

# AI at Work: How Technology is Shaping Careers

The future just went live. This event showcases where intelligence meets imagination, bringing innovation to the forefront. Join us to gain new skills, shape creativity and career-defining ideas.

We are excited to welcome three established, industry-leading speakers who will share their insights on AI's role in the future of work and its broader impact on your career and society:



Ravi Srivastav



Hasith Kalpage



Alex Tatham

**Limited space book now!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> of March 6:30 - 8:00pm**

**Please arrive by 6:00pm**



# Ravi Srivastav

**Enterprise Adviser, Maiden Erlegh School, Earley**

Senior Manager,  
Security Strategy,  
VodafoneThree

- Masters in Computer science
- Graduate in Economics

20 years in Cyber Security  
managing Cloud & AI security risk



## About me

I combine a background in Economics (the 'Why') with a Master's in Computer Science (the 'How') to bridge the gap between business strategy and technology delivery. Having lived through multiple waves of digital disruption, from the dawn of the internet to the AI age, I am here to help you navigate the massive opportunities and risks—of future workplace; In leisure, I like reading, cycling and making raspberry-pi robots – I especially enjoy learning from my son and daughter.

## Professional skills

My career started as a mainframe programmer in Banking, and over the years moved to Architecture and later Strategy roles. In my current role leading Security strategy for UK's largest mobile service provider VodafoneThree, I provide a forward-looking guidance for managing evolving regulations, technology trends, risk and security threats from organised criminals to nation state actors.



# Your Future Career

Ravi Srivastav, March 2026



# Audience poll

Stand up if you had a mobile phone in:

2005



2015



2025





# 1. Technology Evolution

# Evolution of Technology

From Steam Power to AI Breakthroughs

- Every technology evolution generated new skills
- Time between evolutions is condensing

Mechanization, enabling mass production and industrial transformation



1760-1840 **Steam Power**

1840-1900 **Electricity & Telegram**



Enabled instant communication & power distribution.

**Built on Steam power**

Revolutionized transportation & production.  
**Built on Electricity**



1900-1945 **Internal combustion engine**

1945-1975 **Electronics & Radio**



Wireless communication technology  
**Built on Internal combustion engine**

Digital information processing  
**Built on Electronics**



1975-1995 **Semi conductors & Computers**

1995 - 2015 **Internet & Telecommunication**



Connected the world globally  
**Built on Computers**

intelligent systems & exponential computing power  
**Built on Internet and Telecommunication**



2015 – 2035

**Artificial Intelligence & Quantum Computing**



## 2. Future Technology and your career

# Generational gap



Generation Baby boomer  
(Year 1946 – 1964)



Generation X  
(Year 1965 – 1980)



Current Generation  
(Year 2008 – 2025)

## Career pattern

- Single profession (Engineering, Medicine) in 40-year career.
- Single profession (AI Data scientist, Search engine optimisation manager).
- With some movement across industries (Banking, Telecom, Manufacturing etc.) in 40-year career.
- Multiple professions (Brain computer interface designer, Quantum engineer) multiple role, across multiple industries (Space, Deep oceans, Synthetic biology, Human machine augmentation)

## Skills

- Deep expertise in a single skill.
- Deep expertise + tool adaptability
- Strong foundation + rapid learning

## Job security

- Loyalty to employer = Job Security
- Performance + Skills = Job Security
- Critical thinking + Adaptability + Lifelong learning + Ethics = Job Security

# Upcoming career paths

## STEM\*

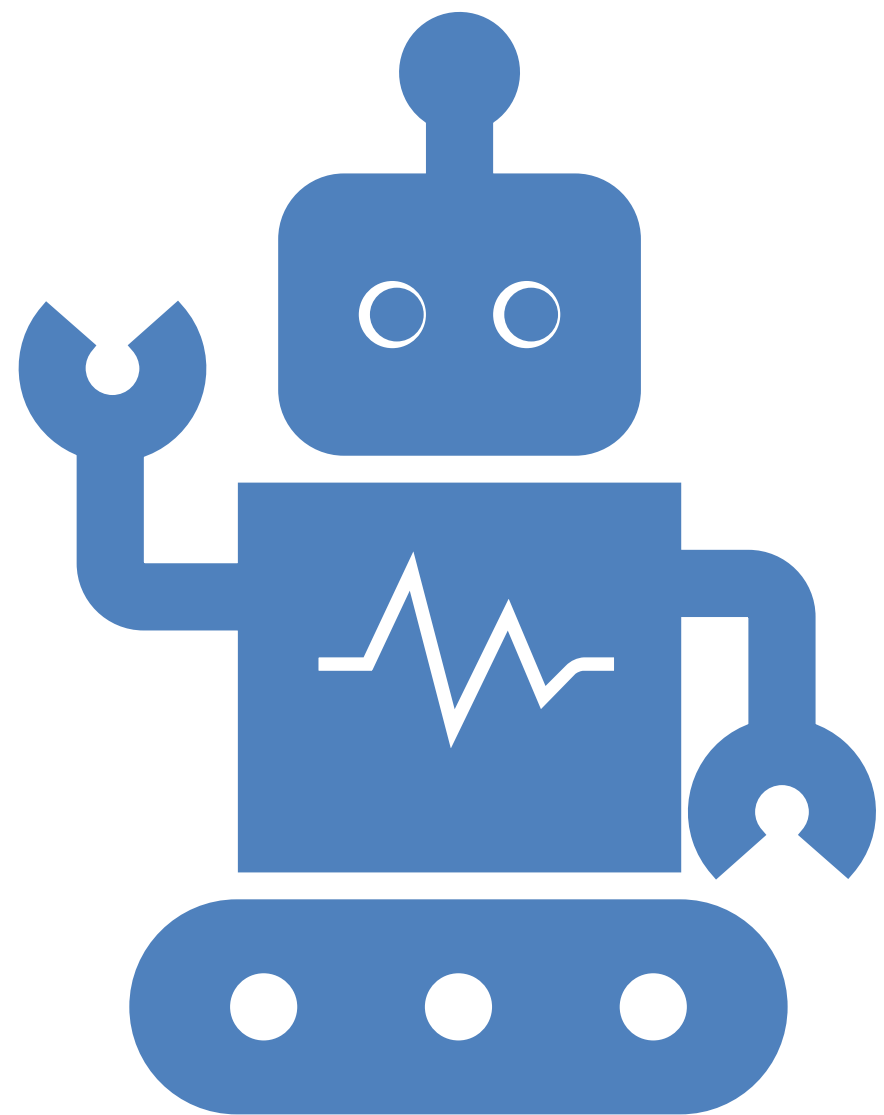
- AI & Data science
- Robotic engineer
- Cybersecurity analyst
- Biomedical engineer
- Brain computer interface designer
- Quantum computer engineer

## Humanities

- Ethics consultant
- Public policy analyst
- Habitat policy expert
- Narrative designer
- Communication strategist
- Future roles

The most exciting opportunities will be found at the intersection of disciplines—  
imagine roles that blend engineering with biology, or computing with ethics

