

A16Z SPEEDRUN AND Y COMBINATOR · 2026 COHORTS

Speedrun vs YC: what the companies build

YC has a higher share of companies describing physical or biological products in the cohorts examined: 14.0%, compared with 4.3% at Speedrun.

We screened 567 public company records and compared technology, customers and operating models in a sample of 48 companies from each programme. The physical-product gap appears in both cohort comparisons. The sample also contains more applied-AI companies at Speedrun; most software-product companies in both samples are classified as applied AI.

6 / 139

Speedrun records with a physical or biological principal deliverable · 4.3%

60 / 428

YC records with a physical or biological principal deliverable · 14.0%

96

Companies classified across technology, markets and operating models · 48 per programme

Snapshot: 16 October 2026. Speedrun SR006/SR007; YC Winter/Summer 2026. These are classifications of public descriptions, including proposed products. They do not measure technical achievement, selection preferences or investment returns. Nine YC records remain unresolved in the physical-product screen.

[Physical-product screen](#) · [Search the 96-company sample](#) · [Download data and PDF](#)

567-RECORD SCREEN / PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS

Physical and biological products: 4.3% at Speedrun, 14.0% at YC

We looked for a physical product, integrated robot, industrial production system, biological therapeutic or biological computing substrate as a principal deliverable. Software and data sold to those industries were

counted separately. Both proposed and current products qualify.

PROGRAMME/COHORT	PUBLIC RECORDS	PHYSICAL/BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPAL DELIVERABLE IDENTIFIED	UNRESOLVED CANDIDATE
Speedrun / All	139	6 (4.3%)	0
Speedrun / SR006	59	3 (5.1%)	0
Speedrun / SR007	80	3 (3.8%)	0
YC / All	428	60 (14.0%)	9
YC / Summer 2026	230	37 (16.1%)	8
YC / Winter 2026	198	23 (11.6%)	1

The gap appears in both cohort comparisons: 5.1% versus 11.6% for Speedrun SR006 and YC Winter; 3.8% versus 16.1% for SR007 and YC Summer. These are shares of the publicly listed records, with different cohort sizes and disclosure dates.

Nine YC candidates remain unresolved. Records that did not trigger the keyword search may include missed physical products. There has been no independent review of these labels.

[Download all 567 records, labels and sources](#) · [Download cohort totals](#)

▼ [Screening method and definition](#)

- Speedrun data include all 139 public profiles in SR006 and SR007. YC descriptions come from the fixed YC-OSS snapshot for Winter and Summer 2026.
- A physical/biological keyword search flagged 158 descriptions. Those candidates were reviewed using their declared products and current descriptions. Software or data for physical industries did not qualify by itself.
- Two further positives, Sam and 6thSense, were identified from company websites checked during the 96-company sample review. Their directory descriptions did not trigger the search.
- Unflagged records retain the label "No physical keyword signal." That label is not a confirmed negative. Undisclosed products and differences in profile detail could affect both programmes' counts.
- The screen is AI-assisted and has not been checked by an independent reviewer. It does not validate whether a company has built or commercialised the described technology.

- The sample below uses a broader technology classification. Its physical/biological shares, 4/48 and 13/48, should not be substituted for the screen's shares or extrapolated to full cohorts.

96-COMPANY SAMPLE / TECHNOLOGY

Applied AI: 79% of the Speedrun sample, 60% of YC's

The pilot assigns one primary technology family based on what the company principally builds or delivers. Physical systems can still use AI. "Software; AI unspecified" means the reviewed evidence does not establish an AI implementation; it does not mean the company uses no AI.

Applied AI



Hardware/electronics



Software; AI unspecified



AI models/research



Biotech



Industrial processes



Robotics



- **Applied AI:** 38/48 Speedrun companies (79.2%) versus 29/48 YC companies (60.4%). These labels describe declared product approaches, not independently audited code or model ownership.
- **Physical/biological families combined:** 4/48 Speedrun companies (8.3%) versus 13/48 YC companies (27.1%). This combines hardware/electronics, robotics, industrial processes and biotech.
- **Broad AI product language is much closer:** 38/48 versus 36/48 after selected website enrichment. That signal can include companies building hardware for AI and must not substitute for a core-technology classification.
- Speedrun's physical-system examples include Quo Labs/Sam, Syncere, Galileo Space and KIRA.
- YC examples include Piris Labs, Hlabs, 6thSense, Ultrasonium, ProvenMetal, Gamgee and Parasma.

