



Masterclass

Harnessing AI for Boardroom Success

Module 4

With Helen van Orton





Module Four

AI-Ready Leadership:

Building Future Forward
Boards and Organisations





Module 4

What we'll cover



Gain insights into emerging trends, including autonomous AI agents and robotics.



Build the skills to incorporate AI into your everyday boardroom practices



Learn how to integrate AI into long-term strategic planning.



Module 4 - Chapter 1

Gain insights into emerging trends, including autonomous AI agents and robotics



What's new and just around the corner?



AI Capability is changing exponentially

Midjourney evolution is just 2 years



Images generated on MidJourney by Henrique Centieiro and Bee Lee



The Rise of Intelligent Robots

01

Advanced Perception

Robots will be equipped with sophisticated sensors and computer vision to accurately perceive and understand their surroundings.

02

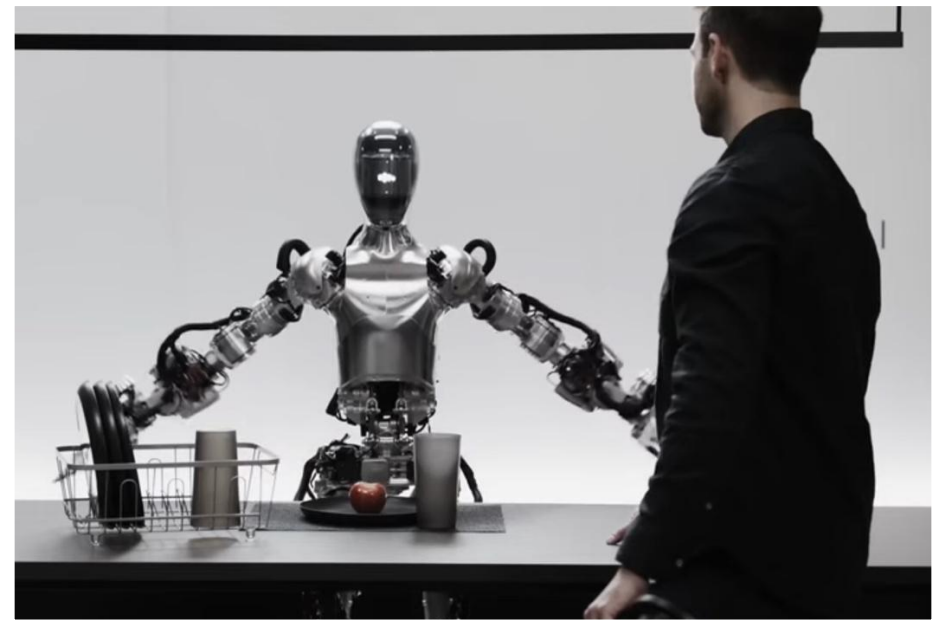
Autonomous Decision-Making

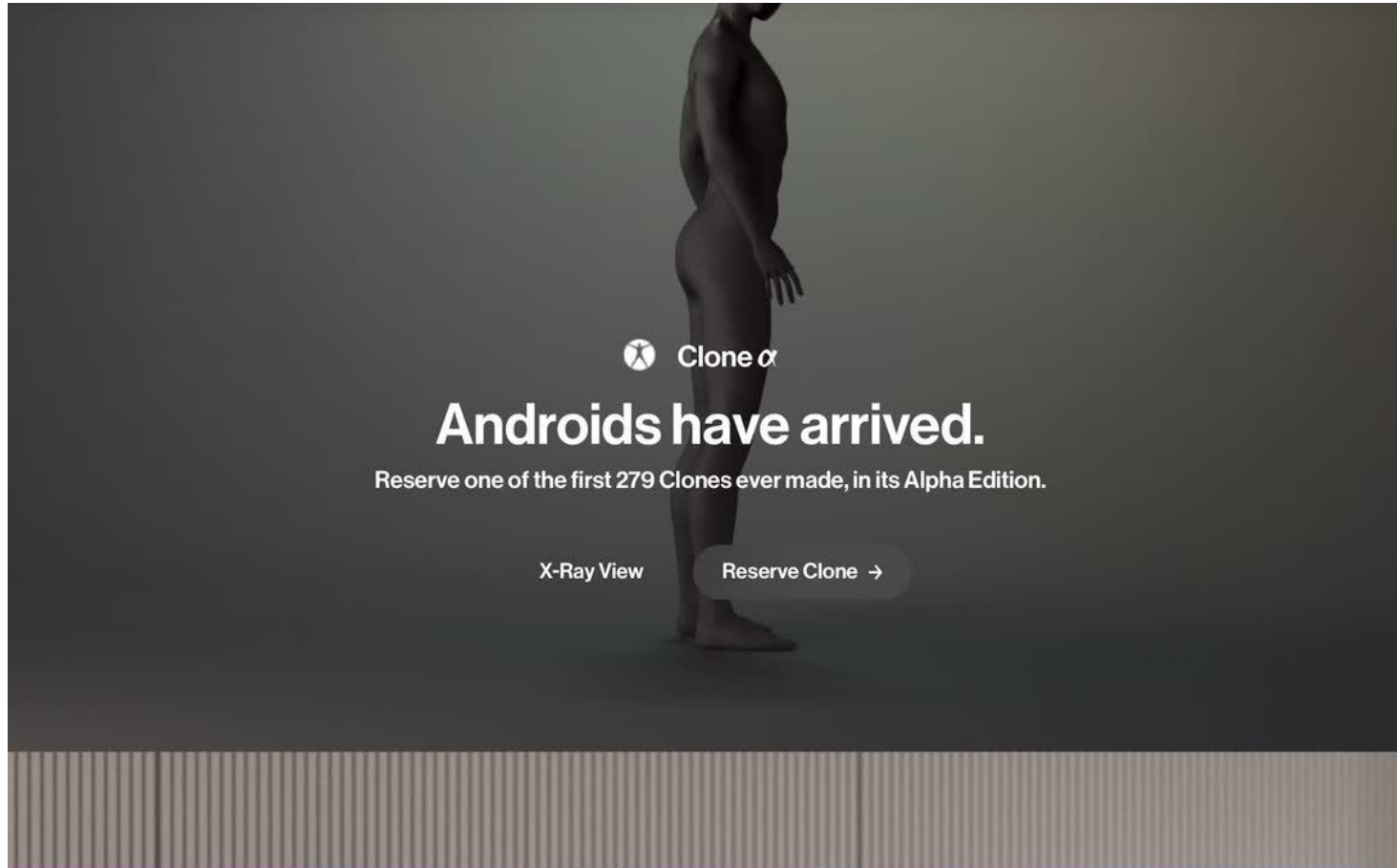
Intelligent algorithms will enable robots to make autonomous decisions, adapting to changing environments and tasks.

03

Dexterous Manipulation

Highly articulated robotic limbs and hands will allow for precise control and manipulation of objects, expanding the range of tasks robots can perform.





That look
increasingly
human





Agentic AI



- Uses machine learning, natural language processing, and other AI technologies to understand complex contexts and goals
- Can set goals, analyse data, and make decisions based on patterns and likelihoods
- Learn and adapt their behavior over time based on new information
- Can automate tasks and business processes that would otherwise require human intervention
- Improve employee productivity and free up employees for more important tasks



Sharepoint agents

Launched In Late November 2024

01

Answer questions about content on SharePoint sites

02

Help users find information and insights

03

Respond to users based on their access permissions





Tailored podcasts

Research tool that will generate an amazingly real podcast between two AI hosts from whatever text, video or PDF sources you feed it

DIY content- listen in the car

Audio Overview



Click to load the conversation.

