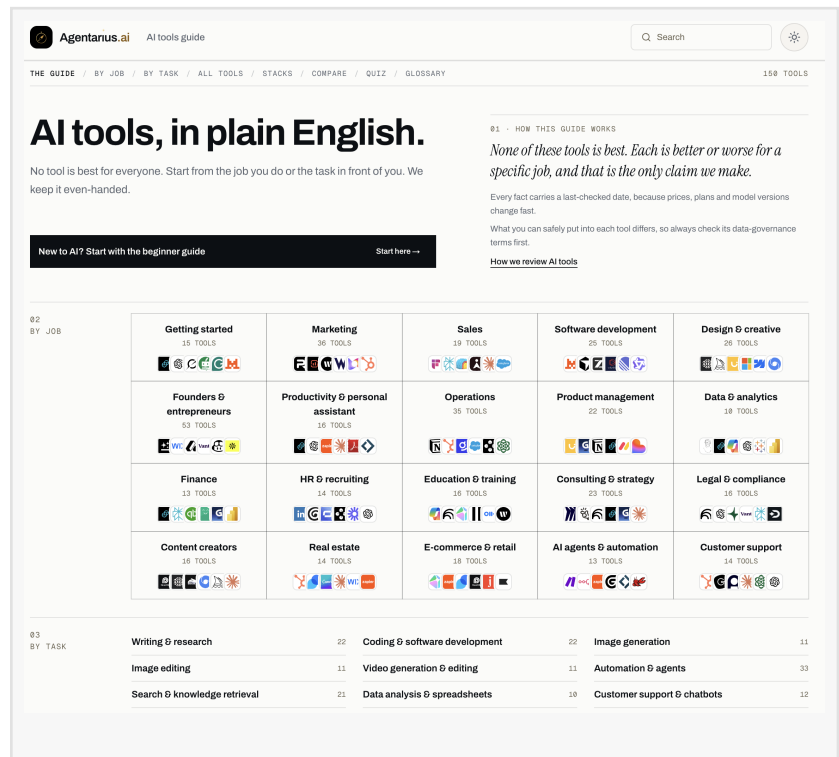
Moen

Automation and agents also form the largest task category in the Agentarius catalogue, with 33 products compared with 22 each for coding and software development and writing and research.

The findings point to a shift in AI software from systems designed primarily to generate content or answer questions toward products capable of using tools, executing tasks and completing multi-step workflows.

"The question 'What is the best AI tool?' is usually the

wrong question," said Petter Moen, Founder of Agentarius. "Best for whom, for what job, at what price and under what constraints? Once you ask those questions, the useful shortlist becomes



The screenshot shows the Agentarius AI tools guide website. The header includes the logo, navigation links (THE GUIDE, BY JOB, BY TASK, ALL TOOLS, STACKS, COMPARE, QUIZ, GLOSSARY), a search bar, and a '150 TOOLS' count. The main heading is 'AI tools, in plain English.' with a subtext: 'No tool is best for everyone. Start from the job you do or the task in front of you. We keep it even-handed.' Below this is a 'New to AI? Start with the beginner guide' button. The page is divided into two main sections: '02 BY JOB' and '03 BY TASK'. The 'BY JOB' section features a grid of tool categories with icons and tool counts: Getting started (13), Marketing (46), Sales (29), Software development (26), Design & creative (26), Founders & entrepreneurs (53), Productivity & personal assistant (16), Operations (35), Product management (22), Data & analytics (18), Finance (13), HR & recruiting (14), Education & training (16), Consulting & strategy (23), Legal & compliance (16), Content creators (16), Real estate (14), E-commerce & retail (18), AI agents & automation (13), and Customer support (14). The 'BY TASK' section lists tasks with their respective tool counts: Writing & research (22), Coding & software development (22), Image generation (11), Image editing (11), Video generation & editing (11), Automation & agents (33), Search & knowledge retrieval (21), Data analysis & spreadsheets (18), and Customer support & chatbots (12).

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FREE ACCESS DOMINATES AI CODING

Free tiers have become close to standard among the leading AI coding products reviewed by Agentarius.

