

# Myth vs. Facts: OpenAI's False Promises

**Myth:** “We are trying to build a program that is truly smarter than a human in every way, and then figure out how to have that maximally benefit humanity. And that’s why we’re a non-profit. We don’t ever want to be making decisions to benefit shareholders. The only people we want to be accountable to is humanity as a whole and doing this thing right.” **(Sam Altman, July 2017)**

**Fact:** In September 2024, **OpenAI announced** that it would restructure its nonprofit model to a for-profit that would no longer be controlled by its nonprofit board.

**Myth:** “Even if we go through with some- any of the conversion ideas or evolution ideas we are talking about, it’s not like the nonprofit goes away. The nonprofit doesn’t stop being a nonprofit and becomes a for-profit...And the overall mission of the company that you talk about, which is, develop this incredible technology and do it in a way we think is maximally beneficial to humans and get it out into the world for people. We keep doing that.” **(Sam Altman, 2024, The Free Press)**

**Fact:** OpenAI’s charter states, “Our primary fiduciary duty is to humanity. We anticipate needing to marshal substantial resources to fulfill our mission but will always diligently act to minimize conflicts of interest among our employees and stakeholders that could compromise broad benefit.”

Through the restructuring from nonprofit to for-profit, OpenAI aims to **purchase and take control of AGI technology, subsidiaries, intellectual property, and other assets that were developed and meant to serve humanity and not one specific group of individuals.**

*“The Department of Justice is committed to protecting charitable assets for their intended purpose and takes this responsibility seriously.”*  
- Office of Attorney General Rob Bonta

**Myth:** “We have a mission that is appealing to people, you do feel like you’re sort of working on behalf of the world, not on behalf of a single tech company and you’re sort of trying to - the thrill of discovery is really exciting...” **(Sam Altman, 2020, StrictlyVC panel)**

**Fact:** OpenAI used their altruistic mission to attract top talent and contributors from around the world to help develop and improve AI and AGI with little to no financial benefits. Top talent and contributors left for-profit companies to contribute their knowledge, genius, and research to OpenAI and donors contributed hundreds of millions of dollars under the belief that OpenAI would be for humanity. Now that OpenAI has experienced a breakthrough in AGI, it aims to generate revenue from its products and services by taking advantage of a loophole to create a for-profit.

*“OpenAI was set up with a big emphasis on safety. Its primary objective was to develop artificial general intelligence and ensure that it was safe... over time, it turned out that Sam Altman was much less concerned with safety than with profits. And I think that’s unfortunate.”*

- **Geoffrey Hinton**,  
“Godfather of AI” and co-awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics

**Myth:** “We think this technology, the benefits, the access to it, the governance of it, belongs to humanity as a whole. If this really works, it’s quite a powerful technology and you should not trust one company and certainly not one person.” **(Sam Altman, 2024, Bloomberg Technology)**

**Fact:** Due to OpenAI’s unexpected success, it is now **one of the most highly valued startups**, as Artificial Intelligence and Artificial General Intelligence continue to improve at rapid rates. OpenAI aims to transition to a for-profit model, taking the charitable property, assets, and contributions that were given to the nonprofit under its original mission that AI and AGI belong to humanity. By transitioning to a for-profit, OpenAI will no longer be held accountable by a nonprofit Board or need to be transparent about their intentions on the utilization of AGI.