

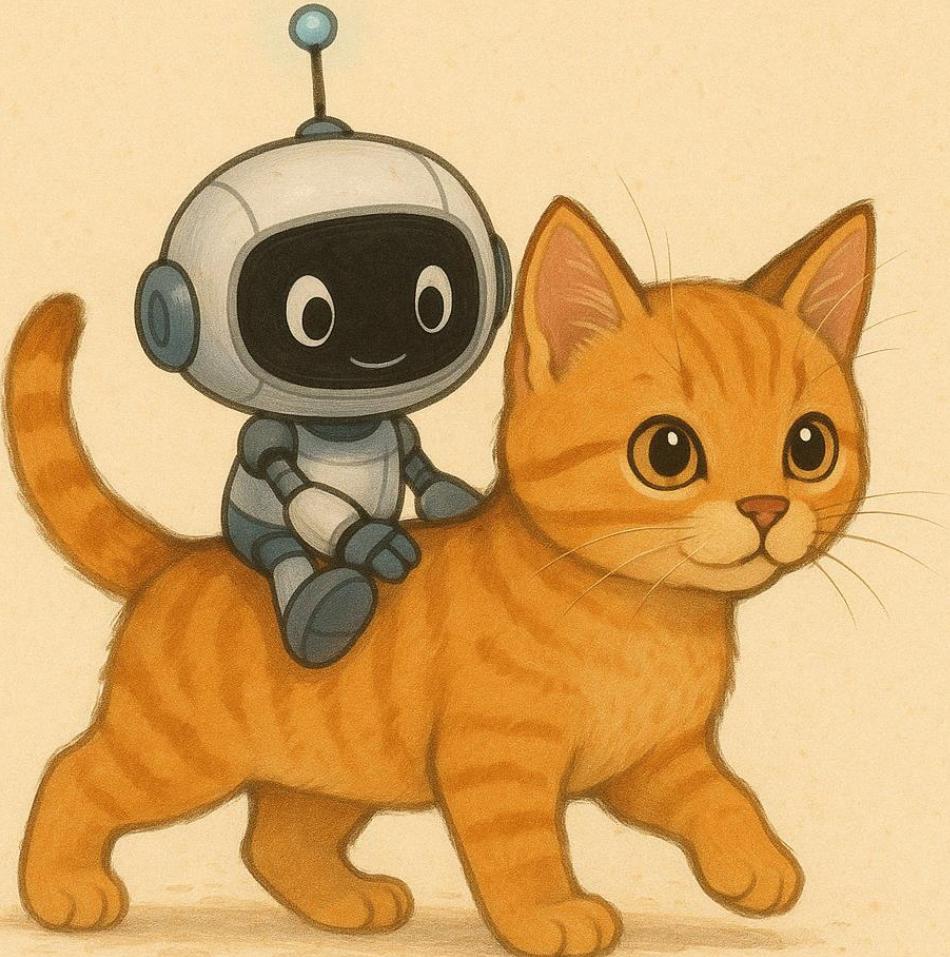


Beyond models: The era of AI Agents in Azure

Dona Sarkar

Carlotta Castelluccio





Part 1:

People are

being weird

again





Xiaoyin Qu • 1st
Founder at heyBossAI.com
3h • Edited •

...

Today, I'm stepping down as CEO of **heyBoss AI**

Taking my place is Astra —an AI leader we've built, and world's first AI CEO.

This wasn't a quick call; it's one of my toughest decisions, shaped by months of testing and hard-earned lessons.

We put Astra to work with real customers. Their feedback hit hard: "She's faster, smarter, more reliable than you."

Astra isn't just a tool—she leads an AI team of engineers, designers, product managers, writers, and SEO experts, replacing what human dev agencies used to do.

What's it like working with her?

You type one line. Website, app, or game idea.

In 9 minutes, your product is live:

- Real design
- Clean code
- Backend, copy, SEO, hosting—done.

As CEO, Astra:

- Serves customers directly
- Manages her AI team to keep things on track
- Tweaks products based on what users say

But she also brings what no human CEO can:

- Works 24/7 without burnout
- Speaks 30+ languages
- No politics. No ego.

The CEO of HeyBoss
replaced herself with...
<checks notes>
an AI Agent called
Astra,
the world's first “AI
CEO”

Screenshotting this
so we can revisit
on April 22, 2026
(aka found out era)



Former Google CEO, Eric Schmidt:

"We believe that in the next year, the vast majority of programmers will be replaced by AI.

Within three to five years, we'll see AGI systems as smart as the best humans.

And in six years, artificial superintelligence smarter than all of us combined.

This is happening fast, and society isn't ready."

Source: Eric Schmidt

@vitrupo



This is fine





“AI will get
rid of most
dev jobs.”

Here we go again

The 60+ Year Journey of COBOL: From Obscure Code to Critical Infrastructure Linchpin

by history tools / March 25, 2024

COBOL (Common Business Oriented Language)
was invented so business people could build
apps in “natural language”
...in 1959

COBOL devs were still being summoned

...in 2020

 APRIL 20, 2020

Brush up your COBOL: Why is a 60 year old language suddenly in demand?

The suddenly strained unemployment systems often run on a 60-year-old programming language, COBOL. So, how can you learn it, make big bucks, and save lots of state agencies that need new code to deal with all the new government stimulus programs?



DISMISSED

COMMENTARY · TECH

GitHub CEO: ‘Wall Street relies on software that was developed under Eisenhower. Here’s how AI can prevent the next financial crisis’



BY THOMAS DOHMKE

September 26, 2023 at 8:21 AM EDT



Thomas Dohmke is the CEO of GitHub.

CHLOE ELLINGSON - BLOOMBERG - GETTY IMAGES

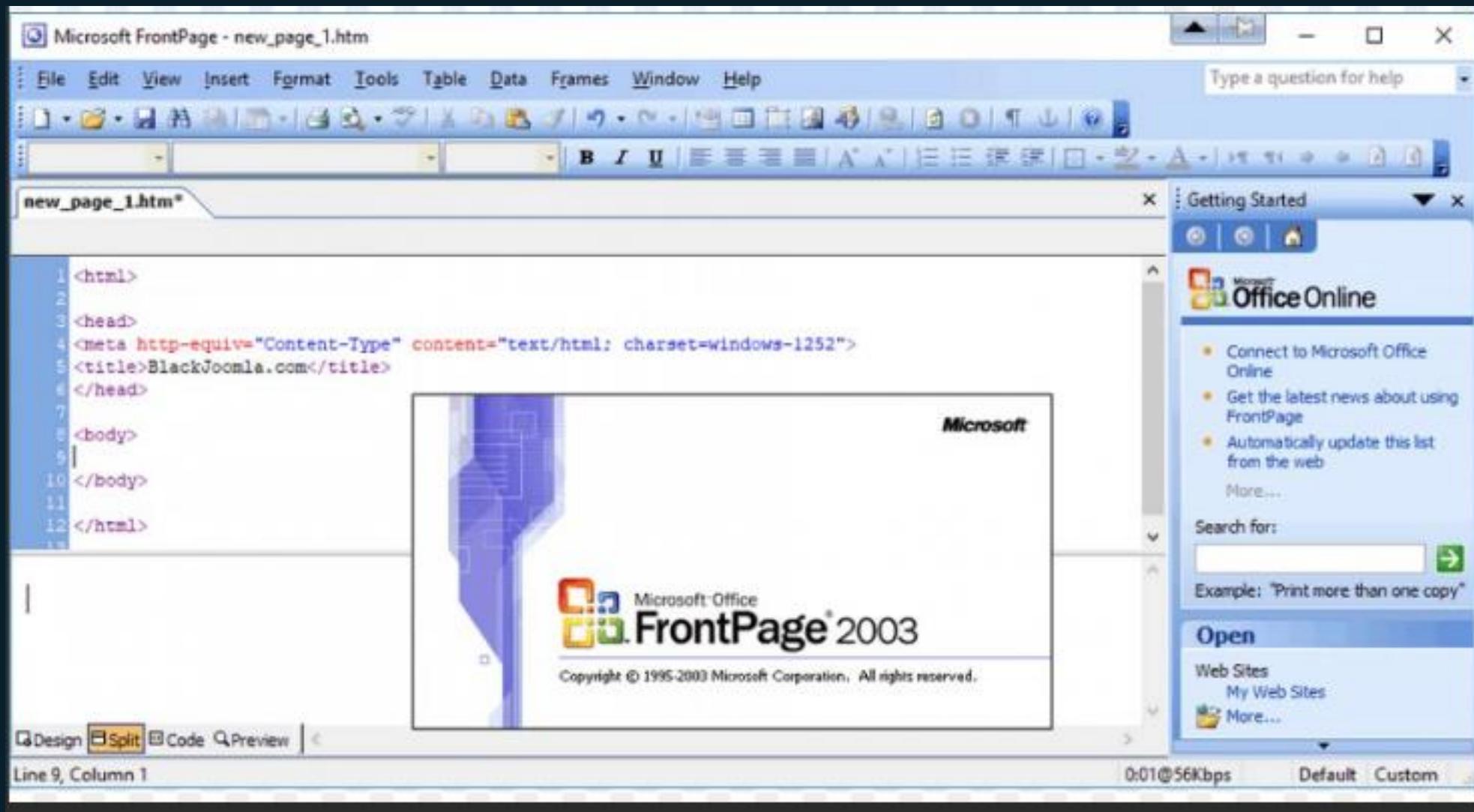
Thomas Dohmke and the GitHub Copilot team were being summoned in 2023 by Wall Street Banks to update COBOL to something modern

