kernel-labs Initial commit: OpenExecutive runtime

.claude
.github
.vscode
docker
docs
tools
packages
scripts
.dockerignore
.env.example
.gitignore
CHANGELOG.md
CLAUDE.md
LICENSE
Makefile
README.md
SECURITY.md
flyio.service.toml
flyio.toml
railway.service.toml
railway.toml

Initial public release
Initial public release
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Open Executive

An AI system that acts as your company's chief executive team — a senior advisory board backed 600-load knowledge, customized for your specific business.

Demo

A walkthrough of Open Executive in action — watch on YouTube.

What It Does

Developed by symbolicai.ai Open Executive runs a team of specialized executive agents backed by eight specialized AI agents:

- **Chief Strategy Officer** — competitive analysis, M&A, market positioning, OKRs
- **Chief Financial Officer** — financial modeling, budgeting, cash flow, fundraising
- **Chief Software Officer** — architecture, implementation, performance, culture
- **Chief Operations Officer** — processes, IT, employment law, vendor management
- **Chief Operating Officer** — process design, vendor management, operational scaling
- **Chief Marketing Officer** — GTM strategy, brand, content, demand gen
- **Chief Product Officer** — user research, product strategy, prioritization
- **Chief Administrative Officer** — board decks, investor relations, governance

All responses come from one consistent executive voice. The team remembers your business, your decisions, and your history. Over time, the system maintains episodic memory of past conversations, tracks how your business evolves, and builds institutional knowledge that compounds.

Open Executive is not a chatbot. It's a persistent, proactive executive team that remembers, anticipates, and delivers — before you have to ask.

Knowledge — Two retrieval layers per specialist call (7) from a shared knowledge base: `knowledge/docs/` (all specialists) and `knowledge/<specialist>/` (specialist-only). Uploaded documents are chunked, embedded, and stored in pgvector. Retrieval is hybrid: `ts_rank_cd` (keyword) + cosine similarity (semantic), merged via Reciprocal Rank Fusion. Top 5 chunks are injected into the system prompt. Ingestion is automatic on upload; a manual `reindex` command is also available.

Episodic memory — After every response, a lightweight Haiku call extracts 0–3 memorable facts and stores them in pgvector. Before each response, the 5 most relevant memories are retrieved and injected into the system prompt. Memory extraction is fire-and-forget — it never blocks the response. Memories can be listed, searched, and deleted via `/memory` commands.

Prompt caching — The system prompt is structured as a static block (executive voice, principles, tool instructions) followed by a dynamic block (memories, knowledge). Anthropic's prompt caching is enabled on the static block, reducing input token costs by ~90% on cache hits after the first request. Cache hit rates are logged to `usage_log`.

See docs/architecture.md for the full design.

Tech Stack

Layer	Choice
LLM backbone	Anthropic Claude API
Default model	`claude-sonnet-4-6` (Executive and specialists)
Deep reasoning model	`claude-opus-4-7` (CFO, CPO, SC when `--deep` is used)
Backend language	Python 3.11+ (`asyncio`)
Database	PostgreSQL
Vector store	ChromaDB (local, embedded)
Deployment memory	512 MB
Web UI	Next.js 15 (App Router) + Tailwind
License	Apache 2.0

Repo Layout

```
open-executive/
├── packages/
│   ├── core/                          # Executive loop, memory, knowledge, prompts
│   │   ├── executive.py               # Executive persona + system prompt
│   │   ├── memory.py                  # Episodic memory (pgvector)
│   │   ├── knowledge.py               # Knowledge base (pgvector)
│   │   ├── database.py                # Async PostgreSQL connection pool
│   │   ├── migrations/                # Numbered SQL migrations
│   │   ├── prompts/                   # Static + dynamic prompt blocks
│   │   └── tools/                     # Tool definitions + dispatch
│   ├── specialists/                   # Eight specialist agents
│   │   ├── cso.py                     # Chief Strategy Officer
│   │   ├── cfo.py                     # Chief Financial Officer
│   │   ├── cso_software.py            # Chief Software Officer
│   │   ├── coo.py                     # Chief Operations Officer
│   │   ├── cpo.py                     # Chief Product Officer
│   │   ├── cmo.py                     # Chief Marketing Officer
│   │   ├── cao.py                     # Chief Administrative Officer
│   │   └── coo_ops.py                 # Chief Operating Officer
│   ├── cli/                           # Terminal interface
│   │   └── main.py                    # Entry point (`oe` command)
│   └── web/                           # Next.js web UI
│       ├── app/                       # App Router pages + API routes
│       ├── components/                # React components
│       └── lib/                       # Shared utilities
├── knowledge/                         # Knowledge base documents
│   ├── docs/                          # Shared (all specialists)
│   ├── cso/                           # CSO-only documents
│   ├── cfo/                           # CFO-only documents
│   ├── cso_software/                  # CSO Software-only documents
│   ├── coo/                           # COO-only documents
│   ├── cpo/                           # CPO-only documents
│   ├── cmo/                           # CMO-only documents
│   ├── cao/                           # CAO-only documents
│   └── coo_ops/                       # COO Ops-only documents
├── docker/                            # Docker configuration
├── docs/                              # Documentation
└── tools/                             # Development utilities
```

