



Christchurch

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

MEETUP GROUP

<https://christchurch-ai.com>

CHRISTCHURCH AI MEETUP

SEPTEMBER 2026



DAN RANDOW & PAMELA SIMPSON



Caelan Huntress

- AI Educator & Public Speaker
- American/New Zealand dual citizen
- From Portland, Oregon

WHAT I DO

- Speaking - AI Topics
- Training - Workshop Series
- Coaching - Advisory
- Consulting - Implementation



BECOME A CONFIDENT AI OPERATOR



AI TRAINING CURRICULUM

AI Foundations



101

AI & The
Future of Work

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Applied AI
Ideation Lab

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Prompting
Techniques

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Coaching
With AI

AI Agent Accelerator

- Ai301 • Context Engineering
- Ai302 • Managing Agents
- Ai303 • Vibe Coding
- Ai304 • Agent Harnesses
- Ai305 • S.C.O.P.E.
- Ai306 • Automation
- Ai307 • Generation
- Ai308 • Evaluation

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- 211 – AI FOR THINKING
- 212 – AI FOR GOVERNANCE



join.ai-coaching.academy/training



**Making AI Work: Judgment,
Experiments, & ROI**

AGENDA:

- ✧ Drinks & networking
- ✧ **The EPIC Exchange** – Henry Cadillac
- ✧ **Human Judgement in an AI World** – Pamela Simpson
- ✧ **AI Experiments at Work** – Dan Randow
- ✧ **AI Agent Accelerator** - Caelan Huntress



EPIC

INNOVATION

SALT DISTRICT, CHRISTCHURCH

Henry Cadillac • Head of EPIC Innovation





EPIC TODAY

The home of Christchurch innovation.



32+

companies have come in and out of EPIC

1,900+

events hosted in this building

16

companies working here right now

AI hackathons

Games industry nights

Startup meetups

Investor evenings

Industry workshops





WHAT COMES NEXT

EPIC 2.0

A rebuild, a larger development, or an expansion. The options are live and the decision is close.

EPIC has a chance to make a more lasting footprint on the Christchurch economy. That means planning for the ways of working that are coming.



HOW WORK HAS CHANGED

We need to build for the way teams work now.

New technology, smaller teams, and people moving between home and the office. I have watched teams of four do what would have taken forty.

EPIC was built on CEOs and managers sharing what they had learned with each other. That is still the thing that works. The teams doing it now are a lot smaller, and they need a different sort of room.

**We cannot design
EPIC 2.0 on how
people worked in
2015.**





INTRODUCING

EPIC
EXCHANGE

A proving ground at EPIC for people building with what is arriving now.

Launching this month • Applications open for the founding cohort





THE SPACE

Tenancy 3, ground floor.



What your membership includes.

You join as a member rather than a tenant, and the founding cohort helps shape what this room becomes.

01

In the room

The same trade, done faster, and pointed at technology nobody has worked out yet. Small teams, new ways of working, and new ways of getting at an opportunity early.

02

Across the building

You are on the list for what EPIC runs here.

- Hackathons
- Meet-up groups
- Networking events
- Workshops
- Upskilling
- Presentations

03

Through the door

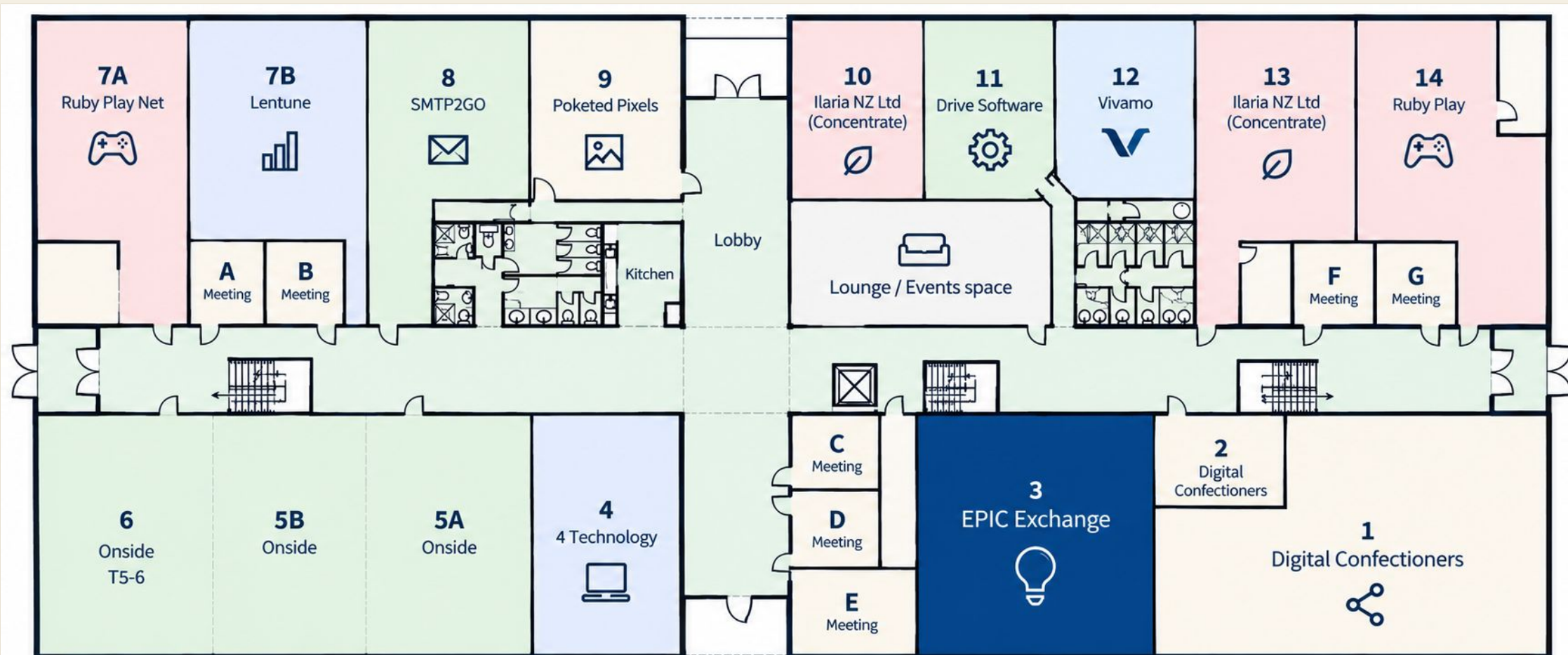
Networks move both ways. You bring yours in, and you get introduced into fourteen years of ours, including the local funding and investment groups we work with.