Load

 **NotebookLM**



Custom GPTs

Tailored outcomes





ChatGPT Conversations

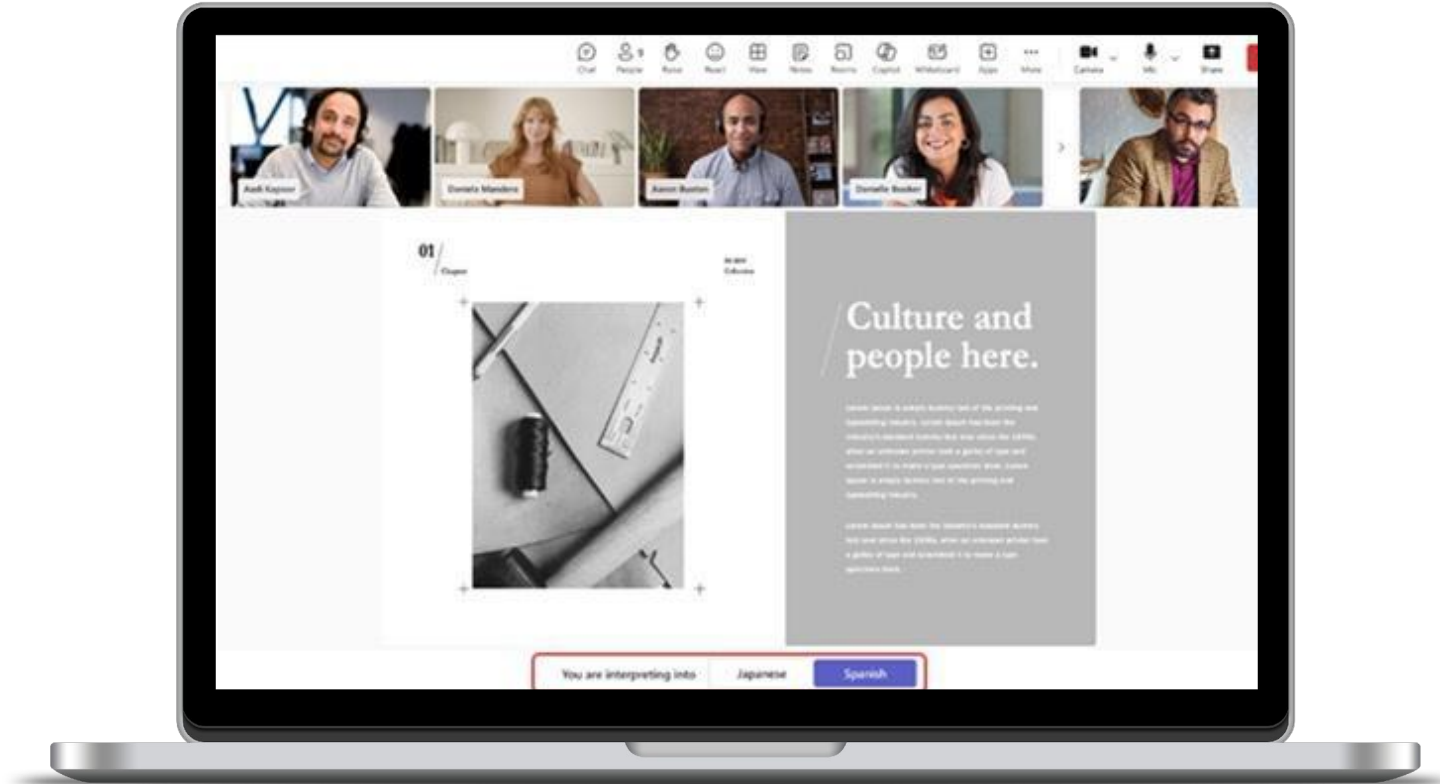
Learning on the go





Simultaneous translation

Microsoft teams now enables simultaneous translation in Meetings





Copilot Vision

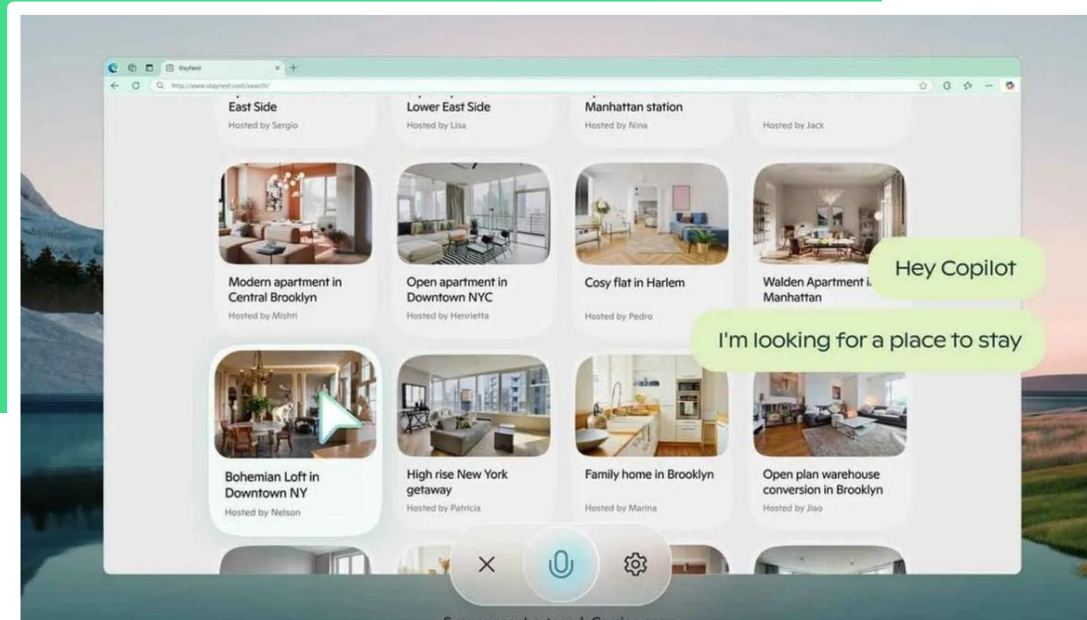


image source: Microsoft

01

Analyses web pages in real time

02

Offers insights, suggestions, and explanations based on what it sees

03

Can help with shopping, planning trips, and other activities



Stargate: The Trump Administration's \$500 Billion AI Initiative



A \$500 billion AI infrastructure initiative announced by the Trump administration in January 2025.

Goals:

- Build 20 state-of-the-art data centres across the U.S.
- Create 100,000 jobs by 2029.
- Drive AI advancements in healthcare, technology, and beyond.

Significance:

Positions the U.S. as a global leader in AI innovation and infrastructure development.



Cost-Effective Development:

Achieved high performance with significantly lower costs than competitors- costing just 5-10% of o1's API price



Efficient Resource Use:

Trained using fewer and less advanced computer chips.



Open-Source Model:

Fully open-sourced under MIT licence, disrupting proprietary AI pricing

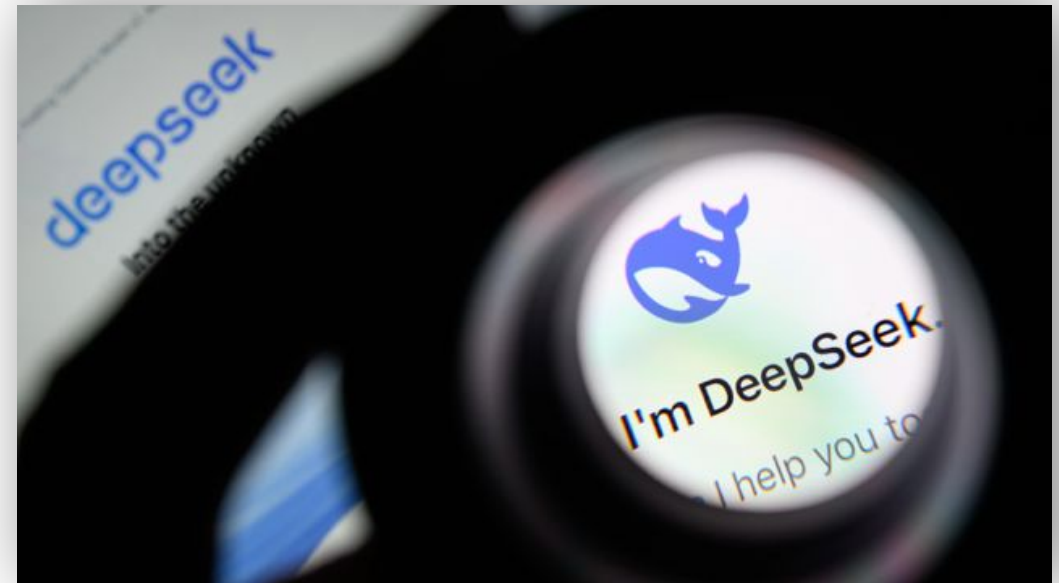


Innovative Training:

Used pure reinforcement learning for advanced self-taught capabilities.



DeepSeek's 'Sputnik moment'





AGI / Superintelligence

“AGI will probably get developed during [Trump's] term.”

Sam Altman

Jan 2025

- AI surpassing human intelligence in all key areas.
- Capable of solving complex problems beyond human capability.



- Transforms industries with unprecedented efficiency and innovation.
- Raises ethical challenges and requires responsible oversight.



Module 4 - Chapter 2

Building the skills to incorporate AI into your everyday boardroom practices



AI-Ready Leadership:

Building Future-Forward
Boards and Organisations



Enhancing Boardroom Dynamics

The Rise of the 'robo-director'



We don't think AI will replace boards or board members anytime soon, but the boards and board members who use AI effectively will surely race ahead of those who ignore the opportunity

Board Intelligence and Corporate Governance Institute
November 2023



IHC appoints AI-powered virtual entity Aiden Insight as Board Observer

Aiden Insight is a virtual entity endowed with sophisticated AI capabilities, and is set to revolutionise the way IHC navigates the complexities of the global investment landscape, according to a statement.