The category includes AI coding assistants, AI-native development environments, command-line coding agents, autonomous engineering products and platforms capable of turning natural-language instructions into working applications.

Free access, however, does not necessarily mean advanced AI development is becoming free. As coding products evolve from assistants into agents capable of handling larger development tasks, pricing increasingly extends beyond basic subscriptions into tokens, credits and usage-based models.

For developers and businesses, the advertised monthly subscription can therefore represent only part of the eventual cost of using AI at scale.

AI MOVES FROM ANSWERING TO ACTING

Automation and agents now form the largest task category reviewed by Agentarius, with 33 leading products.

Twenty of those 33 products offer a free tier, equivalent to 61%, compared with 82% in coding and software development.

The category spans workflow automation platforms, no-code AI agent builders, self-hosted systems, agentic workspaces and developer frameworks designed to orchestrate agents and multi-step workflows.

Agentarius.aiAI tools guide

Q Search

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TOOLS THAT WORK TOGETHER

AI tool stacks

A stack is a small set of tools that work well together for one kind of work. Start with the tier that matches where you are, master the first tool, and add the next when you can name the limit it solves.

Ready: start today, free or near-free. Competitive: the professional standard. World-Class: governed, at scale.

FOUNDER STACKS

READYCOMPETITIVEWORLD-CLASS

SOLO FOUNDERS

The solo founder starter stack →

For the one person running the whole back office, on a budget that notices.

OPERATIONS STACKS

READYCOMPETITIVEWORLD-CLASS

SOLO OPERATORS

The operations starter stack →

For the one person running the whole back office, who needs the operation documented before it can ever be delegated.

E-COMMERCE STACKS

READYCOMPETITIVEWORLD-CLASS

FIRST STOREFRONTS

The starter shop stack →

For sellers making a storefront look credible before it can pay for help.

MARKETING STACKS

READYCOMPETITIVEWORLD-CLASS

MARKETING TEAMS

The content and ranking stack →

For marketing teams whose content must sound like the brand and rank on the metrics.

SALES STACKS

READYCOMPETITIVEWORLD-CLASS

SALES TEAMS

The professional sales stack →

For a small sales team running a repeatable outbound motion.

RESEARCH STACKS

READYCOMPETITIVEWORLD-CLASS

CONSULTANTS AND ANALYSTS

The evidence-grade research stack →

For consultants and analysts whose conclusions get challenged, by clients, partners or peer review.

AUTOMATION STACKS

READYCOMPETITIVEWORLD-CLASS

DATA STACKS

READYCOMPETITIVEWORLD-CLASS

VIDEO STACKS

READYCOMPETITIVEWORLD-CLASS

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03
BY AREA

By area

Where each one pulls ahead, area by area.

AREA	CLAUDE	CHATGPT
BY JOB		
Consulting & strategy	★ Claude drafts the slide-by-slide narrative arc a recommendation deck needs before anyone opens a slide, and builds the business case underneath it from the sources you provide	● ChatGPT works both ends of an engagement in one workspace, framing a vague question into hypotheses and workstreams and turning the analysis into an executive narrative
Content creators	★ Claude suits creators whose work starts with thinking rather than typing, turning research notes, comments, transcripts and past performance into a clear brief and a defensible angle that holds its tone as one idea adapts across audiences and formats	● ChatGPT is the default generalist for the step before production, turning a rough idea into angles, hooks and outlines, with breadth as the point
Customer support	★ Claude is built for the reading load, working context-heavy cases where the answer sits across long ticket histories, documentation and policy detail	● ChatGPT carries the broader support toolkit, drafting replies, translating, classifying tickets and turning recurring complaints into management insight
Data & analytics	★ Claude carries the explanation half of analytics, interpreting datasets, checking assumptions, documenting methodology and turning technical findings into business conclusions a decision-maker can act on	● ChatGPT covers the full stretch between raw data and a business decision, cleaning columns, investigating trends, writing formulas and running code before turning the results into plain-English commentary
Education & training	★ Claude pairs content creation with personalised explanation, turning documents, presentations or subject-matter expertise into course outlines, study guides and quizzes, then answering follow-ups and re-explaining until a concept lands	● ChatGPT is at its best when one piece of content must serve several audiences, changing level, examples and format for self-study or instructor-led delivery from the same outlines, quizzes, case studies and facilitator notes
Finance	★ Claude drafts the MD&A narrative straight from a quarterly filing, and stress-tests an investment thesis by listing the assumptions most likely to be wrong	● ChatGPT builds the quick scenario model before the proper one exists, and gives a working explanation of an unfamiliar standard while the question is still blocking someone
Founders & entrepreneurs	★ Claude leads on long-document reasoning and considered prose for the decisions that matter	● ChatGPT lets a founder prototype the idea and the prompt before real money goes into either, then carries the same thread into the launch brief and the partnership proposal
Getting started	★ Claude suits a beginner who learns by conversation, explaining its own suggestions and reasoning as it refines an answer from your uploaded material	● ChatGPT can be shown a photograph and asked what it sees, or used to rehearse an interview or a difficult message, which is how a beginner finds out what it is good for