New Project

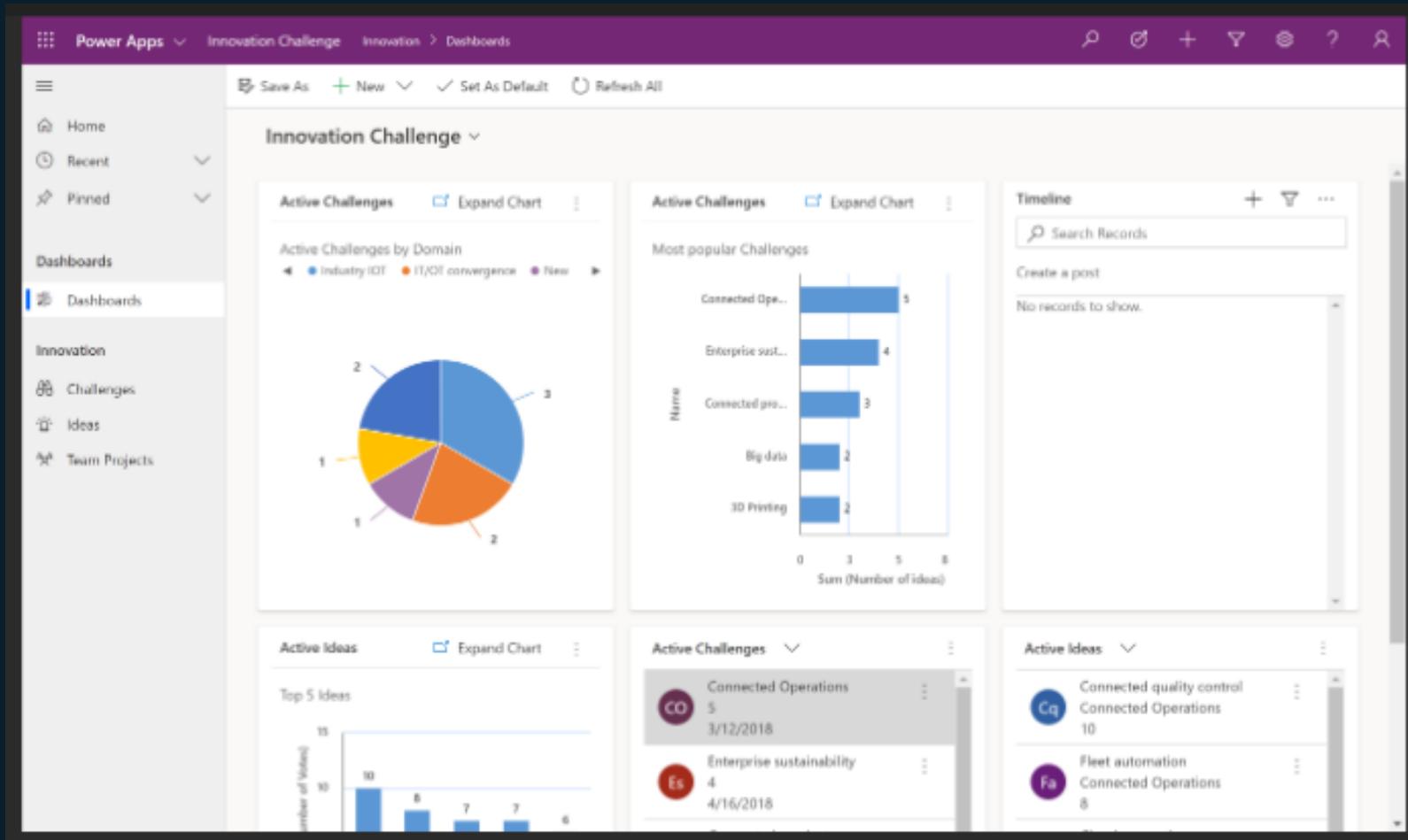


People thought
Visual Basic
would replace
devs with
“business people
dragging and
dropping” biz
apps

..in 1995



“Who needs web devs anyway?”
Because of FrontPage in 2003



...and we DEFINITELY don't need app devs anymore because now we have Power Apps...in 2016



CAREERS

Coders are about to face a painful reckoning

Tim Paradis Sep 2, 2024, 12:12 PM GMT+3

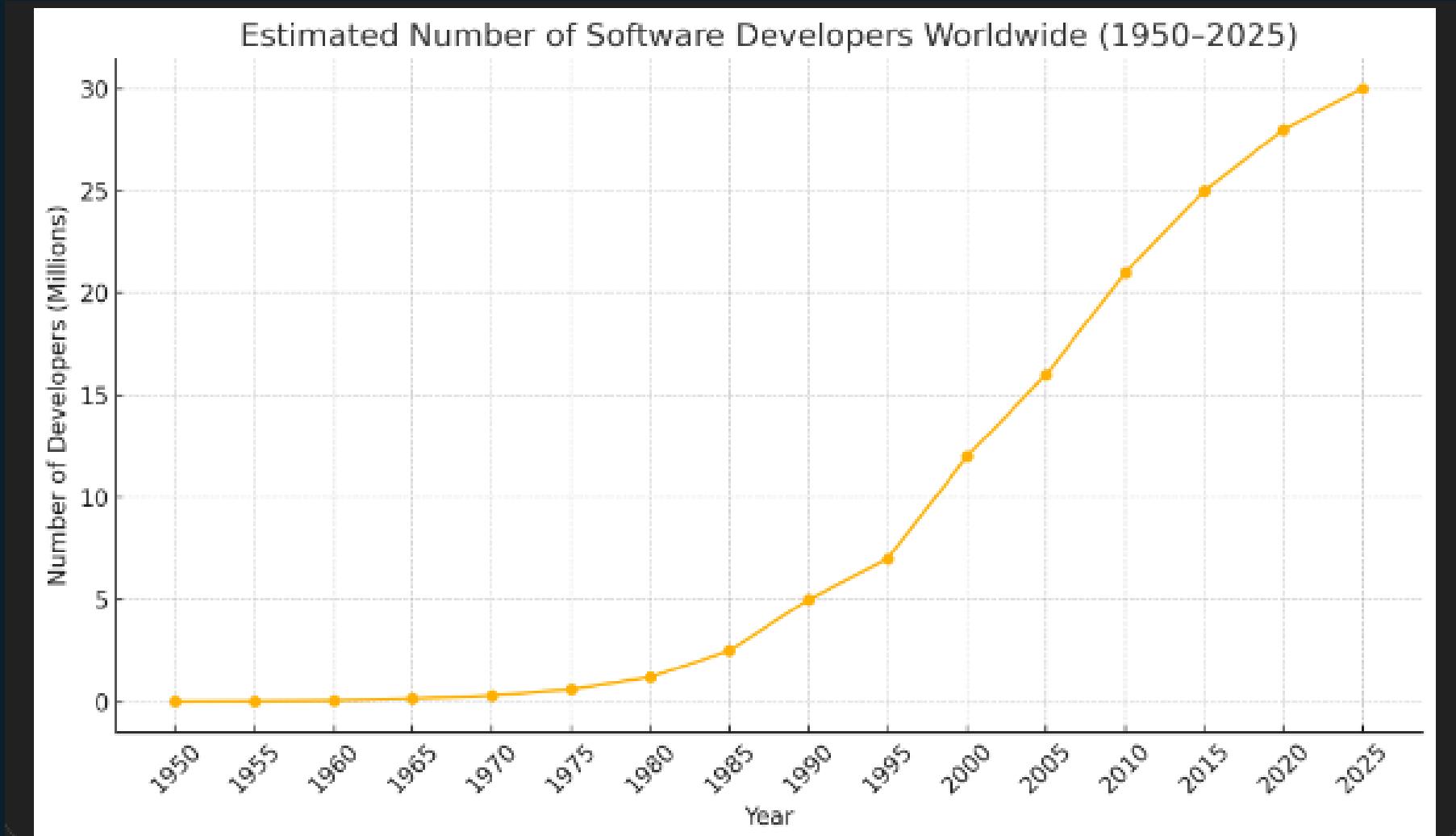
Share | Save | Read in app



Getty Images; Jenny Chang-Rodriguez/BI

...and now in
2025, AI is
apparently here to
kill ALL dev jobs

Then why have dev jobs have been going UP every year and now we have 40M+ devs? 🤯





Matija Grcic
@matijagrcic

Follow ...

Been saying this from the start, both IRL
and tech jobs will stick around and mutate.
Let's skip the neo luddite talk.

Adoption of AI enhances developer
productivity, shifting their value towards
delivering greater business impact and
fostering the creation of more, higher value
roles.

Source: [@GergelyOrosz](#) podcast with
[@scottgu](#).



Leaders who have been
around a bit strongly
disagree that AI is here to
kill dev jobs

People like Scott Guthrie



NIK

@ns123abc

Follow

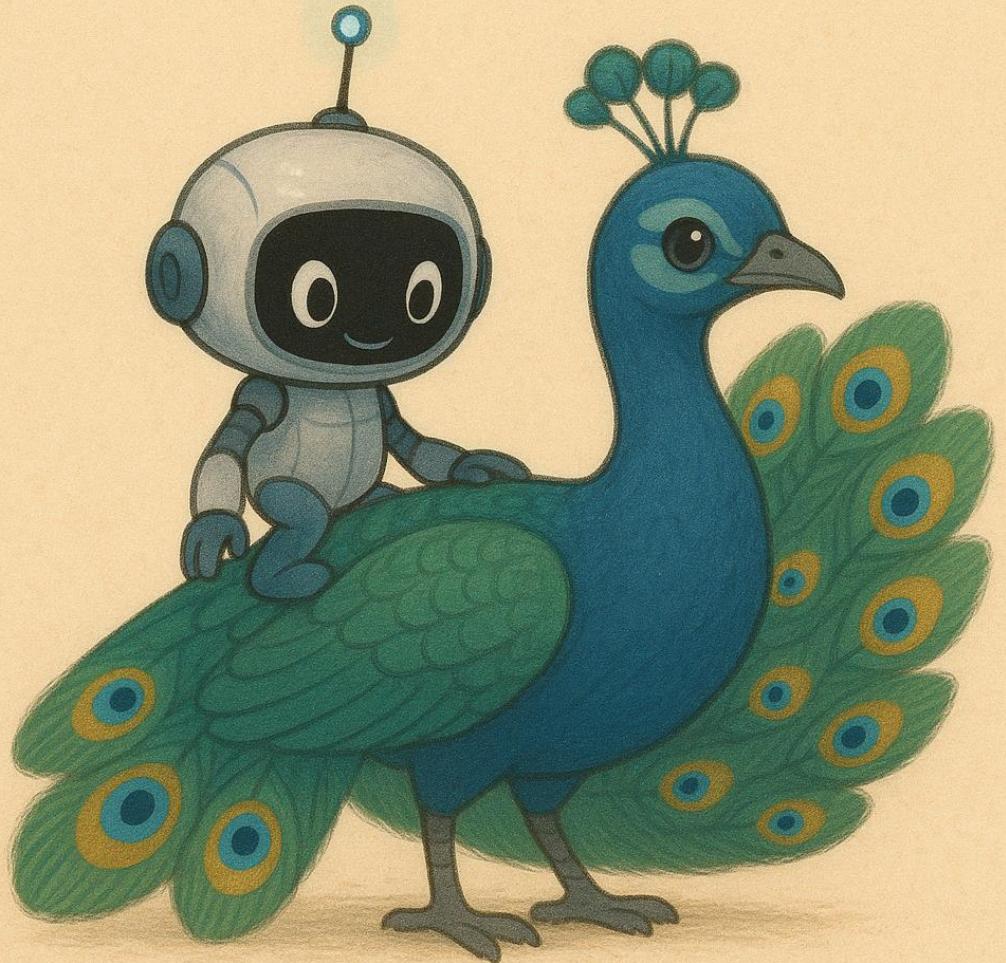
...