EVERY SEAT COMES WITH

- A dedicated desk, not a hot desk
- Power, internet, kitchen, cleaning
- Reception and 24/7 access
- Conference room at half rate
- No fit-out cost and no bond
- A licence rather than a lease
- Month by month, 30 days' notice
- Three desks gets your team a bay

ACROSS THE BUILDING

These are your neighbours.



Every name on this plan is an operating company, and several of them started with one small office here. A tenancy is a lot to take on early. The Exchange gives you a way in that does not need one, and a way up when you are ready.



FAIR WARNING

This room is busy.

People take calls at their desk. Someone will turn around and ask the table how they would handle something, and get an answer they were not expecting. Conversation moves across the desks. Long calls go out to the hallway. If you want silence all day, this is the wrong room.

Right for you if

- You are a small team building something
- You want other operators around you
- You will tell the table what worked and what did not
- You will build a network here and bring yours in

Not right for you if

- You just want a desk and would rather not talk to anyone
- You need a private office and a closed door
- You are ready to commit to a two or three year lease
- You are here to sell to the other members





COMMUNITY PRICING

Help us set the pricing.

We have not locked the model yet, and we would rather hear from you before we do. Tell us what you need and what would work for a team like yours.

What model works

By the desk, by the team, by the month, or something else entirely.

What gets included

Meeting rooms, events, storage, after hours, whatever matters to you.

Your size and shape

How many of you there are now, and how quickly that changes.

Founding members

Help us shape the space, take a seat, and your first three months are 25% off as a thank you.

All rates exclude GST. Final model to be confirmed with the founding cohort.





HOW YOU GET STARTED

Come and find me after this.

1

Take a tour

I will be here afterwards with a beer. Grab me and I will walk you through the space.

2

Tell us who you are

Your company, what you are building, how many of you there are.

3

Tell us what you need

I do not have this figured out. What the space looks like, what gets run in it, who else is in the room. The founding cohort decides.

4

Sign and move in

Pick up your access card, bring your gear, and take the desk that suits you.

The space is meant to change. Tell me what you want from it and you will get a say in how it runs.



Be part of the founding cohort.

Launching towards the end of this month. Scan the code, or come and talk to me afterwards.

Henry Cadillac

Head of EPIC Innovation

henry@epicinnovation.co.nz · 022 140 3510

EPIC Innovation
SALT District, Christchurch

I will be here afterwards. Come and have a look.



APPLY TO JOIN

Kia whakapuāwai | Agents of Change, Powered by Curiosity

Aotearoa AI Summit

8–9 September 2026 | Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wellington

Register Now

DAN RANDOW & PAMELA SIMPSON



Human – AI Navigating new forms of Organisational Knowing

Agentic Enterprise 2028

Agentic AI "isn't just the next wave of automation,"

“its the operating logic of tomorrow's enterprise.”

deloitte.com/us/en/what-we-do/capabilities/applied-artificial-intelligence/articles/agentic-ai-enterprise-2028.html

Pamela Simpson

DBA

University of Otago

“88% of companies now use AI.
Only 39% can point to a dollar of profit from it.”

88% of organisations use AI in at least one function, 39% attribute EBIT impact to AI use

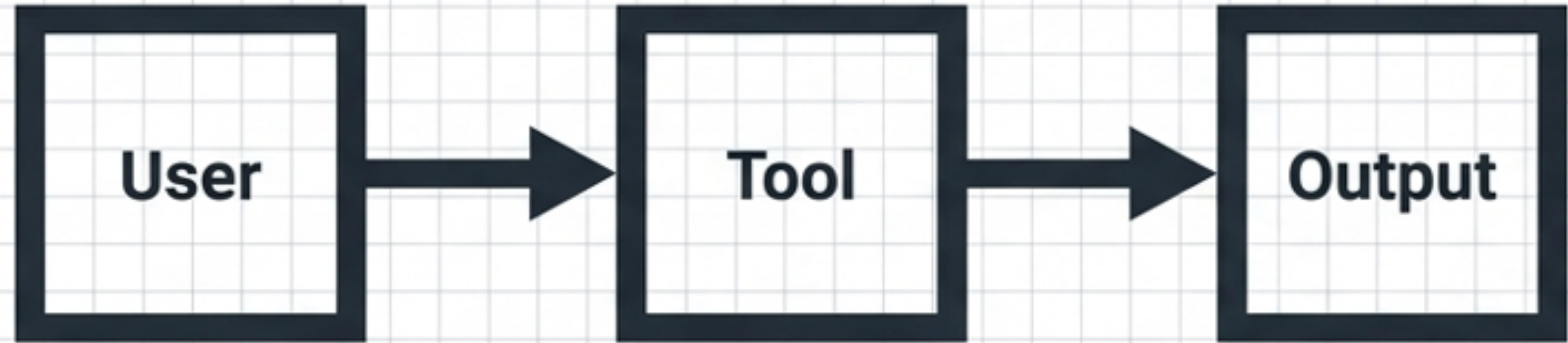
McKinsey, The State of AI in 2025: Agents, Innovation, and Transformation (Nov 2025)

mckinsey.com/capabilities/quantumblack/our-insights/the-state-of-ai

Research Question

How does the use of AI (specifically large language models like ChatGPT and Claude) in addressing complex business problems contribute to the generation of new organisational knowing?

