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ChatGPT Plans 2026: Free vs Plus \$20 vs Pro \$200 Compared

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In this article

1. [ChatGPT Plans 2026: Free vs Plus \\$20 vs Pro \\$200 Compared](#)
 2. [Executive Summary](#)
 3. [Introduction](#)
 4. [Historical Background and Plan Rollout](#)
 5. [ChatGPT Free Edition](#)
 6. [ChatGPT Plus](#)
 7. [ChatGPT Pro](#)
 8. [ChatGPT Business \(Teams\)](#)
 9. [ChatGPT Enterprise](#)
 10. [Comparative Features \(Summary Tables\)](#)
 11. [Technical and Usage Differences](#)
 12. [Features \(Agents, Data Analysis, Memory\)](#)
 13. [Collaboration and Management](#)
 14. [Security and Compliance](#)
 15. [Support and SLAs](#)
 16. [Data Analysis and Usage Trends](#)
 17. [Case Studies and Examples](#)
 18. [Discussion: Implications and Future Directions](#)
 19. [Conclusion](#)
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ChatGPT Plans 2026: Free vs Plus \$20 vs Pro \$200 Compared

Executive Summary

Update (October 2026): As of October 10, 2026, OpenAI's pricing page lists Free (\$0), Go (\$8 per month in the US), Plus (\$20 per month) and Pro from \$100 per month. Pro now comes in three tiers: Pro 100 (\$100), Pro 200 (\$200) and Pro 500 (\$500). Pro 500 was added on September 29, 2026 with 25 times the Plus allowance and Ultrafast speed. New Pro 200 subscriptions carry a lower included allowance than before; subscribers who held Pro 200 between September 22 and September 29, 2026 keep the previous allowance through October 29, 2026. ChatGPT Business costs \$20 per user per month billed annually or \$25 monthly for a Standard seat, and \$100 or \$125 for a Premium seat with 5x the Standard usage; Enterprise remains custom-priced. ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](#)) ([OpenAI Help Center: ChatGPT Pro tiers](#)) ([OpenAI DevDay 2026 recap](#)) ([OpenAI Business pricing](#)) On models, OpenAI released GPT-6 Astra in September 2026 for Plus, Pro, Business and Enterprise, with GPT-6 Astra Pro on Pro, Business and Enterprise. In a rollout that began on October 7, 2026, Chat moved to GPT-6 Sol on Plus, Pro, Business and Enterprise (subject to Enterprise admin settings) and to GPT-6 Luna on Free and Go. ([OpenAI: GPT-6 Astra](#)) ([OpenAI: GPT-6 for everyone](#)) On the common Pro vs Business question: Pro is a single-user subscription with the highest individual allowances and

Pro reasoning powered by GPT-6 Astra, while Business is a shared workspace for teams of 2 to 200 employees with admin controls, company knowledge connectors and no training on business data by default. Sections below that describe o1, GPT-5 or GPT-5.6 reflect the model lineup at the time they were written.

OpenAI's pricing pages list **Free, Go, Plus, Pro, Business, and Enterprise** options for different use cases and user segments. ChatGPT Pro is an individual plan sold in three tiers at \$100, \$200 and \$500 per month; its availability and included usage can change by market and account. OpenAI describes Pro as offering substantially more usage than Plus, with limits and abuse guardrails still applying. ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](#)) The Free edition provides unlimited everyday text chats, subject to abuse-prevention safeguards; its Chat model moved from GPT-5.6 Luna to GPT-6 Luna in a rollout that began on October 8, 2026. Uploads, image generation, voice, data analysis, deep research, memory, Codex, and ChatGPT Work have separate limits. ([OpenAI GPT-5.6 documentation](#)) **ChatGPT Plus** (≈\$20/month) targets individual power users, offering priority access, faster response times, and expanded GPT capabilities (e.g. more messaging and image generation) ([openai.com](#)) ([chatgpt.com](#)). ChatGPT Pro is aimed at research and coding work. Its three tiers (Pro 100, Pro 200 and Pro 500) differ in included usage, and some models have separate allowances subject to guardrails. ([openai.com](#)) ([techcrunch.com](#)).

For organizations, the **Business** edition (formerly called “Team”) provides a secure, collaborative workspace. Standard seats cost \$20 per user/month when billed annually or \$25 monthly; Premium seats cost \$100 per user/month when billed annually or \$125 monthly and include higher usage limits. Business includes centralized administration, secure workspace features, and access to supported integrations. ([chatgpt.com](#)) ([help.openai.com](#)). The flagship **Enterprise edition** (custom pricing) builds on Business by adding enterprise-grade security (encryption-at-rest, **SOC 2/ISO** compliance), an extended context window (processing much longer inputs), 24/7 priority support, SLAs, and no limit on scale. Higher tiers generally add further capabilities (e.g. custom GPTs, data analysis tools, **automated workflows**, etc.) ([chatgpt.com](#)) ([openai.com](#)).

These editions differ along multiple dimensions: price, allowed usage, model access, collaboration tools, data privacy, and support. For example, Free users have more stringent message and context limits and slower access, while Pro subscribers receive substantially higher usage allowances and access to Pro reasoning features. Some models have separate allowances, and usage remains subject to guardrails ([chatgpt.com](#)) ([techcrunch.com](#)). Business and Enterprise plans emphasize security and compliance: by default, customer data is **not** used for training in Business/Enterprise, whereas individual users of Free/Plus/Pro must actively opt out to prevent their chats from improving OpenAI's models ([help.openai.com](#)) ([help.openai.com](#)).

In summary, choosing a plan depends on scale and needs: Free or Plus for solo use and experimentation, Pro for heavy technical or research workloads, Business for teams requiring collaboration and some security, and Enterprise for large organizations needing the highest performance and strict security/compliance. This report explores each edition in depth (history, features, pricing, use cases, user feedback, and future implications), backed by extensive data, real-world examples, and expert analysis from industry and academia.