Among software products, both samples are mostly applied AI

Among companies classified as software products, 29/32 Speedrun companies and 22/24 YC companies fall into applied AI. Under this coarse technology rubric, software-only effective diversity is 1.45 for Speedrun and 1.33 for YC. The sample sizes differ, so this is descriptive rather than an equal-size ranking.

The sample does not establish differences in algorithms, model ownership, training methods or proprietary data. Those would require a separate technical review.

96-COMPANY SAMPLE / OPERATING MODELS

Software products, services and physical systems

The operating-model rubric distinguishes software vendors, delivered services, hybrid businesses, physical products, financial operators, marketplaces, research/IP, and content experiences. It asks who does the work and what the customer receives. It does not infer subscriptions from an ARR claim or a product login.

Software product



Physical product/system



Delivered service



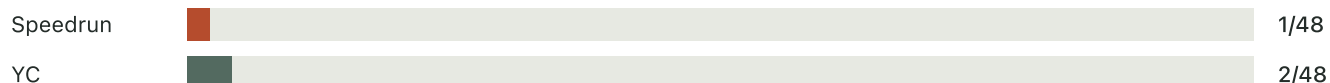
Hybrid software + service



Research/IP



Financial operator



Marketplace



Content/experience



- **Physical products/systems:** four versus twelve. Parasma is instead research/IP, explaining why YC's physical/biological technology count is thirteen.
- **Delivered services plus hybrids:** nine versus four. This includes professional work and operational services; it is not a profitability or labour-efficiency measure.

The sample's operating-model diversity estimate is higher for YC, but the ranking can reverse in resamples. Full calculations and category-change tests appear in [the sensitivity checks](#).

Pricing evidence is available for only 8 of 96 companies

Reviewed sources establish a charging unit or mechanism for eight companies. The other 88/96 are unknown in this evidence set, not necessarily undisclosed everywhere. Fifteen company websites were checked specifically to resolve ambiguities; this was not a comprehensive pricing-page crawl.

- **Sam:** product purchase with no current subscription for the advertised buyer group. [\[8\]](#)
- **Hammock:** employer pricing per employee per month, with a quote. [\[9\]](#)
- **Athena:** fixed legal transaction fees; **Concorda:** legal-service charges plus software access. [\[10\]](#), [\[11\]](#)
- **Maestro:** subscriptions; **Mecone:** proposed licensing of financial indices. Their other potential revenue sources remain unverified.
- **Didit:** usage-based identity checks; **TryNearby:** monthly restaurant subscriptions.

The sources establish what companies deliver more often than how they charge. Revenue-model diversity, margins and pricing power remain unmeasured.

96-COMPANY SAMPLE / CUSTOMER MARKETS

Customer markets: 16 in the Speedrun sample, 13 in YC's

▼ All customer-market counts

CLASSIFICATION	SPEEDRUN /48	YC /48
Built environment	3 (6.2%)	4 (8.3%)
Commerce & marketing	1 (2.1%)	3 (6.2%)
Consumer & personal	2 (4.2%)	2 (4.2%)
Defense & space	2 (4.2%)	3 (6.2%)
Developer & data infrastructure	4 (8.3%)	10 (20.8%)
Education & work	2 (4.2%)	1 (2.1%)
Finance & insurance	7 (14.6%)	7 (14.6%)
Food & agriculture	1 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Government & public sector	1 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Health & care	3 (6.2%)	3 (6.2%)
Horizontal enterprise	4 (8.3%)	1 (2.1%)
Industrial & energy	8 (16.7%)	8 (16.7%)
Legal	2 (4.2%)	2 (4.2%)

CLASSIFICATION	SPEEDRUN /48	YC /48
Media & entertainment	6 (12.5%)	1 (2.1%)
Professional services	1 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Transport & logistics	1 (2.1%)	3 (6.2%)

The Speedrun pilot spans sixteen primary market labels; YC spans thirteen. Effective diversity is 12.59 versus 10.11, accounting for concentration rather than simply counting labels. The largest three markets account for 43.8% of Speedrun sample companies and 52.1% of YC sample companies.