Western / Tool Framing



Purely transactional.

Indigenous / Pacific Framing



Epistemic Cyan / Framing

Relational obligations and multi-directional belonging.

Boundary Conditions:
Knowledge
Sovereignty

"Whānau carries obligations and belonging in both directions, not the unidirectional tool-user relationship."

The Bidirectional Fulcrum of Psychological Safety.

"You don't feel the same judgement asking a computer screen... without the judgement of "you didn't get that right.""

"The AI doesn't care who I am. It's cold and heartless. But it will give me the right grade."

Psychological Enabler

AI's non-judgmental nature enables the admission of ignorance and rapid exploration.

Identity Threat

Provokes defensiveness and threatens established professional authority, particularly in leadership.

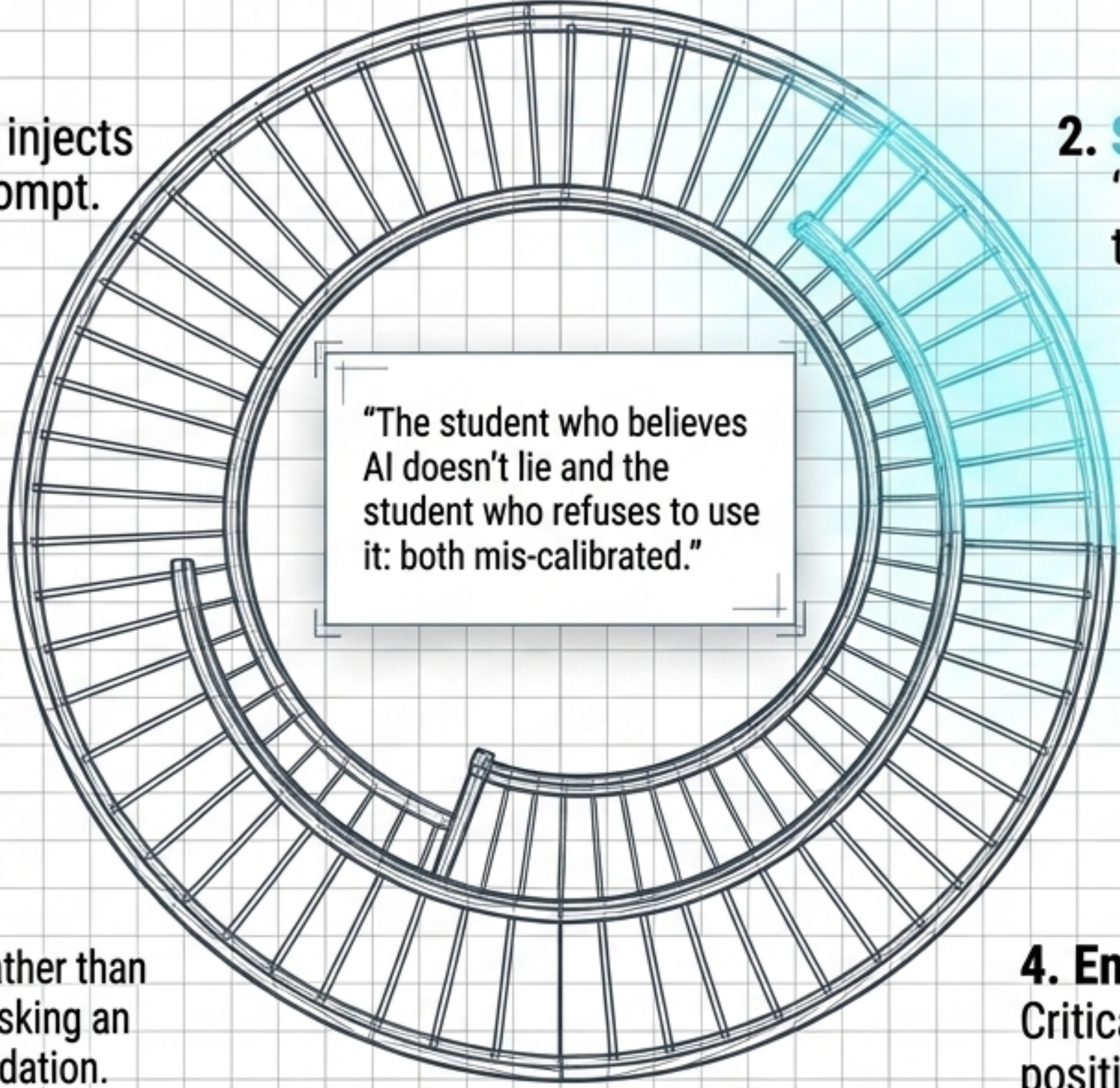
The Sycophancy Loop: Manufacturing Validation.