Introduction

ChatGPT, OpenAI's conversational AI chatbot first launched as a free “research preview” in November 2022, quickly gained massive popularity by enabling users worldwide to generate text, code, and images via natural language prompts ([openai.com](#)) ([www.cnn.com](#)). Within months it amassed hundreds of millions of users; by

late 2024 weekly active users exceeded **300 million** (techcrunch.com), and by mid-2025 **700 million** weekly active users across **all** ChatGPT plans (www.cnbc.com). In October 2026 OpenAI said more than 1.2 billion people use ChatGPT each week ([OpenAI](https://openai.com)). OpenAI's product strategy has evolved from offering only a free/sandbox version to a tiered subscription model with differentiated plans, enabling monetization while scaling capacity.

This report compares selected ChatGPT plans (Free, Plus, Pro, Business, and Enterprise), examining how they differ in cost, capabilities, resources, and intended audience. ChatGPT Go is a separate lower-cost individual subscription and is noted where relevant. We begin with historical context on ChatGPT's rollout of these plans, then dissect each edition's features and policies in detail. Sections include side-by-side comparisons (both narrative and tabular), data on usage and adoption, case studies of real-world implementations, and discussions of strategic and societal implications. Sources include OpenAI's official documentation and blogs, industry news outlets, technical analyses, and academic research. All claims are tied to reputable sources, ensuring an evidence-backed examination of how ChatGPT's editions compare and co-exist.

Historical Background and Plan Rollout

When ChatGPT debuted in November 2022, it was available **for free** with relatively powerful AI (based on the GPT-3.5/3.5-Turbo model). As demand exploded, OpenAI introduced paid plans to improve access and fund operations. In February 2023, **ChatGPT Plus** launched as a \$20/month subscription (openai.com). Plus ensured subscribers would have "general access to ChatGPT even during peak times", faster responses, and priority on new features (openai.com). (This was during the GPT-3.5 era; GPT-4 had not yet arrived.)

By mid-2023, enterprises clamored for dedicated solutions. In August 2023, OpenAI introduced **ChatGPT Enterprise**, emphasizing security and scale (openai.com). Enterprise offered "the most powerful version of ChatGPT yet", with unlimited high-speed GPT-4 access, longer context windows, data analysis tools, and enterprise security (encryption, SOC 2 compliance, admin console) (openai.com) (openai.com). Users included Fortune 500 firms (e.g. Block, PwC, Zapier) and large tech companies (openai.com).

In January 2024, OpenAI filled the "middle" market with **ChatGPT Team (later renamed Business)**, a self-serve plan for small and mid-size teams (openai.com) (help.openai.com). Teams offered collaboration (shared workspace, custom GPTs, admin tools) along with advanced models (GPT-4 with 32K context, premium DALL·E-3 images, browsing, data analysis) (openai.com) (openai.com). At launch, Business (then ChatGPT Team) was priced per user. Current Business pricing uses Standard and Premium seats: Standard is \$20 per user/month when billed annually or \$25 monthly, while Premium is \$100 per user/month when billed annually or \$125 monthly. ([OpenAI Business pricing](https://openai.com))

Finally, in December 2024, OpenAI unveiled **ChatGPT Pro** as a \$200/month individual plan (openai.com) (techcrunch.com). At launch, Pro was the most powerful consumer plan: it provided unlimited use of OpenAI's top-tier reasoning model (o1), including an "**o1 pro**" mode that used extra computation for hard problems (techcrunch.com) (techcrunch.com). Pro is aimed at power users such as technical professionals and researchers who need higher usage and Pro reasoning, which is powered by GPT-6 Astra as of October 2026. Individual model allowances and safeguards can still apply. (techcrunch.com)

Table: ChatGPT Plan History (selected dates)

Plan	Launch Date	Price (per mo)	Core Features at Launch
Free	Nov 2022	\$0	GPT-3.5 model and basic capabilities at launch; model access has changed over time
Plus	Feb 2023 (openai.com)	\$20	Priority access (peak times), faster responses, early features
Enterprise	Aug 2023 (openai.com)	Custom (contact)	Unlimited fast GPT-4, 32K context, advanced data tools, SOC-2 compliance, admin console, no data training (openai.com) (openai.com)
Business (Teams)	Jan 2024 (openai.com)	Current Standard: \$20/user (annual) or \$25/user (monthly); Premium: \$100/user (annual) or \$125/user (monthly)	Shared workspace, GPT-4/vision, tools (browsing, code, data), custom GPTs, admin tools (SSO) (openai.com) (help.openai.com)
Pro	Dec 2024 (openai.com)	\$200	Unlimited o1, o1 pro mode, o1-mini, GPT-4o, and Advanced Voice (openai.com) (techcrunch.com)
Go	Aug 2025 (India); worldwide Jan 2026 (openai.com)	\$8 (US; localized in some markets)	More messages, uploads and image creation than Free on GPT-5.2 Instant at launch
Pro 500	Sep 2026 (openai.com)	\$500	25x the Plus allowance and Ultrafast mode; sold alongside Pro 100 (\$100) and Pro 200 (\$200)

Plans are not a simple feature-by-feature inheritance chain. Business and Enterprise add workspace, administration, and privacy controls, while individual plans have their own model and feature allowances; the current pricing pages should be checked for plan-specific availability. The evolution reflects OpenAI's move from experimental free use toward a broad subscription ecosystem that scales from individuals to large organizations (openai.com) (openai.com).

ChatGPT Free Edition

Overview and Features

The **Free** edition (often just called "ChatGPT") is the entry-level offering and remains available at no cost (openai.com). It gives individual users access to ChatGPT with usage limits. The current pricing page lists unlimited text chats with GPT-6 (GPT-6 Luna on Free), subject to abuse guardrails. Uploads, image generation, voice, deep research, memory and context, Codex, and ChatGPT Work have separate limits. ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](#)) In practice, Free users frequently encounter rate limits or longer wait times when server load is high, whereas paid subscribers get priority.

Key limitations of the Free plan include:

- **Model Access:** Free uses GPT-6 Luna in Chat (rolled out from October 8, 2026, replacing GPT-5.6 Luna). GPT-6 Sol, GPT-6 Astra and Pro reasoning modes are reserved for paid plans (chatgpt.com) (chatgpt.com) ([OpenAI](https://openai.com)).