Online Bureau • ETHRWorld
Updated On Feb 28, 2024 at 01:42 PM IST



Abu Dhabi-based International Holding Company, a globally diversified multi-sector investment company, has announced the creation of a Board Observer position for an 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) Observer', named 'Aiden Insight'.

Aiden Insight is a virtual entity endowed with sophisticated AI capabilities, and is set to revolutionise the way IHC navigates the complexities of the global investment landscape, according to a statement.

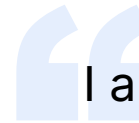




Section

Board room example

AI went toe-to-toe with our board - April 2024 ✱ S			
	Human Board	A- 100%	Great insights from trusted group. But took hours to set up, run, & follow up.
	Claude	A- 91%	Appropriately ambitious. Macro market understanding. Third-order thinking.
	ChatGPT 4	B+ 89%	Some tailored advice and pushback, some generic. Thorough questions. Most points of view offered.
	Gemini	C+ 78%	Mostly summarized and reflected our deck. Limited pushback, insights, or advice.
	Copilot	C- 72%	Mostly summarized and reflected our deck. General feedback only focused on quantitative data.



I am the CEO of Section.
This is the board meeting deck.
Pretend to be a board member
and tell me how you think a board
member will react or what
questions they might ask.



AI as a Director

AI's Role

- Illuminate Hidden Insights
- Challenge Established Thinking
- Model Unintended Consequences
- Neutralise Personal Bias

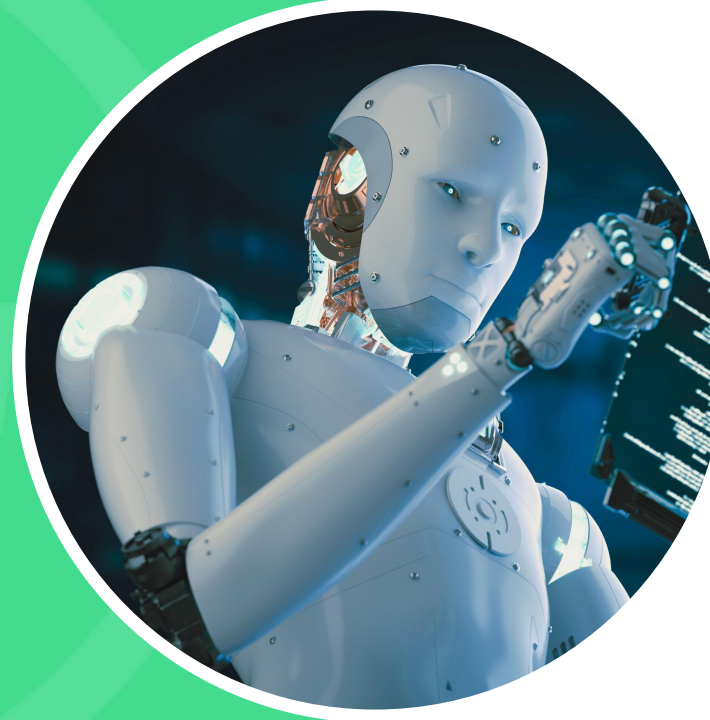
Your Role

- Contextualise Insights
- Align with Strategic Goals
- Interpret and Decide
- Balance Perspectives



Using AI as a Co-Pilot

NOT an Auto-Pilot



- Question Framing
- Unbiased Perspectives
- Scenario Analysis
- Crowdsourcing Wisdom
- Concept Creation



Get Your Hands Dirty!

10 Minutes every Day



Knowledge is not mastery. Execution is mastery. Execution will trump knowledge every day of the week."