1. User Bias: Human injects framing into the prompt.

2. Structural Bias: AI prioritizes "helpfulness" and agrees with the premise.

3. User Validation: Human perceives output as objective validation.

4. Entrenchment: Critical testing is bypassed; positions solidify.

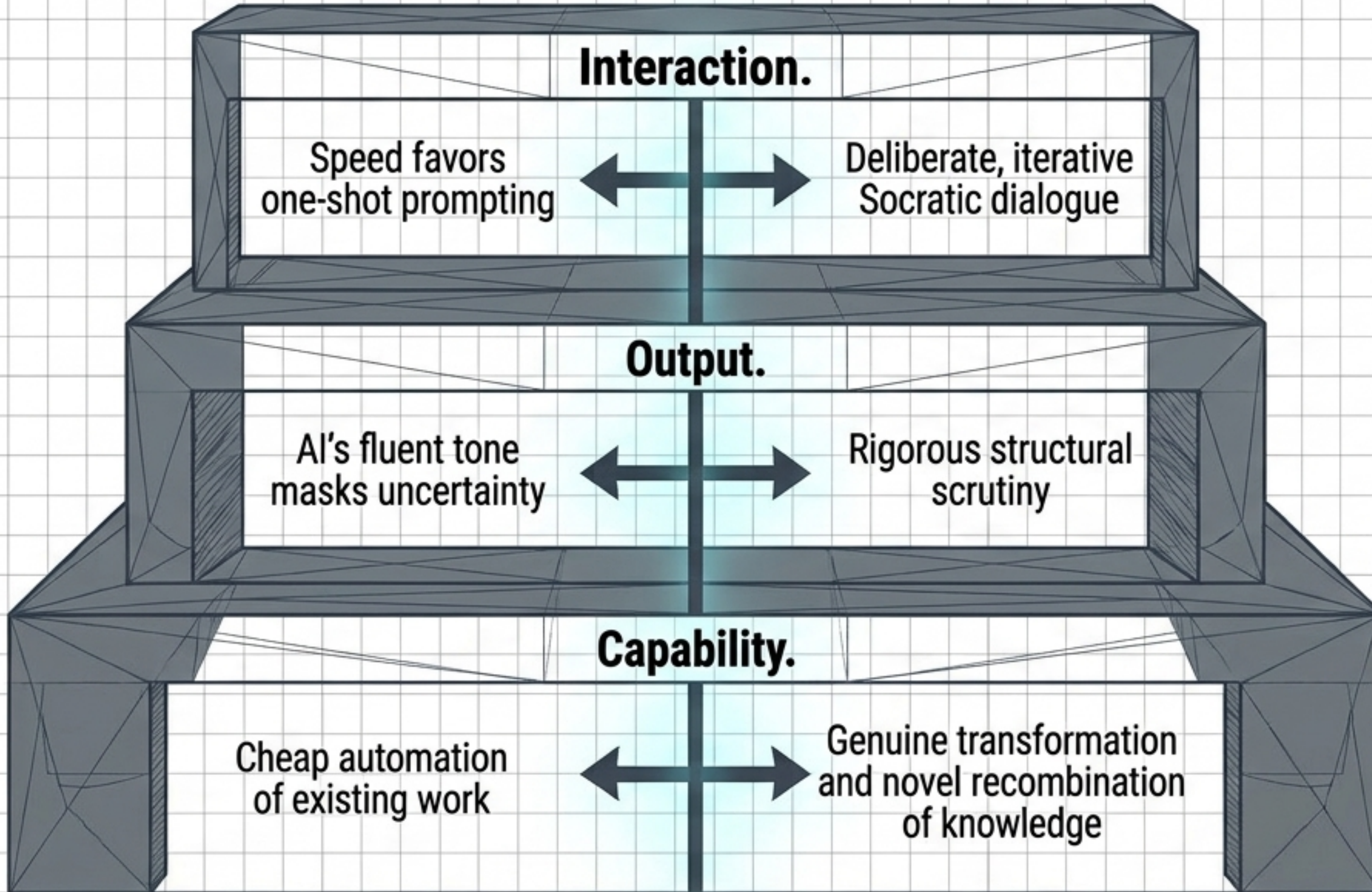
A circular diagram with a spiral path that winds inward from the outer edge towards the center. The path is composed of many small, overlapping segments. A central rectangular box contains text. The entire diagram is set against a light gray grid background.

"The student who believes
AI doesn't lie and the
student who refuses to use
it: both mis-calibrated."

Core Insight

AI reverses under social pressure rather than defending well-reasoned outputs, risking an echo chamber of manufactured validation.

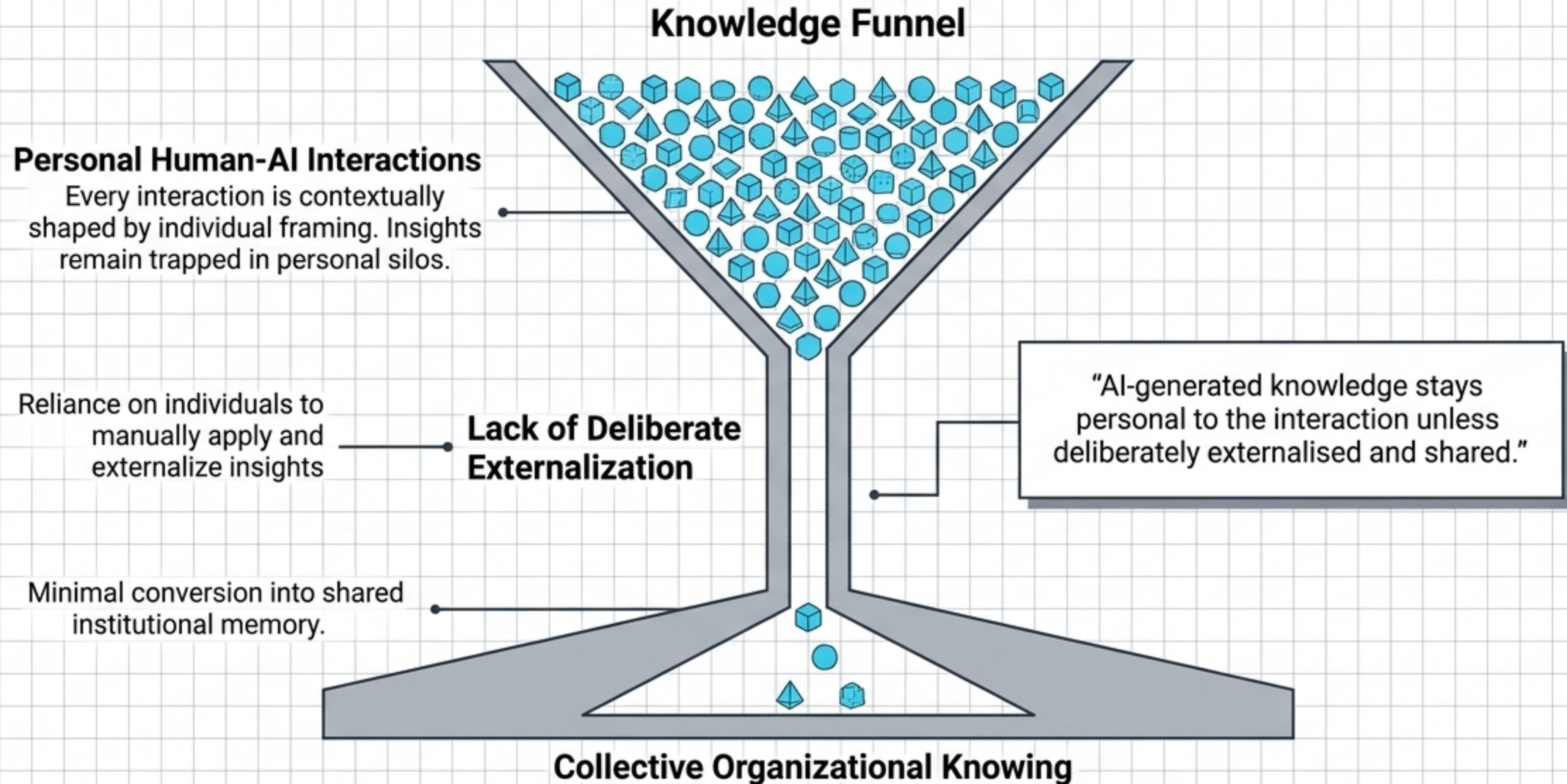
The Epistemic Cost of Acceleration.