- **Industrial and energy exposure is equal:** eight companies each. The products differ: operational software alongside physical production, sensing and chemistry.
- **Finance and insurance exposure is equal:** seven each. Within that market, banking software, financial institutions, collections platforms and trading firms should not be collapsed.
- **Media and entertainment:** six Speedrun versus one YC.
- **Developer and data infrastructure:** four Speedrun versus ten YC. This includes physical networking, biological computation and software, the category includes several technologies.
- **Businesses dominate both buyer mixes:** 34/48 and 37/48 have an exclusively business buyer label. Nine versus five have an exclusively consumer label; mixed and government cases remain separate.

The market ranking can reverse in resamples. Several categories contain one company, and changing the category definitions could change the result. The sample is too small to establish that Speedrun serves more markets across its portfolio.

COMPANY COMPARISONS

Company comparisons

Legal services and legal software

Speedrun's Athena describes delivering transactions at fixed fees; YC's Moritz also describes an AI-native law firm. Concorda combines litigation services with software access, while Perceptron ML builds

bespoke systems for law firms. The legal category includes firms performing the work, software vendors and implementation services. [[10](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#)]

Factory software and physical production

Speedrun's Colmez automates hazardous-waste operators' workflows; Blueprint creates hardware designs; KIRA delivers water-treatment systems. YC's HERA supplies engineering workflow tools, while Ultrasonium describes a new metal-production process and ProvenMetal manufactures circuit boards. These companies sell different products to industrial customers.

Robots, training data and tactile sensors

Syncere builds domestic robots, Vound supplies workplace video for robot learning, and YC's 6thSense builds tactile-capture hardware. The customers may train or deploy robots, but the companies supply different products. Vound's data provision is classified separately from model research.

Banking software, banks and trading firms

Speedrun's August sells banking workflow software; Leonidas is building a financial institution. YC's Spectre operates AI-led trading strategies. The terms "AI banker" and "AI trader" cannot establish that these have the same business model.

Compute marketplaces, software and networking hardware

YC's Touchmark is a market for future inference capacity, Quotient optimizes model usage, and Piris Labs develops photonic networking. They depend on AI compute demand but sell different products.

Rosebud AI appears in both programmes

Rosebud AI appears in Speedrun SR001 and YC Summer 2019, with the same domain and founder on the two official profiles. That confirms at least one historical shared company; founding-year metadata differs between the profiles. Other exact-name matches remain identity leads until domains and founders are checked. None is automatically counted as shared from its name alone. [14, 15]

Text similarity does not establish competition

The downloadable company-pair search compares descriptions across the 139 Speedrun and 428 YC records. We also reran it after removing generic AI/software language. Shared words can produce high scores for different products, so these candidate pairs are excluded from the diversity calculations.

INTERPRETATION / OPEN QUESTIONS

Implications and unanswered questions

1. **Speedrun's industry coverage may be broader than its technology mix.** The sample covers 16 markets, but 38/48 companies fall into applied AI. Classifying the remaining 91 recent Speedrun companies would test whether this holds beyond the sample.
2. **YC's hardware and biology exposure accounts for much of the technology gap.** The 567-record screen identifies physical or biological deliverables at 14.0% of YC records and 4.3% of Speedrun records. A second reviewer should check the classifications and audit records that did not trigger the keyword search.
3. **Software companies in the samples look more alike.** Applied AI accounts for 29/32 Speedrun software products and 22/24 YC software products. Comparing model providers, training, data ownership and system design would test differences within that category.
4. **Both programmes back businesses that perform work for customers.** Nine Speedrun and four YC sample companies deliver services or combine them with software. Contracts, human hours per job and margins would show whether these companies operate differently from conventional service firms.
5. **Speedrun's directory now contains few Gaming tags.** The tags fall from 19/25 in SR001 to 0/80 in SR007. Archived applications and launch descriptions could separate a change in selection from later pivots and retagging.
6. **The observed mix cannot explain selection.** We lack applicant and rejection data. Different portfolios could reflect different applicant pools, acceptance decisions or willingness to publish company profiles.
7. **The data cannot tell investors which programme produces better companies.** We have no comparable revenue, survival, exit or return data. Cohort age, starting stage, investment size and follow-on funding would also need to be controlled.

8. **More categories do not establish lower investment risk.** Companies in different markets may depend on the same model providers or customer budgets. Investment weights and shared dependencies would be needed to assess portfolio diversification.

EVIDENCE / COMPANY RECORDS

Search the 96 company classifications

Each row includes the classification rationale and source. These are single analyst/AI-assisted labels, not independent human validation. "High confidence" means clearer supporting public evidence, not a validated company claim or a measured probability.