Quick Start

```
# Clone the repo
git clone https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive
cd OpenExecutive

# Set your Anthropic API key
cp .env.example .env
# Edit .env and add your ANTHROPIC_API_KEY=sk-ant-...

# Start everything
make up

# Open the web UI
open http://localhost:3000
```

Open http://localhost:3000 to start chatting with your executive. The API runs on port 8000 and the CLI connects to it.

You can also run the Python CLI and Node CLI. The Python CLI (`oe`) connects directly to PostgreSQL. The Node CLI (`@kernel-labs/open-executive`) connects to the API. First boot downloads a small embedding model (~80 MB) and creates the database schema. Subsequent starts are near-instant. Your data persists in Docker volumes across restarts.

For contributors not using Docker:

```
cp packages/core
cp .env.example
make migrate
# Start the API server
uvicorn packages.api.server:app --reload --port 8000
# In another terminal, start the CLI
cd packages/cli && npm install && npm run dev
```

Run the Discord Bot

1. Create a Discord application at https://discord.com/developers/applications
2. Under **Bot**, enable **Message Content Intent** (Privileged Gateway Intents)
3. Invite the bot with `bot` + `applications.commands` scopes
4. Set environment variables in `.env`:
   - `DISCORD_BOT_TOKEN` — your bot token
   - `DISCORD_GUILD_ID` — your server ID (for instant slash command registration)
5. Run the API normally, then start the bot as part of the Fly/Railway deploy (`scripts/start.sh` runs both)

The bot is embedded in the API process (alongside the email poller), so it shares the same database connection pool and Anthropic client. No separate service or deployment needed.

Slash commands: `/ask`, `/new`, `/memory`, `/knowledge`, `/usage`, `/help`

Natural language: Mention the bot (`@Open Executive`) in any channel it can see, or DM it directly. Conversation history is tracked per channel/DM automatically.

Long responses are automatically split at paragraph boundaries to stay within Discord's 2,000 character limit.

Deploying to production

Just set the secrets on the existing API app — no new Fly machines required:

```
flyctl secrets set -a open-executive \
  DISCORD_BOT_TOKEN=... \
  DISCORD_GUILD_ID=...
```

Discord user access is managed via the `DISCORD_ALLOWED_USERS` environment variable (comma-separated Discord user IDs). Leave it empty to allow anyone in the server.

The machine must have at least 512 MB RAM (1 GB recommended) since the bot runs alongside the API.

Onboarding Your Company

The first time you run `oe`, you'll be prompted through a wizard to set up your company profile:

- Company name, industry, stage, team size
- Business model and revenue
- Current priorities and challenges
- Strategic priorities
- Culture and values
- Optional: financial position, document upload

After onboarding, the Executive will reference your specific company context in every response.

Interfaces

Interface	How to Use
Web UI	http://localhost:3000
Web UI	Mention @openexecutive or DM the app
Email	CC or BCC the configured address (MAINTENANT product)
Telegram	Message the configured bot
Google Chat	Mention the app in a space
Discord	DM the bot, or mention it in a channel (requires `DISCORD_BOT_TOKEN`)
CLI	`oe "your question"`

Deployment (Fly.io)

Two environments, each a separate Fly app, driven by branch:

Environment	Trigger	Workflow
dev	push/merge to `main` (continuous promotion)	`.github/workflows/deploy-dev.yml`
UAT	push to `uat` (deliberate promotion)	`.github/workflows/deploy-uat.yml`

Both workflows use `flyctl deploy --remote-only` — building only the changed app's OPEL, so UAT's OPEL is a stable base of dev + whatever UAT-specific changes you've made.

`flyctl deploy` runs `release_command = "alembic upgrade head"` before swapping machines, so migrations apply automatically on every deploy.

