Who Actually Knows How to Do Things?

by itzhexen

There’s a common mistake in how people talk about technology, change, or threats. They focus on outcomes — what might happen — without asking the most basic and important question first: Who can actually do this? Not everyone can. Most people can’t. But some can.

It doesn’t matter whether we’re talking about artificial intelligence, automation, software, infrastructure, or social engineering. If you want to think clearly about what might happen, you need to ask the full set of questions:

Who?

Who has the skills, the access, the time, the focus? Who actually knows how to start? This is where most assumptions break down. Not everyone is capable. A few are. Sometimes, one person with the right tools and knowledge is all it takes.

What?

What exactly are they doing — or trying to do? There’s a difference between saying something might happen and pointing to the specific work that makes it possible. If someone is building something, what is the form of it? What does it accomplish? And is it working yet?

When?

When does this matter? Something not possible today might be possible next year. Something difficult now might become easy with better tools or shared code. The answer to when is often: sooner than most people think — but later than hype suggests.

Where?

Where is this happening? In what context, field, or environment? People working in industry, research, or infrastructure aren’t all visible. Some work quietly. Others publish. But if you’re not looking in the right places, you’ll miss the real activity — or dismiss it as impossible just because you can’t see it.

Why?

Why would someone do this? Motivation matters. Sometimes it’s just curiosity or a personal challenge. Other times it’s about profit, reputation, or efficiency. The reason something gets built is not always the same as the reason it ends up being used.

How?

How would they actually make it happen? This is where things become real. It’s not enough to say something might occur. You need to map the steps: the tools, the process, the background knowledge. If you don’t understand how it could work, someone else might — and they might already be doing it.

Most of the time, people focus on big results and overlook small beginnings. They ignore the few people who quietly know what they’re doing — who can code something, build a system, or solve a problem others can’t even see. They assume that just

because they don’t understand how something would be done, no one does.

That’s where mistakes happen.

It’s not about predicting disasters or imagining revolutions. It’s about asking the right questions before you assume something is safe, impossible, or far off. Because even if most people can’t do something — some can. And some already are.