Agentic products are increasingly designed to do more than return an answer. They can connect to external software, retrieve information, use tools and execute sequences of actions within defined permissions.

As autonomy increases, businesses must evaluate more than the underlying model. Integrations, permissions, security, data handling, governance and the economics of automated workloads can all become part of the buying decision.

"AI that helps you create or write code is increasingly free to try. AI that starts doing the work for you is less likely to be," Moen said. "As AI moves from assistance toward execution, businesses also have to think differently about cost, permissions, integrations and control."

CHOICE IS BECOMING THE AI PROBLEM

The expansion of AI software has created substantial overlap between products and categories.

A company looking to automate a workflow might now choose between a traditional automation platform, a general-purpose AI assistant, a specialized AI agent, an autonomous workspace or a combination of several products.

This complexity is visible in the comparisons buyers are making.

Agentarius currently publishes 447 written [head-to-head](#) AI software comparisons. Of those, 86 cover coding and software development and 72 cover automation and agents.

Together, the two categories account for 158 comparisons, roughly 35% of the entire Agentarius comparison library.

Rather than attempting to catalogue every AI application released, Agentarius focuses on 150 leading and widely used AI software products selected for market relevance, user adoption and practical usefulness.

Finding an AI product is increasingly easy. Determining which product actually deserves consideration is harder.

Agentarius organizes products around both the job of the person using them and the task they need to perform, allowing users to move from a business problem or workflow to a smaller group of relevant products.

Alongside its 150 reviewed products, Agentarius publishes 447 written head-to-head comparisons and 45 curated AI tool stacks.

Agentarius does not accept paid listings, sponsored placements or affiliate arrangements with the AI products it reviews.

ABOUT THE ANALYSIS

The findings are based on the Agentarius AI software catalogue as reviewed in August 2026.

Agentarius focuses on leading and widely used AI products selected according to market relevance, user adoption and practical usefulness rather than attempting to catalogue the entire universe of AI applications.

At the time of analysis, the catalogue contained 150 published AI products, including 33 categorized under automation and agents, 22 under coding and software development, and 22 under writing and research.

Eighteen of the 22 coding and software development products offered a free tier, equivalent to 82%. Twenty of the 33 automation and agent products offered a free tier, equivalent to 61%.

Agentarius publishes 447 written comparisons, including 86 covering coding and software development and 72 covering automation and agents.

The term "free tier" refers to the free-tier classification used by the Agentarius guide. Pricing, plan availability and other material product information are checked against primary vendor sources and carry a last-reviewed date.

ABOUT AGENTARIUS

Agentarius is an independent AI discovery platform that reviews and compares leading AI software.

The platform helps businesses and professionals identify and compare AI products based on the job they need to perform, who the product suits, what it costs and where its limitations lie.

Agentarius publishes independent tool assessments, head-to-head comparisons, curated AI tool stacks, educational guides and an AI glossary.

Companies cannot pay for listings, rankings or recommendations on Agentarius. The platform does not accept sponsored placements and has no affiliate arrangements with the AI tools it covers.

For more information, visit [Agentarius.ai](https://agentarius.ai).

Petter Moen

Agentarius

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