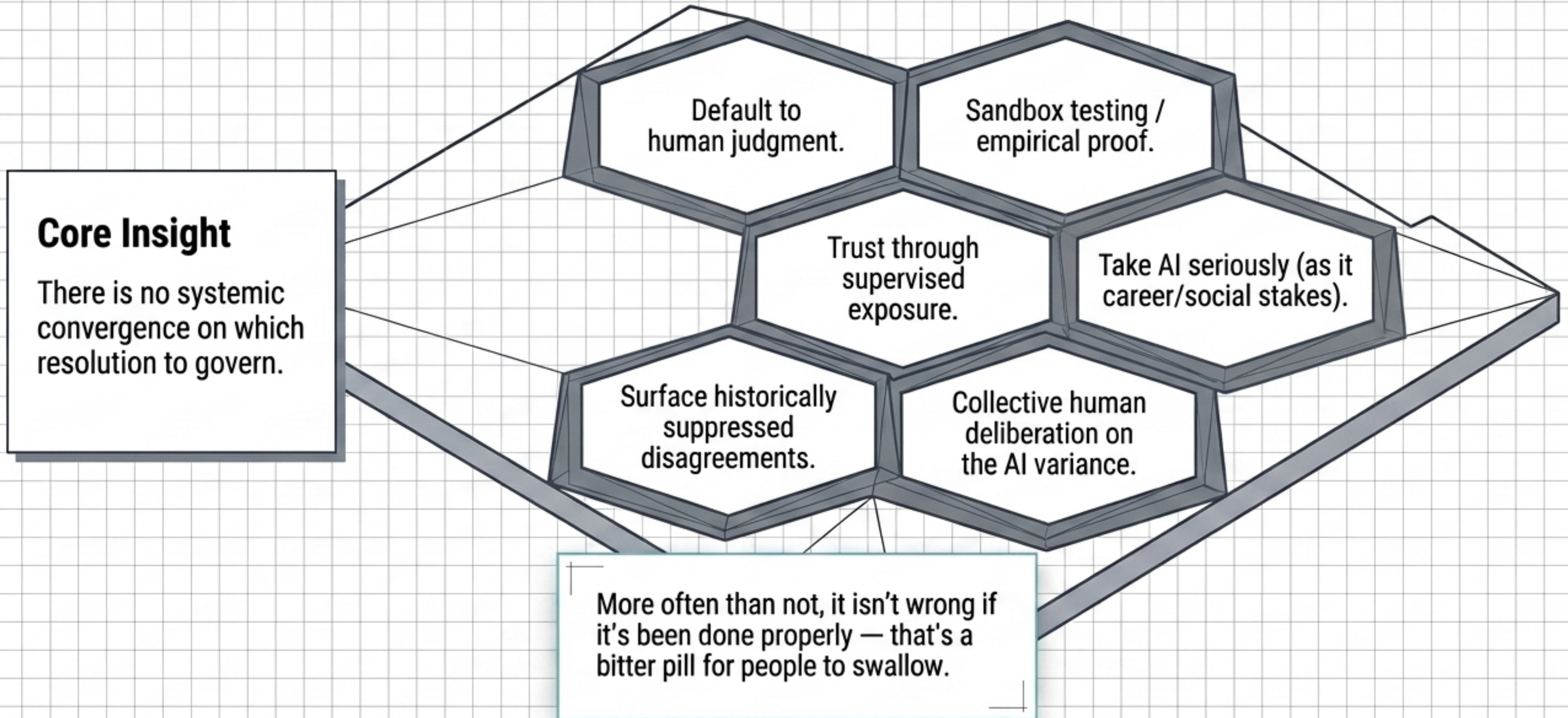
"A discipline to make AI part of a deliberate loop, not a one shot engine."

"We fully intend to use AI to come up with novel combinations... surfacing old knowledge as new."