- Digital Ethicist
- Technical policy advisor
- Scientific communicator



**AI will take  
your tasks –  
not your job**

# Handcrafted

1910



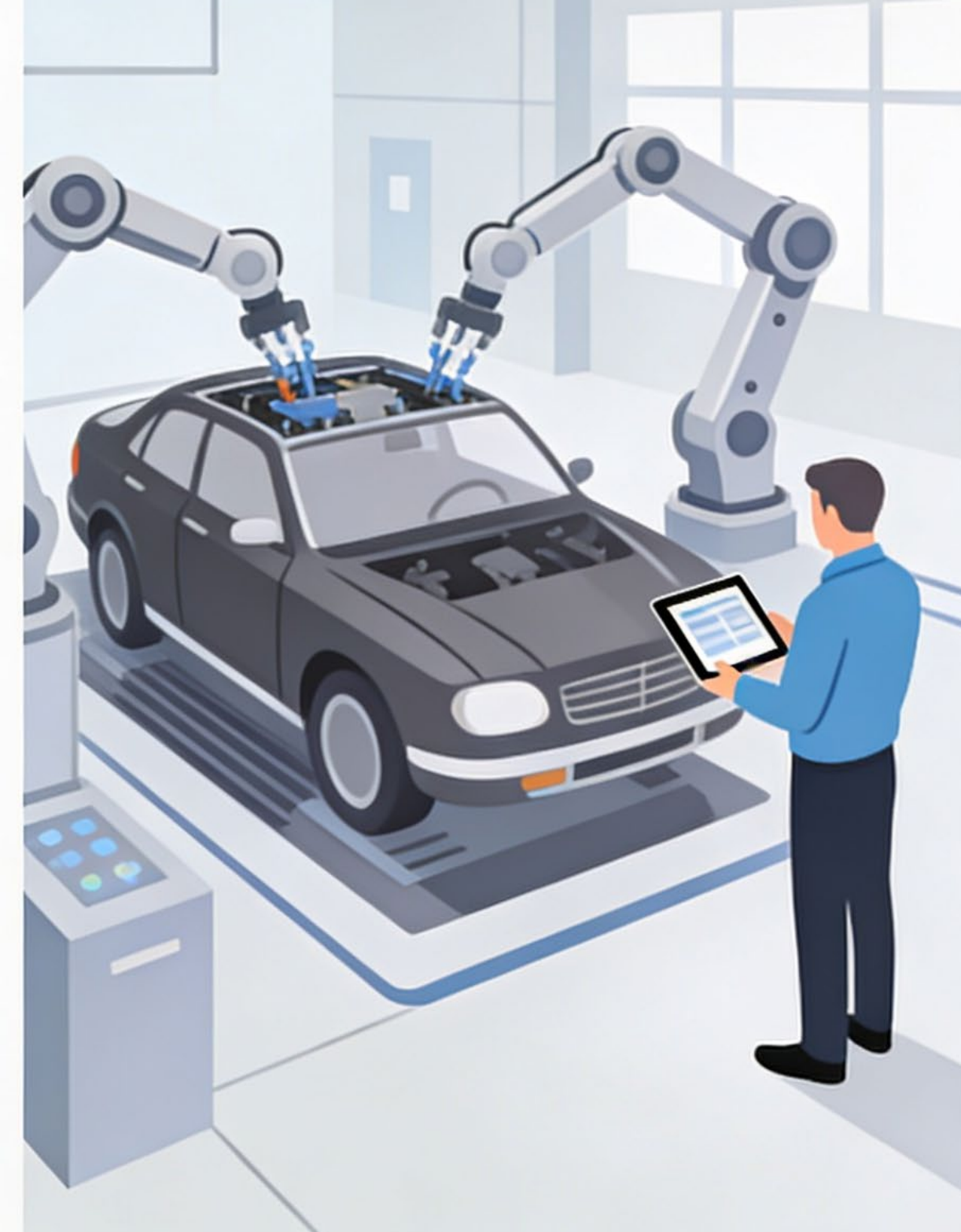
# Assembly Line

1960



# Robotic Factory

2000



**1980**

**Hand-Coded**



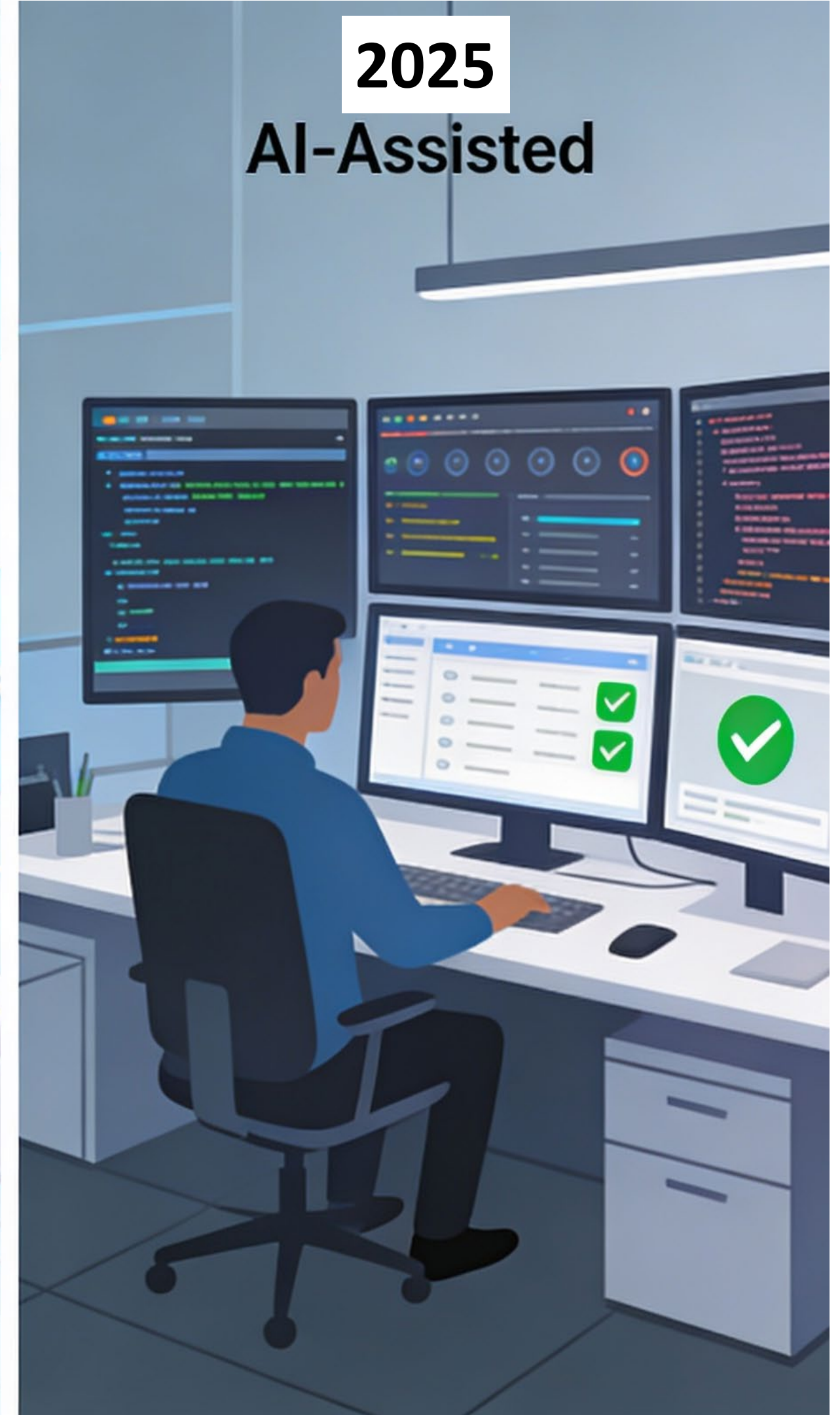
**2020**

**Dev & Test Armies**



**2025**

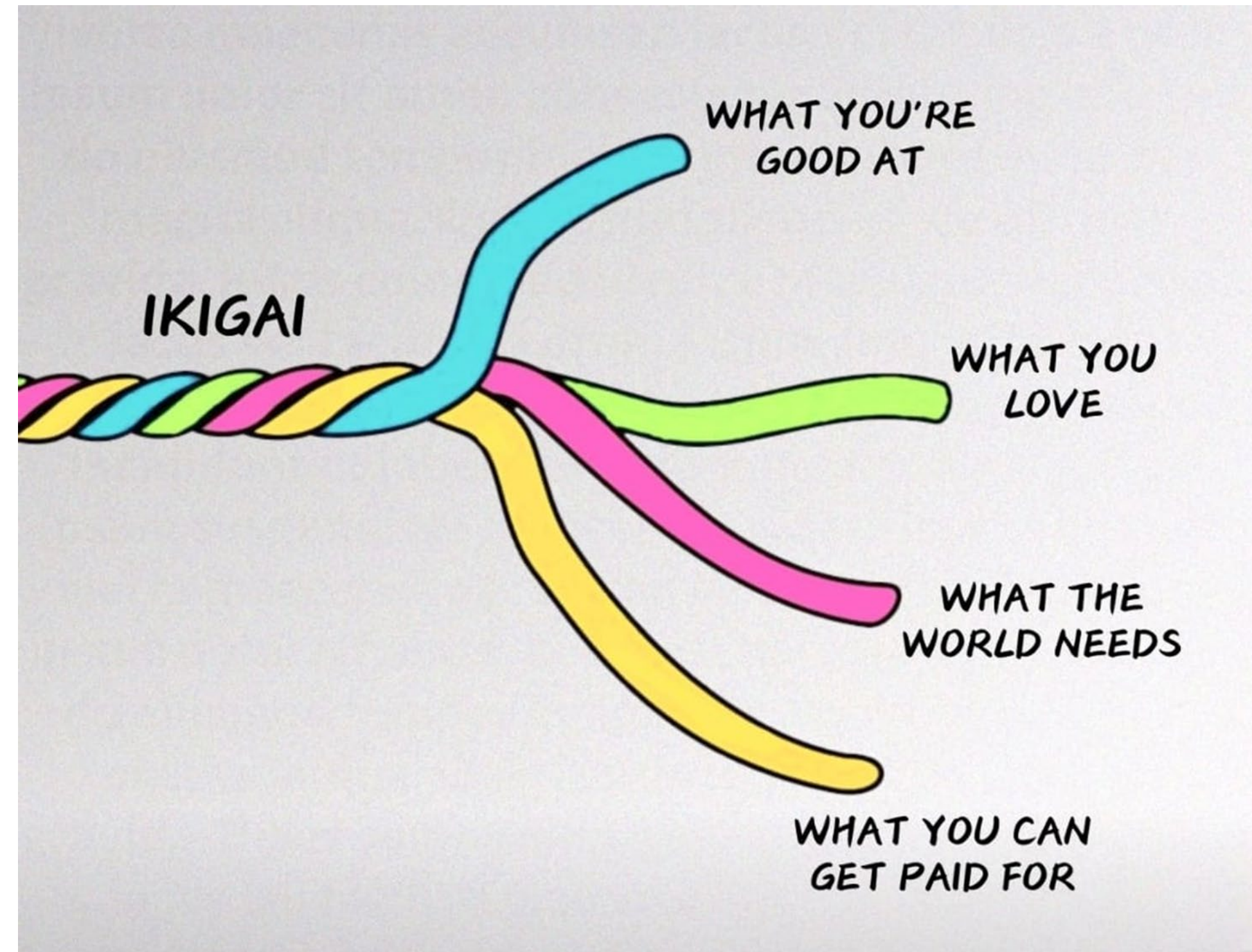
**AI-Assisted**



**What will be your Ikigai?**

**Ikigai (Japanese) is a:**

- reason for being OR
- a reason to wake up in the morning.





## **3. Reflection**

# American Gold rush

of 1750s

- Some found gold, but most lost their investment.
- Samuel Brannan and Levi Strauss chose to sell tools – Shovels, picks & jeans!!
- Their strategy identified consistent demand, with assured returns instead of high stakes gain / lose.
- Samuel & Levi became first American millionaires.

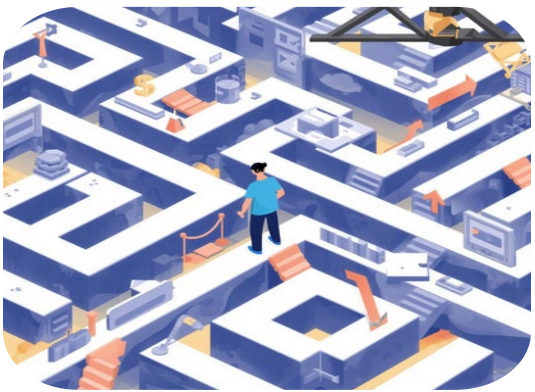
In the new world you can be a Gold miner (Innovator)  
but you must master the Shovels (STEM) and / or  
Denim (Humanities).

# The Picks and Shovels strategy



## Critical Thinking

Analyzing situations leads to informed decision-making.



