

Why AI Isn't Just a Coding Tool: A Shared Vision for Cuttlefish Labs

Context

Cuttlefish Labs exists at the intersection of imagination and implementation. We are a team composed of thinkers, builders, and systems explorers. Each of us brings something unique to the table: vision, discipline, creativity, and pragmatism. This document is written to bridge a growing gap observed across many teams—between those who explore what *could be*, and those focused on what *can be built today*.

Recent Atlassian research highlights this exact issue: 63% of developers feel that leaders don't understand their friction points, even as AI is saving them time. The problem isn't AI—it's *how* we use it and *what* we expect it to do.

The Gap

AI tools have progressed far beyond code completion. They now function as design partners, ideation engines, simulation frameworks, and evaluators of tradeoffs. For non-traditional developers and multidisciplinary thinkers, AI becomes an amplifier of possibility. But for many developers, AI is still just a productivity aid.

This difference can create misunderstanding. One person sees AI making conceptual leaps. Another sees it failing to write robust code. Both are right, but incomplete.

Two Sides of the Same System

Visionary	Developer
Imagines futures, speculates boldly	Builds working systems today
Uses AI for conceptual expansion	Uses AI for code efficiency
Comfortable with ambiguity	Seeks clarity and precision
Designs across disciplines	Implements within known stacks

These roles are complementary. When aligned, they allow for both breadth and depth, for creativity *and* delivery.

What Cuttlefish Labs Believes About AI

1. AI is a thinking partner.

We treat AI not just as an assistant, but as a tool for modeling, debating, daydreaming, and iterating.

2. Imagination and discipline are both required.

A working system with no vision is useless. A grand idea with no path to delivery is noise. We need both.

3. The bridge is communication.

We must articulate assumptions, friction points, and mental models openly. When something doesn't land, we ask: are we looking through different lenses?

4. AI is more than code.

It can help write memos like this one. It can debate tradeoffs. It can map constraints. It can act as the mirror we need to challenge our biases.

Call to Action Let's actively support each other: - Developers: stay open to AI's evolving capabilities beyond syntax. - Visionaries: respect the hard work of making things real and testable. - Everyone: talk early, talk often, and use AI to help translate ideas across roles.

Cuttlefish Labs is more than a lab. It's a conversation between what's possible and what's executable.