

# How Kiva Robots Disrupted Warehousing\*

## Keynote

Pete Wurman, Vice-President of Engineering at Cogitai

Kiva Systems introduced swarms of agile robots into an industry dominated by stationary conveyor systems. The path from concept through successful startup and eventual acquisition involved challenges on all fronts. Peter Wurman will explain the business problem that motivated the innovation, Kiva technology and the benefits it brought to customers, and the future of applications of robotics in warehouses.

Dr. Pete Wurman, Vice-President of Engineering at Cogitai Pete Wurman is currently Vice-President of Engineering at Cogitai, an AI startup delivering reinforcement learning as a service. Pete is best known for his work as a technical co-founder of Kiva Systems, the Boston-based company that pioneered the use of mobile robotics in warehousing. In May of 2012, Kiva was acquired by Amazon, and has subsequently deployed more than 150,000 robots to Amazon distribution centers. Prior to joining Kiva, Pete was an Associate Professor of Computer Science at North Carolina State University. Pete earned his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Michigan, and his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from M.I.T.

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