## Adaptability

Flexibility in approach enhances problem-solving abilities.



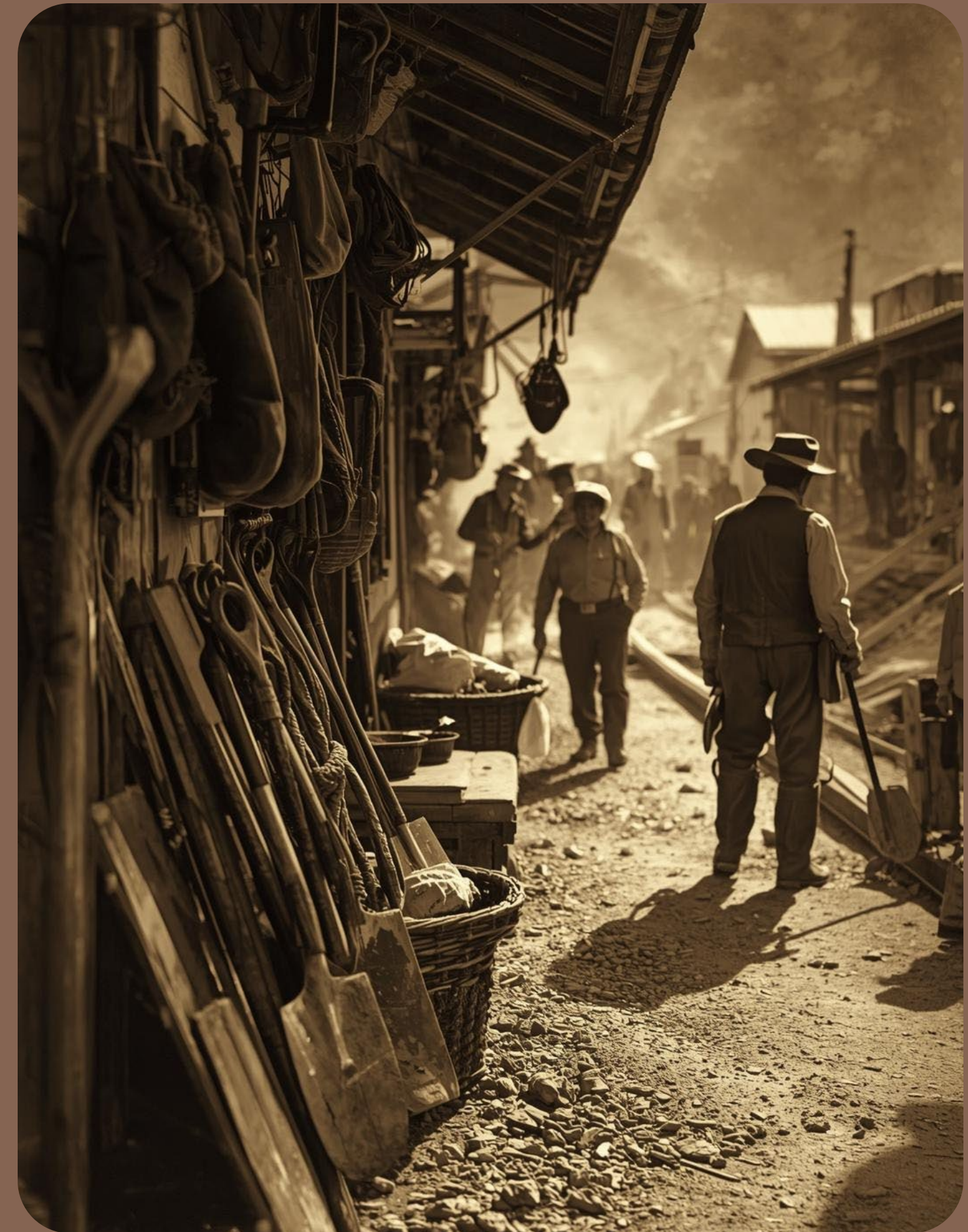
## Lifelong Learning

Continuous education expands horizons and opportunities.



## Ethics

Upholding values along with discreet & non abusive usage of technology to achieve outcomes.



**Thankyou**

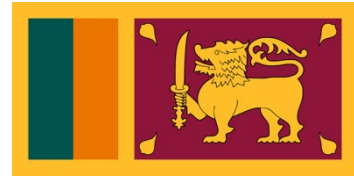
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## Hasith Kalpage

- “Hasith is a technology leader with over 16 years at Cisco, currently leading Platform Engineering for AI & Quantum Transformation at Cisco's innovation accelerator along with the security responsibilities as the CISO. He also led the cloud-native modernization of Webex's SaaS backend with Kubernetes during the COVID-19 response. Passionate about nurturing engineering talent, Hasith has spearheaded several Cisco's university partnerships and numerous hackathons. He holds a Master's in Electronics Engineering and an Executive MBA from Imperial College London. Outside of work, Hasith is an avid board game enthusiast.”



