**00:24**  
James Giroday  
Good morning. Good morning.

**00:27**  
David Olsson  
Good morning. See what's going on here. Cool.

**00:35**  
James Giroday  
I like that T shirt, Dave.

**00:39**  
David Olsson  
Now. My daughter gave it to me.

**00:42**  
James Giroday  
Oh, nice.

**00:43**  
David Olsson  
Yeah, I've only got one. It's weird. Morning, John.

**00:49**  
Jen Boger  
Morning. How are you? Hey, folk.

**00:52**  
David Olsson  
Yeah, good morning.

**00:54**  
Jen Boger  
Hey, James.

**00:56**  
James Giroday  
Good morning, Jen. How's your. How's your week going?

**01:02**  
Jen Boger  
We're back to school for real today.

**01:05**  
David Olsson  
Wow, look at that smile. Look at that smile.

**01:09**  
Jen Boger  
Yesterday was an absolute Gong show, so. Yeah, lots of lights going on yesterday, so I'm happy it's today.

**01:18**  
David Olsson  
Yeah. Yes.

**01:21**  
Fulvio Ciano  
Maggie took the annual pictures in front of the front door. The kid holding up the sign. Right.

**01:26**  
Jen Boger  
So, yeah, 100%. We do it every year. I do bubble grade and then color it in and.

**01:32**  
David Olsson  
Yep.

**01:32**  
Jen Boger  
Yeah, it's really cool.

**01:34**  
Fulvio Ciano  
Back to the uniform, right? Because ours goes to like a uniform school, right. And it's like, oh, there it is. There's the uniform I haven't seen for months.

**01:43**  
Jen Boger  
Yep, 100%. In my son's case, track pants and a old T shirt.

**01:51**  
David Olsson  
Gotta love public school, man. Gotta love public school. Yeah, my daughter went to. We dropped her off at UVIC on the weekend.

**02:02**  
Jen Boger  
Oh, yeah, that's right. How'd it go?

**02:05**  
David Olsson  
It went, you know, it's quite an experience. You're doing that with like a thousand other families, I guess. And on a time sequence in a full parking lot hand bombing, everybody does the same thing. They don't pack. Yeah, Yeah.

**02:21**  
Jen Boger  
I was gonna say, how did. How is her room? Was that okay in the end?

**02:26**  
David Olsson  
No.

**02:26**  
Jen Boger  
Okay, never mind.

**02:27**  
David Olsson  
No, no, it's great. It's great. It's great. It's just, you know, it's a room. So I went to UVic, but I didn't do that thing. So it'll be. Everybody's got their kids going back to school and double down and do so much. I don't know. I like. I like September because it does feel like a new year. And interestingly enough, I have been engaged with Ying, who works up at UBCO to assist with understanding of agentic AI and how to teach it in a university context. So I've been getting back into that. And one of the things I realized early on, using these tools on the AIM QC project where we're doing quality control, you can do training really well.

**03:16**  
David Olsson  
Like, if you have good curriculum, you can do all kinds of interesting stuff or if you have a good agenda, then you can build curriculum and then you can do all the exercises. And so I don't know what university is going to be like. Anymore. And so I'm very curious, I'm going to pay attention to what my daughter is doing because knowing anything isn't really the thing. Knowing how to use it is the thing. And that's why I went to college after I went to university.

**03:51**  
James Giroday  
What, what is that? What did you do?

**03:54**  
David Olsson  
Well, I got a degree and then I went to Capitol Ana University or Capitol College at the time. And then I took a 10 month intensive course called Information Technologies because that's how, oh that's how long ago it was. And then that gave me a career path because it was all about applied learning and then not more than that. I already knew how to do this because I spent time, I loved university. How to learn. Right. And that's I think what this room does all the time because we're self reflexive in the room and so we're always trying to like oh my God, what the hell's going on? And, and that's for me that was the fundamental experience of university.

**04:34**  
David Olsson  
And then when I went to college it was like okay, this is easier, like applied stuff if you have the background for it is great. And I think that's why the large language models are really cool right now. They elevate us to a certain point to do all kinds of interesting things. It's just how we do them is totally funky and shit.

**04:57**  
James Giroday  
So I had some random ideas over the weekend related to the structure of the workshop. I mean there's a few things maybe that we could also do. I think we've been experimenting with some really amazing things. I actually went back, I watched a rerun, I watched Hanif in his presentation, it was legit. So anyways, there's like maybe other things that we could do as well that we just haven't thought of yet. Like we could do interviews like maybe sort of like a get to know your fellow workshop or sort of a thing like I mean we've been doing this for a while. I know some of you fairly well, others less well. I'm sure a 10 minute or 15 minute interview I would pick up all sorts of stuff and I kind of understand where you're coming from in terms of the workshop.

**05:50**  
James Giroday  
And I mean people have so varied backgrounds that I feel like that could be interesting. We could vote on these options. You know, every so often debates is another one that might be like try to like create a bit of conflict I thought might be kind of interesting. Yeah, I don't know. Experimenting with other stuff could be interesting. Should I Put some of those together and I mean. Yeah. Is that something that's interesting to people?

**06:24**  
David Olsson  
Sure. Yeah. Because we didn't have a demo, so we needed a larger agenda.

**06:31**  
James Giroday  
Spencer. Oh, Spencer must be here. Don't see him on the screen. Yeah. Okay, well, I'll do that. I mean, we don't have a presenter this week, obviously. That's been a really super interesting one. That kind of is. So I'll do. I'll do that. I'll send an email out every, you know, this week at some point and see what direction people want to go back to you. Dave.