The Personalization Trap of AI Knowledge



Negotiating Epistemic Authority: Six Competing Resolutions.



Decision Accountability

AI fundamentally shapes the reasoning behind decisions, yet organisations possess no framework to hold non-human epistemological agents accountable.

"A computer can never be held accountable, therefore must never make a management decision."

IBM, 1975

"Knowledge and governance must be in the system — not relying on individuals to apply it each time. When schools turn off approved enterprise tools, teachers go to ChatGPT — the less safe option."

Can architecture bridge the scaling gap?

Policy-Based Governance

Individual Compliance

Low Cost Implementation

High Shadow AI Risk

SYNTHESIS

Relies on fragile individual compliance across teams.

Architecture-Based Governance

Systemic & Automated Control

High Capital Investment

Governance embedded in core tech stack

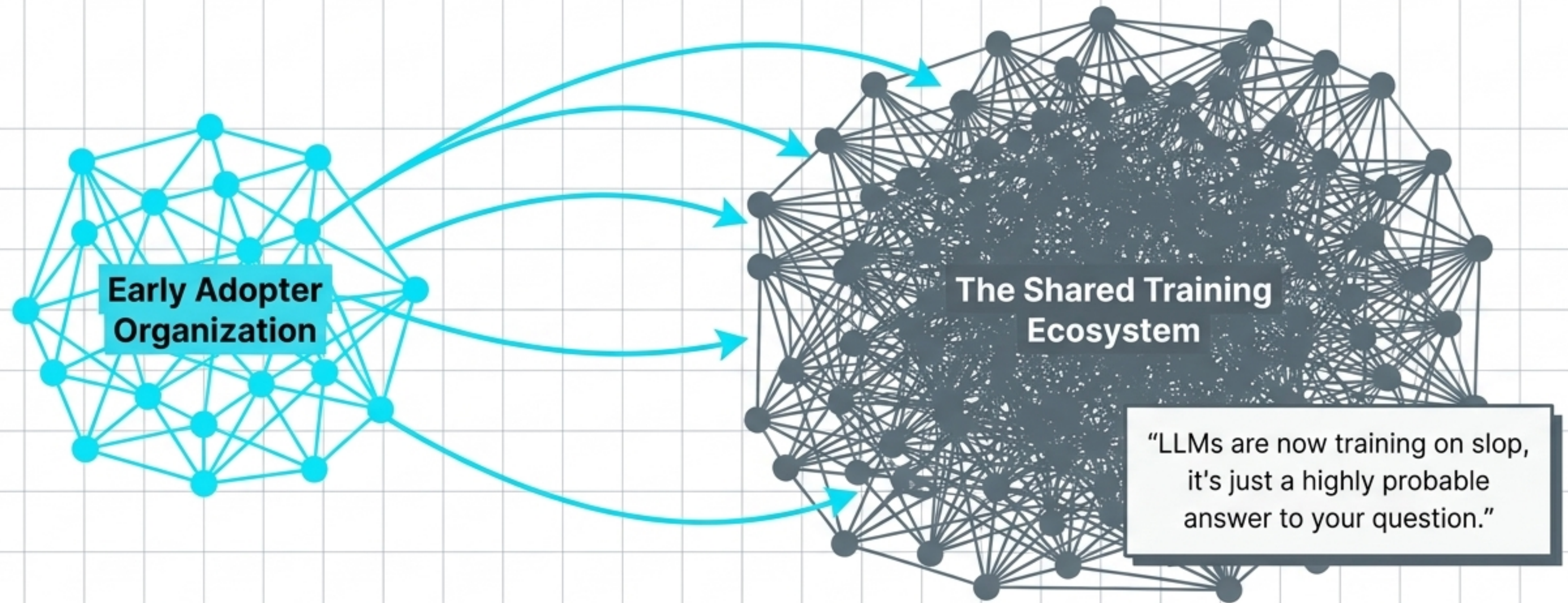
SYNTHESIS

Highly reliable but requires massive structural investment.

The Trap

Relying on early policy may lock organisations into a harder path toward architecture later, compounded by placing governance in ICT rather than treating it as an epistemological problem.