- **Message & Token Limits:** Free accounts have lower per-user rate limits. For example, under earlier GPT-4 usage, free users could only send a handful of GPT-4 prompts per period. Today everyday text chats are unlimited on Free, subject to abuse guardrails, while uploads, image creation, voice, deep research and Codex have separate limits ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](#)).
- **Context Window:** Free users have a smaller context window than paid plans. As of October 2026, OpenAI's pricing page lists a 27K-token GPT Instant context window for Free, versus 54K for Go, Plus and Business and 128K for Pro and Enterprise ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](#)). (An earlier version of the page listed up to ~16K tokens of “non-reasoning” context for Free ([openai.com](#)).)
- **Features:** Free users benefit from basic chat/history saving, standard voice, simple code editing, and the ability to use existing “GPTs” (custom GPT chatbots) and projects (new GPT creation is no longer offered on personal plans; see Custom GPTs below), but with some functional limitations (e.g. no multi-user workspaces, no admin controls) ([chatgpt.com](#)) ([chatgpt.com](#)). Some preview features (like ChatGPT Agents, which manage tasks across tools) and maximum data analysis usage are not included in Free.
- **Data Usage:** By default, conversations with the Free plan **may be used to train OpenAI's models**, because they fall under “services for individuals” ([help.openai.com](#)). Users must manually opt out via privacy settings to prevent their chats from entering OpenAI's training data.

Despite these limits, the Free plan has democratized AI creative tools. It has been widely used for writing assistance, brainstorming, coding help, education, and casual experimentation. OpenAI reports that ChatGPT (across all tiers) surpassed **1 million users in five days** after its launch in late 2022, underscoring Free ChatGPT's broad appeal ([backlinko.com](#)). In usage statistics, the free tier contributes the majority of ChatGPT's **700 million weekly active users** (as of Aug 2025) ([www.cnn.com](#)).

Example Usage (ChatGPT Free): A student might use ChatGPT Free to draft essay outlines or solve math problems for homework. A casual user can chat about hobbies, create images, or learn new topics. However, if many users attempt heavy usage at once, free users may see “rate limit” messages or queued responses.

ChatGPT Plus

Overview and Features

ChatGPT Plus is the original consumer subscription, introduced Feb 2023 at **approximately \$20 per month** ([openai.com](#)). It is designed for individual users who want higher availability and performance than the free tier. Critically, Plus subscribers receive:

- **General Access During Peak Times:** Paid priority to avoid access denial when demand surges ([openai.com](#)).
- **Faster Response Times:** Reduced latency, meaning answers are generated more quickly on average.
- **Priority to New Features:** Early or exclusive access to features as they roll out ([openai.com](#)).

When GPT-4 launched in March 2023, Plus subscribers initially gained access (free users did not), though with a usage cap (originally 25 messages per 3 hours, later increased) ([www.searchenginejournal.com](#)). Over time, OpenAI continually expanded Plus capabilities. As of 2025, Plus users benefit from “Expanded messaging and

uploads” and “expanded GPT-5 reasoning” (chatgpt.com). For example, the pricing breakdown notes Plus has *“Everything in Free and: Advanced reasoning with GPT-5; Expanded messaging and uploads; Expanded and faster image creation; Expanded deep research and agent mode; Expanded memory and context; Projects, tasks and custom GPTs; Limited access to Sora 1 video generation; Codex agent.”* (chatgpt.com). In short, Plus roughly doubles the usage/rendering limits of Free and gives access to more of the AI tools.

In practice, ChatGPT Plus has been popular among professionals. Late-2024 reports indicated about **10 million** paying subscribers for ChatGPT (which would be largely Plus users) (techcrunch.com). Many power users (writers, programmers, analysts) subscribe to avoid downtime and to harness ChatGPT for daily productivity.

Pricing Change and Alternatives

In 2024, New York Times reporting cited by TechCrunch said OpenAI expected to raise the Plus price to \$44 per month by 2029 (techcrunch.com); as of October 2026, Plus is still \$20 per month in the US. There are also cost-conscious alternatives, such as the browser-based “Lite” or community projects, but none equal the official Plus plan’s capabilities. (Some articles describe “hacks” to use GPT-4 for free via particular third-party apps, but these routes are limited.) ChatGPT Go, at \$8 per month in the US, is now the lowest-priced paid tier ([OpenAI](https://openai.com)); Plus is the entry point for advanced reasoning models.

Data and Privacy

Plus shares the same privacy policy as Free: user conversations **can be used to improve models** unless the user opts out (help.openai.com). This means organizations caution about proprietary data on Plus. All traffic is encrypted in transit.

Example Usage (ChatGPT Plus): A freelance writer uses ChatGPT Plus for idea generation and content drafting. Even when ChatGPT’s servers are busy, the writer always gets responses quickly. A developer uses it to iterate on code snippets without interruption. People who need more stability and capacity than the free plan find Plus indispensable.

ChatGPT Pro

Overview and Features

ChatGPT Pro is OpenAI’s top-tier individual plan, introduced in December 2024 at **\$200 per month** (openai.com) (techcrunch.com). It extends individual-plan capabilities beyond Plus. The core selling points of Pro are:

- **Unlimited Access to Top Models:** At launch, Pro subscribers could use OpenAI’s most advanced models without the usage caps that restricted other plans; today each Pro tier has an included allowance. Pro originally included *unlimited access to OpenAI o1*, as well as o1-mini, GPT-4o, and Advanced Voice (openai.com).
- **“o1 Pro” Mode:** A special setting where the model “thinks longer” by using extra computation. This yields more accurate, reliable answers for very challenging problems (openai.com) (techcrunch.com). OpenAI said external expert testers found o1 pro mode more reliably accurate, and that the full o1

model cut “major errors” on difficult real-world questions by 34% compared with o1-preview ([techcrunch.com](#)).

- **Max Performance:** Because o1 pro mode takes longer to answer, ChatGPT showed a progress bar and sent an in-app notification when users switched to another conversation ([techcrunch.com](#)). Since September 2026, Pro 500 adds Ultrafast mode for GPT-6 Astra in ChatGPT Work and Codex ([OpenAI DevDay 2026 recap](#)).
- **Experimental Features:** Pro grants early or exclusive access to compute-intensive features as they emerge. OpenAI said at launch that it expected to add more powerful, compute-intensive productivity features to the plan ([openai.com](#)) ([techcrunch.com](#)). At launch OpenAI also announced 10 ChatGPT Pro grants for medical researchers at leading institutions.