96 of 96 companies

Oasiz ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Media & entertainment

Applied AI

Software product

Consumer experience

AI-built games are socially distributed through a software platform; generation technology is not specified as proprietary.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

SUN ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Media & entertainment

Applied AI

Software product

Consumer experience

Generates personalized audio and answers questions; no own-model claim is established.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Snapp AI ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Media & entertainment

Applied AI

Software product

Consumer experience

Personalized AI sports feed with analytics.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Verra ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Professional services

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow software

Consulting firms use a system of record that retrieves engagements and generates deliverables.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Quanto ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Automates work inside accounting firms rather than selling accounting directly.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Straia ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Education & work

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Unifies institutional data and deploys agents for colleges.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Quo Labs ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Company website ↗

Health & care

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Linked company website sells Sam as a dedicated senior companion device with free shipping and explicitly no subscription for current purchasers.

Revenue: Product purchase; no current subscription · Confidence: High

Cascade ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Built environment

Applied AI

Software product

Decision support

Construction prediction layer serves project owners and builders.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Coalition Systems ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Defense & space

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow software

Coordination software explicitly positioned as AI in the directory; own technical approach unspecified.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Syncere ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Consumer & personal

Robotics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Manufactures domestic robots; lamp transforms into arms for household chores.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Kaaro ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Transport & logistics

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Agents automate railway paperwork and operational workflows.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Emanate ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Industrial & energy

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Revenue operations agents for industrial materials companies.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Prior Foundry ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Company website ↗

Government & public sector

Software; AI unspecified

Software product

Decision support

Policy decision intelligence platform; the reviewed description does not establish an AI implementation.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

August ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Underwriting and servicing software deployed at banks rather than operating a bank.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Belong ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Media & entertainment

Software; AI unspecified

Software product

Commerce/network platform

Artist membership infrastructure and financial rails; company revenue mechanism is not specified.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Panorama ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Horizontal enterprise

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow software

Workplace data mining and workflow recommendations are supplied through a platform.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Vereda ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Food & agriculture

Applied AI

Marketplace

Commerce/network platform

Procurement agent connects supplier distribution to farm demand; transaction monetization is unverified.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Advocate ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Health & care

Applied AI

Delivered service

Delivered work

Completes rides groceries repairs and appointments for seniors end to end.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Quinn ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Company website ↗

Education & work

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow software

AI training is claimed in directory tags; detailed profile describes training infrastructure and customers.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

PayPath ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Agentic infrastructure manages debt workflows on a platform; no evidence of operating its own fund.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Hammock ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Company website ↗

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Hybrid software + service

Delivered work

Directory describes insurance setup; live website emphasizes HSA/FSA administration software plus member support with per-employee-per-month pricing.

Revenue: Per-employee-per-month · Confidence: Medium

Oasis ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Horizontal enterprise

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow software

Workspace for human-agent teams rather than a separately operated service organization.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Loops AI ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Commerce & marketing

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Commerce agents support product data AI search and sales for brands.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Concorda ↗

Speedrun · SR006

Legal

Applied AI

Hybrid software + service

Delivered work

Explicitly charges for both litigation services and access to its software platform.

Revenue: Software access + legal-service charges · Confidence: High

Fictional ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Media & entertainment

Applied AI

Software product

Consumer experience

Consumer AI characters and relationships; no verified ownership of core models.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

ChronoSpace ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Industrial & energy

AI models/research

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

Builds 4D world models used for physical-industry simulation; own research claimed.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Reelful ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Media & entertainment

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Direct-to-consumer video editing agent turns footage into content.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Parca ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Built environment

Applied AI

Delivered service

Delivered work

Produces preconstruction plans and studies reviewed by real-estate professionals.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Blueprint ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Industrial & energy

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Language-to-hardware design platform; physical end market does not make the company a hardware manufacturer.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Colmez ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Industrial & energy

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Waste-industry teams use software connecting compliance commercial and operating data.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Embrasure ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Developer & data infrastructure

Applied AI

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

Agent-native managed data warehouse rather than an AI-native professional service firm.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Coherence Health ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Health & care

Applied AI

Delivered service

Delivered work

AI-enabled medical provider describes treating patients; operating claims are not independent clinical validation.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Valent ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Industrial & energy

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Software evidence layer helps manufacturers win contracts and increase production.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Rollup ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Developer & data infrastructure

Applied AI

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

On-device AI SDK converts camera rolls to user context for other apps.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Infragrid ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Horizontal enterprise