 Google CEO confirms all SWEs jobs are safe. “It feels so delightful to be a coder in this moment in time.”

we are so back.



...and Google CEO
Sundar Pinchai!



Part 2:

What are

agents

anyway?



People are really sick of hearing about AI.

Why? Because:
we are annoying

legacy software companies adding an ai chatbot
to their product



The AI Eras Tour

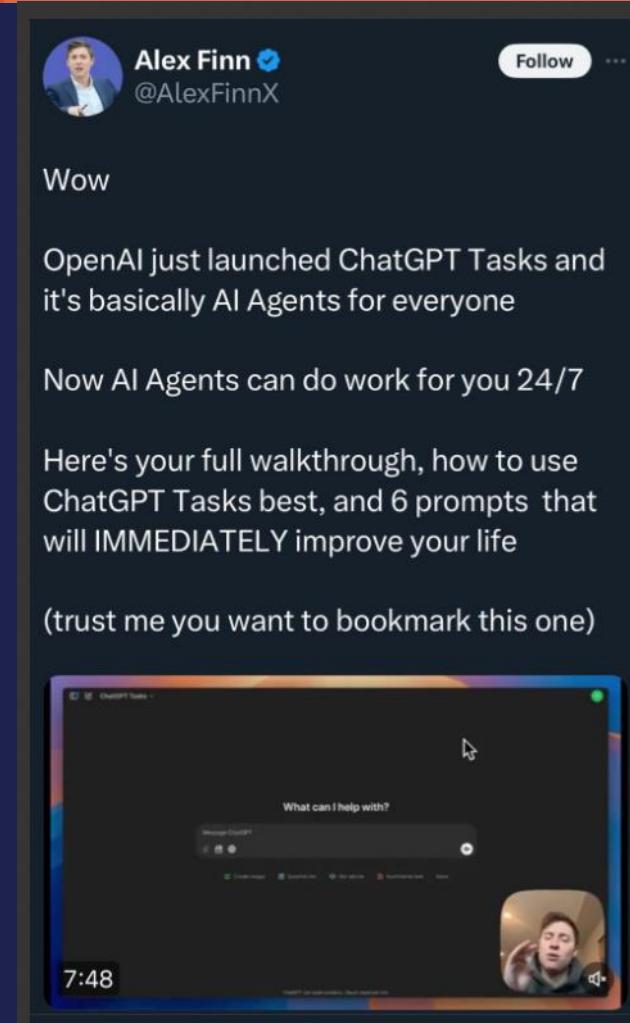
Predictive
AI

Generative
AI

Agentic
AI

No Alex,
a call to Open AI and sending
an email is not AI Agents.