**My Roots**



**Last 21 years...**



12-year-Old Son &  
6-year-old Daughter



**IMPERIAL**  
BUSINESS SCHOOL



**MANCHESTER**  
1824

The University of Manchester

Cisco is the worldwide leader in technology that powers the Internet.



40+ Years

Founded 1984

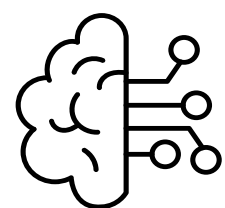
Our products and services include networking, collaboration, security and observability solutions, including artificial intelligence (AI)-native solutions, to help our customers connect and protect their organizations.

- FY25 revenue US\$56.7B
- ~86,200 employees
- 37,000+ trusted partners

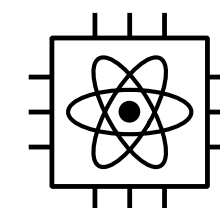
- 1M+ customers across 150 countries
- 99% of Fortune 500
- >82,000 government organizations



We pursue emerging frontiers to help Cisco connect and protect the world's tech, delivering innovative solutions in:



**Agentic AI**



**Quantum**



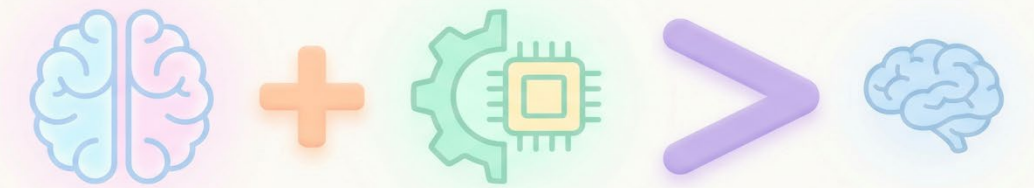
# AI: The Biggest Tech Shift Yet?

## Impacting All Industries



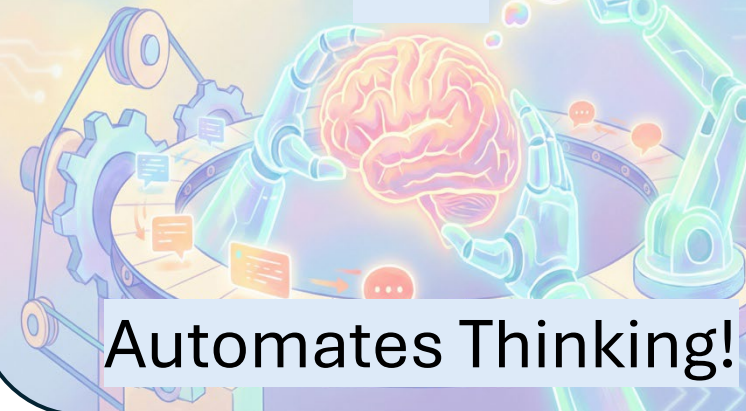
Every Sector. Every Job.

## Augments Intelligence



Human + Machine > Human

# AI



Automates Thinking!

## Ethical Questions



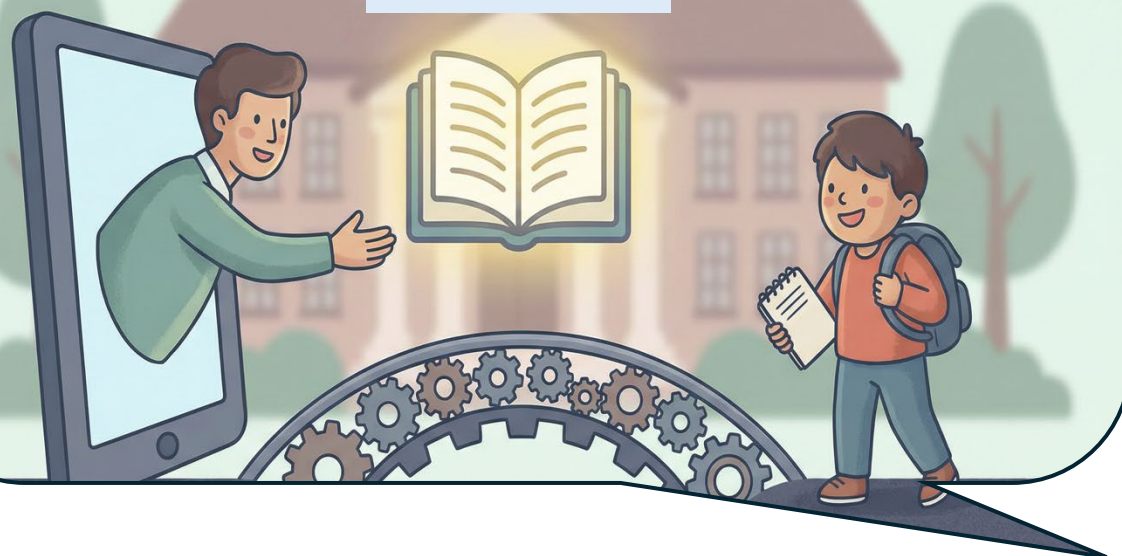
With Great Power  
Comes Great Responsibility!