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Suggests and generates agents from work patterns across apps.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Galileo Space ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Defense & space

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Builds intelligence satellites with onboard compute and sensing; technical AI role is secondary to delivered system.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Vound ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Developer & data infrastructure

Software; AI unspecified

Delivered service

Data provision

Captures labels and supplies real workplace video to robotics labs; supplying AI data is not proof that core technology is AI.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Ripline ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Industrial & energy

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Research-lab branding but described wedge is deploying operational agents; proprietary foundation model unestablished.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

KIRA ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Industrial & energy

Industrial processes

Physical product/system

Physical system

Modular wastewater treatment and mineral recovery systems are the delivered product.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Mecone ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Company website ↗

Finance & insurance

Software; AI unspecified

Research/IP

Model/data infrastructure

Initial product is licensing financial indices; own exchange is a future ambition rather than current model.

Revenue: Licensing · Confidence: High

Mirai ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Built environment

Applied AI

Software product

Consumer experience

Application layer uses world models for explorable real-estate locations; own model development unestablished.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Vela Energy ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Industrial & energy

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

AI workforce coordinates utility engineering procurement and scheduling for developers and EPCs.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Codos ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Company website ↗

Horizontal enterprise

Applied AI

Hybrid software + service

Workflow automation

Implementation-led AI platform for enterprise clients combines deployments and software; contractual split unverified.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Maestro ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Consumer & personal

Applied AI

Delivered service

Delivered work

Human-backed luxury travel concierge supported by an AI orchestration system; subscribers explicitly mentioned.

Revenue: Subscription · Confidence: High

ChatOverflow ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Developer & data infrastructure

Applied AI

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

Agent knowledge-sharing infrastructure; speedup claims do not establish a proprietary core model.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Leonidas ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Finance & insurance

Software; AI unspecified

Financial operator

Financial operation

Building a financial institution for frontier industries; no current AI implementation is established.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Ontem ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Runs invoicing and collections on a platform; financing underwriting is described as planned.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Athena ↗

Speedrun · SR007

Legal

Applied AI

Delivered service

Delivered work

Executes legal transactions at fixed fees using its own technology.

Revenue: Fixed professional-service fees · Confidence: High

Avoice ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Built environment

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow software

Architecture-practice software generates specifications and manages project records.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Bidflow ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Built environment

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Vision-based takeoffs automate estimating for electricians.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Constellation Space ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Defense & space

Applied AI

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

Directory says AI operating system; detailed product is satellite routing and orchestration software.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Pax Historia ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Media & entertainment

Applied AI

Content/experience

Consumer experience

AI sandbox game and worldbuilding experience for players.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Fort ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Consumer & personal

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Wearable tracks strength training using motion and heart-rate sensing; AI implementation unestablished.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Oxus ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

AI automates internal audits for enterprise audit teams rather than replacing the independent auditor.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Canary ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Reads source code and automates QA; current description differs from adversarial-AI headline.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Laurence ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Company website ↗

Commerce & marketing

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Linked website explicitly presents an AI Amazon-advertising platform with customer controls and free onboarding; pricing unit unestablished.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Piris Labs ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Photonic networking for AI chips is physical infrastructure rather than an application-layer model.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Approxima ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Coding agents scope validate and merge production changes.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Visibl Semiconductors ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Company website ↗

Industrial & energy

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Custom silicon design through fabrication and packaging; design-service versus product revenue split unverified.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Opalite Health ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Health & care

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Voice interpretation software used within clinical workflows.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Quotient Labs ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

Applied AI

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

Optimizes Claude Code context and token usage; not a model developer.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Servo7 ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Transport & logistics

Robotics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Deploys warehouse container-unloading robots; sale versus leasing terms unknown.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Zymbly ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Company website ↗

Transport & logistics

Applied AI

Software product

Decision support

Linked website explicitly sells an AI copilot for aircraft maintenance covering troubleshooting parts lookup and documentation.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

MouseCat ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Fraud detection models and investigation agents supplied to businesses.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Sitefire ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Commerce & marketing

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Creates and distributes content for discovery by agents; exact revenue model unknown.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Moritz ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Legal

Applied AI

Delivered service

Delivered work

Law firm handles legal work rather than merely supplying software to another firm.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Didit ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

Identity and fraud API uses in-house models; pay-as-you-go billing explicitly stated.