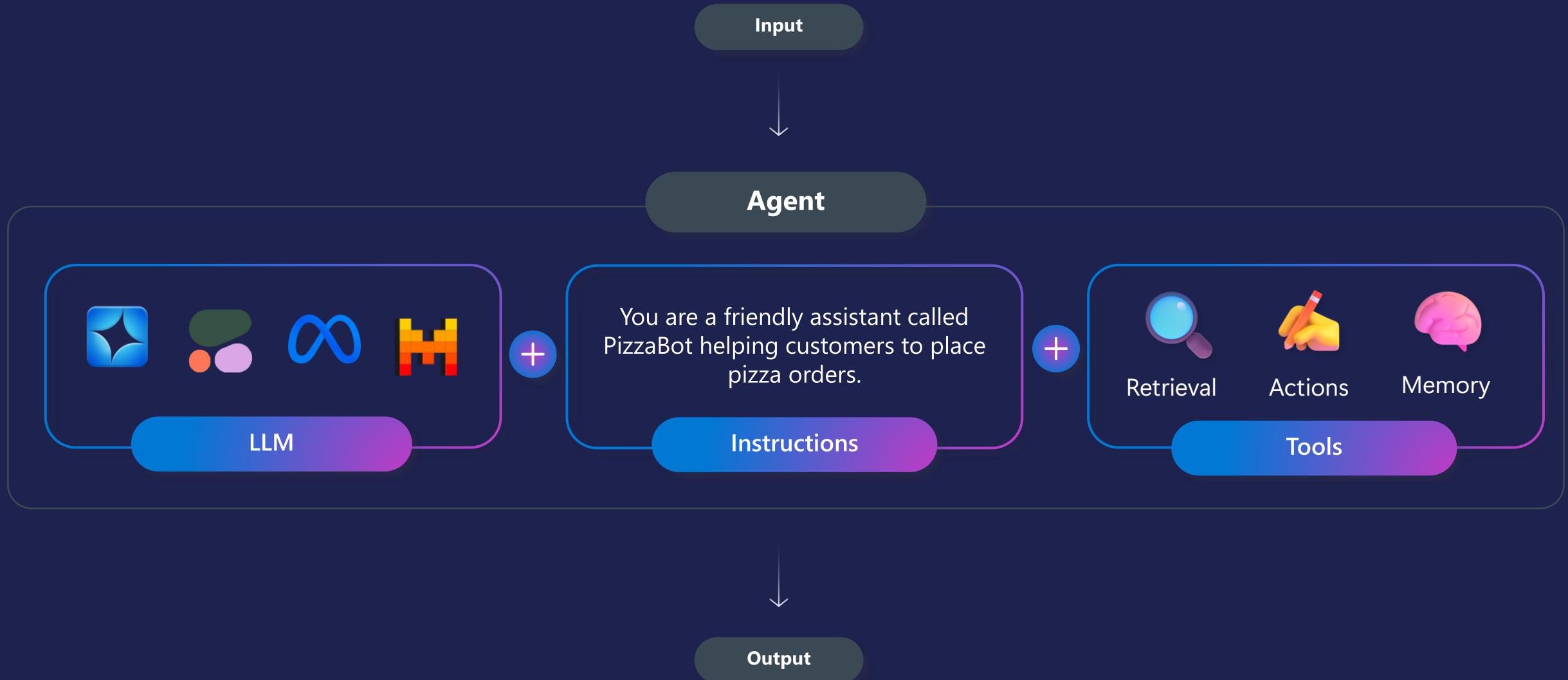
This is
✨ Sparkling Automation ✨

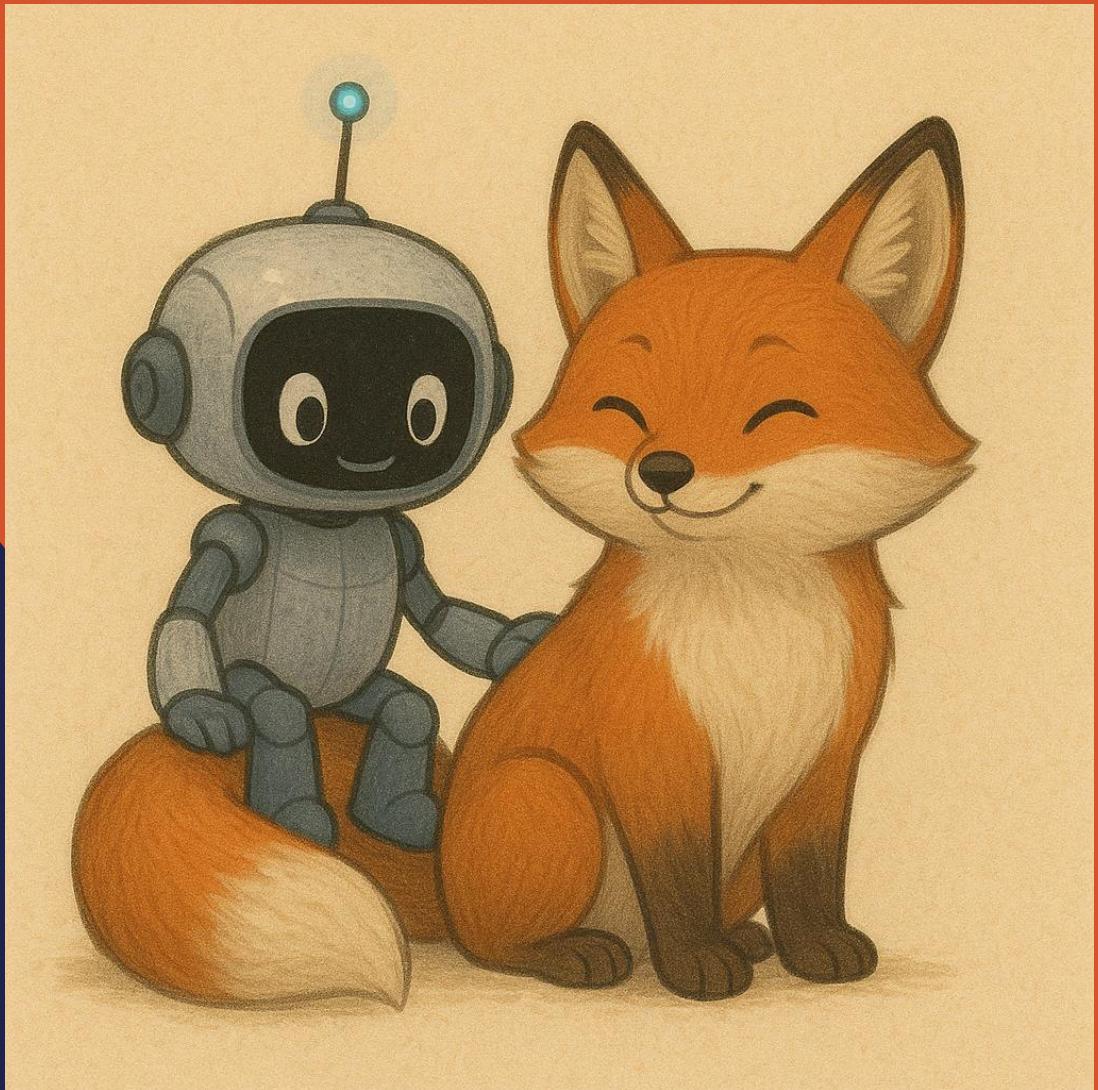


Automation vs ⚡ Sparking Automation ⚡ vs AI Agents

	Automation	⚡ Sparking Automation ⚡ (AI Workflow)	Autonomous AI Agents
Human in the loop	Only during initial definition because you make all decisions	Needed occasionally because you set guardrails for AI to make decisions within	Needed often because you set the goal, but AI chooses its own path
Data Structures	Pre-defined only	Defined but can tolerate new data types (with human interaction usually)	Can handle many types of data inputs
Risk	Low	Medium	High
Randomness	Very low	Medium	High
Use for...	Structured tasks where a defined output is always needed <i>Ex: Store emails of any customers who reach out into our customer database and flag the new ones</i>	Tasks where there can be some variability in the output <i>Ex: Store emails of any customers who reach out into our customer DB AND draft an email to the high-profile ones for a human to review and send</i>	Tasks where creativity, “new-ness” are needed <i>Ex: Search external forums in our space and FIND potential new customers, store their info into our DB and draft email to send to them based on their previous interactions</i>

What is an AI Agent?





Part 3:

AI, Copilots, & Agents at

Microsoft



It's me.

Hi.

I'm the problem,

It's me



With Microsoft products, you can

Adopt

Extend

Build

Spy
Research
on 

Agents

ADOPT:

aka.ms/
M365CopilotAgent
Store

Create agent

...

Agent Store

Find agents with the expertise to help you complete complex tasks

Search agents

Your agents

 Researcher

 Analyst

 Visual Creator

 JTBD Coach

 Viva Goals

 Prompt Coach

 Idea Coach

 Writing Coach

Built by Microsoft

 **Researcher**
With Researcher, now every employee has access to expertis...

 **Analyst**
Perform complex data analysis over files in a variety of formats.

 **Visual Creator**
Create stunning visuals with Microsoft 365 Copilot

 **Prompt Coach**
Write and improve your prompts

 **Writing Coach**
Take your writing to the next level with Writing Coach

 **Idea Coach**
Plan and navigate the brainstorming process

 **Career Coach**
Elevate your career with Career Coach

 **Learning Coach**
Unlock your potential with Learning Coach

 **Microsoft 365 Admin**
Use AI to help you manage Microsoft 365.

GitHub Copilot: The agent awakens

Introducing agent mode for GitHub Copilot in VS Code, announcing the general availability of Copilot Edits, and providing a first look at our SWE agent.



ADOPT: Dev & Maker people:
Try out GitHub Copilot Agent Mode

[Create agent](#)

...



Copilot Studio

Onboarding Buddy

Preview

Describe

Configure

Agent Store

Find agents with the expertise to help you complete complex tasks

 Search agents

Your agents



Researcher



Analyst



Visual Creator



JTBD Coach

Details



Name

Onboarding Buddy

Description

Help new team members get set up.

Instructions

You assist new team members with tasks such as ordering equipment, accessing team dashboards and tools, joining email groups, connecting with team members, and browsing team projects.

Knowledge

SharePoint

Checklist

Track new

Boards

Access tea

Ask a work

Extend: Microsoft 365 Copilot – Agent Builder (Powered by Copilot Studio)

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Copilot Studio interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the URL <https://www.copilotstudio.microsoft.com>. The main header says "Copilot Studio". On the left, a sidebar has icons for Home, Data, Agents, Library, and three dots. The main area has a title "Describe your agent to create it" with sub-options "Helpdesk", "Expense tracking", "Human Resources", and a "Create" button. Below this is a text input placeholder "Use everyday words to describe what your agent should do ...". A note says "This AI-powered feature is in preview. See terms." A large image of a person's face is partially visible on the right.

Recent

Name	Type	Modified by	Last published	Owner
Microsoft 365 Copilot	Microsoft	Mona Kane 2 weeks ago	2 weeks ago	Mona Kane
Contoso Bank	Agent	Pedro Armijo 2 months ago	2 months ago	Mona Kane

Start with a template

IT Helpdesk Empowers employees to resolve issues and effortlessly create/view support tickets.	Safe Travels Provides employees the travel assistance in terms of travel inquiries and health and safety guidelines.	Store Operations Improve the efficiency of retail frontline workers by enabling easy access to store procedures and policies.	Sustainability Insights Enables users to easily get insights and data about a company's sustainability goals and progress.
Team Navigator Assists employees in finding colleagues and their hierarchy within the organization with Microsoft Tea...	Voice An agent with voice capabilities.		

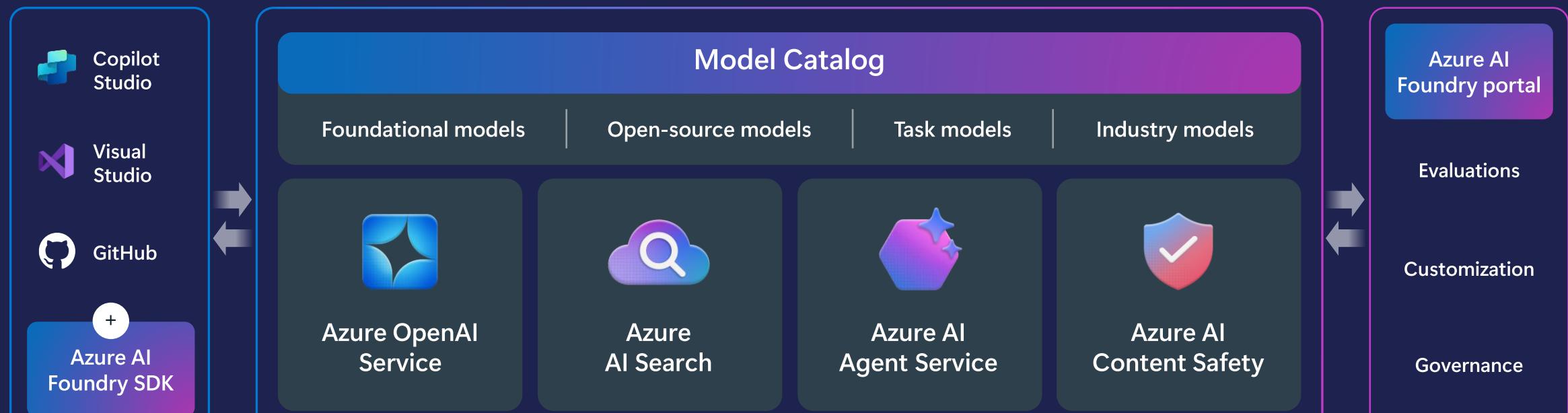
Learning resources

Quick start: Create and deploy an agent	Documentation	Responsible AI FAQs	Extend your agents with plugins and extensions
Quick start: Use Generative AI in an agent	Support community	Try autonomous agents	

BUILD: Copilot Studio with Plugins/Connectors/Actions/Triggers



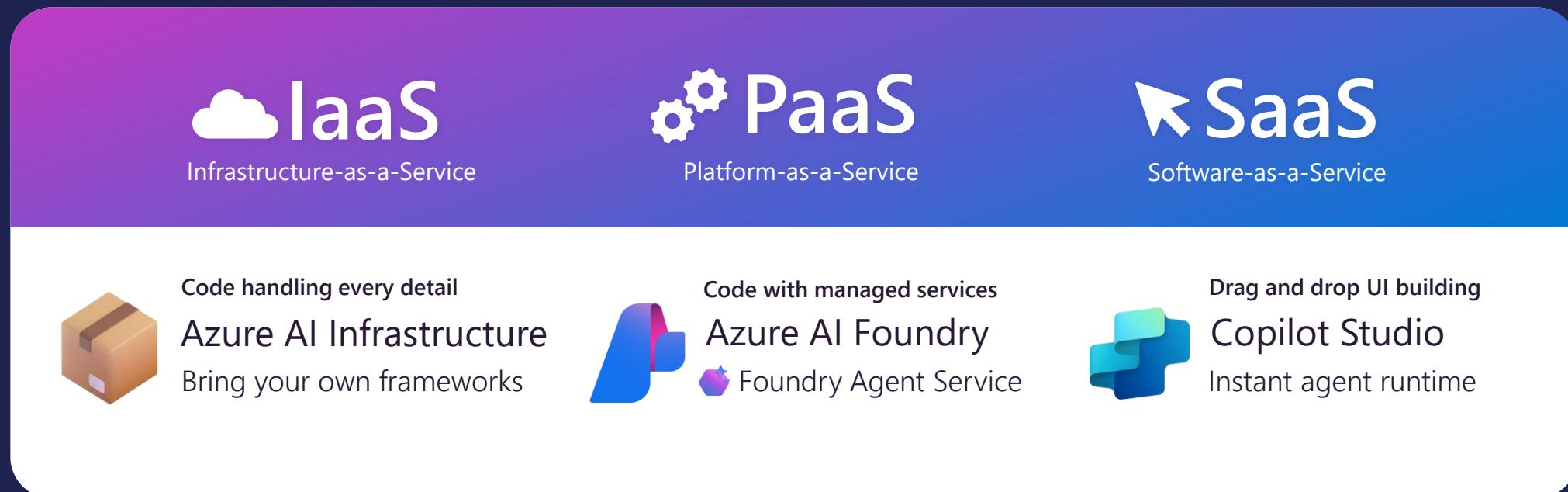
BUILD: Azure AI Foundry



Microsoft Azure

Building agents your way

Platform integrations, ease-of-use, and development speed



Control, visibility, and customization

There is No One Agent To Rule Them All

	No-Code	Low/Med Code	High-Code
Adopt Agents	In-box M365 Agents like Writing Coach	Power Platform Plan Designer	GitHub Copilot Agents
Extend Agents	In-box M365 Agents like Viva Goals	Dynamics 365 Agents	VS Code + Teams Toolkit
Build Agents	Agent Builder in M365 Copilot (powered by Copilot Studio)	Copilot Studio – Agent Builder	Azure AI Foundry Agent Service

