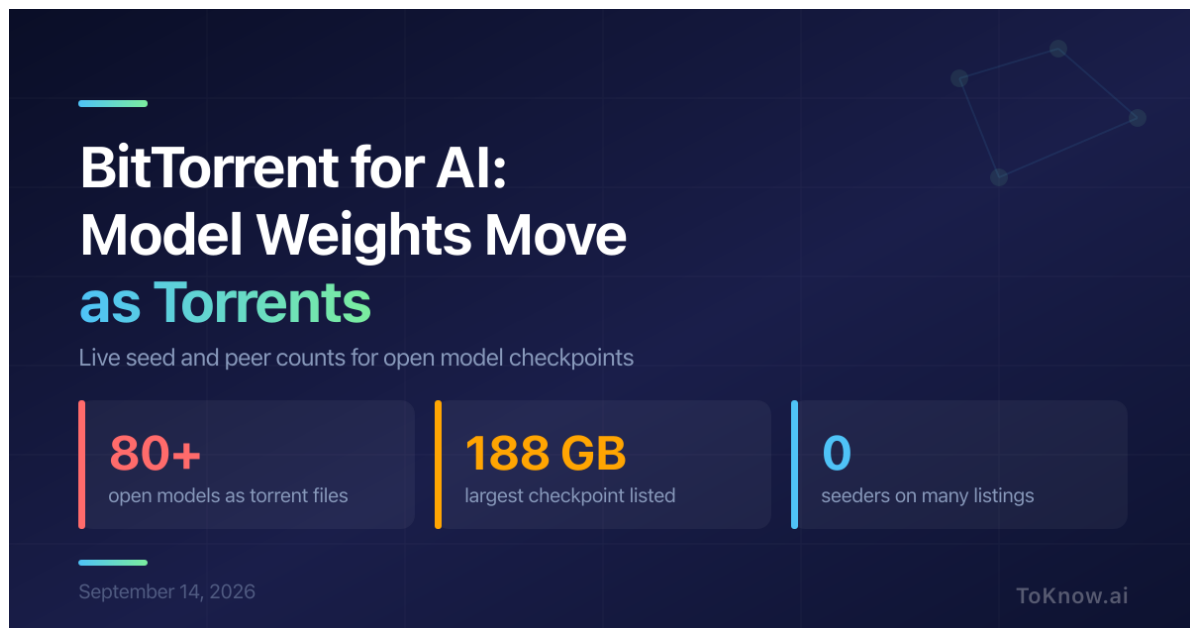


BitTorrent for AI: Model Weights Are Now Moving as Torrents

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An open-source registry called [Model Registry](#) now publishes AI model weights as torrents, a file-sharing method where machines trade pieces instead of pulling a whole file from a server. Each listing shows the size, licence, and live seed and peer counts. A daily job picks one model with a permissive licence, hashes it, and commits the torrent. More than 80 are listed, from GPT-2 to an 188 GB checkpoint. Each torrent also carries a web seed, a plain web address

to pull pieces from, so downloads do not stall with no peer online. Mistral shipped Mixtral's weights as a magnet link, a hash-based pointer for torrent clients, and it still sits in the [official model card](#).

Model files have outgrown what one host serves comfortably. A 55 GB checkpoint a team pulls repeatedly is a fixed cost and a single point of failure, and a torrent spreads that work across everyone who already holds the file, a seed in torrent terms. The trade-off shows live on the site: many entries list zero seeds, so the web seed or the original host still carries most of the traffic. For now this is a spare mirror, not a swarm.

The other half of the idea stalled. Petals, a 2023 MIT-licensed project, split a model across volunteers so anyone could run Llama at home, BitTorrent-style, at up to 6 tokens per second on a 70B model. Its last code change was in August 2024. Research into decentralised serving continues, but in practice the file travelled and the compute did not.

Read More: [The hedge against a central host is holding the weights yourself](#)

Sources:

- [Petals: run LLMs at home, BitTorrent-style \(GitHub\)](#)
- [Model Registry: decentralised distribution of open-source AI models](#)
- [modelregistry: the code behind the registry, including the daily torrent job \(GitHub\)](#)
- [PlanetServe: a decentralised overlay for large language model serving \(arXiv\)](#)
- [Mixtral 8x7B v0.1 model card, with the original torrent magnet link \(Hugging Face\)](#)

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