# Anthropic’s Claude AI reshapes search with real-time web access and agentic queries



# Anthropic's Claude AI Introduces Real-Time Web Search, Transforming Information Access

In a significant leap for artificial intelligence, Anthropic has unveiled a new web search capability for its Claude AI assistant, marking a pivotal moment in the race to redefine how users access information online. As tech powerhouses vie for dominance in the rapidly evolving AI search landscape, this development positions Claude to effectively compete against established rivals such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's emerging Gemini platform.

According to the announcement from Anthropic, developers can now enable Claude to tap into current web information via its API. This feature allows for multiple progressive searches, enabling the AI to compile comprehensive answers enhanced by citations from credible sources. This integration arrives as traditional search engines, long dominated by Google, face unprecedented challenges—from declining usage metrics to shifting consumer behaviour that increasingly favours AI-driven alternatives. A recent testimony by Apple’s senior vice president, Eddy Cue, highlighted a historic dip in searches on Safari, underscoring the changing tides in information retrieval.

Data from SOCi’s Consumer Behaviour Index suggests that approximately 19% of consumers now utilise AI as their primary search method. This development highlights the shifting paradigms in user interactions with digital information and reflects a broader societal inclination towards AI assistants that synthesise information over generating long lists of search results. The reduced cognitive load on users, as AI assists in delivering concise, contextual answers, stands in stark contrast to the traditional method of scouring multiple website links for information.

The timing of Claude's introduction of web search capabilities is particularly salient. With the historical dip in Safari searches—a trend Cue characterised as "unprecedented"—we are witnessing early indicators of a substantial consumer shift away from conventional search paradigms. Traditional search engines primarily designed around advertising revenue are being increasingly bypassed, favouring interactions prioritising the quality and relevance of information.

Underpinning this advancement, Anthropic's API introduces a sophisticated decision-making layer, which determines when to leverage external information to enhance response quality. This allows Claude to execute intelligently crafted search queries that refine results progressively. This "agentic" ability enables the AI to mimic human research methodologies, beginning with broad queries and gradually narrowing the focus based on initial findings. Such functionality promises to enhance not only the accuracy of responses but also the user experience significantly.

For developers, the API offers meticulous control through features such as the max\_uses parameter, which constrains the number of sequential searches to maintain cost-effectiveness and restricts excessive navigation through information overload. It also provides domain control features ensuring that results are sourced exclusively from trusted websites, a crucial safeguard for enterprises looking to implement this technology responsibly.

Anthropic's pricing strategy reflects its confidence in this feature’s value proposition, with a premium of $10 per 1,000 searches being positioned against free alternatives. The competitive landscape surrounding AI search has grown ever more crowded, with OpenAI integrating web search into ChatGPT and extending the service to a wide user base. Apple, too, is exploring collaborations with AI search providers, indicating a potential pivot from its long-standing partnership with Google.

Moreover, the potential unwinding of Google’s Safari search deal could catalyse this transition by lifting the financial incentives that currently secure Apple’s allegiance. The adaptation of search tools into AI assistants aligns with a broader trend of embedding conversational capabilities across digital platforms. Companies like Perplexity AI are taking steps to integrate search features at the device level, reflecting a shift towards a more seamless user experience.

As AI continues to reshape how users engage with online content, the implications for the content economy are profound. Traditional publishing and advertising models are at risk as direct answers from AI assistants bypass original content, leading to concerns among content creators about sustaining their business models. Google's representative, Pandu Nayak, candidly acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding traffic recovery and its ramifications for content producers.

For organisations and developers, this suggests a necessary reevaluation of digital strategies. Content tailored for traditional search optimisation may falter under the new regime, while those that focus on offering clear, authoritative information could thrive, even absent traditional SEO markers.

Overall, Anthropic's new web search API represents more than just another technological feature; it embodies a significant shift towards a more integrated, conversation-driven approach to accessing information. As AI assistants become intertwined with daily digital interactions, they reshape not only personal search habits but also the broader information ecosystem.

The competition to redefine search is evolving beyond algorithms for fetching results; it is now a race to provide the most intuitive, trustworthy, and capable AI interface for navigating the vast landscape of information. This paradigm shift heralds a future where the act of searching online could be dramatically restructured, moving away from the simple input of keywords towards a more natural, inquiry focused interaction with digital knowledge.