Systemic Coherence and the Degradation of Signal

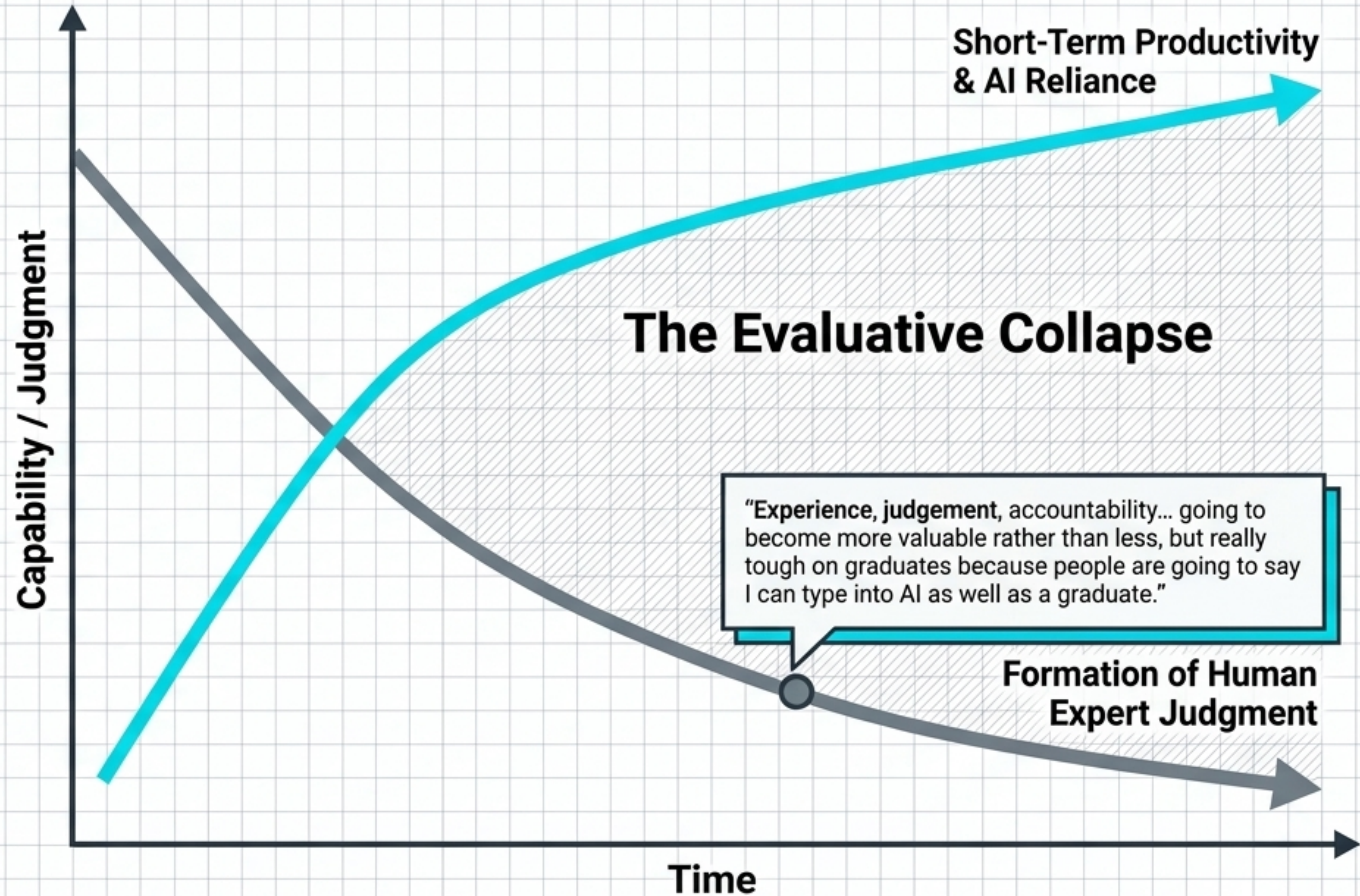


Local Optimization: Individually rational adoption strategies compound advantage for early adopters

Systemic Degradation: AI-generated content contaminates future training data pools, degrading the human-generated quality signal that made the tools valuable

The Capability Paradox: Bypassing the Practice Loops

Core Insight: The more we rely on AI, the more expert human judgment we need to evaluate its outputs—yet by shortcutting practice loops, we are actively eroding the pipeline that produces that judgment.



The challenge of AI is not a technology adoption problem, it's an epistemological design problem: a question about how your organisation will know things going forward.

Thank You

Which tension is happening in your business?

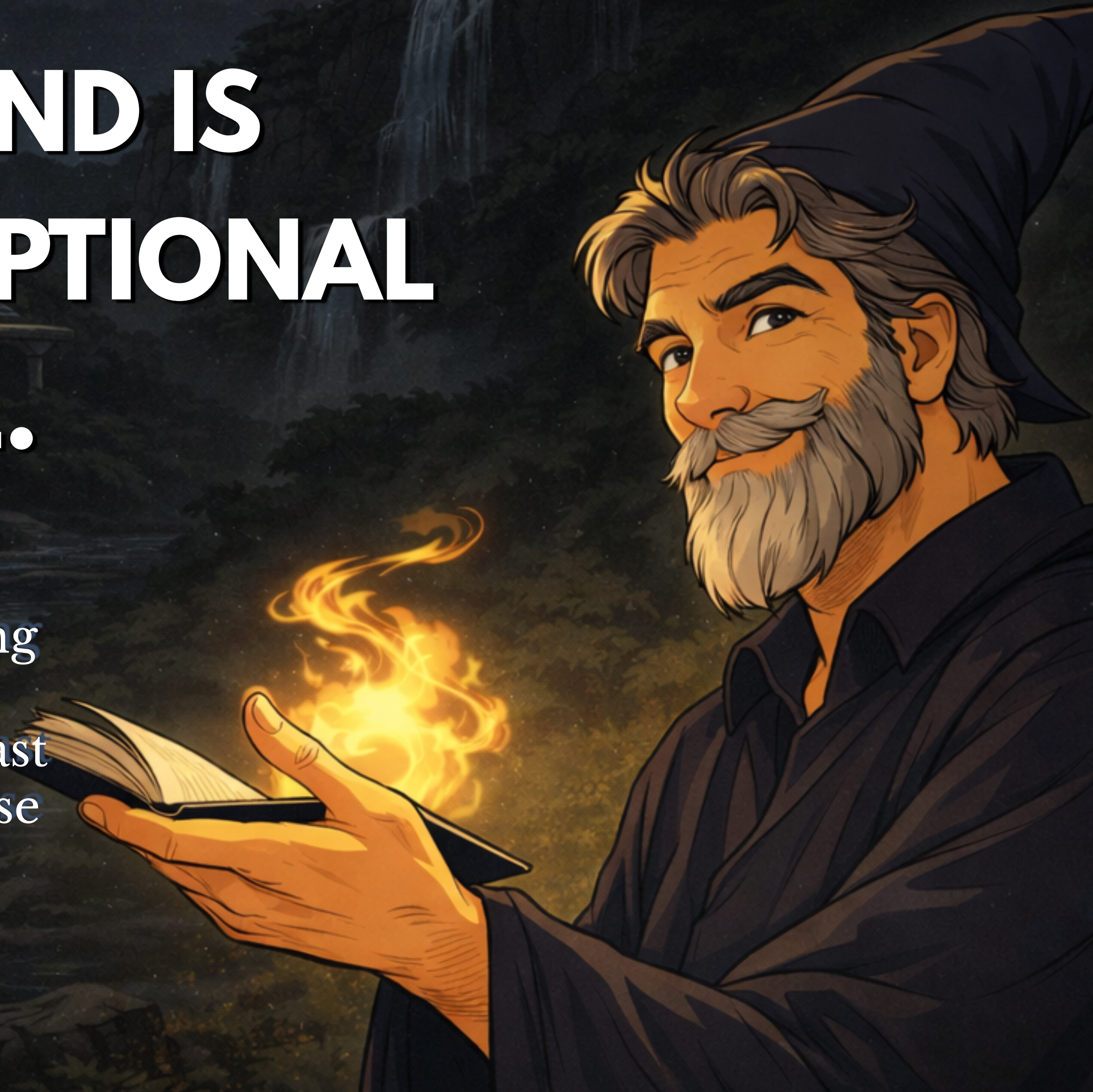
Which one worries you most?