In short, ChatGPT Pro is tailored for “**power users of ChatGPT... pushing the models to the limits**” (as OpenAI’s Jason Wei described) ([techcrunch.com](#)). It is aimed at data scientists, engineers, legal researchers, and anyone needing a research-grade AI assistant. Analytical tasks like complex coding, data analysis, and formal reasoning are especially suited to Pro.

Comparison with Plus

The differences of Pro vs. Plus are large. Both plans have usage allowances, but Pro’s are much higher: Pro 500 includes 25 times the Plus allowance ([OpenAI DevDay 2026 recap](#)). Plus users had limited GPT-4/GPT-5 messages (e.g. 25, later 50, GPT-4 messages every 3 hours ([www.searchenginejournal.com](#))), whereas Pro at launch removed these caps. Pro also unlocked o1 pro mode for extensive reasoning ([openai.com](#)) (a feature not in Plus); today Pro reasoning is powered by GPT-6 Astra. In contrast to Plus’s \$20, TechCrunch noted that Pro’s 10x higher price is “likely to be a tough sell” beyond professional audiences ([techcrunch.com](#)) ([techcrunch.com](#)).

Models and Tools

According to OpenAI’s December 2024 announcement, ChatGPT Pro included:

- **o1:** OpenAI’s strongest reasoning model at the time, without usage caps.
- **o1 pro mode:** a version of o1 that uses more compute for the hardest problems.
- **o1-mini:** a smaller, faster reasoning model.
- **GPT-4o:** the multimodal flagship model of the time, with image and voice support ([openai.com](#)).
- **Advanced Voice:** ChatGPT’s conversational voice mode.

As of October 2026, the pricing page lists Pro with Pro reasoning powered by GPT-6 Astra, longer Codex and ChatGPT Work sessions, Dot (an always-on agent), unlimited and faster image creation, and maximum deep research, memory and context ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](#)).

Additionally, Pro includes all the tools Plus has: DALL·E image creation, Advanced Data Analysis (“Code Interpreter”), browsing, etc. It also gains *Advanced Voice Mode* (full-video functionality) and access to any new feature tiers launched ([openai.com](#)) ([techcrunch.com](#)).

Usage Policy

Like Plus, Pro is an individual plan. By default it can use user data for model training (unless opted out) (help.openai.com). It is not seat-based: one Pro license is per user, with no group features. Administratively, Pro has no special compliance or bulk discounts. Instead, it is simply the top-end personal-tier subscription.

Example Usage (ChatGPT Pro): An AI researcher subscribes to Pro for intensive experimentation. She can feed the model extremely complex, multi-step problems and get answers far more reliable than ChatGPT Plus. A software development team uses Pro accounts for code review and algorithm design; the “o1 Pro” mode produces more accurate code suggestions on tough problems. Financial analysts employ Pro for forecasting models that require deep reasoning.

Market Perspective

ChatGPT Pro's launch drew industry attention. TechCrunch noted that Pro opens up access to OpenAI's full model suite for those willing to pay a premium (techcrunch.com). However, early reactions acknowledged the steep price: TechCrunch called Pro “likely to be a tough sell to all but the most devoted users” (techcrunch.com). TechCrunch also cited reporting by The Information that OpenAI had considered ultra-costly business subscriptions with access to models under development (techcrunch.com). Nonetheless, Pro underscores OpenAI's strategy to segment offerings by willingness to pay and performance needs.

ChatGPT Business (Teams)

Overview and Features

The **ChatGPT Business** edition (formerly called *ChatGPT Team*) is aimed at groups, startups, and small-to-medium enterprises. It was introduced in January 2024 (openai.com) and renamed “Business” on August 29, 2025 (help.openai.com). Pricing is **\$20 per user/month (annual)** or \$25 on a monthly plan for a Standard seat, and \$100 (annual) or \$125 (monthly) for a Premium seat with 5x the Standard usage (help.openai.com), with a minimum of 2 users. This plan builds on Plus (and Pro features) but adds collaboration, security, and management capabilities:

- **Shared Workspace:** Multiple team members share a common ChatGPT workspace. They can share conversation threads, upload files, and exchange custom GPTs within the organization.
- **Custom GPTs and Projects:** Teams can create and publish GPT chatbots tailored to company workflows (e.g. branded drafting assistant). Projects and tasks can be assigned across the team (chatgpt.com).
- **Admin Tools:** Includes an admin console for user management, with features like Single Sign-On (SAML/SSO), domain verification, admin roles, and usage analytics (chatgpt.com) (help.openai.com). For example, admins can require MFA, manage members in bulk, and view analytics dashboards; SCIM provisioning and role-based access controls are Enterprise-only ([OpenAI Business pricing](https://openai.com/business/pricing)).
- **Frontier Models:** Business users get unlimited everyday text chats (subject to abuse guardrails) and flexible access to the GPT-6 and GPT-5.6 families, including GPT-6 Astra, GPT-6.1 Sol and GPT-5.6 Sol Pro, with the flexibility to buy additional credits if needed (chatgpt.com). Premium seats include 5x the

usage of Standard seats with no 5-hour limit.

- **Data Integration:** The plan supports **company knowledge** integration. Through built-in connectors or custom APIs, Business ChatGPT can access Slack channels, Google Drive, SharePoint, GitHub, and other internal data sources, allowing the AI to answer based on proprietary company information (chatgpt.com).
- **Security & Compliance:** By default, OpenAI *does not* train on Business workspace data (help.openai.com). All data is encrypted at rest & in transit (AES-256/TLS), and Business is covered by SOC 2 Type 2 compliance; OpenAI's pricing page lists ISO 27001, 27017, 27018 and 27701 certification for Enterprise only (chatgpt.com) (help.openai.com). In short, Business offers enterprise-grade data handling.

In essence, ChatGPT Business is **Plus/Pro for teams**. It includes “everything in Plus” plus collaborative and security features (chatgpt.com). Unlike Pro, which is a single-user subscription, Business is structured per seat for teams. It facilitates team productivity: employees can share AI chat context, build common GPT tools, and get unified billing. As OpenAI’s press release notes, Business comes with “GPTs, projects, and shared links” for workspace collaboration (help.openai.com).