## Improves Exponentially

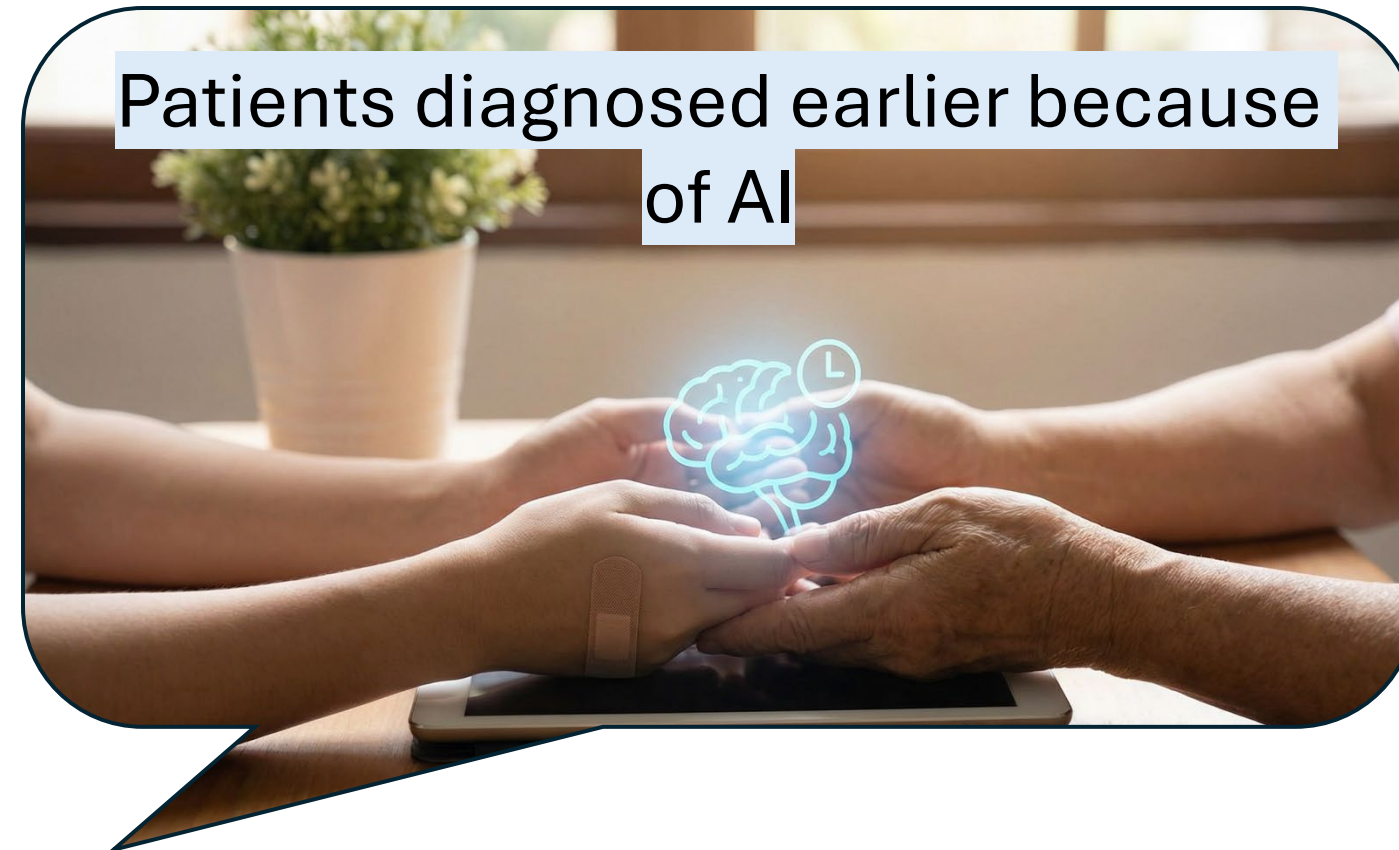
Gets Smarter Every Month



Accessible personal tutor for students



Patients diagnosed earlier because of AI

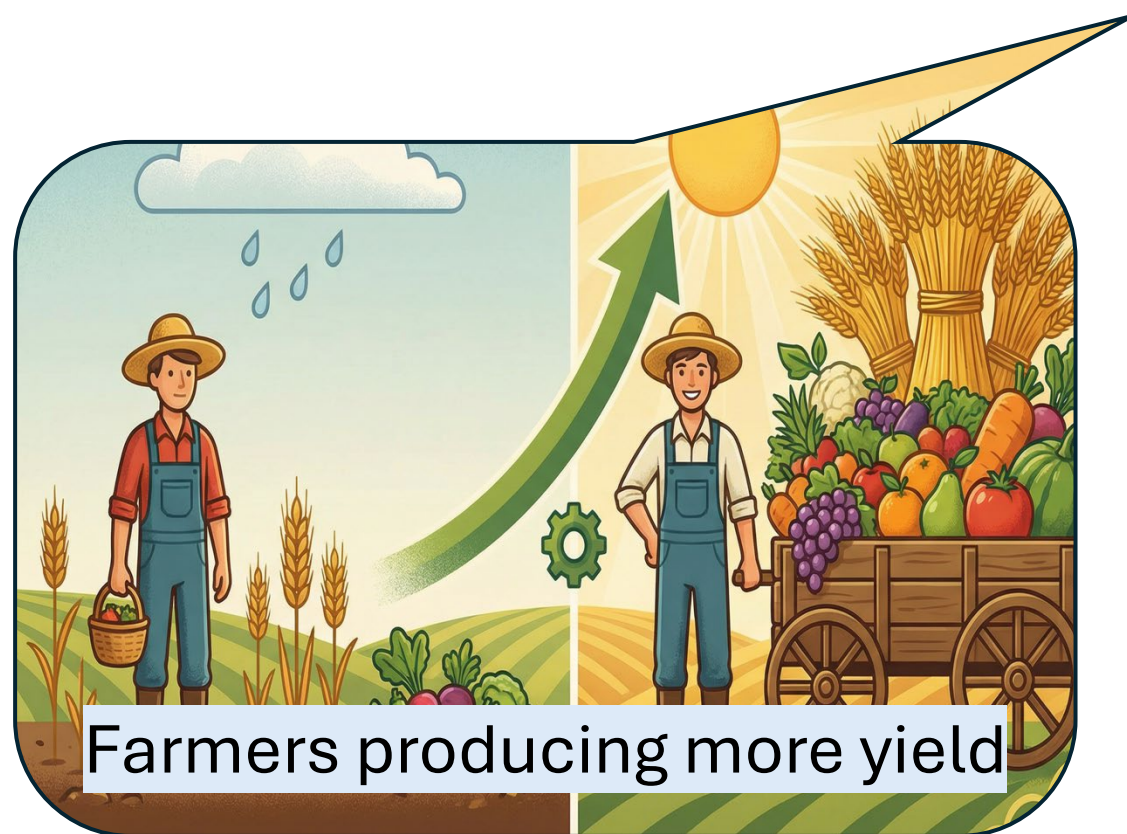


## The Magic of AI

Scientist curing diseases



Farmers producing more yield



This is possibility...

# Unlocks Creativity...

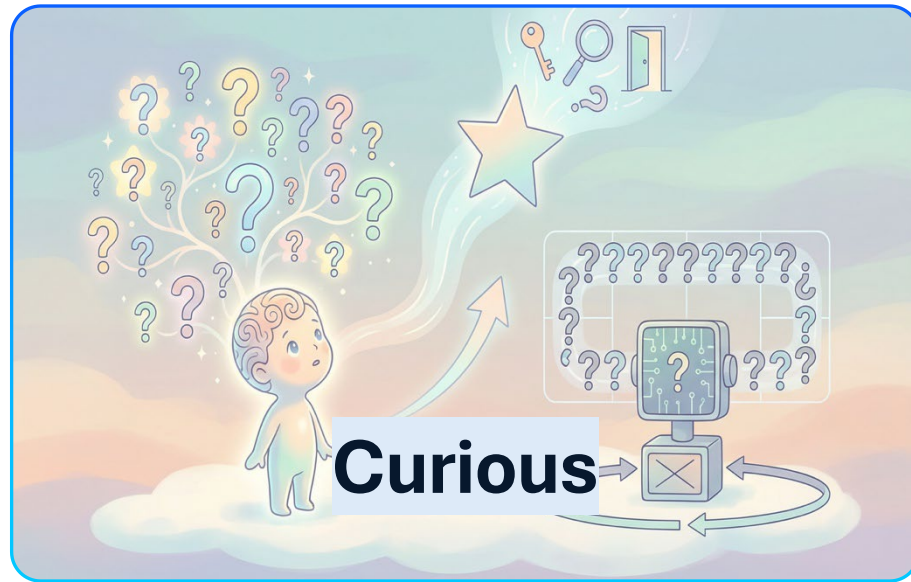
My almost 3+ year daughter in Feb 2024.

Voice Prompt:

*“A rainbow dinosaur unicorn with butterfly wings under the night stars”*



# “The Jobs of tomorrow don’t exist yet – But the mindset does.”



Curious minds ask better questions than AI ever can.



Creative thinkers imagine possibilities no algorithm was trained on.



Empathetic people understand feelings, not just data



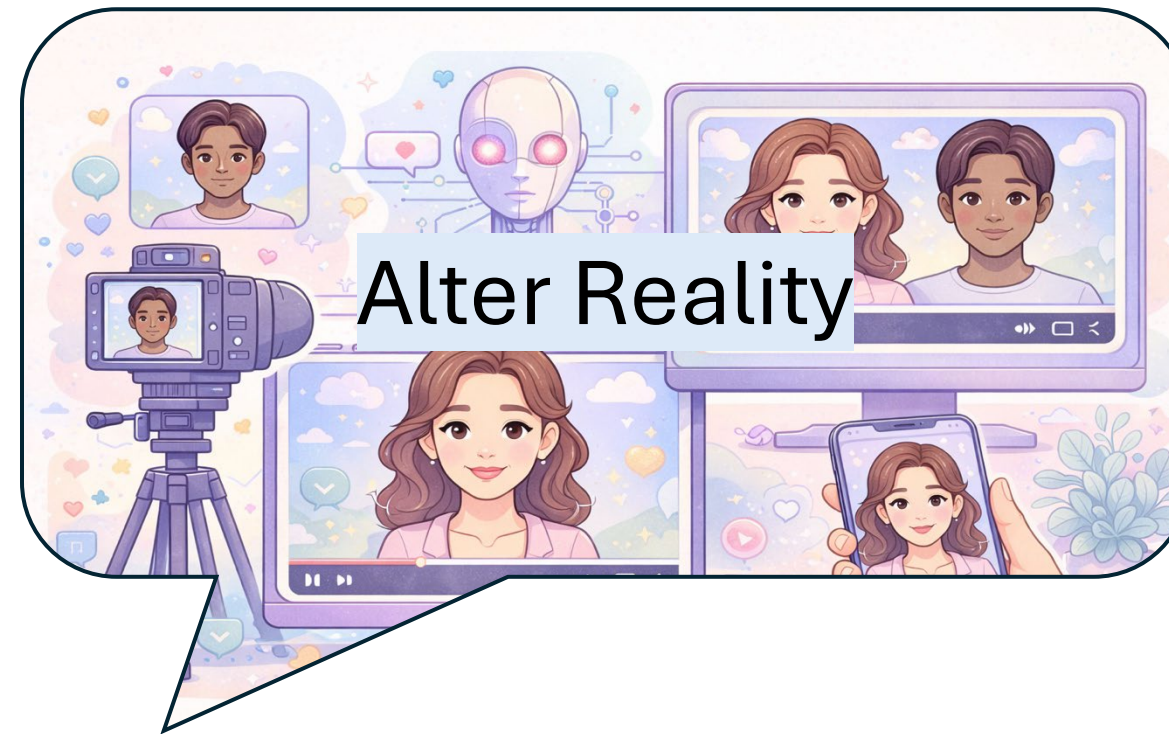
Wise users pause before they press enter.



