



Redefining workplace training with generative AI

OneBonsai embraces AI as it seeks to transform the scope and impact of skills training

OneBonsai has had great success using virtual reality (VR) to deliver workplace training at scale and in different industries. It now wants to use generative AI to create training experiences that are more engaging, more personal, and impactful. To succeed, it needs an infrastructure that supports graphics workloads, is scalable, and will enable it to run AI at the edge or in the hybrid cloud.

Powering the next great leap in productivity

The industry recognizes the need for skilled staff and the importance of continuously evolving skills, but it requires training solutions that are more engaging, personal, and cost effective.

Enter OneBonsai. The Belgian training specialist, founded in 2017, retains the spirit of a start-up and sees an opportunity to transform on-the-job training. It sees AI as a means to reimagine how lifelong career development is delivered.

“AI can create a training experience based on your personal background,” says Evarest Schoofs, founder and CEO of OneBonsai. “It can create a virtual coach, a digital patient, or a virtual environment unique to your circumstances.”

The opportunity is huge. Too often, Schoofs continues, skills training is viewed—at best—as functional but necessary, with little enjoyment in the experience.

“Delivered poorly, mandatory training can have a demotivating effect on staff. It’s costly and dull,” he points out. “Training can be more than simply teaching new skills; it can be a point of difference, a reason to enjoy working for an employer, and a way to excel in a career.”



Industry: Business services

Country: Belgium

Vision

Transform professional development with personalized, dynamic training powered by generative AI

Strategy

Build IT infrastructure capable of supporting the development of AI and graphic use cases

Outcomes

- Creates 10x improvement in performance times
- Broadens accessibility while securing sensitive workloads
- Establishes a platform with the ability to scale globally

AI to create a dynamic training experience

OneBonsai is experienced in using technology to address gaps in enterprise training. It has developed training experiences using virtual and augmented reality. Current customers include Nike, Securitas, Equans, Deloitte, T-Systems, and the Belgian army, among others.

“If it’s big, expensive, or dangerous, you want to virtualize it,” says Schoofs.

This approach has proven successful, but it has its limitations. VR tends to work best with process-driven training, where employees have to learn and follow preagreed steps. Next-generation, AI-powered solutions will go much further. AI will enable dynamic training scenarios where the teacher responds to the trainee’s input.

OneBonsai is working on two AI projects aimed at the healthcare market. The first project will create a digital version of a patient, complete with visible wounds, multiple personality types, emotions, and illnesses. The patient will respond uniquely in each training instance based on a generated medical history. This will allow medical teams and students to train in diagnosing patients in a safe and controlled environment and learn how to handle different personality types, cultures, and social situations.

The second project focuses on building a robot surgery training solution, using remote rendering techniques and virtual simulation of tissue.



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Previously operating mostly in Europe, Schoofs now sees the global potential of both use cases: “Healthcare issues are both global and unique. Healthcare providers want to improve their training, and each patient presents differently. AI can learn from a wealth of historical data and be complemented with realistic visual representations.”

For a next-generation AI training service, Schoofs recognized the need for a next-generation IT infrastructure.

“What we needed was an infrastructure that could support AI and graphics workloads, and one that we could scale as the opportunity grew,” he says. “Also, we wanted to own this ourselves. If we are going to invest in AI, our clients will expect us to know what it involves.”

Building an infrastructure optimized for AI workloads

OneBonsai is building its AI ambitions on HPE ProLiant DL385 Gen11 Servers with NVIDIA® AI, including NVIDIA L40S GPUs, NVIDIA AI Enterprise, NVIDIA NIMS, and NVIDIA Omniverse. This establishes the premier platform for multimodal generative AI and the creation of digital twins, enabling the business to move quickly and securely.

“The solution from Hewlett Packard Enterprise and NVIDIA is optimized for exactly these types of workloads,” says Schoofs. “It has the compute power and server stability to work in the most critical of settings.”

In tandem, HPE ProLiant DL385 Gen11 Servers with NVIDIA L40S GPUs enable OneBonsai to run AI workloads at the edge. This helps eliminate the need for OneBonsai's customers to rely on high-powered (and high-cost) cloud hardware, improving accessibility to AI-fueled training. With a global opportunity in healthcare, it also allows OneBonsai to deploy, secure, and manage sensitive workloads remotely.

In addition, the use of NVIDIA AI Enterprise and NVIDIA Omniverse will allow OneBonsai to move quickly as it develops new features. The former, says Schoofs, will streamline the way pilot projects are brought to production, and the latter will accelerate the work of developers, particularly around the creation of training avatars and digital twins.

"Fitting with the NVIDIA AI means everything moves that much faster," he adds. "Being preconfigured means we never have to start from zero."

The infrastructure was deployed in the summer of 2024 and Schoofs says the OneBonsai team is working to optimize the system across the two projects. Early indications of performance are promising. "Through relentless optimization, response times decreased from three seconds to 0.3 seconds. It's a tenfold improvement, and we're still optimizing. What this means is that the generative AI is far more responsive and can scale better. There is almost no lag in the system," Schoofs says.

This performance will be critical as OneBonsai seeks to win over new clients. Many recognize the promise of AI but may be skeptical about whether the use cases are ready to be used in production. Besides performance, Schoofs says the historical track record of HPE and NVIDIA, along with the pair's future road map will be key to generating momentum.

"This engagement puts us in a much stronger position in terms of how we advise clients. We're looking forward to working with the AI Foundation within HPE."



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