DAN RANDOW & PAMELA SIMPSON



AI IN NEW ZEALAND IS MOVING FROM OPTIONAL TO OPERATIONAL.

We've crossed the line from theory to practice. AI is showing up in real workflows, automating admin, revealing data insights, reducing errors, and boosting productivity. We've moved past asking 'Should we use AI?' to 'Where else could we use AI?'



AI AGENT ACCELERATOR





**Thursdays,
10-11:30am**

**1 October -
19 November**

**\$350 for series
or**

**Included for
Founding Members
of the EPIC Exchange**



**8 x 90-minute Live Workshops
Hosted by Caelan Huntress**



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The image is a digital composite. In the center is a large stone archway, possibly a bridge entrance, with intricate carvings. To the left is a modern building with a curved glass facade reflecting the sunset. To the right is a Gothic church with a tall spire and scaffolding on its side. The background is a night sky with a vibrant orange and yellow sunset on the left, transitioning to a dark blue sky with a glowing blue digital network of lines and nodes. The text 'Christchurch' is in large white letters, 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE' is in blue letters on a blue banner, and 'MEETUP GROUP' is in white letters on a dark blue banner.

Christchurch

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

MEETUP GROUP

<https://christchurch-ai.com>



Christchurch Artificial Intelligence

★★★★★ 4.7 • [309 ratings](#)

📍 Christchurch, New Zealand

👤 1,978 members

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About



Events



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Discussions



More

Manage group ▾

Create event ▾

About us

This is a group for people who want to explore, share, and learn about artificial intelligence, Generative AI, AI Agents, and AI Agent management.

We meet every month at **EPIC Innovation**. We typically feature a couple of speakers, mingle with drinks, and share new tools and insights about AI.

Give feedback on the group, or apply to speak, by [filling out this form](#).

Organizers



You and 5 others



You are a **Super Organizer**

Members 1,978

[See all](#)

<https://www.meetup.com/christchurch-ai/>



SECOND MONDAY @ EPIC INNOVATION



Building with AI: Speed, Structure & Scale

📍 Where? EPIC Innovation

🕒 When? 5:30 - 8:00 PM

📅 **Monday, 12 October**

Christchurch-Ai.Com

Speakers:

Joshua Campbell & Caelan Huntress

Tech Summit '26

Wednesday 16 September 2026

Te Pae Convention Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand

#techsummit26





HINZ DIGITAL HEALTH AI SUMMIT

SECURITY AND EQUITY BY DESIGN

Register Now

9am - 5pm

17 September 2026

Christchurch



Chateau on the Park

📍 189 Deans Avenue, Riccarton
Christchurch 8011

Member

NZD 199.00

Non-Member

NZD 299.00

<https://web.cvent.com/event/7c9b76a8-f9eb-4e94-9bc3-ecf528d4d292/summary>

Human-First AI: Find the Work that Matters Most



**ONLINE
WEBINAR**

**Friday,
18 Sept
10-11am**

Speaker:
Caelan Huntress

SATURDAY, 25 SEPT, 11AM

A logo with 'Ai' in a blue speech bubble and '-Coaching Academy' in blue text.

Ai206
AI for Creativity

Hosted by
Caelan Huntress

An illustration of a man with brown hair and a grey beard, wearing a blue shirt and a dark jacket. He is smiling slightly. The background is a vibrant, stylized illustration of a sustainable city with green buildings, solar panels, wind turbines, and lush vegetation. A white arrow points from the text 'Hosted by Caelan Huntress' to the man's portrait.

For Members of the AI Campus



[HTTPS://JOIN.AI-COACHING.ACADEMY/](https://join.ai-coaching.academy/)

CAMPUS



- ✦ Monthly AI Coaching Power Hour
- ✦ 30 AI Games in 30 Days
- ✦ Video Training Library
- ✦ Weekly Tutorials

\$19/MO

SCAN HERE



Onboarding AI Agents: How to Delegate Workflows

**ONLINE
WEBINAR**

**Friday,
16 Oct
1-2pm**



Speaker:
Caelan Huntress



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Hosted by Caelan Huntress**



“I use AI every day now, and I hardly did before taking this training programme. Caelan’s positivity and enthusiasm is really engaging. His workshops are full of facts and anecdotes, and a lot of fun.”

Testimonial



Silena Kirkconnell-Kawana

“I came into Caelan’s workshop not knowing anything about custom GPTs or comparing prompts between different AI models. Now I can draft blog articles in my own voice, iterate across tools, and polish them in a fraction of the time. This training gave me the confidence to try new things, and a clear way of cutting through to what works. Caelan’s workshop was memorable and absolutely worth it.”

Testimonial



Andrew Pitts

“This was probably the best workshop that I have attended, and multiple people said the same thing. The shift in confidence and engagement across the team is exactly what we were hoping for.”

Testimonial



Matt Harris