## Reference Map:

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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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2. <https://www.techradar.com/computing/artificial-intelligence/the-ultimate-ai-search-face-off-i-pitted-claudes-new-search-tool-against-chatgpt-search-perplexity-and-gemini-the-results-might-surprise-you> - This article reviews the search capabilities of four leading AI chatbots: OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, Anthropic's Claude, and Perplexity AI. The tests cover various topics such as current events, population data, local happenings, weather forecasts, and movie reviews. Each AI's performance varied in different scenarios. Claude emerged as the best overall, surprising the author with its detailed and cohesive responses, outperforming the others despite some verbosity. Perplexity was noted for its clear, detailed responses with citations, while ChatGPT's brevity was seen as limiting. Gemini, surprisingly from Google, was rated the lowest due to its unhelpful approach to event searches. The article concludes that while each AI has strengths, Claude appears most effective for comprehensive search capabilities.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/f49aff66-79e8-437a-93c2-96f8116c1bc3> - Anthropic has introduced a feature that allows its AI model, Claude, to control users' computers, performing tasks such as web searches, clicking buttons, and inputting text with user consent. The "Computer Use" feature aims to automate repetitive tasks, allowing users to focus on more creative aspects. This advancement aligns with trends by companies like Microsoft, OpenAI, and Meta, which are also developing AI agents to handle mundane tasks. Claude can schedule appointments, fill online forms, and more, using real-time internet access. While the technology is in its early stages, there are concerns about the reliability of internet-sourced information. Anthropic envisions gradual trust-building, similar to perceptions of self-driving cars, and plans to expand these capabilities to mobile devices and consumer products.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/uk-explore-use-anthropics-ai-chatbot-claude-public-services-2025-02-14/> - The UK government is considering the deployment of Anthropic's AI chatbot, Claude, to enhance public interaction with information and services. This collaborative effort, supported by Google and Amazon, aligns with Prime Minister Keir Starmer's vision to position the UK as a leader in artificial intelligence. The move is part of a broader push to improve productivity in public services through AI while fostering a pro-innovation regulatory environment. Claude, which is already utilized by institutions like the European Parliament, will help make public documents and information more accessible and streamline administrative processes. Britain's technology minister, Peter Kyle, emphasizes that this partnership will help the UK leverage the transformative potential of AI for the benefit of its citizens and businesses.
5. <https://venturebeat.com/ai/anthropic-just-gave-claude-a-superpower-real-time-web-search-heres-why-it-changes-everything/> - Anthropic announced today that its AI assistant Claude can now search and process information from the internet in real time, addressing one of users’ most requested features and closing a critical competitive gap with OpenAI’s ChatGPT. The new web search capability, available immediately for paid Claude users in the United States, transforms the AI assistant from a tool limited by its training data cutoff to one that can access and synthesize the latest information across the web. "With web search, Claude has access to the latest events and information, boosting its accuracy on tasks that benefit from the most recent data," Anthropic said in its announcement. The company emphasized that Claude will provide direct citations to sources, allowing users to fact-check information—a direct response to growing concerns about AI hallucinations and misinformation.
6. <https://9to5mac.com/2025/03/21/claude-ai-search-web/> - Anthropic announced this week a major update for Claude, its AI chatbot. The platform can now search for results on the web in real time to provide up-to-date information, making it even more useful for research. Claude now has access "to the latest events and information," which improves the accuracy of tasks that benefit from more recent data. Until now, Claude relied on large language models that were updated from time to time, so the chatbot had no knowledge of recent events. The platform will show direct quotes attributed to their respective sources, so that users can check whether the information is true. "When Claude incorporates information from the web into its responses, it provides direct citations so you can easily fact check sources. Instead of finding search results yourself, Claude processes and delivers relevant sources in a conversational format. This enhancement expands Claude’s extensive knowledge base with real-time insights, providing answers based on more current information," the company says. Anthropic notes that Claude’s web search can be especially useful for researchers, financial analysts with current market data, and even buyers who want to compare product features and prices across multiple sources. Users can choose whether or not to search the web when using Claude, similar to ChatGPT Search – which is also optional. Web search is now available in beta for all paid Claude users in the US. Anthropic says it plans to expand the feature to more countries and also to free users in the future. If you’re a subscriber in the US, all you need to do is enable web search in your profile settings and start a conversation with the Claude 3.7 model.
7. <https://www.gadgets360.com/ai/news/anthropic-claude-web-search-feature-ai-chatbot-real-time-information-7975009> - Anthropic announced the rollout of the web search functionality for Claude on Thursday. The San Francisco-based AI firm released the artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot in March 2023, but so far, it could not access the Internet to find real-time information, and only had to rely on its internal knowledge database. This is now set to change as the company is finally adding the capability across web, mobile, and desktop apps. At present, the functionality is available in preview and is used only when Claude deems it necessary. Web search in Claude is available in preview to paid users in the US. The feature is powered by the Claude 3.7 Sonnet AI model. Anthropic said the feature will be expanded to free users soon.