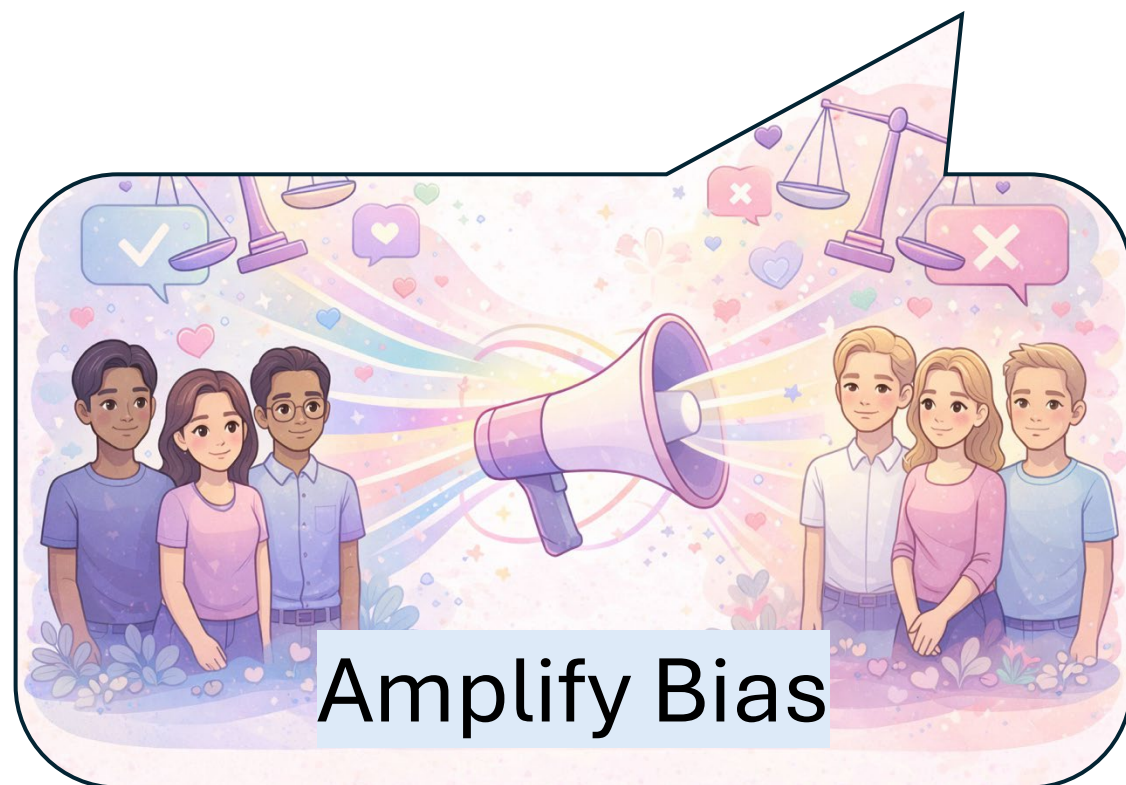
Courageous humans choose what is right – even when it’s not easy.

A vintage typewriter with a wooden keyboard and a sheet of paper in the carriage. The typewriter is dark-colored and is positioned in the foreground. In the background, there are several arched windows that let in bright light, creating a soft, warm atmosphere. The text "CAD. TRIAL. ERROR" is overlaid on the typewriter in a white, serif font.

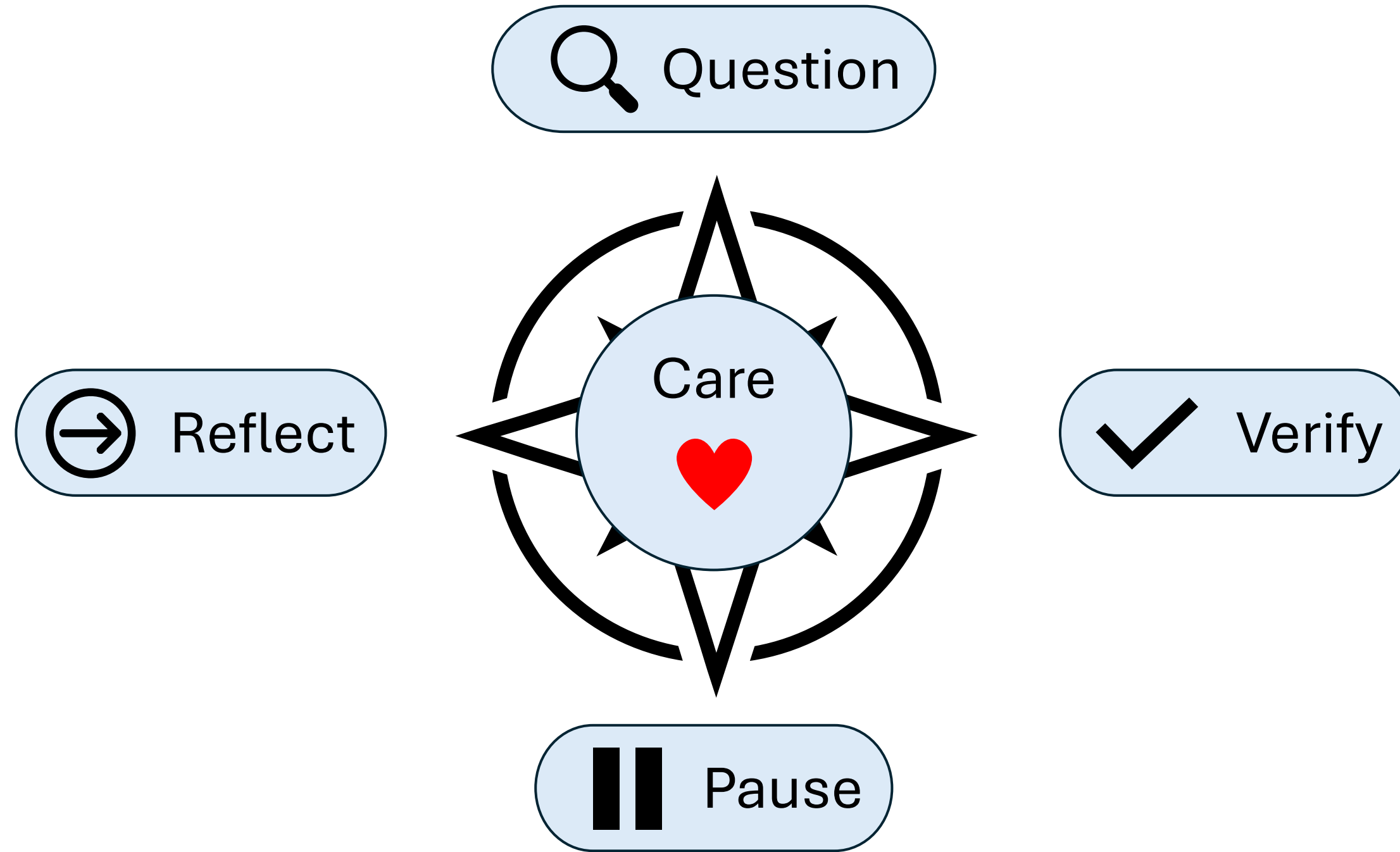
# CAD. TRIAL. ERROR



# The Dark Side of AI



# Your AI Compass



*AI is powerful.  
But it cannot replace judgement, kindness or wisdom*

The smartest users AI won't be the fastest –  
They'll be the wisest.

# As a Tech Hiring Manager

– What do I look for?