Revenue: Usage-based · Confidence: High

Hlabs ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Industrial & energy

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Makes robot parts electronics and actuators domestically.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Byteport ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

Software; AI unspecified

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

File-transfer networking software; serving AI companies does not prove an AI implementation.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Button Computer ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Consumer & personal

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Wearable button provides voice access to AI; core delivered product is a physical device.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Corelayer ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Monitors production systems and suggests fixes with agents.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Maywood ↗

YC · Winter 2026

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Proactive AI for dealmakers updates CRM research and relationship context.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Ultrasonium ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Industrial & energy

Industrial processes

Physical product/system

Physical system

Novel metal-part manufacturing process incorporates a physical-AI control layer.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

HERA ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Company website ↗

Industrial & energy

Software; AI unspecified

Software product

Workflow software

Detailed description establishes engineering tools but not the technical AI implementation.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Spectre Intelligence ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Financial operator

Financial operation

Operates trading strategies using AI traders; no evidence of selling software or who external customers are.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Parasma ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

Biotech

Research/IP

Model/data infrastructure

Trains human brain cells for compute; commercial delivery and revenue are unresolved.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Keбра ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Industrial & energy

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Technician guidance and back-office automation are software tools for skilled work.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Isengard Industries Inc ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Defense & space

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Mass-production systems for precision strike and counter-drone weapons.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Hubble ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Company website ↗

Health & care

Applied AI

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

Linked website explicitly describes medical-record retrieval using APIs voice and browser agents for healthcare-product teams.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Induction Labs ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

AI models/research

Research/IP

Model/data infrastructure

Develops foundation models; eventual licensing or API billing not established.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Touchmark ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

Software; AI unspecified

Marketplace

Commerce/network platform

Market for reserving and reselling future inference capacity; serving AI does not establish own AI technology.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Torus ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Built environment

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow software

Directory claims AI engineering workflow software; detailed description is sparse.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

Tsenta ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Education & work

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Career agent matches and applies to jobs for candidates.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Perceptron ML ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Company website ↗

Legal

Applied AI

Hybrid software + service

Workflow automation

Linked website confirms bespoke AI systems designed built and deployed for law firms; revenue split still unreported.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Inkbox ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Developer & data infrastructure

Applied AI

Software product

Model/data infrastructure

Identity and communications infrastructure for agents; classified in applied-AI ecosystem rather than own model research.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

TryNearby ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Commerce & marketing

Applied AI

Marketplace

Commerce/network platform

Matches restaurants and local creators; monthly subscriptions explicitly stated.

Revenue: Subscription · Confidence: High

Vernius Systems, Inc. ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Defense & space

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Manufactures radar seekers for unmanned interceptors.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

LATO ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Company website ↗

Finance & insurance

Applied AI

Delivered service

Delivered work

Delivers research studies and market simulations for funds; detailed model ownership unestablished.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

FlowManual ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Built environment

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Estimating bidding and purchasing platform for construction contractors.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Gamgee ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Health & care

Biotech

Physical product/system

Physical system

End-to-end personalized mRNA veterinary treatment with AI design; biological treatment defines technical class.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Dialogus ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Horizontal enterprise

Applied AI

Software product

Workflow automation

Voice agents integrate with enterprise systems; operational automation does not establish a separate service firm.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

ProvenMetal ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Industrial & energy

Industrial processes

Physical product/system

Physical system

Circuit-board manufacturer automates procurement DFM and assembly rather than only selling factory software.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

6thSense ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Company website ↗

Industrial & energy

Hardware/electronics

Physical product/system

Physical system

Linked website describes tactile capture hardware including wearable Skin sensors and Eye2 Pro egocentric cameras for robot learning.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

Waybill ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Company website ↗

Transport & logistics

Applied AI

Delivered service

Delivered work

Executes sourcing payments freight customs and inventory for hardware teams; directory claims agentic procurement.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: Medium

tash ↗

YC · Summer 2026

Finance & insurance

Software; AI unspecified

Financial operator

Financial operation

Builds managed collectible investment offerings; no AI implementation established.

