

RIVO MULTITRADE OPTICAL SYSTEMS

Does introducing AI require a server



Overview

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Key Takeaways

AI does not always require a dedicated server; it can run locally on personal devices for smaller models, but large-scale AI typically needs specialized servers or cloud infrastructure. Running AI Locally

In 2026, it is possible to run capable AI models, including large language models, on personal computers such as laptops or desktops without a dedicated server. Tools like Ollama, LM Studio, and llama.cpp allow developers to run AI locally, providing benefits like privacy, offline access, and zero API costs. Local AI is suitable for development, testing, or small-scale applications, especially when data privacy is a priority.

Server Requirements for AI

For larger AI models or production-level applications, specialized servers are often necessary. AI servers are designed for high-performance computing, with components like GPUs, large RAM, fast storage, and high-speed networking to handle intensive workloads such as model training, inference, and real-time AI tasks. The requirements vary depending on the AI phase:

- **Training:** Requires the most resources, including high-end GPUs, large memory, and fast storage to process massive datasets efficiently.

- Inference: Less demanding than training but still benefits from optimized hardware for fast predictions.
 - Deployment: Focuses on scalability and reliability, often using cloud services or clusters of AI servers to handle multiple users and high traffic .
- Cloud vs On-Premises

Organizations can choose between on-premises AI servers or cloud-based AI infrastructure. Cloud platforms like AWS, Azure, or Google Cloud provide flexible, scalable resources without the upfront cost of physical servers, while on-premises servers offer control over data and compliance . Hybrid approaches are also common, combining local inference with cloud-based training.

Key Takeaways

- Small AI models can run on personal computers without a server.
- Large models or production AI typically require specialized servers or cloud infrastructure with GPUs/TPUs.
- Local AI offers privacy, offline access, and cost savings, while server-based AI ensures scalability, high performance, and reliability.
- The choice depends on model size, workload, and deployment needs .

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