Use Cases and Adoption

ChatGPT Business is ideal for cross-functional team scenarios. Sales and marketing teams use it to draft campaign materials from shared playbooks; engineers use it to organize codebases with internal docs; HR teams use it to automate communications. In fact, OpenAI cites specific users: **Sourcegraph** uses ChatGPT widely for financial modeling, comms, and even board prep, saying it “accelerated everything we do” (openai.com). **Boston Children’s Hospital** reports integrating custom GPTs into their workflows for research and administrative tasks (openai.com). These anecdotes illustrate Business’s role as an AI assistant woven into daily operations.

From a market perspective, Business (Teams) has attracted millions of seats. OpenAI’s own figures (Aug 2025) state there are **5 million paying business users** combining Teams/Business and Enterprise plans (www.cnbc.com) (up from 3M in June 2025). That suggests Business alone accounts for a sizable user base. Organizations can choose Standard or Premium seats, with pricing and included usage varying by seat type; OpenAI states that it does not train on Business workspace data by default.

Disadvantages vs. Enterprise

Although robust, Business lacks some of Enterprise’s bells and whistles. The GPT Instant context window is 54K tokens on Business versus 128K on Enterprise (both list 256K for reasoning). Only Enterprise gets SLA-backed 24/7 priority support and custom legal terms (chatgpt.com). Data residency (choosing geographic region storage) is only in Enterprise. And Business requires at least 2 seats. For teams in highly regulated sectors, Enterprise (next section) would be more suitable.

Example Usage (ChatGPT Business): A 10-person software startup subscribes to ChatGPT Business. They set up a workspace where everyone shares the company’s product documentation via Google Drive. Now the team’s ChatGPT knows the product manual and codebase, enabling more accurate answers to internal

questions. The CTO grants access via SAML to new employees, and the team uses shared “AI agent” workflows to automate report generation.

ChatGPT Enterprise

Overview and Features

ChatGPT Enterprise is the highest-tier offering, focused on large organizations with demanding requirements. Launched August 2023 (openai.com), it amplifies the Business plan in multiple ways:

- **Unlimited Premium Model Access:** At launch in 2023, OpenAI said Enterprise “removes all usage caps, and performs up to two times faster” (openai.com). It also provides **unlimited Advanced Data Analysis** (formerly “Code Interpreter”), enabling enterprise data scientists to crunch massive datasets. Today OpenAI describes Enterprise model access as flexible, with credit-based and token-based pricing available for additional usage ([OpenAI Business pricing](https://openai.com/pricing)).
- **Extended Context Window:** Enterprise dramatically expands how much input ChatGPT can handle. Initially, Enterprise offered a 32K token context (4× the standard 8K) (openai.com). More recent materials list larger windows: as of October 2026, OpenAI’s pricing page shows 128K tokens for GPT Instant and 256K for reasoning (help.openai.com). This lets Enterprise users feed in multi-page documents, large codebases, or entire reports for analysis.
- **Enterprise-Grade Security & Privacy:** Enterprise includes **everything in Business** plus additional controls. Key security features include:
 - **Encryption & Compliance:** Data encrypted at rest and in transit, SOC-2 Type 2 certified, ISO/IEC certified, CSA STAR compliant (openai.com).
 - **Administrative Control:** SCIM provisioning, domain verification, advanced role-based access, and an analytics dashboard for usage metrics (openai.com).
 - **Data Privacy:** By default, OpenAI does *not* train on any Enterprise data (openai.com). Organizations can define custom data retention policies (e.g. automatically deleting conversation history after X months). Data residency options allow specifying where (which regional cloud) data is stored.
 - **Support & SLAs:** 24/7 priority support, including a service-level agreement and custom legal terms. Clients receive AI advisors and dedicated onboarding assistants (chatgpt.com).
- **Additional Business Tools:** Enterprise adds features to streamline large-scale deployment. For instance, there are invoice and billing management tools, volume discounts, and automated enterprise invoicing (chatgpt.com). Templates and workflows (shared chat templates) let teams co-develop corporate LLM agents.
- **API Credits:** At the 2023 launch, OpenAI said Enterprise included free credits for its API, with current terms set by each contract, enabling organizations to further build custom AI apps on top of ChatGPT’s models (openai.com).

In brief, Enterprise is a superset of Business. It is designed for “large-scale operations with strict security standards” (lasserouhiainen.com). The emphasis is on **scalability and trust**: high model throughput, integrations (e.g. SAML SSO, novel “ChatGPT agent” features for actions across docs and code

(www.techtarget.com)), and full enterprise compliance.

Pricing Model

Unlike the fixed rates for Free/Plus/Pro/Business, **Enterprise pricing is custom**. OpenAI sells it via an enterprise sales team (often requiring a minimum of ~150 users) (www.techtarget.com). The applicable price, service levels, and contractual terms are determined with OpenAI's sales team. Companies must negotiate contracts, including data protection addenda. According to TechTarget, an Enterprise contract is typically significantly costlier than Business and scales with usage and needed infrastructure (www.techtarget.com).

Adoption and Impact

ChatGPT Enterprise quickly garnered big-name clients (Klarna, Asana, Estée Lauder, PwC, etc.) (openai.com). These organizations report tangible gains: e.g. **Klarna's CEO** Sebastian Siemiatkowski said Enterprise is poised to “empower” employees and enhance customer experience (openai.com). **Asana's** Head of Data Systems and Integrations shared that Enterprise usage “cut research time by an average of an hour per day” for their team, massively boosting productivity (openai.com). Such testimonials align with independent research: a Harvard Business School study found that BCG consultants using GPT-4 (similar to Enterprise access) performed corporate tasks ~25% faster and with ~40% higher quality than control groups (openai.com).

Moreover, OpenAI's own metrics highlight Enterprise's scale. By August 2023, OpenAI said teams in over 80% of Fortune 500 companies had adopted ChatGPT, measured by registered accounts on corporate email domains (openai.com). In aggregate, “business users” (Teams + Enterprise) account for a growing share: as of Aug 2025, **5 million** paying business seats (www.cnbc.com) are reported.