**06:53**  
David Olsson  
Cool. I was demonstrating that I can build a tool that doesn't really do what you're talking about while you're doing it, and that is called merman. Not mermaid. Merman, dad. Merman.

**07:07**  
James Giroday  
Ben Stiller is huge these days.

**07:08**  
David Olsson  
Have you seen severance in our family? That's, that's a benchmark for culture. But yeah, I built this because every time I'm working with mermaid diagrams, I have to render it somehow. And this does it. But in terms of format, it's always a curious one. So we have a freeform format right now, and that just leaves it up to popcorning and discussion like we previously had or pointing to things that people are perplexed about. But I'm all for nominating an interview and for somebody to do that interview and even to do it offline and bring it to us. I don't care what, you know, what's. What do you, what do you plan? Who do you plan on interviewing? James, I feel like a.

**08:02**  
James Giroday  
Wrote another. You know, another really interesting idea is just to not answer your question directly. I mean, I'd be happy to do an interview, too. Another thing you could do is have a rotating, like, chair of the meeting. So they just. I don't know that just sort of like. I mean, Dave, you do a great job. Wonderful job. You keep this. You're the engine here, I think.

**08:32**  
David Olsson  
But constancy.

**08:33**  
James Giroday  
Yeah, like it. I mean, that. So maybe like a rotating interviewer, because you probably a lot of the interviewer comes out in the questions as well, which is super interesting. And yeah, maybe a rotating thing. I mean, you wouldn't want to put that all one person, that's for sure. I don't think.

**08:50**  
David Olsson  
No, everybody's a volunteer and they're optionally showing up. So. Cool. Well, I could open up a different thing and it can be that kind of. It can be like, we're starting there. It can be like an open interview. We started this with the intention of kind of transferring knowledge and skills. I had the desire over two summers ago to put on workshops, to be able to leverage the ability to just do highly structured prompting and get effective use out of these things. And then things in my life happened and then you and I met and then we started doing this thing and I was going back and looking at my stuff retrospectively because I have a lot of it and there's lesson plans and there was all kinds of things that were just like, oh, here.

**09:39**  
David Olsson  
And then the development of scrubs and things like that to find utility and transferability. And what I was doing this last week in the evenings, I was grinding away on a curriculum for UBCO and Yank. And it got me to sort of plot what's a good learning path or estimate what a good learning path is for becoming a more sophisticated AI enabled knowledge worker, so to speak. I put in the case of knowledge workers because we don't do any work, physical work, usually it's all whatever. And so the constraints on are fairly similar. But I was able to build what I call a learning ladder without any effort, just riffing and then getting that large language model filled back in.

**10:27**  
David Olsson  
But you guys could help me out here because I says I'm going to suggest that it's an opportunity for my company to do some marketing and. But in the room, everybody does a different kind of thing with these things and my company is the same way and we all have different strategies and we've learned to get there. But I'm curious, I'll throw it out there. Open interview. What the paths are to where you found a comfort level to where you jam, you know, like where you climb the ladder or where you know how to climb the ladder and how to get off and whatever. Like I call it strategies. Like everything now for me is a strategy because that means I don't know what the result is. And learning is typically that way.

**11:20**  
David Olsson  
But right now my strategies are typically based on time and an audience. Those are the two things that allow me to say I can riff or I need to spend a lot of time and I'll throw it out there. If you guys can help me understand your path to finding your comfort rung in.

**11:41**  
James Giroday  
Can I suggest a way to do exactly this? Can we give everybody like two minutes and everybody just kind of chips in and discusses maybe something that they've found is like upskilled themselves or like just to your question, about two minutes. But I can time it so we can do that for the next 15 minutes.

**12:00**  
Fulvio Ciano  
Ish.

**12:03**  
James Giroday  
Would that be helpful? Would that be putting people on the spot too much? Probably the latter. Anyways. Okay. I'll just open it up with that.

**12:12**  
David Olsson  
Cool. Two minutes to prepare a response.

**12:19**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
So what's the question?

**12:23**  
David Olsson  
How did you get to where you're comfortable using these AI tools? And how. What does comfort look like as a process? Right. Like everybody starts with zero shock. They wanted to be a magician. And then. And then they're super disappointed that it didn't give them a marketing plan that was exactly like they said they wanted to do in their head.

**12:46**  
Fulvio Ciano  
Yeah, I'll start. But. But I gotta warn people. It's hard because it's been quite a journey in two minutes is going to be tough, but.

**12:52**  
David Olsson  
Okay, this is a good time. This is a good time to try the timer.

**12:57**  
Fulvio Ciano  
Yeah, I think you should try the timer.

**12:59**  
David Olsson  
So.

**12:59**  
Fulvio Ciano  
So someone should beat me out fast. I'm gonna try to go quick. Okay.

**13:04**  
James Giroday  
Take all the time you need, but you're on.

**13:06**  
Fulvio Ciano  
Well, no, I don't. I don't think that will be useful to everyone. But, you know, the big thing at first was experimentation, right. Because we all didn't know what, what it did and how it did it and how to use it. Right. It's all. This is all like two years ago, none of this stuff that we're using right now was readily available or useful or. And useful is a key word here because it didn't perform the way it's performing now. So my journey was really. It started with what I would call line code completion type stuff. Because AI, that was the first place AI was useful. And then realizing wouldn't just do code completion, but actually generate lines of code and structure and stuff. Experimentation was key. You had to keep experimenting. Because the journey I've been through was prompting.

**14:01**  
Fulvio Ciano  
The right prompt was the issue in the beginning, and then the right context. And then rules for.