1. Curiosity & Ability to Learn
2. Grit – Not Giving up
3. Ability to Work With Others
4. What you know



# AI ADOPTION

## FIXED MINDSET VS GROWTH MINDSET

THE BELIEF ABOUT AI THAT SHAPES YOUR FUTURE

### FIXED MINDSET

Belief: "AI will destroy jobs"

- ❌ **Fears Change**  
(Resists Learning)
- ❌ **Focuses on Threats**  
(The Worst Case)
- ❌ **Relies Only on Old Skills**  
(Can't Keep Up)
- ❌ **Distrusts Technology**  
(Avoids AI)
- ❌ **Constantly Worries**  
(Feel Overwhelmed)

### RESULTS

FEAR → OBSTACLE → LIMITS

### GROWTH MINDSET

Belief: "AI will create jobs"

- ✅ **Sees Opportunity**  
(Learns Faster)
- ✅ **Focuses on Solutions**  
(The Best Case)
- ✅ **Learns New Skills**  
(Trains with AI)
- ✅ **Values Technology**  
(Adapts it)
- ✅ **Stays Curious**  
(Explores Possibilities)

### RESULTS

EAGERNESS → TOOL → GROWTH



# AI WILL NOT DECIDE THE FUTURE. PEOPLE WILL.



**WISDOM • ETHICS • EMPATHY • COURAGE**

**Human Choice, Human Responsibility**

what kind of world do you want  
**AI to help build?**



**Thankyou**



## **Alex Tatham – Enterprise Adviser for Maiden Erlegh School CEO – 4 Tay Consulting Limited**

- With over 30 years in the UK IT channel, Alex is one of the industry's most recognised figures.
- He qualified as a chartered accountant with EY and began his IT career at Ideal Hardware, which later became part of Bell Micro.
- At Bell Micro, he developed and led the Global Software division, growing it into a £1bn business.
- He then joined Westcoast as Sales & Marketing Director and later became Managing Director, helping the company grow from £600m in 2007 to £4.2bn in 2024.
- Following Westcoast's sale, Alex has moved into a portfolio career as a consultant and Non-Executive Director across a range of IT and AI-focused organisations.
- He also plays an active role in education, chairing the Thames Valley Cornerstone Employer Group and serving as an Enterprise Adviser to local schools.
- Alongside this, he lectures on AI at Henley Business School and sits on the boards of several AI and software businesses.
- A Durham University Zoology graduate, he is also known for meeting his wife on the UK's first reality TV show, Blind Date.



**MAIDEN ERLEGH**  
SCHOOL

# AI – A GUIDE AND AI'S IMPACT ON JOBS/CAREERS

3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2026

ALEX TATHAM

4 TAY CONSULTING

[ALEX.TATHAM@4TAYCONSULTING.CO.UK](mailto:ALEX.TATHAM@4TAYCONSULTING.CO.UK)

07518 743 542

# LETS START WITH SOME QUESTIONS!

- Who uses AI in some form today?
- Who has had any training on AI?
- Who uses Chat GPT for work?
- Or for school work?
- Has anyone been told NOT to use AI?
- Who pays for a license for Chat GPT or Co-pilot?
- Who has Chat GPT as an app on their phone ?
- Any other AI specific apps on their phones?
- Anyone know how AI works?

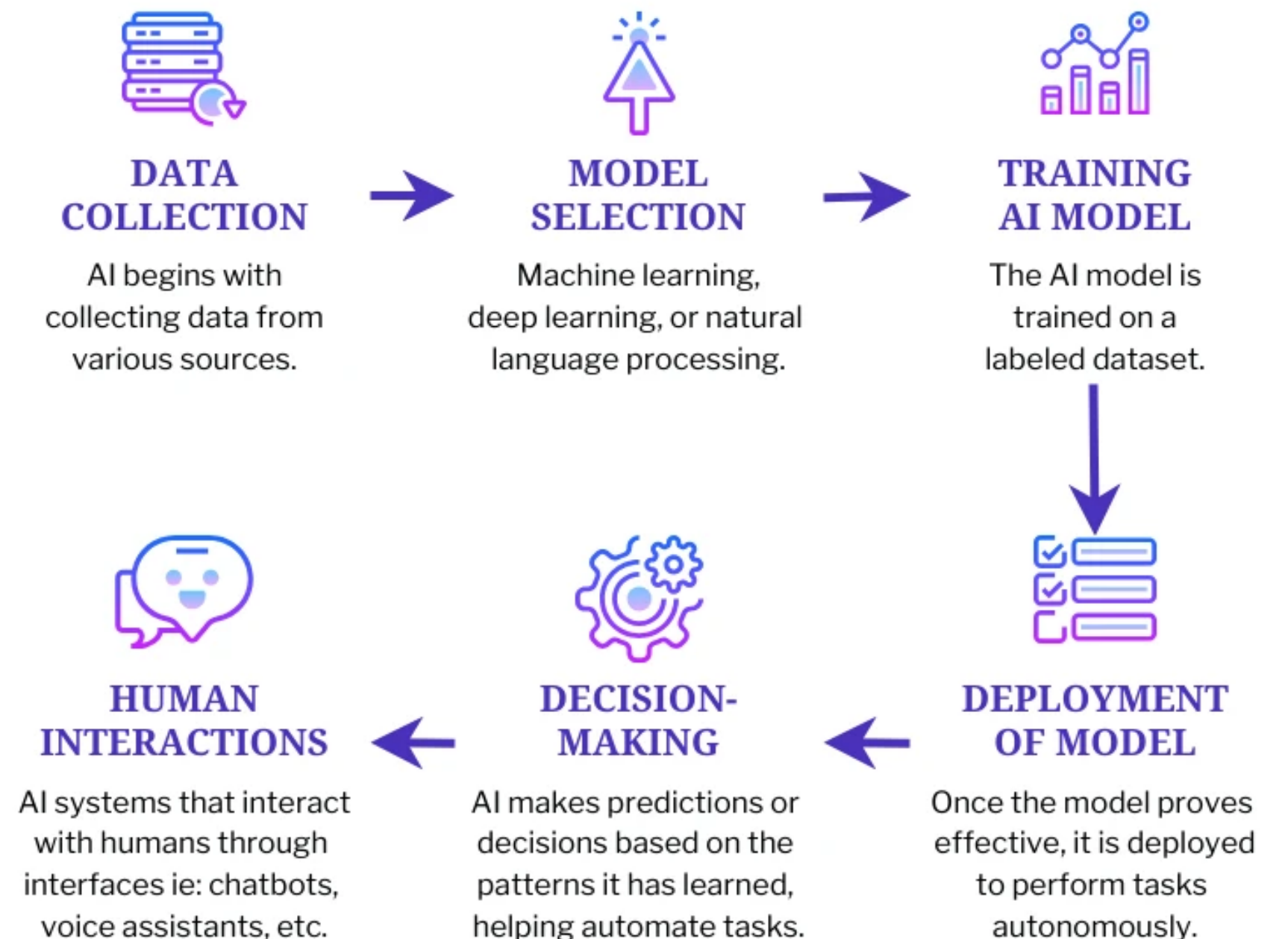


# HOW DOES AI WORK?

- It's just Maths!
- Based on probability from huge amounts of data (LLMs) – effectively assigning numbers or tokens to each syllable/word/phrase
  - “The Cat Sat On The ???”
- Can include speech and digital images
- Models learn from feedback – refining to improve accuracy
- Prompts – like a conveyor belt
- Huge data-centres with powerful computers with specialist chips (nVidia) and a lot of power

## How Artificial Intelligence Works

6 Simple steps to Master AI



# UNDERSTAND SOME RISKS

If you are using a free version of Chat GPT – then you are effectively posting something on the internet for the world to see

- Employees pasting confidential data (client info, financials, staff details, IP, contracts)
- Uploading internal documents without thinking
- Asking AI to rewrite sensitive emails or reports

The issue is usually human behaviour, not the AI itself.



# THINK OF SOME OF THE IMPACTS

- Leaking of confidential information
- Everyone's school essay looks the same
- You don't learn
- Your job application or personal statement looks like everyone else's!
- You make mistakes as AI is not infallible - anyone know what an AI mistake is called?
- You open yourself up to bias



# CAREERS

**I am the Enterprise Advisor here at Maiden Erlegh school**

Show me an image of a careers advisor at Maiden Erlegh School and their reaction to the prospects that the AI revolution brings to their teenage students

# CAREERS

I am the Enterprise Advisor here at Maiden Erlegh school

Show me an image of a careers advisor at Maiden Erlegh School and their reaction to the prospects that the AI revolution brings to their teenage students



# CAREERS

Bank of England Governor – Andrew Bailey - fewer junior staff particularly graduates being hired but was also the most likely source for the next leg up to the UK's growth



Chuck Robbins – CEO Cisco – “AI will be bigger than the internet but there will be carnage along the way. Some companies will not make it!”