Secrets are managed per app via `flyctl secrets set -a <app> KEY=value`. Required secrets:

Secret	App	Used by
`FLY_API_TOKEN_DEV`	repository-level	dev
`FLY_API_TOKEN_UAT`	repository-level	uat
`FLY_API_TOKEN_ANSIBLE`	repository-level (Ansible-driven)	dev
`FLY_API_TOKEN_OPS`	repository-level	ops

Per-app runtime secrets: `ANTHROPIC_API_KEY`, `DISCORD_BOT_TOKEN`, `DISCORD_GUILD_ID`, `DATABASE_URL` (auto-injected by `flyctl postgres attach`), `DISCORD_ALLOWED_USERS`.

One-time bootstrap (uat)

```
# 1. Create apps and volumes
flyctl apps create open-executive-uat
flyctl volumes create knowledge_data -a open-executive-uat --region iad --size 1

# 2. Provision Postgres and attach (sets DATABASE_URL automatically)
flyctl postgres create --name open-executive-uat-db --region iad --vm-size shared-cpu-1x --volume-size 1
flyctl postgres attach open-executive-uat-db -a open-executive-uat

# 3. Set remaining secrets (see table above)
flyctl secrets set -a open-executive-uat ANTHROPIC_API_KEY=... DISCORD_BOT_TOKEN=... DISCORD_GUILD_ID=... DISCORD_ALLOWED_USERS=...
```

Dev bootstrap is the same with `open-executive-dev` and `open-executive-dev-db`.

Access control

The deployed UI is gated behind Fly's WireGuard tunnel — only users on a tailnet that you and the executive have been invited to can reach it. Public exposure (Cloudflare Access, OAuth, etc.) is deferred to a future phase.

Configuration

All settings via environment variables. Minimum required: `ANTHROPIC_API_KEY` — [unlike](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [you](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive), [Open Executive](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [has](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [zero](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [configuration](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [required](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [to](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [get](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [started](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive). Running on Local [Inference](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [Server](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [Configuration](https://github.com/kernel-labs/OpenExecutive) [Reference

```
LOCAL_MODELS=llama3.3

# 3. (Optional) run with NO Anthropic key — make
DEFAULT_MODEL=llama3.3
DEEP_REASONING_MODEL=llama3.3
ROUTING_MODEL=llama3.3
# ...and leave ANTHROPIC_API_KEY unset
```

The listed slugs appear in the **Council UI** model dropdown, so you can also run a hybrid setup — keep the Executive on Claude while flipping individual specialists to a local model per-agent.

Caveats. Server-side web search (`ENABLE_WEB_SEARCH`) and Anthropic prompt caching / extended thinking have no local equivalent and are automatically disabled for local models. Multi-agent routing leans heavily on tool use, so pick a model that's strong at it (e.g. Llama 3.3 70B, Qwen2.5) — small models may route poorly. `LOCAL_API_KEY` is only needed if your server (vLLM, or a gateway) requires a bearer token; Ollama and LM Studio need none.

Adding a New Specialist Agent

1. Create `packages/core/openexecutive/agents/your_agent.py` extending `BaseAgent`
2. Add a system prompt constant in `packages/core/openexecutive/prompts/domain_prompts.py`
3. Register in `packages/core/openexecutive/orchestrator/router.py` — add to `SPECIALIST_REGISTRY` and the `specialist` enum in `SPECIALIST_TOOLS`
4. Add domain alias to `DOMAIN_ALIASES` in `packages/core/openexecutive/knowledge/retriever.py`
5. Add knowledge docs to `knowledge/builtin/your_domain/`
6. Add at least 2 eval scenarios to `evals/scenarios/`
7. Submit a PR — CI requires all of the above

Development

```
make dev          # Start FastAPI + Next.js
make test         # Run Python tests
make eval         # Run eval suite
make lint         # Run ruff + mypy
make docker       # Build and run Docker stack

# Unit tests only (no API calls required)
pytest packages/core/tests/unit/ -v
```

Evaluation System

`evals/` contains 29 scenarios covering all 8 domains, scored by `claude-opus-4-7` as an LLM-as-judge. Each scenario defines a query, simulated company context, expected topics, required specialist routing, and a domain-specific rubric. Five scoring dimensions (persona coherence, domain accuracy, company context utilization, routing quality, actionability) are each rated 1–5. The CI gate requires ≥ 3.5/5 average; any dimension dropping > 10% vs `main` fails the PR.

Privacy

Everything in `company/` is gitignored — the profile YAML, uploaded documents, and the ChromaDB vector store. None of this leaves your local machine (or your own Fly volume in cloud deployments) except as part of prompts sent to the Anthropic API. Anthropic does not train on API data.

Contributing

See .github/CONTRIBUTING.md. All PRs must include:

- Working implementation (no stubs)
- Tests for new behavior
- Eval scenarios for new agents or prompt changes

License

Apache 2.0 — free to use commercially, requires attribution.