

Token Economics: The Story Beyond \$ per Million Tokens

Public Lecture by Senthoo Punniamoorthy, Telstra

What you're actually buying when you buy a million tokens
Dollars per million tokens has become the default currency for comparing AI models, yet it is the least informative number on when addressing token economics. It prices a unit of output while saying nothing about how fast that output arrives, how much context the model can hold, how many tokens it consumes to complete a task, or the commercial and regulatory boundaries that decide where it can run at all. This session draws on live market benchmarks and interactive demonstrations to show what a token price is actually made of — the engineering trade-offs providers tune to produce it, the external constraints they cannot — and offers a rigorous framework for comparing models on the cost of an outcome rather than the cost of a token.

Senthoo Punniamoorthy is a Principal Architect in Telstra's Chief Architect's Office. His work sits between emerging technology and business strategy: taking what the business wants to achieve and turning it into architecture and roadmaps that engineering teams can actually build. He loves working on problems that don't fit neatly inside one discipline — the ones where no single field holds the answer, and the work is recognizing which ones it will take and shaping them into a solution.

Hosted by:

The Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Society (AISOC)

Registration:

Monday, 5 October 2026

09:00 London (BST)

10:00 Central Europe Time (CEST)

18:00 Melbourne (AEST)

