

# In the Era of AI, Entry-Level Engineers Still Matter

And it's not for the reason you think.

## The common narrative:

"AI will replace entry-level engineers."

"Why hire someone with no experience when AI can do the basics?"

"Junior roles are disappearing."

*I think this misses something critical.*

# **"Why are we doing it this way?"**

Entry-level engineers ask this question  
constantly.

Usually to learn. To understand.

But this simple question has a powerful side  
effect.

**I've seen it happen many times:**

A junior engineer asks "why do we do it this way?"

The senior pauses.

Then says:

**"Actually... good question.  
Why DO we still do it this way?"**

# Fresh eyes vs. Blinders

## Senior Engineers

Have done it this way  
for years.

Stopped questioning  
the process.

"That's how we've  
always done it."

## Junior Engineers

No habits yet.

Question everything.

"But what if we  
tried..."

## **Here's what usually happens:**

People keep doing things a certain way long after it stopped being the best way.

- Circumstances changed
- Better tools exist now
- The original reason no longer applies
- Nobody stopped to question it

**Until someone new asked "why?"**

**Entry-level engineers  
challenge the status quo  
simply by trying to  
understand it.**

That's not a bug. It's a feature.

AI can optimize existing processes.  
It can't question why they exist in the first place.

# **Don't underestimate a fresh perspective.**

The next time a junior asks "why?"—  
don't dismiss it.

Actually think about the answer.

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