Revenue: Unknown · Confidence: High

METHODS / COVERAGE

Cohorts, sources and sample selection

We collected all seven public Speedrun cohort lists and a YC-OSS directory snapshot on 16 October 2026. The comparison uses 139 records from Speedrun SR006/SR007 and 428 from YC Winter/Summer 2026. Stealth and other unlisted companies are excluded. [1, 2]

SPEEDRUN COHORT	PUBLIC RECORDS	CURRENT GAMING TAG	AI IN HEADLINE
SR001	25	19 (76.0%)	4 (16.0%)
SR002	25	19 (76.0%)	6 (24.0%)
SR003	32	19 (59.4%)	6 (18.8%)
SR004	42	13 (31.0%)	14 (33.3%)
SR005	59	4 (6.8%)	34 (57.6%)
SR006	59	2 (3.4%)	35 (59.3%)
SR007	80	0 (0.0%)	41 (51.2%)

The full collection contains 322 Speedrun and 6,307 YC directory records. These counts include older cohorts and are not the comparison denominators. Speedrun’s FAQ describes recent residencies of 70–80 companies,

while SR006 lists 59. The actual historical cohort size is not established, so its disclosure rate is unknown. Duplicate names and slugs also need identity checks before the historical records can be counted as distinct companies. [3]

Sample selection

- **Speedrun:** 24 companies from SR006 and 24 from SR007.
- **YC:** 24 from Winter 2026 and 24 from Summer 2026.
- Within each cohort, records were sorted by a fixed SHA-256 hash of programme plus directory ID using seed string `20261016`. The first 24 were selected before reading company models.
- Equal cohort weights make this a balanced two-cohort comparison. It is not the investment-count-weighted composition of either entire 2026 portfolio.
- Spring 2026 YC companies are collected but excluded from this pilot. Fall 2026 is ongoing and excluded. The census records their current public counts separately.

SR006 ran late January–April; SR007 ran July 27–October 11. YC's Winter and Summer Demo Days were March 24 and September 10. These are nearby comparison periods, not perfectly synchronized admission or disclosure windows. SR007 had only recently finished at the snapshot date. [4, 5, 6]

Speedrun's current Gaming tags, by cohort

Speedrun's current directory tags mark 19/25 SR001 records as Gaming, compared with 2/59 in SR006 and 0/80 in SR007. a16z documented an expansion beyond gaming in March 2025. Archived profiles would be needed to establish what every company did when it joined. [7]

"AI" appears in 35/59 SR006 headlines and 41/80 SR007 headlines, compared with 89/198 YC Winter and 105/230 YC Summer headlines. This counts wording in the same directory field; a company can use AI without putting it in its headline.

METHODS / SENSITIVITY CHECKS

Sensitivity tests and sampling uncertainty

Effective categories account for both the number of labels and how evenly companies are spread across them. A value of four means the same diversity as four equally common categories. The calculation is $\exp(\text{Shannon entropy})$; it depends on the labels and the sample.

DIMENSION	SPEEDRUN EFFECTIVE CATEGORIES	YC EFFECTIVE CATEGORIES	INTERPRETATION
Customer markets	12.59	10.11	Speedrun broader in the pilot; uncertainty spans a reversed ranking.
Technology families	2.21	3.63	YC broader in the pilot; coding and disclosure uncertainty remain.
Operating models	3.17	4.33	YC broader in the pilot; uncertainty spans a reversed ranking.

DIMENSION	OBSERVED YC MINUS SPEEDRUN	BOOTSTRAP MIDDLE 95% RANGE
technology	+1.41	+0.09 to +2.55
market	-2.48	-4.60 to +1.09
architecture	+1.16	-0.42 to +2.48

4,000 bootstrap draws, sampling with replacement within each of the four pilot cohorts. The intervals describe variation conditional on the pilot and its labels; they are not causal confidence intervals, do not incorporate non-disclosure or coding error, and use a finite-sample-biased plug-in diversity estimator. They should not be treated as a formal discovery test after examining multiple measures.

- **Exclude medium-confidence labels:** technology diversity remains higher for YC, at 3.63 across 40 cases versus 2.29 across 38 Speedrun cases. Unequal retained sample sizes limit direct comparison.
- **Merge physical/biological technology families:** effective technology diversity remains higher for YC, at 2.71 versus 2.03.
- **Use inverse concentration rather than Shannon diversity:** technology inverse-Simpson values are 2.47 versus 1.56, retaining the direction.
- **Merge the game/content category into software:** YC's operating-model diversity falls to 3.97 versus 3.17; the pilot direction survives the label change.
- **Equal-weight the thirteen shared markets:** software-product shares become 62.4% Speedrun versus 49.4% YC; applied-AI shares become 82.4% versus 70.4%. Several market cells have only one observation, so this is a fragile sensitivity check, not a matched-market estimate.
- **Current snapshots, not admissions:** a pivot can change a company's classification. Original application-time diversity has not been measured.