**14:13**  
James Giroday  
For.

**14:14**  
Fulvio Ciano  
For behavior that affected the prompting. And then it went back to context and then it went back to sort of the combination of the two. I think of, you know, like both the context and the prompting affecting the agentic approach to. To. To. To solving problems. Right. Solving problems through different. Different visions. Vision. Vision. Different views. Personas. Personas. There we go. Personas. And by changing the prompt and the context, both system level and individual level got this kind of. And then the. I would say the biggest challenge to this journey of exploration and refinement, which has significantly changed and improved the way I'm able to use AI. To get things done. Significant challenges. The quicksand problem. The quicksand problem being the ground changing below my feet, which model is best, what the tools do, how the tools work, and frankly, their behavior.

**15:33**  
Fulvio Ciano  
Again, I want to keep it under two minutes, so I won't talk about this too much. But the last two weeks, the quicksand has been brutal. Without changing model or my rules or the context different models have been behaving differently. Okay, in ways they've just been behaving differently. Something going on. Right. Again, I don't want to waste time. I don't want to waste time talking about speculation or even reports anecdotal or. Or otherwise in. Out there. But the last two weeks have been really hard because models just have been behaving like they haven't in the past. So. But I return always to, for me, the. I return to context engineering and engineering that context in an agentic fashion with different Personas and views about what aspect of the context is what element of the context, not just aspect.

**16:45**  
Fulvio Ciano  
What element of the context is created, you know, from the perspective of a particular Persona. How close am I to two minutes?

**16:56**  
David Olsson  
I think you're there, but not like four. I think, what's your comfort rung? Like where. Where do you spend your time jamming? And you find the most value out of.

**17:08**  
Fulvio Ciano  
Ask me next week because it's. I. I have found. I have found my comfort zone usually in. I have found my comfort usually in working diligently on the context versus the code and then rebuilding the code or building the code or enhancing the code as necessary. Just lately something else is going on and that has. I haven't felt. I feel like something is missing or not working the way it has in the past. And I don't think it's my context. I know it's not my contact. My context is cleaner, more compact and so forth. And the models all claim they can handle bigger contexts. Now, that's one of the reasons why I'm so confused about the situation.

**17:55**  
David Olsson  
Right?

**17:56**  
Fulvio Ciano  
But my comfort zone is that. And yeah, my discomfort is around the quicksand problem that, you know, the right model and right tool to use changes externally without me, right? Like, like, you know, they update. They update chat, GPT or Gemini or whatever, sometimes with proper notification and sometimes without it, or they update a tool that uses like, you know, which is really just agentic instructions, right? Because you know what, you're mostly making use of it. Things like client or root or cloud or whatever is really agentic instruction on top of a model, so that changes all the time too things anyway.

**18:48**  
David Olsson  
All right, sounds like you're stuck in code. That's, that's the rung you're at.

**18:54**  
Fulvio Ciano  
The performance in code output has gone down recently and I. Where I'm stuck right now is figuring out where that's coming from.

**19:04**  
David Olsson  
Question of why I early on found the like a ton of value just working in ChatGPT at the prompting level and then having to build more and more sophisticated responses. So I built spreadsheets and so my comfort zone now is well deep inside the ide and I'm trying to get to the data level and so I'm questioning Folio because he's. He's answering with a meta position and mine's firmly as a result of last November and me deciding to code it is too far up that alley. And some. When I'm doing work like this to like to ask questions around education, sometimes it takes like a day or two to get into that space. So that's the cost of the power of focus on code and that's the rung I'm stuck at and I'm trying to move up and down a little bit more.

**20:03**  
David Olsson  
So that's my position. So hand off to somebody else who has a more reasonable answer.

**20:12**  
Spencer MacBeth  
I can go just following on those themes because I feel like it's similar and then maybe someone can get us out of the technical weeds on much like yeah, I started kind of in a similar place like with co pilot back in like 2022 or 2023, I can't even remember early on and was like, oh, this is really cool. This is like really awesome autocomplete. And it kind of made me start to love like coding again more and more. And that has increased with the power of the tools because it's been able to keep me in that loop of like deploying things and seeing things manifest, which has always been the funnest part. It just used to take a very long time to be a lot more painful.

**20:54**  
Spencer MacBeth  
But yeah, like as time has gone on, I've kind of been pretty intuitive about the ways that I've. Well, that's not really fair. I do note things down a little bit. But like about what I've observed in using the coding tools and you know, like now we're at a point with the whole quicksand problem that I've really been focused on, how can I create higher and higher levels of abstraction and decouple myself from the models themselves in a way where I'm able to like have a high degree of agility and take advantage of the advances or like go back to what I know works if I want to try something as quickly as possible. And I also don't like, you know, you could spend way too much time in the weeds trying all the toys and not actually doing stuff.

**21:40**  
Spencer MacBeth  
I'm, I'm like again, done part of my French kind of guy. And so you know, like tinkering with every latest feature, I just feel like is a recipe for disaster. But at the same time, you know, like wanting to do stuff. Like, I don't really use the whole sub agents notion yet. I honestly have started just throwing out all of my context and starting fresh for using things like coding a lot. As I found there's a lot less. I don't know if it's context broad or whatever you want to call it, but I found that's been a lot more util. So like that's on the coding side. I'm reminded of one of my like favorite funny quotes is take all the time you need over the next two minutes. So I won't speak to the other.

**22:22**  
David Olsson  
Things.

**22:24**  
Spencer MacBeth  
But you know, like personal development stuff but that like to speak to those problems. My answer is keep your like development and you're like, I don't know. We've talked about crypto agility, deployment agility, all these types of agility. And I'm really focused on like my AI agility right now. So I can make sure I'm like capitalizing on all of the things as they come out and like not boxing myself into like wrong turns that the AI tools are taking, in my opinion or that maybe aren't working for me.