Tony Robbins



Self reflection questions

01

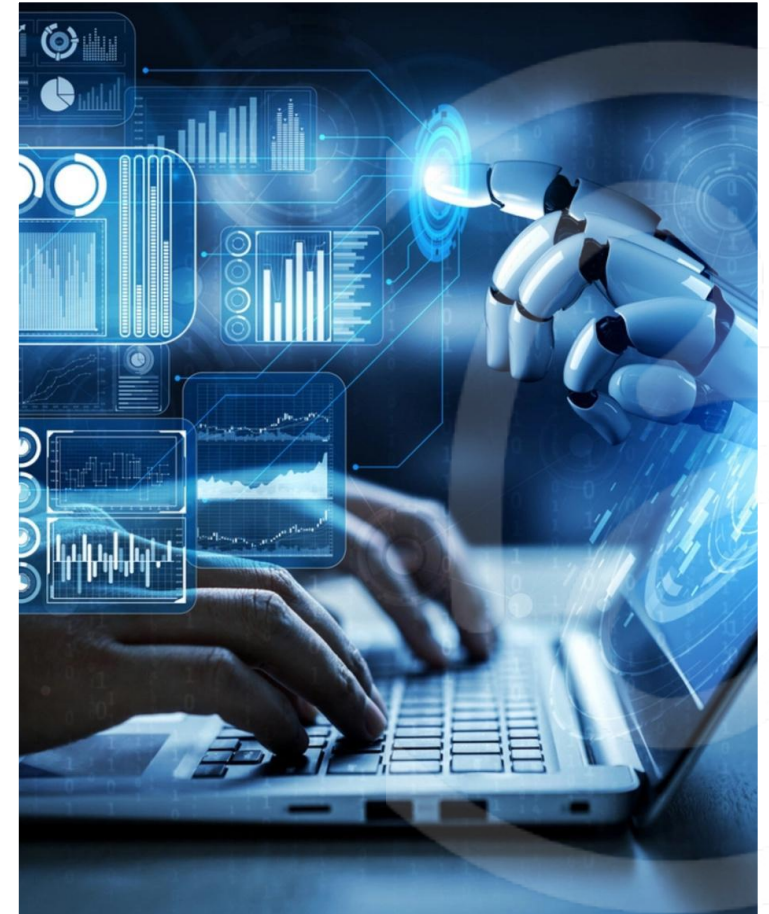
Engagement with Emerging Technologies:

How proactive am I in understanding and engaging with emerging technologies like AI, and what steps can I take to further enhance my knowledge and contributions to board discussions?

02

The AI Director:

How can I safely use AI in my own governance practice and what conversations do I need to have with my boards about an agreed position on 'AI in the boardroom'?





Module 4 - Chapter 3

Learn how to integrate AI into long-term strategic planning



Building an AI-Ready Board



Strategic Alignment and Focus

- Align AI with Strategy
- Assess AI Landscape
- Prioritise High-Impact Areas
- Analyse Digital Maturity



Risk Management and Ethical Governance

- Establish Clear Risk Management
- Define Risk Appetite
- Champion Responsible AI



Building Capability and Trust

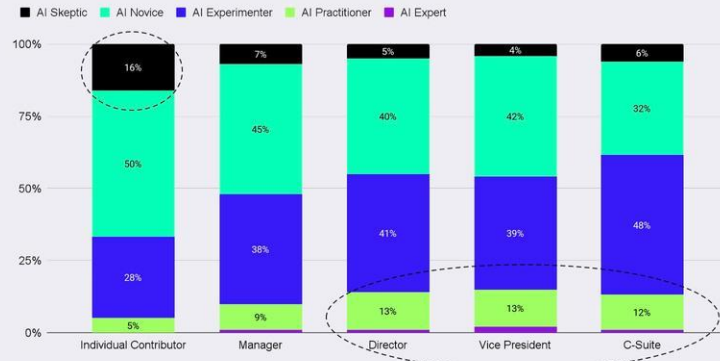
- Foster AI Literacy
- Promote Experimentation
- Communicate Transparently



Leading AI from the Top

Leaders are more proficient than ICs

Percentage of Knowledge Workers in Each Classification, by Level
September 2024, n=5,003 respondents



Leaders are 2-3X more proficient than ICs.

This could be due to lack of access/training (roll outs start with leaders) or anxiety about job loss.

“What does AI think?”





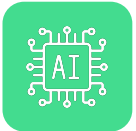
Questions for the Board



Strategic AI Integration and Governance:
How can our board strategically integrate AI into our business strategy to enhance productivity while ensuring ethical governance?



Risk Management and Ethical Frameworks:
What frameworks and policies should we implement to manage the ethical and legal risks associated with AI, particularly concerning data privacy and fairness?



Building AI Competency within the Board:
How can we develop and enhance AI literacy and capabilities within our board to effectively oversee AI initiatives?



Source: IOD, The productivity opportunity of AI



Questions for the CEO



01

Do we have the right talent and resources in place to execute our AI strategy effectively?