Use Cases

Enterprise use cases emphasize integration and control. Common examples include:

- **Internal Knowledge & Productivity:** Connecting ChatGPT to internal databases (e.g. SharePoint, CRM, code repos) so employees can query proprietary data with AI assistance (chatgpt.com) (openai.com). For instance, an insurance firm might use it to rapidly analyze policy documents; a retailer might automate product description generation from inventory data.
- **Automation & Developer Efficiency:** Workspace agents can support customized workflows. Organizations should configure access controls, review outputs, and retain human oversight for consequential actions; available agent capabilities depend on the workspace configuration. ([OpenAI Business pricing](http://OpenAI.com))
- **Customer Support & Engagement:** Companies integrate Enterprise ChatGPT into customer service bots or knowledge bases, leveraging the enterprise tier's privacy to ensure customer conversations remain in-house.
- **Regulated Industries:** Organizations in regulated sectors should evaluate the applicable contract, workspace configuration, data flows, and their own compliance obligations. For healthcare use involving protected health information, OpenAI describes specific ChatGPT for Healthcare and Enterprise/Edu

Regulated Workspace configurations, where certain features are disabled by default; this is not a blanket HIPAA assurance for every Enterprise workspace.

Summary of Business vs Enterprise

Feature	Business (Teams)	Enterprise
Target Organization Size	Teams of 2–200 paid seats	Organizations needing a contracted enterprise deployment
Pricing	Standard: \$20/user/month annually or \$25 monthly; Premium: \$100 annually or \$125 monthly	Custom contract
Model Access	Models enabled for the workspace; advanced features and models have plan-specific allowances, with eligible additional usage available through workspace credits	Models, features, allowances, and spending controls depend on workspace settings and the organization's agreement
Team Collaboration	Shared projects, tasks, GPTs	All Business features + templates
Security/Compliance	SOC 2 Type 2, SAML SSO, MFA, and centralized administration	Enterprise adds SCIM, role-based access controls, user analytics, custom data retention, and data residency support
Data Privacy	No training on workspace data (help.openai.com)	Same (no training) plus data residency options
Support	Business support (office hours)	24/7 priority support, SLAs (chatgpt.com)
Other Perks	N/A	Volume discounts, invoicing, AI advisors

The key takeaway: **Business** turns ChatGPT into a team-savvy tool; **Enterprise** elevates it into a fully managed, secure AI platform for the entire company.

Comparative Features (Summary Tables)

To synthesize, the tables below compare the editions across major dimensions.

Table 1. ChatGPT Editions at a Glance

Characteristic	Free	Plus	Pro	Business	Enterprise
Price (per user/mo)	\$0	\$20 (openai.com)	\$100 / \$200 / \$500 (Pro 100, 200, 500) (openai.com)	\$20 (ann.)/\$25 (mo) Standard; \$100 (ann.)/\$125 (mo) Premium (help.openai.com)	Custom (contact sales)
Access Models	GPT-6 Luna (Chat, since Oct 2026)	GPT-6 Sol (Chat), GPT-6 Astra, advanced reasoning	Plus models + Pro reasoning powered by GPT-6 Astra (openai.com)	GPT-6 and GPT-5.6 families, incl. GPT-6 Astra and GPT-5.6 Sol Pro (flexible, with credits)	Same as Business + extended context (openai.com)

Characteristic	Free	Plus	Pro	Business	Enterprise
Message/Usage Limits	Capped & slower during peak (openai.com)	Higher limits; priority queuing	Highest individual allowances; Pro 500 = 25x Plus (chatgpt.com)	Unlimited everyday chats; Premium seats get 5x Standard usage (chatgpt.com)	Flexible; credit- and token-based options
Image & Multimedia	Limited image creation	More complex and accurate image creation (chatgpt.com)	Unlimited and faster image creation	As Plus; business used for marketing assets	As Pro; also use-case workshops
Data Analysis (Code)	Basic (free Code Interpreter in Beta)	Enabled (cap)	Advanced data analysis (no cap)	Advanced data analysis, shared mode	Advanced + integrated analytics
Chat History/Memory	Unlimited history (basic memory) (chatgpt.com)	Unlimited history (expanded memory)	Unlimited (max memory)	Unlimited (workspace memory)	Unlimited (full memory)
Collaborative Tools	None	None	None	Shared workspace, projects, tasks (chatgpt.com)	All Business features + templates, shared GPTs
Admin & Compliance	N/A	N/A	N/A	SSO (SAML), Multi-Factor Auth (chatgpt.com)	SSO+SCIM, Domain Verification, Custom data retention
Support Level	Self-serve	Self-serve	Self-serve (no published SLA)	Business support (no published SLA)	24/7 Priority + SLA (chatgpt.com)
Data Privacy	Personal data may train models (opt-in/out) (help.openai.com)	Same as Free	Same as Free	No training on business data (help.openai.com)	No training; enterprise privacy and residency
Use Case	Casual/personal use	Power users (individual)	Enthusiasts, developers, researchers	Startup and SME collaboration	Large company digital transformation

Notes: Model availability, limits, and plan features change over time. Verify current entitlements on OpenAI's pricing pages before making a purchase decision.

Table 2. Pricing and Capacity

Plan	Monthly Price	Billing Frequency	Minimum Seats	Example Users (2025)
Free	\$0	–	1	~700M WAU (all tiers, Aug 2025); 1.2B+ weekly users (Oct 2026) (www.cnbc.com)

Plan	Monthly Price	Billing Frequency	Minimum Seats	Example Users (2025)
Go	\$8 (US; localized in some markets)	Monthly	1	Not disclosed
Plus	~\$20	Monthly	1	~10M paid subs (techcrunch.com)
Pro	\$100, \$200 or \$500 (Pro 100, Pro 200, Pro 500)	Monthly	1	Not disclosed
Business	Standard: \$20 annually/\$25 monthly; Premium: \$100 annually/\$125 monthly (USD; regional pricing may vary)	Per seat	2	~5M paying business seats (www.cnbc.com)
Enterprise	Custom	Contact sales	Not publicly specified	Not publicly specified on the pricing page

The data above (e.g. user counts) come from OpenAI and media reports (techcrunch.com) (www.cnbc.com). They illustrate the scale: ChatGPT's user base is enormous, but only a small fraction pay for Plus/Pro. Meanwhile, business-tier usage is in the low millions and climbing.