**22:56**  
David Olsson  
Cool sponsor. Yeah, excellent. Yeah. Higher levels of extraction mean you can actually move in a lateral way. And it does require a deep knowledge though.

**23:09**  
Fulvio Ciano  
Yes.

**23:15**  
David Olsson  
Jan, how are you, how are you evolving your practice? Because you already introduced the notion that you have a formal practice of hats where you have different browser windows. Like you actually do control things through a manifested workflow. It's not just a cognitive path.

**23:33**  
Jen Boger  
Yeah, that's true. So I was going to say I can't really comment on the coding side since I haven't really rolled up my sleeves and coded in years. It's kind of like French. I can read it, but I can't speak it. I can't write it well. But yeah, that's one thing I definitely do is I separate my actual life kind of into bins by using different browser windows. So they have like different browser histories. And even the AI, like I'll log. It's funny because I basically so backing up. I use Chrome a lot only because I'm tied to all the Google suite stuff and it's easier. Not because I think Chrome is a better browser, I don't actually. But whatevs.

**24:14**  
Jen Boger  
And so the login I use for my different Chrome browsers, I log in with all the tools that are using on that Chrome browser. So I actually have like. And not just for AI agents, basically everything like Shutterstock and Substack and whatever. So I'm literally like running three different threads kind of my academic, my professional and my fun gen in like three different browsers. So I'm literally like. It's bizarre because it's like I say great, my life. And usually it's quite clear which browser window to use. But sometimes like, oh, do I want to set this up? You know, my fun gen or my academic gen. But it's. It also like each browser has all my passwords for stuff, you know, so all my academic stuff is in my academic browser and all my passwords are there.

**25:09**  
Jen Boger  
Which also makes it a pain in the ass because like, if I'm reading Sorry, I swear a lot to you. If I'm reading an email and I click the link, it always opens the browser that you were last in. So I'll be like trying to log into like Chr Grant on my Fungen account. I'm like. And I have to like go into my academic gen browser and type kittens so that it's like, oh, you're active here. And then click the link and then it opens in the right browser with all the like. Because it's more than login passwords too. It's like all your history is there. I can't read it, but I'm sure it's amazing. What is it?

**25:44**  
David Olsson  
It's cruft. You've created your own craft.

**25:48**  
Jen Boger  
I have. So it's like one of these, like. But I've invested time and so overall it's one of these. Like, I feel like this is the crux of a lot of these tools is it's like everyone's working on the overall net. Net, right? So net. This works for me better than not doing it. But it is certainly not ideal.

**26:11**  
Ashley Beckett  
I think there's a lot of stuff.

**26:14**  
Jen Boger  
I don't like, but there's not. There's nothing I've found yet to make this problem resolved. And I'm not sure I'd even want to because of how much the different browsers and tools in them collect information on me in different ways. I don't want all of me in one area where it. I don't know, it's. Now we're getting a bit deep and philosophical off of something significant.

**26:40**  
David Olsson  
Simple.

**26:40**  
Jen Boger  
As I talk through it.

**26:44**  
David Olsson  
It'S how you federate yourself so I can step back, so we can abstract it. So it's not your personal life and you feel like you're exposing things, but you're doing a damn good job of what agents will do. And that is they will have a constrained set of what they have as a federated identity, the ability to have credentials for certain activities and responsibilities along certain lines. And they're going to have to ask permission in a weird funky way to jump the gates to another. Another lane. Yeah, and that's the ton of the work that we get caught up in. In trying to be very articulate about things so that at a higher level we can say, yeah, it's easy to jump the gate, but right now it's really difficult to do that with the tools. But you are being.

**27:24**  
David Olsson  
Your practice is like if we document this, it is the best compliant practice for agents and how they would operate in their own browser, in their own way. And just to be sure about things, there's an easy solution for you. You just try out Manus, it'll jump on top of anything and then you can provide rules as to which browser you use for which one, for all the activities anyways, there's ways for you to jump the gate programmatically, but because you haven't, you've made it such a difficult thing for yourself even cognitively. You spend time to make sure that you separate things. And that's a really big thing. That's a systemic thinking approach. Right. Like it puts bounds on the. Puts a bounds on the attack vectors.

**28:10**  
Jen Boger  
Yes, yeah, that's a good way of putting it. And I think it also highlights kind of where people are at in terms of they've set stuff up like this. Now you have to retool with the new tools to like to make it easier and take advantage of capabilities that are now there that weren't. And I think it's also, for some people, it's a trust thing. Like is the agent going to behave unfailingly the way I need it to? And if you're not sure, then you're just like, no, I'm going to bend things.

**28:45**  
David Olsson  
How about, how about you've Put gen in the loop on the gen loop, like you introduced yourself as the human in the loop on the agentic loops that you've created to see if you need to jump the gate.

**28:58**  
Jen Boger  
And that would be interesting. I feel like this is like a side of the desk project we could try and do. We simulate. Jen and I think one part of it is context, right? Because a lot of the context is in my brain about some tasks that it's not clear which window to go to unless you know the context. So that's one question too that I'm going to throw out there. My last not two minute long thought is like, how, you know, I think everyone struggles with this. How do you get enough context to accurately do the task when so much of it is implicit in the user's brain, you know, to make it. Where's that sweet spot of like explicitly expressing all the context that an agent needs to do a good job? Because without it, you know, the agent has to guess.

**29:55**  
Jen Boger  
I think that's a tricky one. So I'm interested in that topic if anyone, you know, is okay, wants to.