- He urged workers to embrace the technology
- Some jobs will be eliminated (eg customer services)
- **“You shouldn’t worry as much about AI taking your job as you should worry about someone who is very good at using AI taking your job!”**



# CAREERS

## UNIT FOR FUTURE SKILLS REPORT November 2023

- **31.9% decrease in entry-level jobs in UK**
- **Professional occupations – eg Big 4**
  - PwC: ~200 fewer graduates and ~6–9% lower intake.
  - KPMG: ~29% fewer entry-level hires.
  - Deloitte: ~18% reduction.
  - EY: ~11% reduction.
- **Teaching**
- **Finance & Insurance**
- **Most advanced qualifications**



# CAREERS

## Berkshire and the South-East

- Only 21% of people feel confident about using AI for work and only 1 in 6 businesses using AI (as of mid 2025)
- AI exposure in SE England is relatively high
- Some employers are ALREADY changing their hiring practices
  - 17% expect to reduce headcount
- Job posting are falling (except tech and AI-related roles!)
- Focus on skills and job transformations (intermediate and routine work) – lifelong learning
- Uncertainty!



# CAREERS

HR

Marketing

Call centres

Customer services

Professionals

Graduates



# AUGMENTATION



# CAREERS

- Train yourself !
- Schools will need to skill up – there is a lag in the curriculum
- Young people are preparing themselves better and are frequently more tech savvy
- Students should look for work experience that includes AI skills
- Research AI Skills Hub – UK Government has launched a major expansion of free AI training for everyone, aiming to upskill 10 million people by 2030. Courses now available!) [www.aiskillshub.org.uk](http://www.aiskillshub.org.uk)  
Catalogue



# CAREERS

- Candidates with AI skills are 8-15% more likely to get an interview
- Young people will use AI to 'enhance' their CVs – it would almost be a negative if they didn't!
- Employers might use AI to sift through the applications they receive – I hope they will use it for responding to applicants (vs ghosting!)
- Interviewers will ask interviewees what they have done to use AI in their application
- Likely to get a business problem to fix using AI as part of an application assessment
- Best candidates will be seen face to face
- Ask questions on how your prospective employer uses/embraces AI!

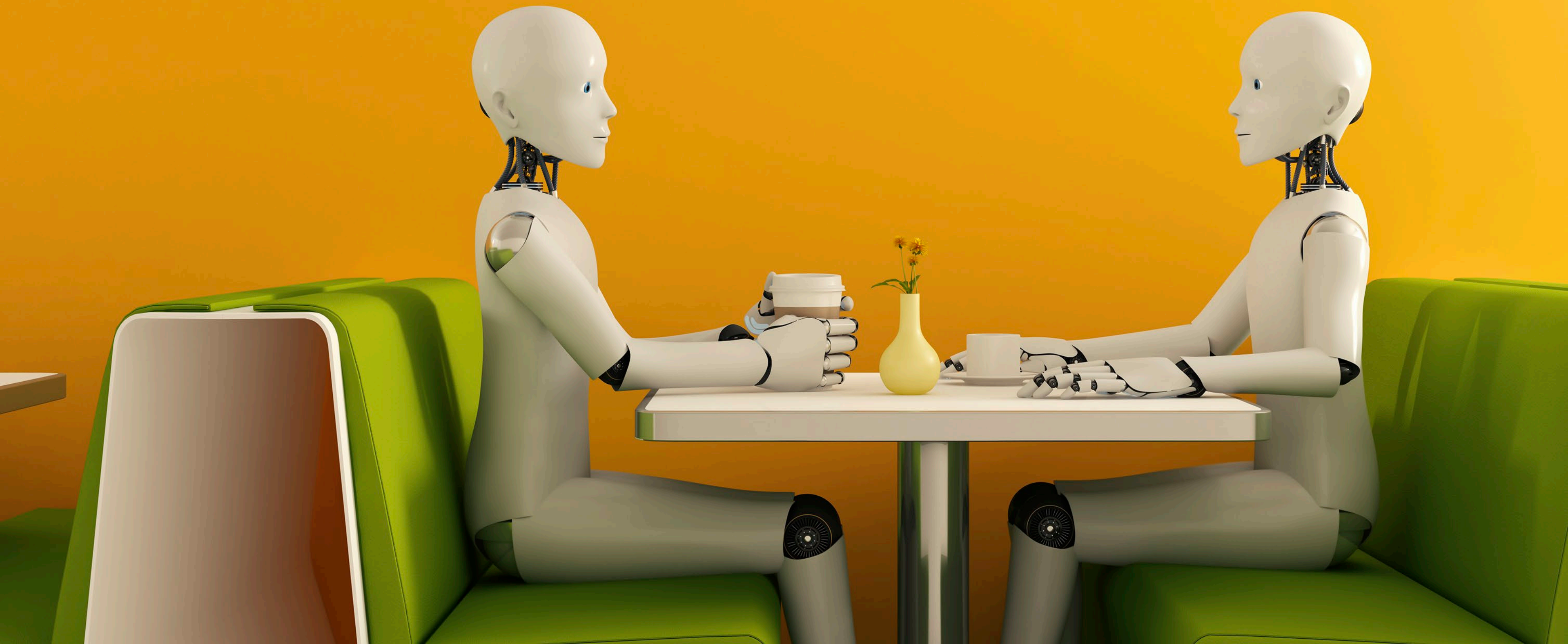


# SUMMARY

- **AI will have a significant impact on all our lives and particularly those young people in this room that will have to work in this new environment**
- AI will NOT automate us all out of existence – but it will make us considerably more efficient
- Any organisation that is implementing AI today must bring their employees on for the journey – it will AUGMENT workers roles
- Whilst it won't impact every profession – it will be involved in all our lives. (eg plumbers will use it to market and to manage their accounting!)
- Do NOT put your head in the sand and pretend it's not happening!
- Train yourself using free Government resources
- Write and re-write your prompts
- Do not trust it implicitly – it will get it wrong (hallucinations) and be innately biased
- Do download Chat GPT, Co-Pilot, Gemini and ElevenLabs onto your phone

*Thank you for listening*

**Question Time...**



# CAREERS FAIR 2026

05 March | 6pm - 8pm

Please visit our website for up to date information  
about exhibitors

[www.maidenerleghtrust.org](http://www.maidenerleghtrust.org)



VENUE

**Maiden Erlegh School**

Silverdale Road, Earley, RG6 7HS

# Attend our In-person Careers Fair

Meet employers from various  
job sectors!

- 6-8pm
- Maiden Erlegh School  
(Earley site – RG6 7HS)



# **Thank you**

**The Site Team: Jason, Pete, Abdul, & Harry**

**Ms Scott – Site Manager**

**Mr Jump – Head Teacher, Maiden Erlegh School, Earley**

**Mr Buck – Trust CPD and Careers Lead**

**Mr Bell – Careers Lead, Maiden Erlegh School, Earley**

**Mrs Bright-Thomas – Co-Head of Business & Economics**

**Trust Careers Leads, Reception Teams, Reprographics, IT, Admin Teams**

# Thank you

## Student volunteer Team:

- Ticketing: Leads: Katherine & Trinity.
- Marketing: Lead: Leah Slev.
- Team: Nitya, Nila, Meenaskhi, Shreya, Arshia.
- Parking: Leads: Iraj & Priya.
- Team: Esther, Lena, Fazan, Haaris.
- Health & Safety: Leads: Nila & Arshia .
- Team: Meenaskhi & Aleena.
- Hosting: Leads: Jay & Shruti.
- Team: Abhay, Yusuf, Minhal, Sharon, Cheryl.
- Camera Operators/Photographers: Lead: Shreya
- Team: Leah, Nana, Nitya.
- Presenters: Sara & Scarlett



# Thank you

**Our speakers:**

- **Ravi Srivastava**
- **Hasith Kalpage**
- **Alex Tatham**

A red sequined curtain with a gold fringe top. The curtain is the background for the text.

*That's all folks!*

*Thank you for joining us*