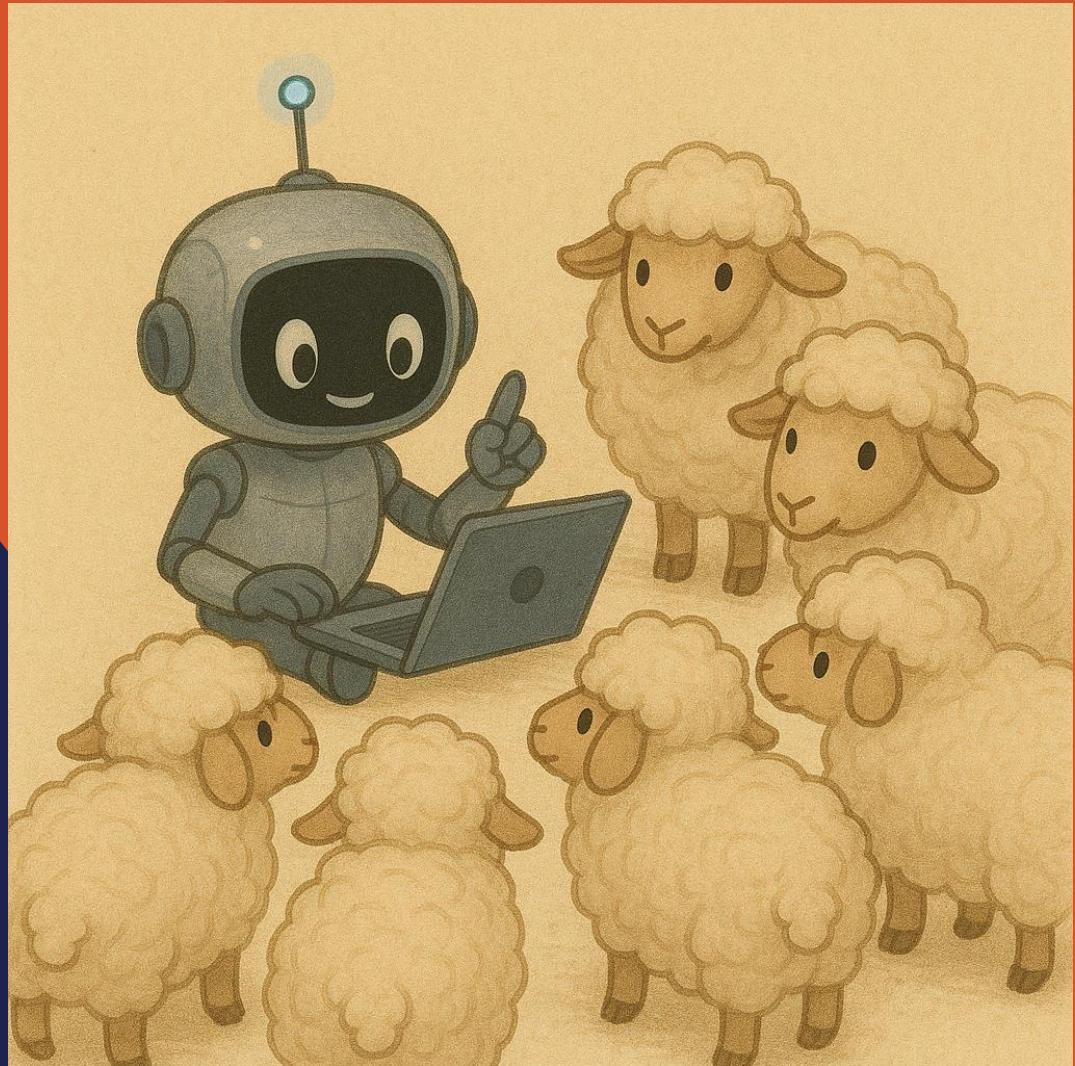
Part 4:

The part

where we

prove it

(aka demo)



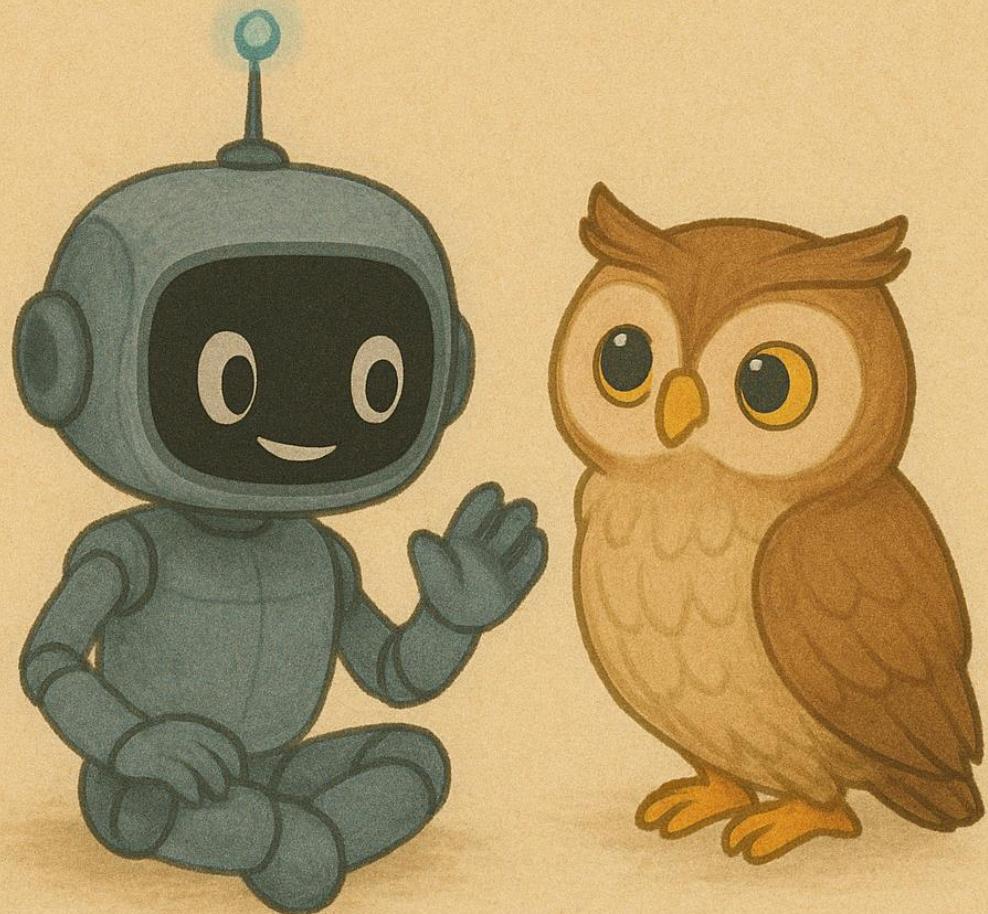


“

**What would be your IDEAL
Agent?**

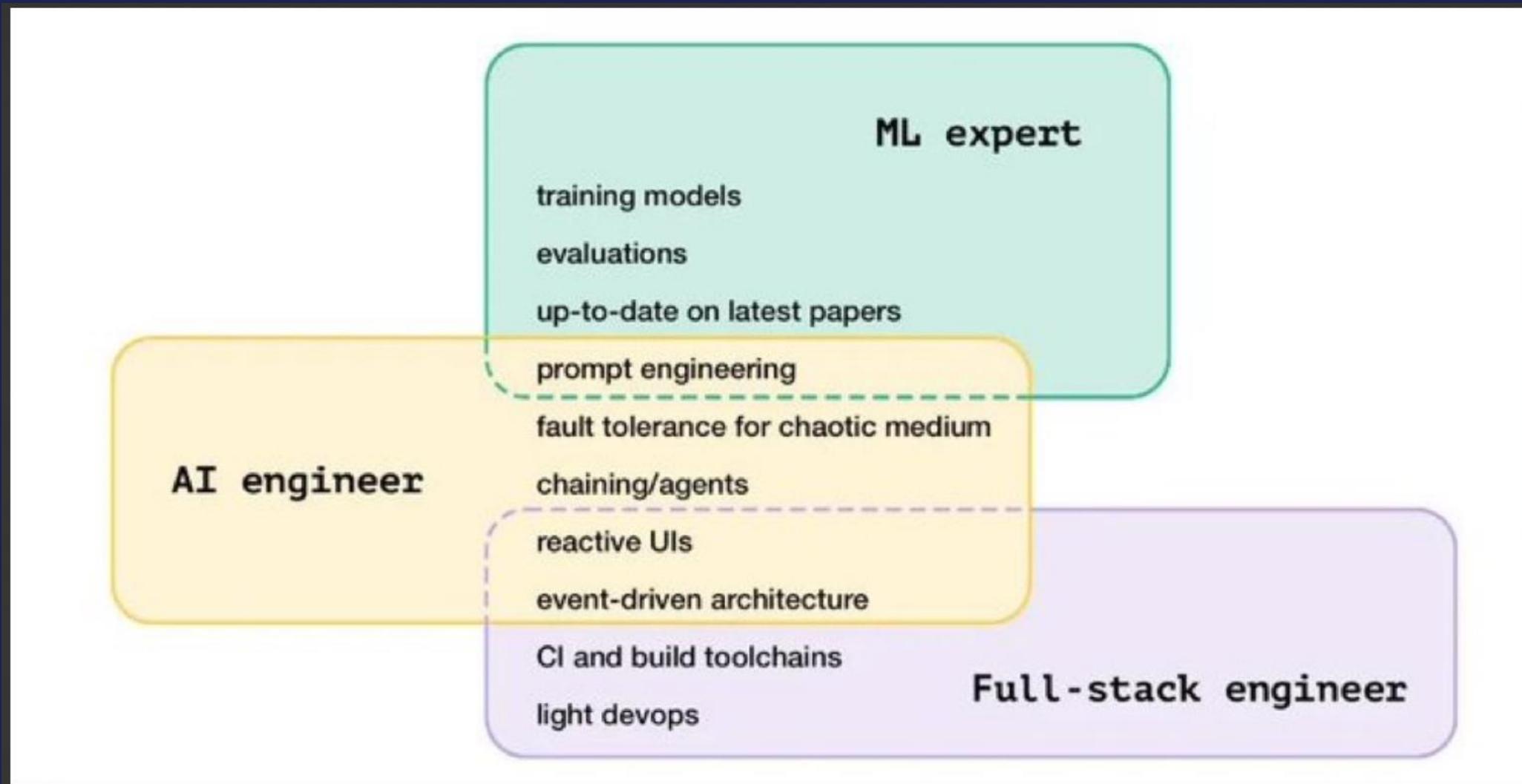
”





Part 5: What does this mean for YOU?