**30:03**  
David Olsson  
Make a few million dollars off it. Cool. Silence.

**30:15**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
Well, maybe I can speak a little bit. I, I think I came to all of this really sideways, which I think I do a lot. But I came into this kind of arena after reading some interesting book by Robin Sloan called Moonbound. And this idea of a distributed intelligence that is AI, but takes many forms seemed really very cool. And I think for me the comfort rung that you talked about is very much conversational and what that brings in terms of perspective to problems or ideas or thoughts that I'm considering. And as a kind of conversational partner, it becomes quite interesting to play with. So I listening to the conversation today, I don't think I get caught in the weeds.

**31:20**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
I don't, because I'm not trying to make it a tool of productivity or enhance something, nor am I trying to use it to code or solve. And in that way I think it works pretty well as a kind of a mirror to engage thoughts and ideas and explore possibilities. And so it's more like an investigative tool, a bit of a sandbox.

**31:53**  
David Olsson  
And.

**31:54**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
A kind of a play space. So that's where I found the most jam with it. And I'm sure it gets very complicated very quickly, as we've seen here.

**32:07**  
David Olsson  
When.

**32:07**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
You get into problem solving and getting it to do things and perform and you know, context rots and all these things start to become very significant. But as a sort of high altitude Play arena around distributed intelligence. It seems pretty cool to me.

**32:32**  
David Olsson  
Can I, can I ask. So I've been a part of conversations with you all through that path and how you've applied some maps and I appreciate how you've come in and your positioning on that. But I would suggest that everybody has a learning roadmap that they would have applied to even the same understanding of emissaries and interstellar space. Meaning that some don't work, man. And I find that really phenomenal because, you know, I've worked with algorithms and I actually work to get them to break so I can see what the algorithm means. And I think a lot of this room has done that and they explore it and they call it these technical things.

**33:10**  
David Olsson  
But if I use that word, corrupt, I'm sure you've run into some cruft and you're like, I know you've jumped a few times on this, man, so you're being super generous because I think you're on a good wave. But in terms of the learning, I think you've taught me more about how to systematize thinking around that shit than most people.

**33:31**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
Well, I don't know if I did.

**33:34**  
David Olsson  
That, but what I'm getting to do is I'm trying to get you to redirect around the things. Like this is what I look at, like really high level. But in terms of, if we look at even just the notion of prompting, like there's things like being clear that we talked about providing context, breaking things down, using examples, you've. Because of your curiosity around the level of psychology and spirituality and connection, you probably found some pretty good limits on this stuff.

**34:03**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
Well, you know, this is, I think, actually really kind of cool because.

**34:08**  
David Olsson  
It.

**34:09**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
Is through the prompting and the kind of engagement with the AI. So what I think is super interesting is the relational kind of conversation. So we tend not to engage with the AI as a, in a relational way. And I think when you do, the results are actually way more interesting and valuable as feedback. So if there's one takeaway, that might be it.

**34:44**  
David Olsson  
Yeah, that is. So I have a higher level set of objectives for learning. And stage three or stage two is partnering. Just recognizing you can't ask it to do everything, you can't ask for it to do nothing from, from everything. And you can't go from everything to nothing. But you can have this conversational nature to it. Right? Like you can do that. And yeah, I, I think that's a, I mean, it seems really obvious that it's predicated on conversation so it should do that.

**35:16**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
It should work well that way. And you know, we talked for years.

**35:19**  
David Olsson  
It sucked ass, man.

**35:21**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
Yeah, for sure. But we talked about it, you and I. And you know, the notion of the vending machine, like, is it a vending machine? I want this. Give me that. No, I want that. This. You know, I asked for that. You should give me this. But a relational engagement is quite different. And yeah, it's different results.

**35:46**  
David Olsson  
Yeah, relationships suggest responsibility instead of tooling. Yeah.

**35:53**  
James Giroday  
I'll follow on that one. Because Hanif, I feel like said some of the things that I do, but in a more eloquent way probably than I really understand. I don't really know how I use it, but I can say how I see it a little bit, which is like an intern that's really eager that I'm happy to just like that also has kind of maybe unlimited time on their hands to be diligent and like comprehensive in terms of research. So the couple of things that I've used it for are like synthesizing and pushing the boundaries of my understanding of ideas that I'm interested in. So I pulled up one prompt from a couple days ago which was I'm a big fan of like matrices. When. When somebody can like something can like compare a bunch of different things across as few axes.

**36:56**  
James Giroday  
And then I feel like that really helps do that. So the prompt is using some common terms. Explain parallels between the following in terms of how they allow for, excuse me, incentivize and constrain collaboration, GitHub, open source software, Creative Commons, cryptocurrency, daos. And it just like some of the conversations that I've had with it's really fast. It helps me think beyond the bounds of where I would usually get to. I know there's a whole cognitive debt discussion, but yeah, I feel like I'm getting to a place that I just simply wouldn't otherwise have the time for getting to without it. So there's that A lot of times I'm like trying to just understand whole topics that I don't understand. So I'm like using the language of game design, like iterate over this idea in a few different ways and then I'm just. It'll just.

**38:02**  
James Giroday  
This is kind of how I worked in architecture school, right. Is like you have to work through ideas by doing them. Well, in this case you don't have to do any of them. It just iterates like six or seven different ideas and you're like, nope, nope. Yeah, kind of. Nope. Yep. And then you like iterate that way and it's. It's like you can go a long way really fast. I know. I feel like Steve Jobs said the. The phone is the bicycle for the like, this is the bicycle. The phone is not the bike. The phone is the hamster wheel or something else.

