NEWS RELEASE

Cisco and OpenAI Launch Shirudo, A New Project to Safeguard Agentic AI

2026-11-23

An industry-first open source project, Shirudo, helps systems defend themselves at machine speed

News Summary

- **Defenders can start protecting systems before a permanent patch is in place.** Cisco and OpenAI are making that possible through an open source effort to build infrastructure that is secure by default and defends itself.
- **Shirudo, an open source project built on industry-leading eBPF,** helps protect running Linux systems without a reboot while teams roll out a patch.
- **This marks a shift from human-paced policy updates to self-defending, agent-driven security.** AI agents do the legwork across the full stack, from models and data to the kernel and hardware, while people keep the keys and set the boundaries.

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 23, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- Cisco (NASDAQ: CSCO) and OpenAI today launched an open source effort to make infrastructure secure by default and able to defend itself against today's sophisticated cyber attacks. For too long, security has been a coat of paint. Cisco builds protection into the infrastructure itself, drawing on decades of building and protecting the systems the world depends on. OpenAI brings leading frontier AI research and insight into the attacks coming next. Together, they combine their insight to help anticipate AI-driven threats with the control to stop them.

Defenders must protect every part of their infrastructure, all the time. Attackers only need one machine that hasn't been patched. Shirudo is an important step toward closing that gap. The goal is infrastructure that is hardened from the moment it is built, keeps getting harder to attack, and can be restored to a known-good state if it is compromised.

"There is nothing more important than giving security teams the tools they need to match the speed of the AI-driven threats they are facing. We need self-defending infrastructure that acts at the speed of code, learns in real time, and shields itself until patches are safely rolled out," said Jeetu Patel, Cisco

President and Chief Product Officer. "Today, we're proud to announce Shirudo with OpenAI, an important step towards that vision as we continue to collaborate with the wider community to solve the unique challenges of AI safety and security."

"We're giving defenders better models and tools to find and fix vulnerabilities faster, but finding a bug today doesn't mean you can patch every system tomorrow," said Greg Brockman, President and Co-founder of OpenAI. "We are partnering closely with Cisco on Shirudo to help teams protect the systems they need to keep running while they build and roll out a fix. So many teams rely on the same software that it makes sense to build these tools in the open. Now when one team finds a better way to protect a system, others don't have to start from scratch."

Shirudo: An Open Source Project from Cisco and OpenAI
Shirudo, Japanese for "shield," uses eBPF, a technology that runs small, custom programs inside the operating system kernel without changing its source code. With it, AI agents can find a vulnerability, build a shield, and test that it stops the attack without disrupting the service. Shields go live only when the evidence says they are safe. Every shield is cryptographically signed, so the host can verify it before it runs, even if an attacker has gained administrator access.

In testing against recent critical vulnerabilities "Java4shell" and the PHP flaw, Shirudo was able to write code that detected and blocked attempts to exploit both threats. By utilizing an agentic framework, Shirudo matches the speed of AI-driven attacks as soon as a vulnerability is identified. Learn more about Shirudo here.

Cisco and OpenAI are inviting developers, researchers, and enterprises to help shape what comes next. Contribute a test that reproduces a vulnerability, run a shield against a kernel build you use, or show us where it breaks legitimate traffic. To learn more about Shirudo, visit: https://github.com/shirudo-dev/shirudo.

Read more:

- Cisco Blog: Expanding the Defender's Window with Self-Defending Infrastructure
- Cisco Blog: Cisco and OpenAI Launch Shirudo
- OpenAI Blog: OpenAI and Cisco Introduce Shirudo
- Shirudo on GitHub
- Join us for a deep dive webinar on December 15, register here.

About Cisco
Cisco (NASDAQ: CSCO) is the worldwide technology leader that is revolutionizing the way organizations connect and protect in the AI era. For more than 40 years, Cisco has securely connected the world. With its industry leading AI-powered solutions and services, Cisco enables its customers, partners and communities to unlock innovation, enhance productivity and strengthen digital resilience. With purpose at its core, Cisco remains committed to creating a more connected and inclusive future for all. Discover more on The Newsroom and follow us on X at @Cisco.

Cisco and the Cisco logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Cisco and/or its affiliates in the U.S. and other countries. A listing of Cisco's trademarks can be found at http://www.cisco.com/go/trademarks. Third-party trademarks mentioned are the property of their respective owners. The use of the word 'partner' does not imply a partnership relationship between Cisco and any other company.

About OpenAI
OpenAI is an AI research and deployment company with a mission to ensure that artificial general

intelligence benefits all of humanity. We work toward that mission by developing more capable AI systems and making them available through products like ChatGPT and our API. People use these tools to learn, create and solve problems, while businesses and developers use them to build products and improve how they work.

View original content to download multimedia:https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cisco-and-openai-launch-shirudo-a-new-project-to-safeguard-agentic-ai-302948660.html

SOURCE Cisco Systems, Inc.