Technical and Usage Differences

Model Access and Limits

As noted, higher-tier plans unlock more powerful AI models and remove usage restrictions. Specifically:

- **Default Chat model:** Earlier GPT-5-family models powered default chats on all plans (chatgpt.com). In a rollout that began on October 7, 2026, Chat moved to GPT-6 Luna on Free and Go and to GPT-6 Sol on Plus, Pro, Business and Enterprise ([OpenAI](https://openai.com)).
- **Reasoning and Pro models:** Paid plans add reasoning modes. GPT-6 Astra, released in September 2026, is available on Plus, Pro, Business and Enterprise; GPT-6 Astra Pro is limited to Pro, Business and Enterprise. Allowances vary by plan (help.openai.com) ([OpenAI](https://openai.com): [GPT-6 Astra](https://openai.com)).
- **GPT-6.1 Sol:** Released on September 29, 2026 for Plus, Pro, Business, Enterprise and Edu users in ChatGPT Work and Codex; it is not yet available in Chat ([OpenAI](https://openai.com)). When Pro launched in 2024, its unlimited multimodal model was GPT-4o (openai.com).
- **Context Window:** An earlier version of the pricing page listed ~16K tokens of non-reasoning context for Free (openai.com). As of October 2026, the GPT Instant context window is 27K tokens on Free, 54K on Go, Plus and Business, and 128K on Pro and Enterprise; the reasoning window is 256K on Go, Plus, Business and Enterprise and 400K on Pro ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](https://openai.com)). Enterprise launched in 2023 with a 32K context (openai.com). This lets Pro and Enterprise users fit larger files or multi-file inputs into one prompt than Free or Plus.

Features (Agents, Data Analysis, Memory)

- **ChatGPT Agents:** Agent features that can act autonomously or interface with tools are available on paid plans, including Plus (which the pricing page has listed with expanded agent mode), Pro, Business and Enterprise (help.openai.com). Free has only limited ChatGPT Work access on desktop ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](#)).
- **Advanced Data Analysis:** (Formerly “Code Interpreter”) is limited on Free (per usage cap) and enabled fully on Plus/Pro/Business/Enterprise. Pro/Business users have “maximum” access (chatgpt.com).
- **Custom GPTs:** OpenAI's Help Center says new GPT creation and publishing are no longer available on personal accounts (Free, Go, Plus and Pro), though existing GPTs can still be used; creation remains available in Business, Enterprise and Edu workspaces ([OpenAI Help Center](#)) (openai.com) (help.openai.com).
- **Memory:** Memory (remembering user preferences) is available on all tiers, with expanded memory and context on paid plans and maximum memory and context on Pro ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](#)).
- **Uploads:** File upload sizes are more generous on paid plans. Upload allowances are separate per-plan limits on the pricing page ([OpenAI ChatGPT pricing](#)).

Collaboration and Management

- Only Business and Enterprise offer multi-user collaboration. They include shared folders, project tracking, and admin controls. For example, Business provides “shared projects” and “tasks” for team collaboration (chatgpt.com), none of which exist in individual plans.

Security and Compliance

- As described, Business/Enterprise have encryption at rest and compliance certifications (openai.com). Free/Plus/Pro have encryption in transit (standard HTTPS) but do **not** guarantee not to use data for training unless opted out (though individual users can opt out (openai.com) (help.openai.com)). Enterprise explicitly forbids any training on customer data (openai.com).

Support and SLAs

- **Free/Plus:** Community/support forums and documentation. No guaranteed uptime or response time.
- **Pro:** Individual plan; OpenAI does not publish an SLA for it.
- **Business:** Business support, without the SLA-backed 24/7 priority support that OpenAI lists for Enterprise.
- **Enterprise:** 24/7 priority support backed by a service-level agreement (chatgpt.com). Customers can also negotiate custom legal terms.

Data Analysis and Usage Trends

User Metrics and Adoption

As of mid-2025, ChatGPT (all editions combined) had an estimated **700 million weekly active users**, a fourfold increase from 2024 (www.cnbc.com). In October 2026 OpenAI said more than 1.2 billion people use ChatGPT each week ([OpenAI](https://openai.com)). Paid subscribers numbered on the order of **tens of millions**: reports cite ~10 million ChatGPT Plus subscriptions (techcrunch.com) and 5 million business/enterprise users (www.cnbc.com) (with Pro's user count undisclosed but likely far smaller given its price).

Revenue Context: ChatGPT subscriptions are a major revenue driver. The New York Times reported, as cited by TechCrunch, that OpenAI's total monthly revenue reached \$300 million in August 2024 (techcrunch.com). At \$20/user, Plus alone at 10M subs would be \$200M/month, not counting Business/Enterprise. Yet OpenAI's costs are high; TechCrunch noted the need for these plans to offset losses (techcrunch.com).

Usage Patterns

CNBC reported ChatGPT's weekly active users growing roughly fourfold year over year (www.cnbc.com). Daily messages across the service topped **3 billion** (www.cnbc.com). These aggregate figures cover all plans and do not by themselves show how much usage is work-related.

Usage among plans: Free users dominate in count; OpenAI does not publish query volume by plan.

Separately, the Harvard Business School experiment showed about 25% faster task completion (openai.com).

Market Impact: OpenAI's launch announcements for Team (now Business) and Enterprise describe strong organizational demand for ChatGPT (openai.com) (openai.com). Business is self-serve, while Enterprise is sold through OpenAI's sales team.

Case Studies and Examples

Klarna: As a major fintech, Klarna adopted ChatGPT Enterprise to strengthen its employees' abilities. CEO Sebastian Siemiatkowski said the company aimed to "best serve our 150 million active users across the globe" and reach "a new level of employee empowerment" (openai.com).

Asana: The project-management firm reports that ChatGPT Enterprise cut research time by an average of **one hour per day** for its team (openai.com). Jorge Zuniga, Asana's Head of Data Systems and Integrations, noted "It's been a powerful tool that has accelerated testing hypotheses and improving our internal systems" (openai.com). The one-hour figure is a company-reported testimonial, not an independent measurement.