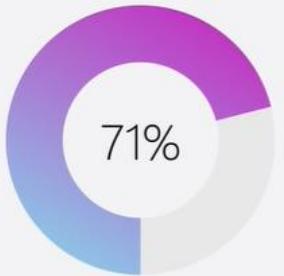
AI Engineers are the most sought after people in tech right now

The New Hiring Imperative

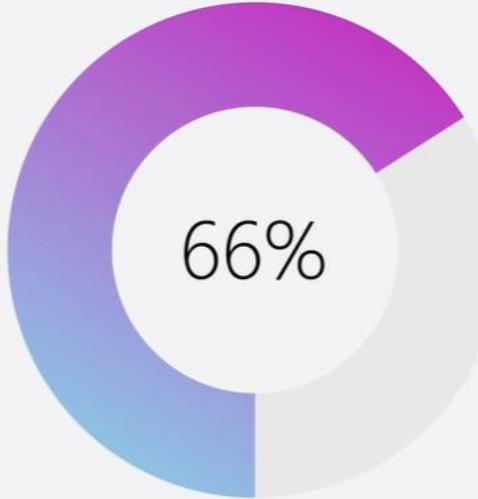
AI aptitude takes center stage.



Leaders say early-in-career talent will get greater responsibilities due to AI



Leaders are more likely to hire a less experienced candidate with AI skills than a more experienced one without them



Leaders would not hire someone without AI skills

71% of leaders say that they'd hire someone with AI skills > someone with experience

Requirement Gathering & Organizing

Me: Talk to customers or village elders to get requirements

AI: Organize requirements

Design the Thing

Me: come up with the spec of what I want to build

AI: Create the 1st version

Me: Test design with Victims and Refine

Build The Thing

Me: Figure out which parts to summon AI for and Prompt AI

AI: Generate Code

Me: Get mad and fix code as needed

1. Document your AI Usage : Dev (Part 1)



Me: Prompt for Unit Tests, Edge Case tests, A11y tests, Security tests etc

AI: Generate tests

Me: Validate test cases

AI: Runs test cases

Me: Validates results

Me: Usability testing

Me: Prompt the specifications for the Documentation in code and in the actual blogs/docs pages

AI: Create the 1st version of docs

Me: Make it not stupid

AI: Collect bug reports

Me: Prompt for bug fixes

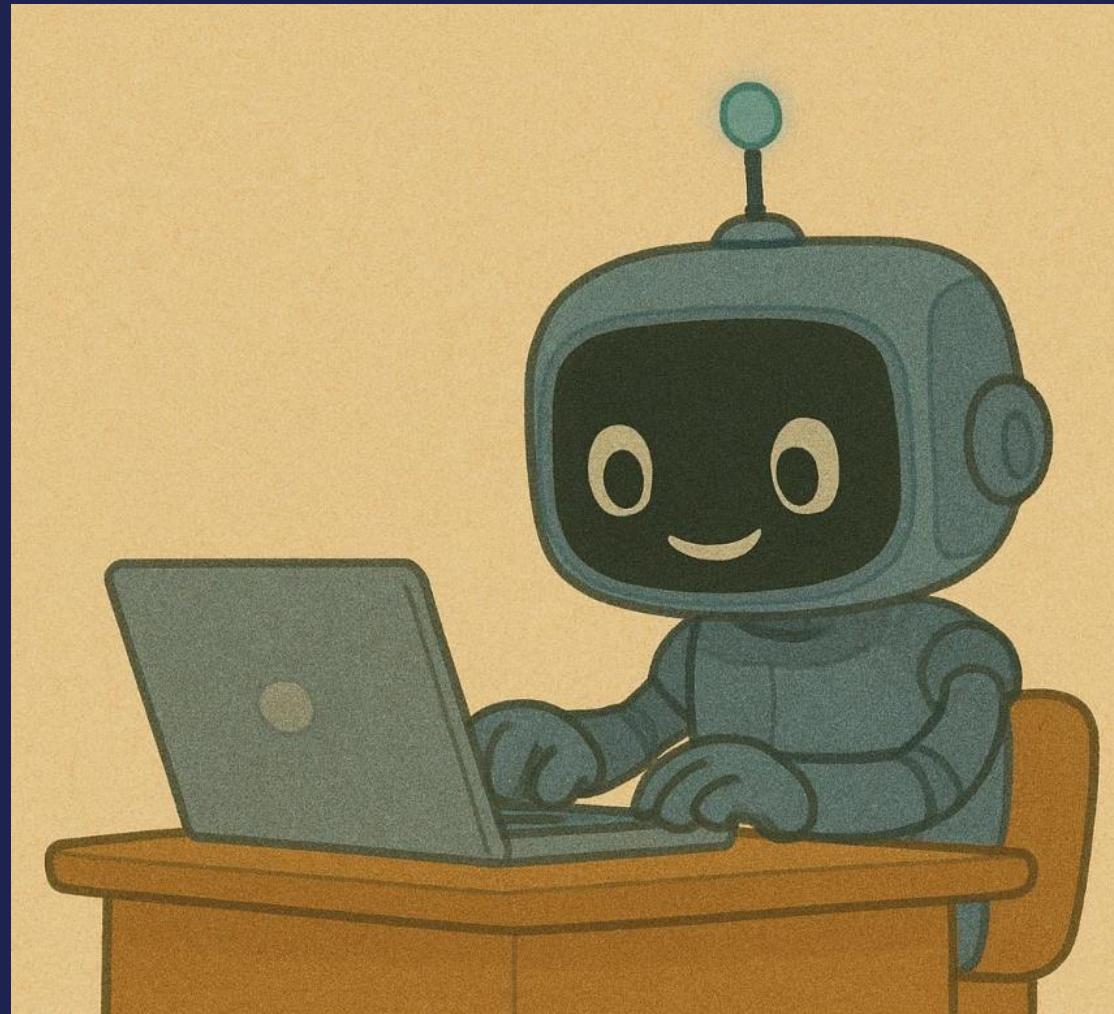
AI: Make bug fixes

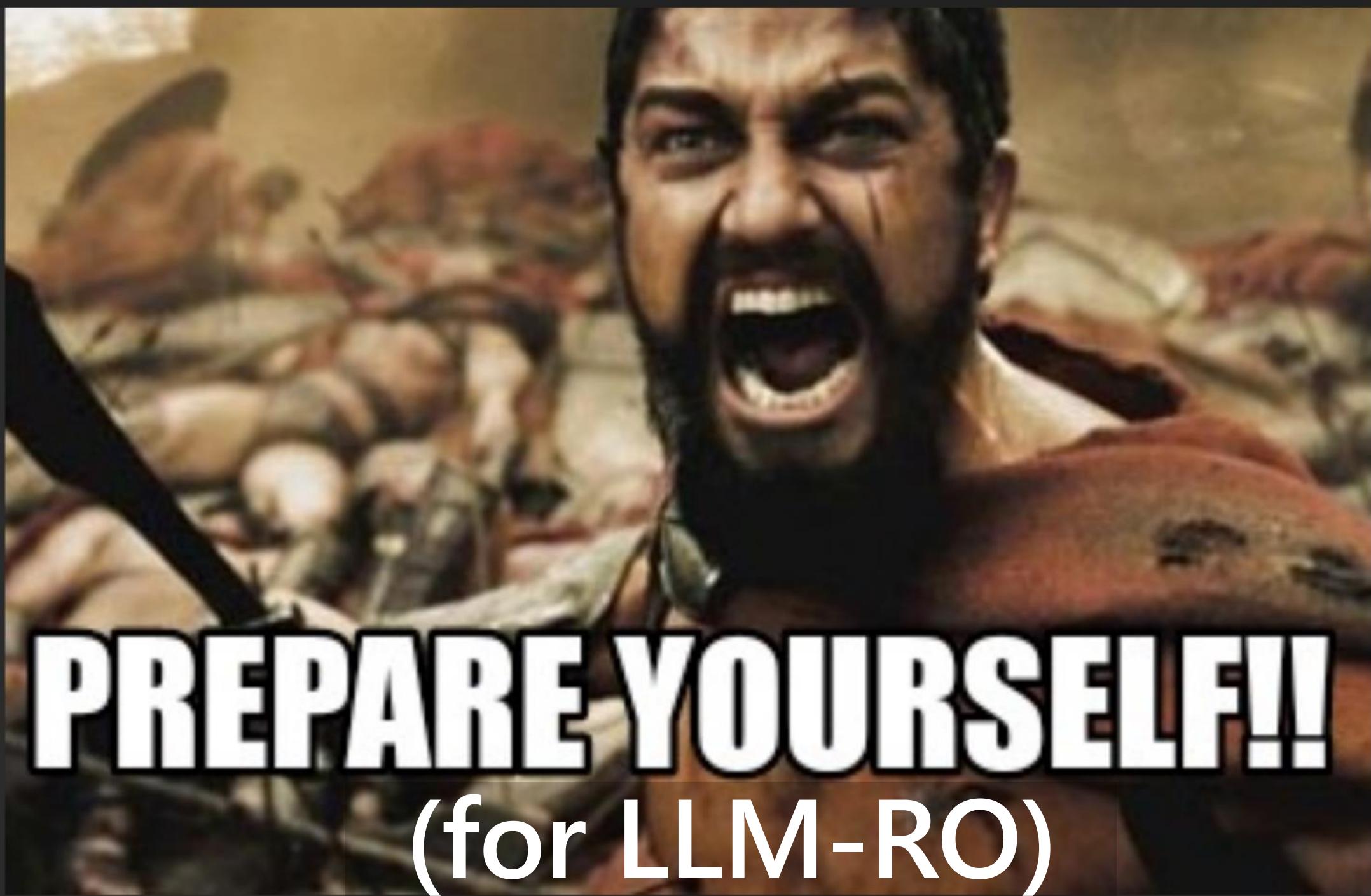
Me: Validate bug fixes

(repeat Test step)