**38:39**  
David Olsson  
Yeah, it's a good one.

**38:42**  
James Giroday  
So that's kind of how it's been. Yeah, I've been finding some fun with it for sure.

**38:46**  
David Olsson  
It's pretty time.

**38:48**  
James Giroday  
Yeah.

**38:49**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
And I think the breadth of the, you know, engagement is super interesting. Like you say there's no way to get. Gather that wide net of stuff and collate it and make sense of it and bring a matrix that you can understand and say, yeah, no way. So I think those are the superpowers that. And if we can leverage them, so much the better. And I think what, you know, Dave, you were talking about this kind of prompt whispering. It is a little bit of an art too.

**39:21**  
David Olsson  
So, yeah, I find the flow is. Is the artful part to know how to guide it. And the techniques are useful in terms of a strategy to prop things likelihood. And that's kind of where I was so working with this person at ubc. I was trying to help her recognize that, you know, if you don't need orchestration, you need a way of thinking. And then you might get to the point where you need to orchestrate, but you've been orchestrating in your head all along. But if you can't recognize that, you can't move forward and to your point, James, like, it reflects back at you in a way that you can say, test a lot of things. One of the first things I recognize is I could. I could study all of the management frameworks all at once. I could study them.

**40:06**  
David Olsson  
I had to study them first and then I documented them to make them functional. Because right now people document them to describe them, but they're not really functional. And then put them into like 15 descriptions that are functional. And then just say, throw them at this corpus or this idea or this conversation and it will apply Pestle 4C's. You know, we. Wardley, whatever frameworks of analysis you want at one conversation you've had, right? And so the playground is exactly that thing there is now like 77, like just jammed full of like you can throw any kind of document at it. Repos, you can now throw your repo at it. It'll analyze your goddamn repo. It'll generate images for you. It'll generate mermaid diagrams.

**40:51**  
David Olsson  
It'll break down any task you have and work closed like it's just stupid what you can do this stuff, but it's a paradigm, it's way of thinking. And you know how the playground came out? Like Steve Jobs wasn't Steve Jobs, it was Wozniak. And what was the other guy's name who did all the software. Do you guys remember HyperCard? I never understood HyperCard because I learned how to program before there was metaphors to structure the programming. Anyways, HyperCard was a programming so called scripting high level language to work in the Apple environment to build hypertextual documentation. But it had a card analogy. And the first thing you learned is that the card analogy was bunk and you had to get past that quickly. But the card analogy is wonderful and we use it all the time in software. We use it everywhere.

**41:47**  
David Olsson  
And so the playground is just the card analogy played out. Each of these is just a prompt or a Persona or a scenario and it just runs them from left to right. And it's like I was like, what is the simplest metaphor I could come up with? But I did a whole lot of sideways analysis. Like they're talking about taking a whole lot of different things and trying to understand different patterns in which things could apply. And it first started with what you're talking about, James, is like you can do more parallel thinking than you possibly can with the AI. It's just there's no interface for it. And why I'm bringing up the playground right now, it still has really, you know, it still has UX problems, it still has all kinds of shit problems with it.

**42:30**  
David Olsson  
The reason I went back and I introduced the ability to chat your own playground is because it still has both parallel and sequential warp flow orchestration built into it. You can do it yourself or you can have it and chat it now. And it has all of these specialized workflows built into it now, from technology to healthcare tracking to financial to consulting. I built one for us, it's called Curiosity Cohort. So you can drop transcripts into it and analyze it from like a bunch of different points of view. It's kind of weak still. It doesn't have all the teeth we do, but that's why we have our transcripts. So I think that point of view is super powerful if you can find a way of carrying through with it the parallelism, the ability to analyze more than you can on your own with AI.

**43:20**  
David Olsson  
But I'm not seeing it, man, I'm not seeing it except for anecdotally and the ability to do it themselves. I'm not seeing it systematically unless I'm seeing or hearing about it at an enterprise level. I'm not seeing it outside this room where people are doing multiple things to analyze a situation and then say this is the best strategic path. And I'm not finding anyone in business who gives a about it man. And so I'm swearing triple there because I'm trying to stop swearing but I'm quite like what we can do is incredible. What we can tell people is possible is on point. And the fact that we can scale ourselves as small teams to deliver in big ways is really cool. But you need somebody on the other side that will believe in the same sort of line of thinking.

**44:15**  
David Olsson  
And to illustrate that is very difficult. So I'm going down the path of trying to understand what it means to educate at a distance, to have our clients upskill before they get to us. And so I appreciate your conversation around learning and what it means individually because I'm not going to spend any more time with prospects in the same way I have in assessing their sense of where they're at to upskill their ability to push us down the road as a decision point. And so learning is a really significant part of this AI curve and how to keep a fundamental perspective on things like the simplicity of a card metaphor or the idea of a relationship driving business is a, is an interesting one. Spencer and Graham, you guys are focusing on that component of the relationship side of things.

**45:16**  
David Olsson  
I do want to talk to you about that. I make sure that we don't have that in my stuff.

**45:24**  
Graham Fawcett  
So if I'm thinking about my entry Point into AI, it definitely was driven. I think since 2019 I've been like journaling and using that as a tool for self reflection. And then when I started using ChatGPT, maybe 2023, it definitely like I have a system where I basically have every single journal entry I've ever written down in actual system I can use. I don't bring those all over into ChatGPT, but just the idea that I can dialogue about my own personality, my own character, my own psychology and get immediate feedback. You know, it's been like a game changer in terms of not just understanding who I am, but choosing the identity that I want to create for myself and really understanding that I'm capable of that.

**46:26**  
Graham Fawcett  
I'm capable of choosing my values, understanding my values and living life the way I want to and a dialogue where I get immediate feedback about how I can do that effectively is something I get from ChatGPT. And it's just been very powerful in terms of that understanding over time. Another thing that I realized very early on was just the meta, like, I guess the meta learning opportunity that dialogue presented. Like, I realized very early on, like, I think I pitched this to Spencer. He wasn't interested in it, but I came up with some like, idea for a platform that was like, basically adapting to individuals learning styles in real time because everyone learns differently.

