LUMO INSIGHTS

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Nvidia’s $3bn boost for Meta’s agents as Bloomberg and Virtana launch safe AI tools

Executive Summary

Major players are doubling down on AI agents with big investments and new enterprise tools. Nvidia is pouring billions into Meta’s agent platform to supercharge its performance, while Bloomberg and Virtana are rolling out AI assistants to speed up complex coding and IT tasks. Regulators, meanwhile, report that businesses are adopting AI agents widely but keeping their autonomy on a tight leash - reinforcing the need for robust oversight as organisations explore what agents can do today.

Nvidia fuels Meta’s personal agents

On 27 October, NVIDIA and Meta announced a $3 billion expansion of their partnership to develop Meta’s “Muse” AI agents (investor.nvidia.com [1]). The investment will fund faster training and inference infrastructure and new safety tools to monitor agent behaviour (investor.nvidia.com [2]) (investor.nvidia.com [3]). Meta’s Muse assistants have seen rapid user uptake since launching this year (investor.nvidia.com [4]), and the companies cite “popular demand for useful AI agents” in business and consumer applications as a key driver for the deal (investor.nvidia.com [5]). The move highlights how heavily major firms are investing to improve the speed, efficiency and safeguards of autonomous agents. For leaders, it signals that tech providers are racing to make agent platforms more capable and reliable - and that the cost of entry is likely to fall as this competition scales up.

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Bloomberg’s new coding co-pilot

In a sign of AI agents tackling niche professional tasks, Bloomberg on 28 October introduced BQuant Assistant, a “domain-grounded” AI coding assistant embedded in its financial analytics platform (www.hpcwire.com [1]). The assistant can answer users’ questions, generate Python code and advanced financial queries, and even execute code for data analysis - but only with the user’s explicit approval (www.hpcwire.com [2]). BQuant Assistant is fine-tuned on Bloomberg’s vast financial data,

drawing on 22,000 data fields and example models to provide relevant support for analysts and developers working in the Bloomberg Terminal environment (www.hpcwire.com [3]) (www.hpcwire.com [4]). By bringing AI-driven coding help directly into a secure sandbox, Bloomberg aims to save its clients time on repetitive programming without compromising the quality or control of their models. For firms, it's an example of using AI agents to speed up complex workflows in a governed way, limiting the agent's autonomy to reviewing documentation, suggesting code and automating steps only under human supervision.

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Agents join forces for ultra-fast fixes

IT operations are getting their own agent-driven upgrade. On 28 October, Silicon Valley firm Virtana launched an "Agentic Observability" platform that lets its AI agents recruit other companies' agents to help resolve technology incidents (siliconangle.com [1]) (siliconangle.com [2]). By using open standards - including a new Agent2Agent protocol - a Virtana monitoring agent that detects a problem can automatically call in specialised agents from third-party IT service, cloud or security tools to collaborate on diagnosis and remediation (siliconangle.com [3]) (siliconangle.com [4]). The company says that what used to take human-equipped IT war rooms hours can now be handled by a team of agents "in milliseconds", for incidents they have been trained and authorised to handle (siliconangle.com [5]). Enterprises can configure exactly which outside agents are allowed to join and require engineers' sign-off for certain actions, with every step logged for audit (siliconangle.com [6]). For executives, it's a glimpse of how autonomous software could slash downtime - and a reminder to set clear rules on where agents can operate and when humans must still step in.

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Autonomy remains rare in practice

A new official survey underscores that most organisations are embracing AI agents, but keeping tight control over them. The Bank of England and UK Financial Conduct Authority published their latest joint AI survey on 26 October, finding that 80% of responding financial firms already have AI agents in live use (www.bankofengland.co.uk [1]). However, only 2% of these companies allow their agents what regulators call "broad autonomy", meaning agents can make and execute decisions independently (www.bankofengland.co.uk [2]). The vast majority of deployed agents are limited to decision support: they can recommend an action but a human must approve or carry it out (www.bankofengland.co.uk [3]). Businesses are especially cautious about fully autonomous agents in

critical areas like client interactions, payments and trading, with under 10% of firms even planning to test agents in those roles in the next year (www.bankofengland.co.uk [4]). Transparent oversight of third-party AI systems is another concern: only about a quarter of firms say they have deep knowledge of how their key external AI tools work (www.cityam.com [5]). The findings reinforce Lumo's guidance that AI agents deliver the most value in well-bounded tasks where human supervisors own the outcomes - and that building trust for greater autonomy will take time, rigorous testing and strong controls.

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Key Statistics

- 80% of UK financial services firms have AI agents in production - Bank of England/FCA survey, 26 October 2026 ([www.bankofengland.co.uk](https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/report/2026/artificial-intelligence-in-uk-financial-services-2026#:~:text=accounted%20for%2043,deployment%20of%20AI%20agents%20varied))
- 2% of UK financial firms have deployed AI agents with broad autonomy - Bank of England/FCA survey, 26 October 2026 ([www.bankofengland.co.uk](https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/report/2026/artificial-intelligence-in-uk-financial-services-2026#:~:text=having%20AI%20agents%20deployed%20while,of))
- ~20% of long task sequences by an OpenAI 'Dot' agent showed permission handling errors - OpenAI (GPT-6 Astra system card) internal test ([thenewstack.io](https://thenewstack.io/openai-dots-agent-permissions/#:~:text=we%20learned%20during%20the%20DevDay,or%20data%20exfiltration%2C%20although%20OpenAI))

KEY TAKEAWAY

Start small but start now. Identify a well-defined, repetitive process in your operations and pilot an AI agent to automate it. Implement robust oversight and clear guardrails, and gradually expand the agent's autonomy as it proves reliable and safe.

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