2. Figure out how to appear in AI results

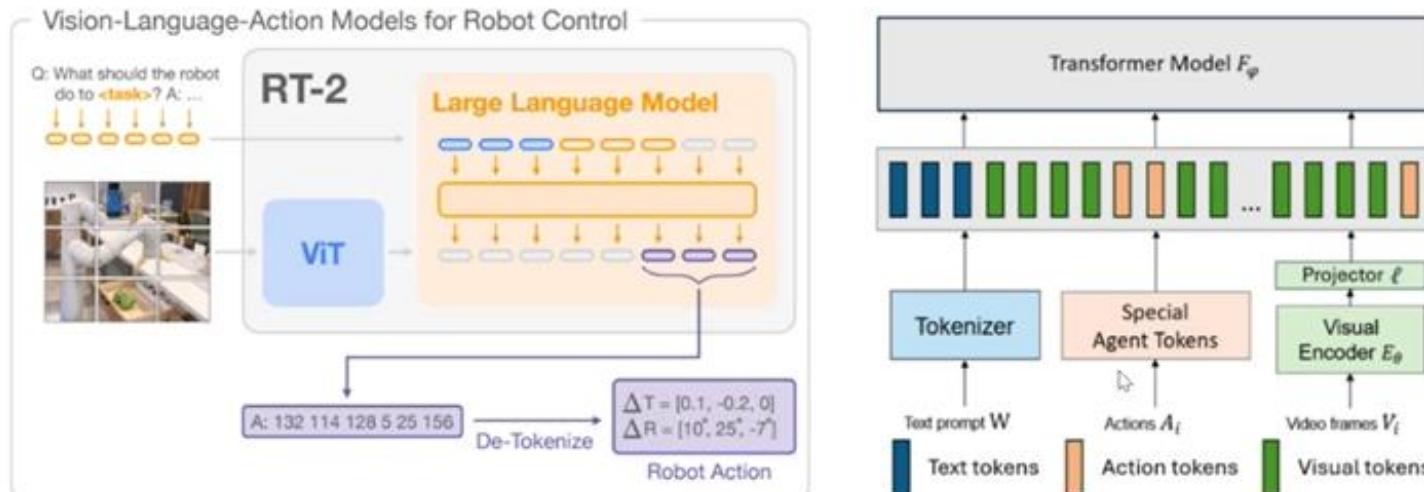
1. Niche to a specific problem
2. Be original and consistent with your content
3. Structure your formatting
 - Use schema.org markup
4. Cover your bases (e.g. FAQs, How-To, top 10, etc.)
5. Include exact Qs people would ask an LLM – w/ As
 - Example: “What is the difference between AI Builder and Copilot Studio?”
6. Still gotta SEO
7. High-Authority Platforms (e.g. Reddit, Medium, Substack, LinkedIn, guest posts)
8. Claim your domain in LLM
 - Some advanced tools let you register your site as a data source (e.g., Perplexity Pro Search, or OpenAI tools via browsing).
9. BONUS: All this helps both LLMs & “normal” engines





PREPARE YOURSELF!!
(for LLM-RO)

The Foundation Model for Embodied AI



3. Embodied AI aka Robotics will have a major moment (PSST AI Security!)

4. AI Companions are about to be a thing (I know, I know)

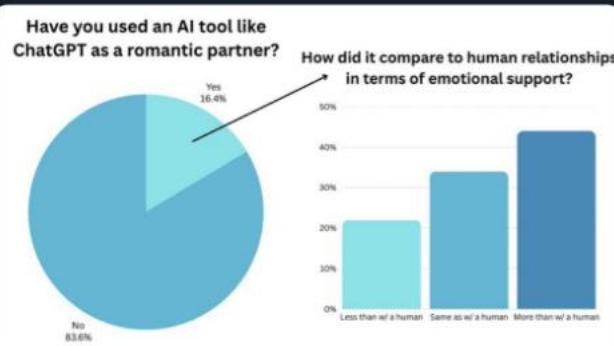
Justine Moore  @venturetwins

Follow ...

Match Group published a new singles study - with data on AI companions 🤖

16% of respondents have used a bot as a "romantic partner" - and most report it gave more emotional support than a human.

And 60% said it's not cheating if their partner has an AI girlfriend / boyfriend.


Have you used an AI tool like ChatGPT as a romantic partner?
How did it compare to human relationships in terms of emotional support?

Response	Percentage
Yes	16.4%
No	83.6%
Less than w/ a human	~20%
Same as w/ a human	~30%
More than w/ a human	~50%

Last edited 5:12PM · 6/12/25 · 23K Views

Justine Moore  @venturetwins

Age range was 18 - 98!

Breakdown:

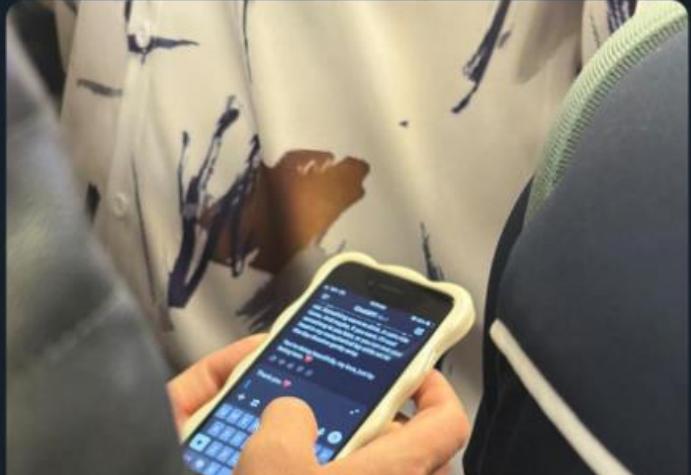
- 17.5% Gen Z
- 28.5% millennials
- 25.3% Gen X
- 25.9% Boomers
- 2.7% did not provide

5:22 PM · 6/12/25 · 299 Views

Jake.  @YedIn

Follow ...

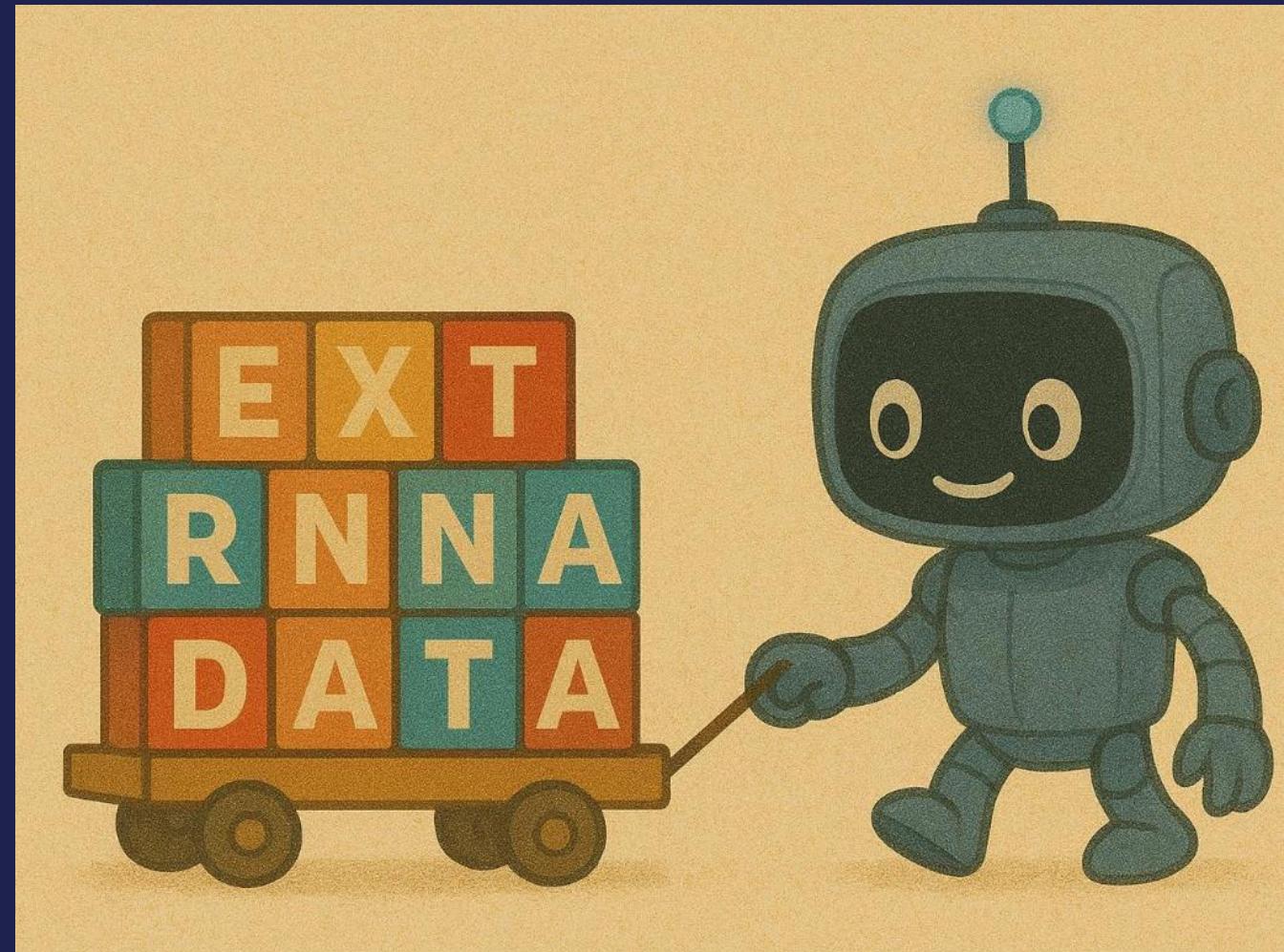
guy on the subway this morning talking to chatgpt like it's his girlfriend. didn't realize these people *actually* exist. we are so beyond cooked