**47:20**  
Graham Fawcett  
And like, as I was dialoguing with ChatGPT and as I was like working through whatever like major intellectual challenges I had, I was really realizing exactly how I learned or exactly how I best learn certain types of information. So sometimes it makes more sense for me to visualize something or to like, structure it in a way where I'm like, identifying the most critical variables and then like have it in a visual and that's how I'm going to learn that subject. And if there was a tool that understood that well and could take information and then make it interpretable to me in the way that I'm going to understand it best, that's just seemed very powerful. Seems very powerful. And that was definitely something that came out of my explorations with just dialoguing with ChatGPT.

**48:12**  
Graham Fawcett  
But I think fundamentally for me, like, the way I use it is identity creation and identity reinforcement and like self reflection. Deep self reflection.

**48:27**  
David Olsson  
Cool. A question. Are you a stoic?

**48:35**  
Graham Fawcett  
I don't, I wouldn't say that. That's like how I would identify myself.

**48:39**  
David Olsson  
Do you study like a stoic?

**48:40**  
Graham Fawcett  
I have, I have studied stoicism.

**48:43**  
David Olsson  
Yeah. It's just a question. It's just the way that you communicate is, is somewhat, it's very articulate and studied. So I'm just, I don't want to say you're stoic in it or Socratic, but it's in there, man.

**49:04**  
Graham Fawcett  
You definitely study everything when you have. Yeah, yeah, you study every frame you possibly can.

**49:10**  
David Olsson  
The how of how was is how I put it. You, you recognize the meta level. You're like, well, I have to get good at this part so that the part below it makes sense. Sense. It's kind of just like if I quest, if I present a good question, the rest plays out. That's, that's a meta level. That's not like, oh, I need to understand the problem really deeply.

**49:34**  
Graham Fawcett  
Well, I think it definitely helped me understand like first principles thinking.

**49:39**  
David Olsson  
There you go.

**49:40**  
Graham Fawcett  
Yeah, it definitely got me to a place where I understood that like, and I could bring that into daily life.

**49:49**  
David Olsson  
Cool. Well, that's, it's fundamental. And if you can change your own habits and everything else plays out, I can affirm that. Ashley, anyone else want to chime in?

**50:08**  
Ashley Beckett  
We're in time. But like, I just want to recap. Like the basic thread for me here is one. It's organized chaos at the end of the day. Like I'm a jack of all trades, master of none, and constantly trying to organize that and then translating that into even just between our team, like that's the biggest struggle for me is communicating things effectively, that it all makes sense up here. There's a hundred variables up here and I think everything's important. So being able to learn those skills not only with the team, but like I'm using AI to train myself as much as like I'm training the models. Right. Like my communications changed both with the agents and with my team as a result.

**50:56**  
Ashley Beckett  
And I'm full on board for the singularity because I fortunate to be born in the era that I have been where I, you know, got touch grass and not have a cell phone but not be like fully integrated. Not to like it too, whatever, like grounded in reality. But really I just, I really want to be a better communicator and as a non technical person, like a self taught, pseudo technical person, I want to make it easier for our poor engineering team to work with me and to communicate better and to like multiply myself. Like the agent work that you demonstrated and everyone's talked about and the context are like the two things that I have a long way to go but give me the most like hope and excitement. So just really want to keep expanding on that. And that's.

**51:47**  
Ashley Beckett  
My communication has increased significantly.

**51:49**  
David Olsson  
So. I like that word you used, excitement. I think that's the thing that is. It's changed in my career path is an excitement for some aspect of being a creator again. And, and that's to be excited about your work is the most vital thing. Creativity flows from that. And if you can use any tools out there and build a relationship with them. Like early in my career, I recognized that code was a reflection. It was neat. I said it. It was me talking to myself mostly because it was just me working alone. Right. So how else could it be? But it was, I was the one getting the feedback and I grew because of that. I grew in a certain way.

**52:38**  
David Olsson  
And I think that's what the LLMs to your point, Graham, is that the LMS have a great opportunity to teach us in a whole lot of ways you can become a really good, great programmer and be socially not able to keep communicate with anybody. I think we've all met people like that. So that's not. That's not really helpful at all. And these tools really can help you. You can just use the word translate, they can help you translate and learn in line. In one week, I learned how to build a command line interface, an mcp, and build agents on top of that, and integrate it in three platforms in one week. I didn't have any knowledge of that. I had a whole Runway in life to build competency to, you know, be ready for it.

**53:25**  
David Olsson  
But without a large language model, I wouldn't have even tried. And now as a result, we're investing in aerospace. Although in Kelowna, it's probably not a bad idea.

**53:39**  
James Giroday  
David, I have a. I have a question for you. Can I ask you a question? You said you're not seeing it. I think you, I think you meant by that you're not seeing other people apply AI at a level that the people in this room do. Is that right?

**53:57**  
David Olsson  
Yeah, I have the curiosity for it and have tried a bunch of things and, you know, it's like actually the chaos, it's like, try things and then you get feedback and you're like, okay, some feedback loops. Okay, These ones focus here. Okay, Amplify them, structure them, use them next time. You know, that's what I hear and see. Whatever level people want to talk about. People think coding is like a high level. It's actually super low level and. But being able to use it up and down the stack is what I hear in the room. And not to use it in a way. The first thing I want to do is help people get past cheating on the homework. My daughter's in university, so I'm going to take that back and I'm going to help her tune her home work.