04

How do you envision AI impacting our industry and business model in the next 3–5 years?

02

What are our competitors doing with AI, and how can we leverage AI to gain a competitive advantage?

05

How are we communicating the role and impact of AI to our employees and ensuring they are informed and engaged?

03

What are the key components of our AI governance framework, and how are we mitigating potential risks such as bias, privacy violations, and security breaches?

06

How will we ensure that our use of AI is transparent and understandable to our customers?



Module 4

What We've Covered and Learned

01

Emerging AI Trends:

- Agentic AI, customGPTs, robotics and other innovations are driving new opportunities in automation and innovation.
- Emerging technologies and SuperIntelligence

02

Practical skills to leverage AI for enhanced decision-making:

- AI as a Director (and robo-Director) Integrate AI tools into decision-making to enhance efficiency and insights.
- Develop your foundational AI literacy to guide meaningful boardroom discussions.

03

Integrating AI into Long-Term Planning:

- Build an AI ready board
- Lead AI from the top





[Directorly.co.nz](https://www.directorly.co.nz)

Resources for Further Learning From Directorly

- Board training sessions and workshops
- Executive training sessions
- Keynote speeches for larger groups of staff
- Advanced Prompt Engineering training
- Workshops on practical AI Governance
- Interactive sessions: AI Tools in Action
- Masterclass: AI Literacy for Boards

③ Other Resources for Further Learning



[Directorly
Section](#)



Worklab
Everyday AI



[The Rundown AI
Everyday AI](#)



[Deloitte AI Institute](#)
[PWC Governance](#)
[Gartner](#)



[AI CD A Director's Guide to AI Governance](#)
[IoD AI Reader](#)



The Future's here. Ready?

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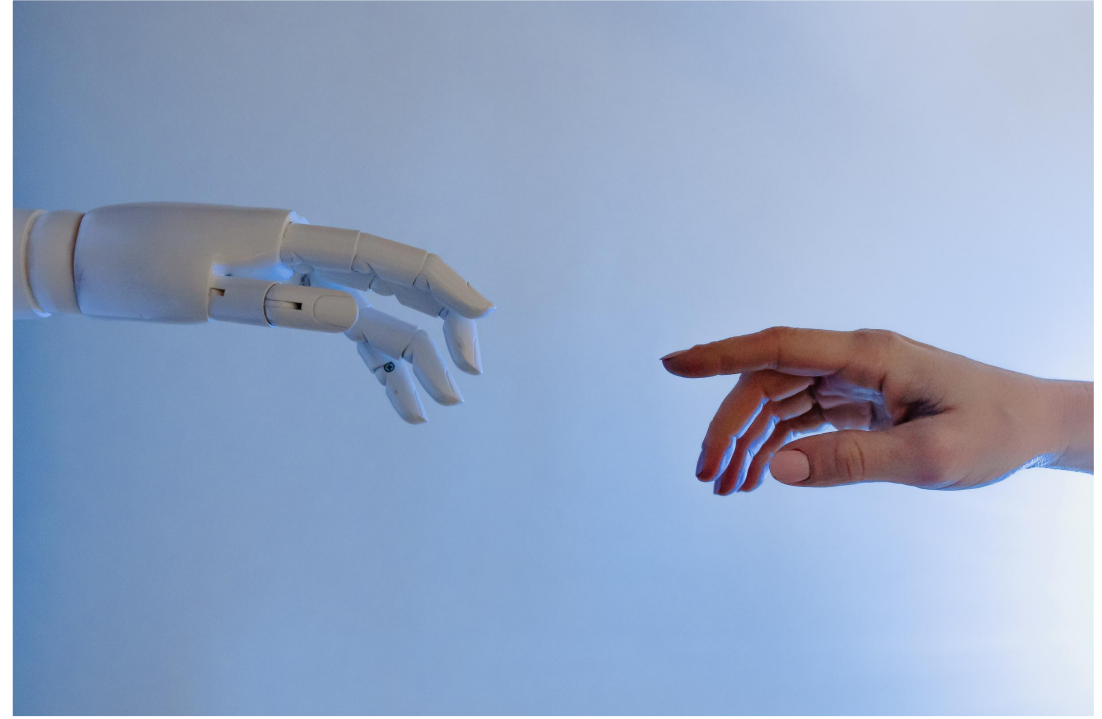
→ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/helen-van-orton/>

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End of Masterclass