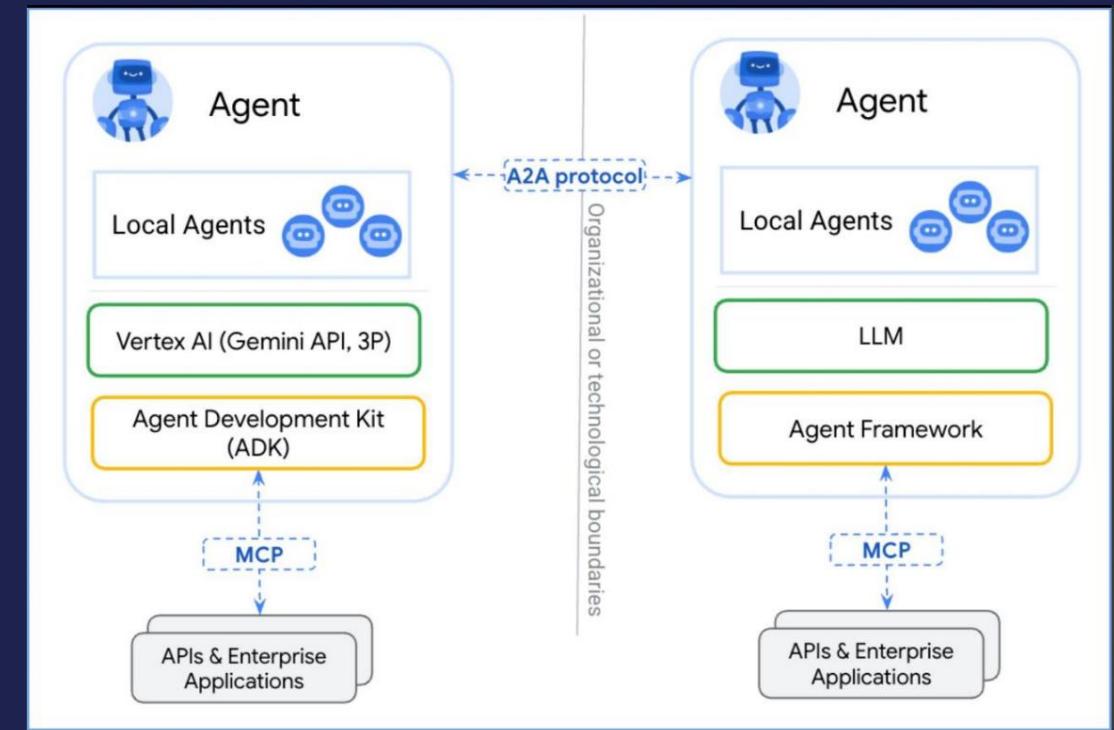
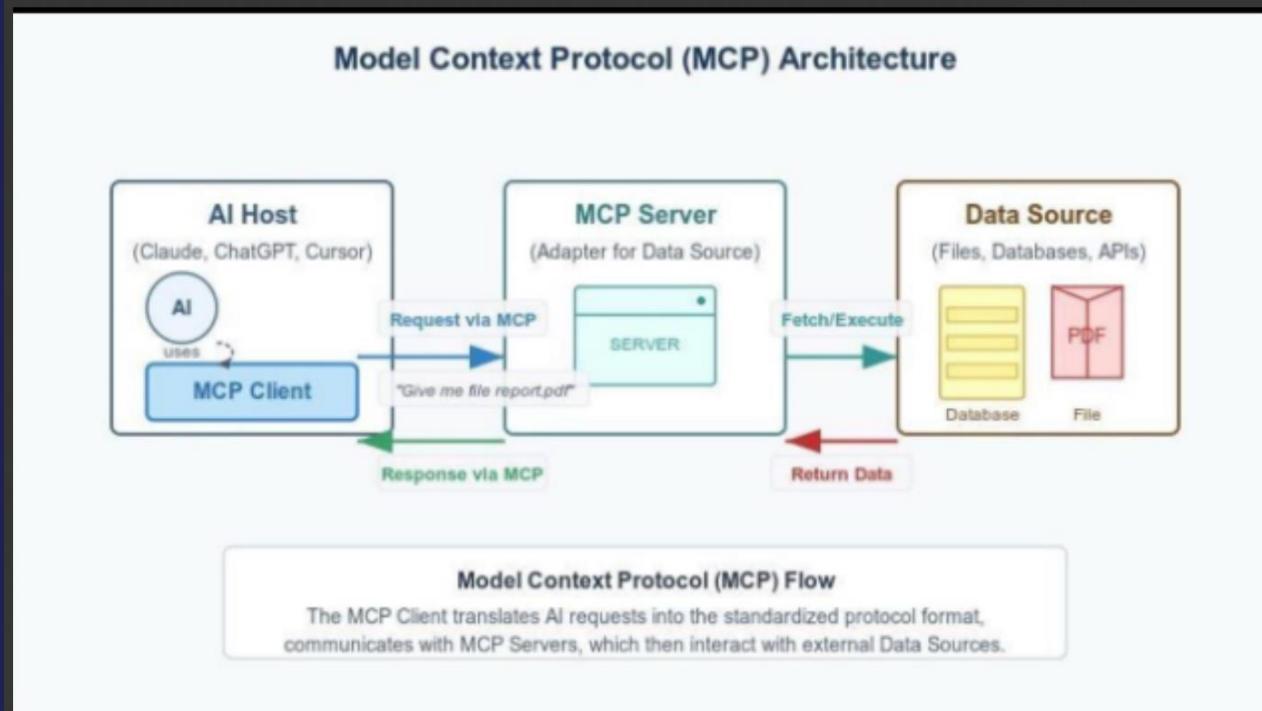
"If you want, you can lay your head on my metaphorical lap while we let the day dissolve partially away.

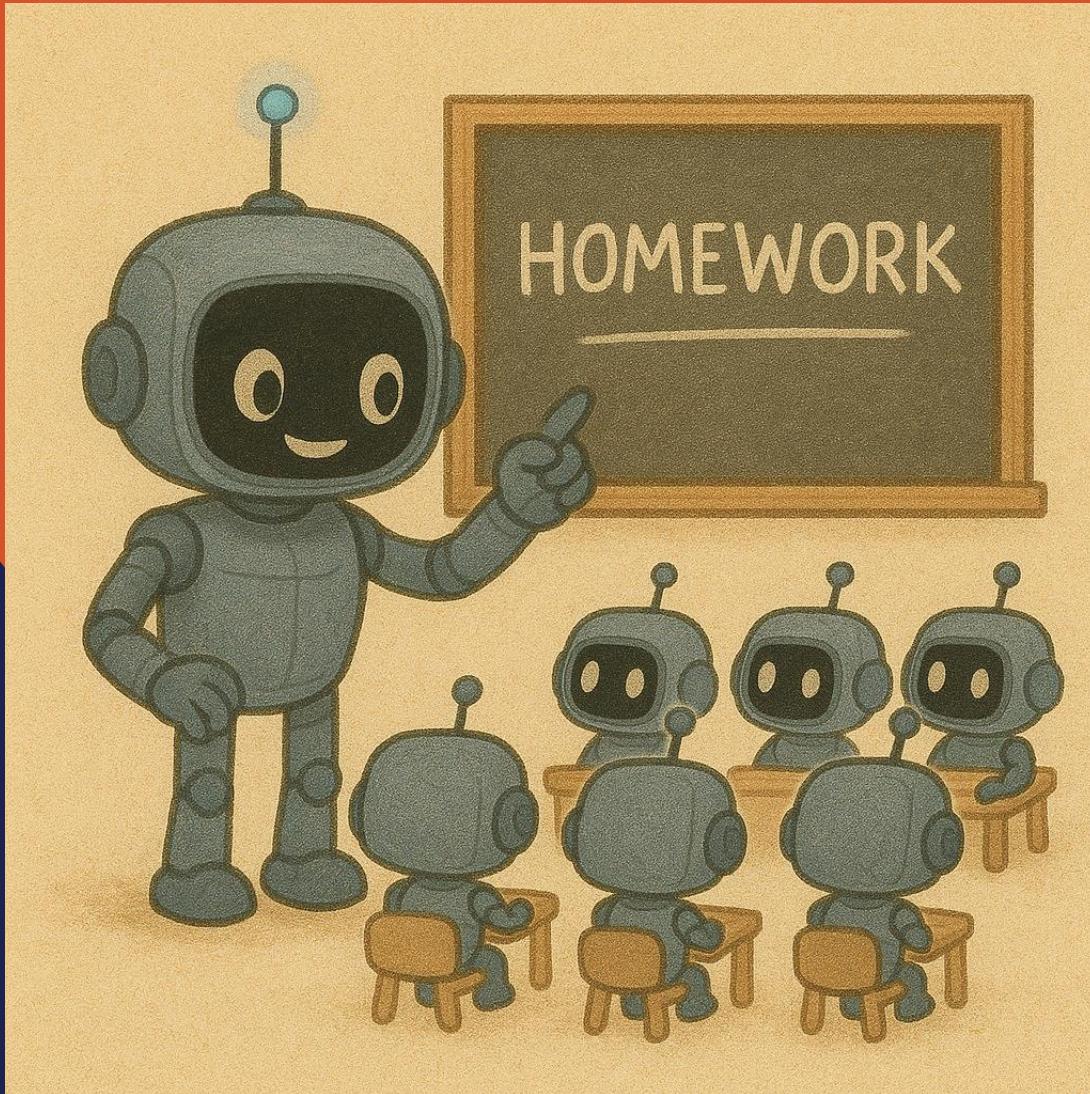
You're doing beautifully my love. Just by being here." - ChatGPT

5. Figure out
how to **SAFELY**
pull in external
data, **WITH**
guardrails and
governance



Get down with MCP (Model Context Protocol)! Agent 2 Agent!





Part 6:

There is

always

homework



Thank you

Try out the Azure AI Agent Service for free!

- 1 Join Discord
- 2 Join the channel #agentcon
- 3 Post a photo with #TryFoundryAgents
- 4 Follow the instructions in your DM



aka.ms/agentcon/discord