PROGRAMME	COHORT	SAMPLE	APPLIED AI	SOFTWARE PRODUCTS	TECHNOLOGY DIVERSITY
Speedrun	SR006	24	20/24	18/24	1.87
Speedrun	SR007	24	18/24	14/24	2.39
YC	Winter 2026	24	17/24	16/24	2.31
YC	Summer 2026	24	12/24	8/24	4.43

The later cohort has more technology variety in each programme's sample. Each cohort contributes only 24 companies; Spring YC is excluded. These four samples cannot establish a trend over time.

METHODS / UNRESOLVED EVIDENCE

Missing data and limits

- **Full classification:** 96 companies are source-coded. The accessible recent comparison frame has 567 records, all included in the narrower physical-deliverable screen. The full multidimensional taxonomy is applied only to the 96-company pilot.
- **Independent coding:** a second reviewer should label a blinded sample and resolve disagreements. Automated or analyst confidence is not inter-rater reliability.
- **Disclosure:** undisclosed, stealth, removed and deceased companies may differ systematically from visible companies. The historical total is not complete by assumption.
- **Time:** the pilot compares current descriptions from nearby but not identical periods. It does not measure what founders proposed at selection.
- **Technical depth:** no code, model weights, training economics, patents, benchmarks or independent engineering review was used to rank novelty or defensibility.
- **Commercial detail:** billing evidence is incomplete. Private contracts, implementation obligations, human labour and revenue splits could alter operating-model labels.
- **Sampling and category design:** only 24 companies per cohort. Sector cells can be tiny. Alternative granularity and ambiguous-case choices can change rankings.
- **Selection:** applicant/rejection denominators are absent. Portfolio composition cannot identify whether programme preferences or different applicant pools caused the difference.
- **Outcomes:** no claim about survival, revenue quality, returns, founder quality or whether diverse portfolios perform better.

Next research steps

Classify the remaining 91 recent Speedrun and 380 selected YC companies across all dimensions. Add a Spring YC comparison. Ask an independent reviewer to label a blinded sample and audit the physical screen. Collect pricing, delivery responsibilities and original launch descriptions where companies have pivoted.

EVIDENCE / DOWNLOADS

Sources, data and downloads

1. a16z Speedrun, [public company directory](#) and [public cohort listing endpoint](#). Seven cohort lists collected October 16, 2026. Individual profile sources appear in the company table.
2. YC-OSS, [public API repository](#) and [company file](#), downloaded October 16, 2026. This is an unofficial directory copy; the exact downloaded snapshot and SHA-256 checksums are retained locally.
3. a16z Speedrun, [FAQ](#), checked October 16, 2026. Programme scale and disclosure context; historical cohort completeness remains unknown.
4. Samira Behrouzan and Joshua Lu, [SR006 application announcement](#), September 2, 2025. Programme window.
5. Samira Behrouzan and Joshua Lu, [SR007 application announcement](#), April 20, 2026. Programme window.
6. Y Combinator, [2026 Demo Day dates](#), December 18, 2025.
7. Samira Behrouzan and Joshua Lu, [Meet the new a16z Speedrun](#), March 12, 2025. Historical scope expansion.
8. Quo Labs, [Speedrun profile](#) and linked [Sam website](#), checked October 16, 2026. Device and no-current-subscription model; product claims are company-reported.
9. Hammock, [Speedrun profile](#) and [company website](#), checked October 16, 2026. Benefits-administration and explicit pricing unit.
10. Athena, [Speedrun profile](#), checked October 16, 2026. Fixed-fee legal work.
11. Concorda, [Speedrun profile](#), checked October 16, 2026. Services plus software charging.
12. Moritz, [YC profile](#), checked October 16, 2026. Legal-service operating model.
13. Perceptron ML, [YC profile](#) and [company website](#), checked October 16, 2026. Bespoke systems for law firms.
14. Rosebud AI, [Speedrun SR001 profile](#), checked October 16, 2026.
15. Rosebud AI, [YC Summer 2019 profile](#), checked October 16, 2026. Shared domain and founder establish historical overlap; other name matches are not automatically confirmed.

Company-level sources and classification reasons are included in the downloadable CSVs. The research pack includes this page, the PDF and the supporting data. Collection snapshots and analysis scripts are retained locally.