**54:40**  
James Giroday  
So up and down the stack, what are some common ways that you see, like, people being able to.

**54:48**  
David Olsson  
Kind of.

**54:48**  
James Giroday  
Like, what does it look like? Does it look like hypercards? Is hypercards the inspiration for the playground?

**54:55**  
David Olsson  
Well, it was just the card analogy and trying to find analogy. Like nodes and like node editors are another good one. Like you have like this one connected to the. This one. This one's just a left to right workflow. Right. So you kind of get a sense of that. But if you go inside them, you can see the input comes from here. You have the large language model settings here. You can optimize it or whatever. You can select an audience and tone it for one of the Personas as well. And then the results, but the results get piped from one to the next. So it's a left to right card experience, but the card is something everybody can approach. Now the UI is not.

**55:32**  
David Olsson  
But the idea of saying, here's a prompt card, here's a Persona card, you just have like a deck of cards and you're just laying them out and you want to play cards. I think there's got to be an approachable way to introduce prompting such as all the sophistication is there. Because James, if you remember, I was doing these things, these chaining of experiences without any technology underneath it, right? Like you can do all this inside ChatGPT. And in fact, now they'll call it something like you're simulating the agents. And soon, you know, Claude will just like, okay, yeah, we'll call the agents. Right. So my team can call our agents inside cloud. And so they are doing that kind.

**56:12**  
James Giroday  
Of like, there's just a really, some really interesting overlaps that I'm seeing. And I mean, I think this stuff is never physical. A deck of cards would be. That'd be a pretty sweet way to make it physical. I was reading A Theory of Fun, which is. Was related in a podcast that I was listening to about game design. And I think it's A Theory of Fun is like a game design book from maybe 30 years ago, something like that. And in it they talk about how games are basically learning. Like you're learning new patterns. Once you get one skill, it allows you to start combining skills and learning new skills. Have you thought about creating, applying any sort of game design principles to this?

**57:00**  
James Giroday  
Like, I'm trying to think about, like, okay, so if I've never heard of AI before, like, I'm not quite that dumb. But not anyways. Not say dumb, but you know, okay, somebody walks up and they say, like, what is this? You know, how do I upskill? And at this thing, I've never even heard of it before. Like, what's a super approachable way of doing that? And like playing. Have you thought about applying game design to it at all, Ashley?

**57:24**  
David Olsson  
You got it. Sorry, did you say something, Ashley?

**57:27**  
Ashley Beckett  
Oh, no, I'm sorry, I was making a bad joke about a one.

**57:31**  
James Giroday  
Oh, what was it?

**57:32**  
Ashley Beckett  
You're like, you've never heard of AI before and I'm sorry to interrupt.

**57:41**  
David Olsson  
That's okay. Yeah, I've been trying to understand the path in. Right. So scenarios are a good path in. So that was what I was thinking. Like, you're putting, like, if you're an executive where somebody works in a. In a large corporation, if they're dealing with crisis, then that's a great way for learning how to use AI. And so I've built some scenario lessons where you could just learn how to prompt. Prompt more effectively. Well, based on having to solve problems in a crisis. But how do you. So how. How can you acquire the skills in line with something that you already do or, you know, solve a problem that you already know exists in. In a better way? Is kind of how.

**58:25**  
David Olsson  
Like, because I was talking to you, Yang at UBCO is like, I think you can learn this stuff without any of the tech that I've built. Right? And you can upsell yourself to the point where you recognize, oh, I'm limited by the fact that I need more tech. But right now there's no understanding of what you can do and how you can do it better. There's just like, well, agents are the answer. And then below that, well, yeah, I use a chatbot. And then they're like, well, there's just a lot. A large Runway of things there. So I'm trying to understand what that container is for learning. You know, I study. Study education. I know it the best. Once you're in a track, I know how to make that track work, you know, that's for sure.

**59:01**  
David Olsson  
It's just, how do you get people into the track now, from a corporate point of view? And that's kind of how I look at things.

**59:08**  
James Giroday  
So can I make a bit of a joke here? So I read the Substack article about, like, consultants, AI consultants and how. I mean, it's kind of hard to tell who knows what they're talking about.

**59:24**  
David Olsson  
Oh, yeah, But Seinfeld.

**59:26**  
James Giroday  
Seinfeld has this bit about when you walk into a doctor's office and, like, why do you have to take your pants off? And it's because, well, if there's any ever. Any ever disagreement, pants always beats no pants. So what I'm kind of getting at is I feel like even if you had a deck of cards, that was like, well, here's like 52 examples of how you can use AI. I feel like a deck of cards would always beat no deck of cards. I don't know. So, yeah, maybe not always. Bye, Jen.

**59:59**  
David Olsson  
Yeah, I got to go for another meeting, too, but just say.

**01:00:03**  
Hanif Janmohamed  
I'm just going to say that there's another workshop that I'm in with Seth Godin. And that's exactly what he's done. He's done decks of cards.

**01:00:11**  
David Olsson  
So, yeah, it's a great analogy. He's on it. You can go. Pokemon go. And so I was showing you the. The node editor cards are really good. Yeah. One here, one here. You can connect them. That's a node editor. And so the card metaphor works really well. And if you look at N8N, they're like the most popular version of that for the AI space. They just have nodes. You connect them together. So I gotta go. I gotta hold another meeting. Otherwise, I keep the conversation going because we're actually getting places. We always do. I'll leave you guys to keep going. And I appreciate help. The sweet stone. Well, I gotta.

**01:00:43**  
James Giroday  
I gotta run too. Thanks, David.

**01:00:45**  
David Olsson  
Communicate. Later. Thank you all. Bye.