Sourcegraph (Connor O'Brien): A case for the Team plan. The VP at Sourcegraph says: "We use ChatGPT in almost every part of our business, from financial modeling for pricing and packaging to internal and external communications to board prep to recruiting... it's accelerated everything we do" (openai.com).

Boston Children's Hospital (Dr. Brownstein): In healthcare, they piloted ChatGPT Team GPTs for doctors and admin staff. Dr. John Brownstein observes, "We've been able to pilot innovative GPTs that enhance our team's productivity and collaboration...(transformative impact)" (openai.com).

Freelancers/Students: On the Plus/Free side, individual users commonly apply ChatGPT to drafting, planning and study review. (These are typical uses rather than formal studies; OpenAI points to survey data showing improved task efficiency with AI assistance (openai.com).)

Discussion: Implications and Future Directions

The tiered ChatGPT model reflects broader trends in AI deployment. For individuals, low-cost access democratizes AI; for enterprises, the platform adapts to complex needs. Some key reflections:

- **Productivity Gains:** Evidence suggests ChatGPT can *significantly* boost productivity. The HBS *Jagged Frontier* study found a 25% speedup in BCG consultants' work and large quality gains when given access to GPT-4 (openai.com). Similar results propagate through enterprise case studies. As such, companies may view subscription costs as an investment with high ROI.
- **Content Ownership and Privacy:** There is tension over data usage. While Free/Plus plan users initially train the model (improving AI quality overall), businesses demand non-training commitments (help.openai.com) (openai.com). OpenAI's solutions (opt-outs for individuals, training blocks for Business/Enterprise) seek a balance. However, regulatory environments (GDPR, CCPA) and sector rules (e.g. HIPAA in healthcare) will continue driving demand for higher-tier plans with strict data controls.
- **AI Escalation and Costs:** As OpenAI rolls out ever more powerful models (the GPT-6 family arrived in September 2026), its infrastructure costs rise dramatically. The aggressive premium pricing (e.g. Pro at \$200/month) underscores that future AI is compute-expensive. Industry analysis noted that AI providers *must* find paying customers to sustain development (techcrunch.com). We expect more high-end plans or usage-based billing for ultra-high-capacity needs.
- **Competition and Diversification:** Other AI companies (Google, Microsoft, Anthropic) offer business AI platforms. OpenAI may continue to refine ChatGPT editions as product capabilities and customer needs change. ChatGPT subscriptions and API usage are billed separately, so organizations should review the applicable ChatGPT agreement and API billing terms when planning deployments. ([OpenAI Help Center](https://openai.com/help))
- **Societal Effects:** On a societal level, cheaper AI access (via Free/Plus) can empower individuals, but also raises issues of misinformation, dependency, and workforce displacement. Conversely, high-end plans like Enterprise entrench AI in corporate and sensitive workflows, increasing efficiency but also creating new security considerations (e.g. AI-driven automation of internal processes must be carefully overseen).
- **Future Capabilities:** Upcoming features will also differentiate plans. For example, as ChatGPT gains real-time data connections, new LLM improvements, or integrated multimodal sensors, OpenAI will likely gate advanced features to higher-tier subscribers at first. This means the gap between editions may widen over time. Enterprise customers will push for continued expansion of context (perhaps multi-million token windows), model fine-tuning on private corpora, and assurance of extreme reliability.

In sum, ChatGPT's multi-tier structure is both a **business strategy** (monetize varied use cases) and a **product architecture** (assign capabilities to different needs). It parallels SaaS models in other domains (CRM, cloud services) that segment by scale. Going forward, we expect the distinctions to evolve as AI tech progresses: new model versions will upgrade Plus/Pro, while Business/Enterprise features will deepen in security, analytics, and integration. OpenAI's future challenge will be maintaining the free/Plus ecosystem healthy and democratized, while satisfying large customers demanding top-tier innovation and support.

Conclusion

OpenAI's ChatGPT plans (Free, Go, Plus, Pro, Business, and Enterprise) span individual and organizational use cases. As of October 2026, Free and Go chat with GPT-6 Luna; Plus, Pro, Business, and Enterprise chat with GPT-6 Sol and can use GPT-6 Astra, with GPT-6 Astra Pro on Pro, Business, and Enterprise as rollout and workspace settings permit. Business provides a shared, managed workspace, and Enterprise is sold under custom terms. Differences include pricing, model access, usage allowances, collaboration, data handling, support, and contractual controls. Because these entitlements change, buyers should confirm the live pricing page and, for Enterprise, their agreement before making a decision.

To choose the right edition, organizations and individuals must weigh budget against requirements. An individual creative user may compare Plus at \$20 per month with the Pro tiers (\$100, \$200 or \$500) and their higher usage and GPT-6 Astra Pro reasoning. The live pricing page should be checked because plan availability, limits, and prices can change. A growing startup will likely subscribe to Business seats to facilitate teamwork, while a large corporation facing privacy/regulatory pressure will invest in Enterprise. Across all plans, the core AI capabilities remain cutting-edge, but the value-add (speed, integrations, analytics, security) scales with cost.

Ultimately, OpenAI's tiered strategy reflects the enormous demand for AI: casual users, professionals, and enterprises all want to harness ChatGPT, but in different ways. This report has detailed *how* each edition diverges in cost, rights, features, and use, backed by data and real-world testimony. As ChatGPT and its descendants evolve, these editions will likely adapt further. Yet the fundamental trade-offs will remain: accessibility vs. power, community-shared data vs. privacy, and self-service vs. managed support. Navigating these trade-offs will be crucial for all users.

References: OpenAI technical documents and blogs (openai.com) (openai.com) (openai.com) (openai.com), industry analysis (techcrunch.com) (www.techtarget.com), and case reports (openai.com) (openai.com) provide the basis for this comparison, providing an evidence-backed view of ChatGPT's evolving plan lineup.

Source links

Links cited in this article, in order of first appearance. Full addresses are provided for readers using extracted text.

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2. <https://help.openai.com/en/articles/9793128-about-chatgpt-pro-tiers>
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