

Navigating Techno Waters

The Supply Chain Guide to AI Jargon



AI	Artificial Intelligence — Smart software that can pretend (sometimes alarmingly well) to think like a human.
AI Agent	Autonomous software powered by AI—small digital helpers ready to fetch data, book meetings, or automate workflows without breaking a sweat.
API	Application Programming Interface — A kind of tech handshake, letting apps and AI talk, collaborate, and—hopefully—not break things.
Autonomous Systems	Independent AI-driven systems—think drones or driverless cars—that make decisions in real time without humans calling the shots.
Cognitive AI	Human-like AI that reasons, learns, and interacts intelligently across messy real-world data to make decisions almost like us, minus the coffee addiction.
Datafication	Turning every tiny event, click, or customer sigh into data that can be measured, mined, and monetized.
DL	Deep Learning — AI with extra layers (literally), mimicking a complicated brain to spot patterns in oceans of data.
Edge AI	Deploying AI at the 'edge' (right where data is made, like your smartphone), so you get instant results and fewer privacy headaches.
GAN	Generative Adversarial Network — Two AI networks in a creative (and sometimes sneaky) competition to generate ultra-realistic fakes.
Generative AI	Smart tech that can invent new text, pictures, audio, or video with a creative streak that never sleeps.

Hallucination	When an AI says things that sound convincing but are, frankly, made up. Like that friend who knows a 'guy.'
Hyperautomation	The AI-fueled orchestra where every business process—manual or digital—plays automatically in perfect (and profitable) harmony.
LLM	Large Language Model — Gigantic text-trained models (like GPT) that can convincingly chat, write prose, and even draft emails for you.
ML	Machine Learning — A subset of AI that learns from data and experience, like a caffeinated intern with spreadsheets.
MLOps	The behind-the-scenes discipline keeping AI models alive and healthy—monitoring, retraining, and fixing bugs before they hallucinate your reports.
NLP	Natural Language Processing — The wizardry behind computers understanding and generating human language, from emails to emojis.
Orchestration	Coordinating various AI agents, models, and data sources so they're singing from the same sheet instead of each going solo.
Prompt Engineering	The art (and a bit of science) of asking AI the 'right' questions so it gives you exactly what you need, not spreadsheets of haikus.
RAG	Retrieval-Augmented Generation — When AI models become bookworms, mixing your data with their own knowledge to answer questions or build content.
RPA	Robotic Process Automation — 'Digital robots' for repetitive business tasks who never complain or take coffee breaks.