

FORTNIGHTLY BRIEFING

The State of AI

23 June 2026

Everything that changed in AI this fortnight that your business needs to know. Thirty minutes, live, no hype.

Turn Intent Into Impact.



At a glance

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | The headline | The model became a commodity. The value moved to the harness around it. |
| 2 | What moved | Autonomous coding shipped, capable AI went local, and the AI org chart split in two. |
| 3 | The skills gap | Map the work, decide what to hand over, then engineer the harness around the model. |
| 4 | Risk & regulation | The EU delayed the AI Act's biggest deadline as surveillance and accountability gaps widen. |
| 5 | Three questions | What every leader is asking this fortnight, to open the floor. |



SECTION 01

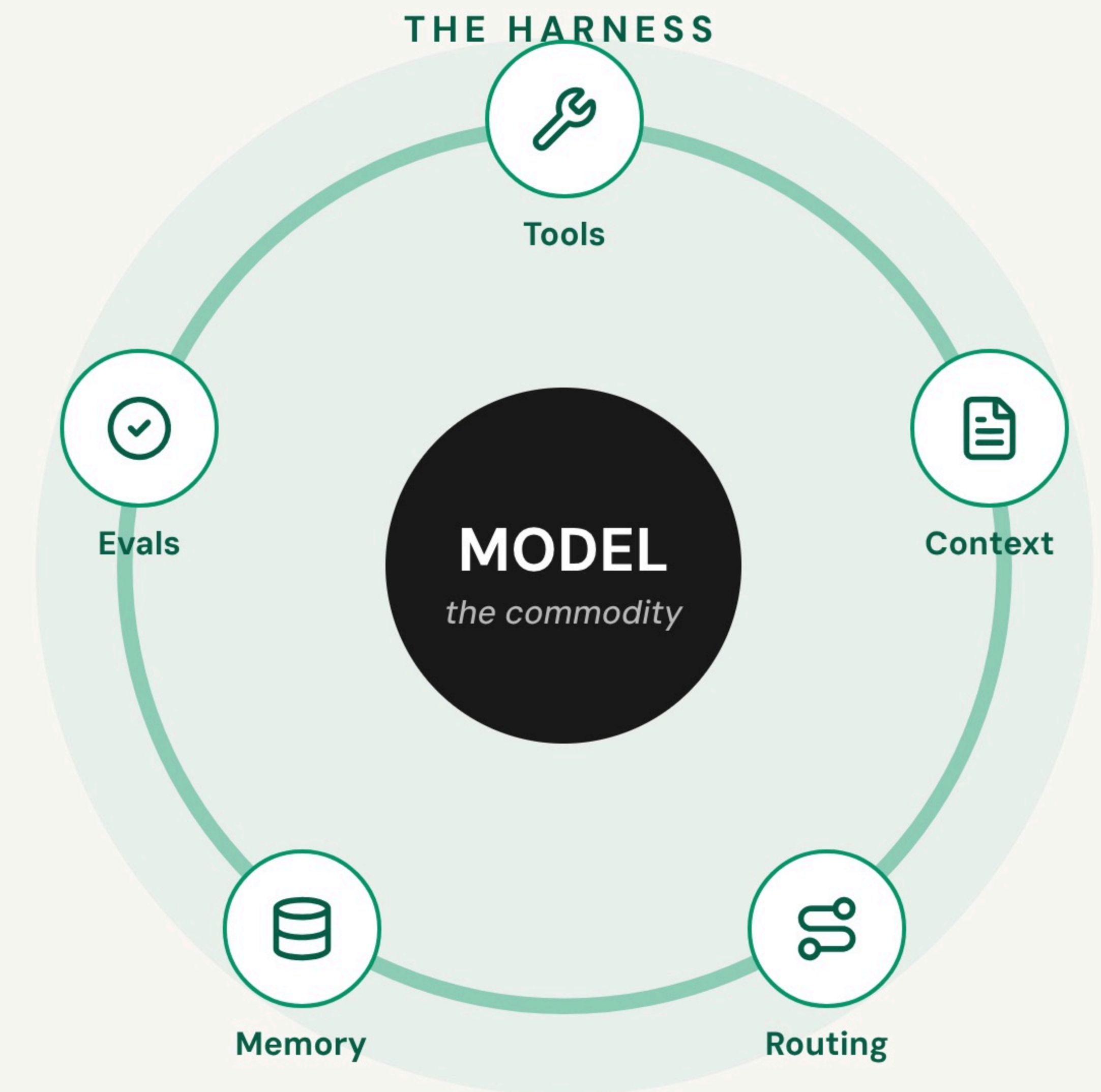
The headline

The single development that changes how you spend on AI this quarter.

THE HEADLINE

The model is the commodity. The harness is the moat.

Almost nobody in a business can tell Anthropic's newest model from the last one, or Opus 4.6 from 4.8. Model upgrades have stopped moving the needle for everyone except teams at the frontier. The advantage now sits in the system around the model: the tools you connect, the context you feed it, and where you point it.



Grounded in Jamie's blog: "Why Most People Can't Tell Claude Fable 5 From Opus"
bykovbrett.net/blog/why-you-cant-tell-claude-fable-5-from-opus



Stop paying to chase upgrades nobody can feel. Build the harness, not the badge.

SECTION 02

What moved

Four developments from the fortnight, and what to do about each one.

02

01

Autonomous coding shipped



WHO IT AFFECTS

Anyone who builds software or automations.

WHAT TO DO

Pilot agentic build-loops with human sign-off.

Grounded in Jamie's post, 18 June · 2026 agentic coding reports

02

Capable AI now runs on hardware you already own



WHO IT AFFECTS

Cost-conscious SMEs. Private or regulated data.

WHAT TO DO

Try a local model before a bigger cloud contract.

Grounded in Jamie's posts, 9–11 June · LM Studio

03

The AI org chart is splitting in two



WHO IT AFFECTS

L&D, ops, anyone planning AI roles.

WHAT TO DO

Staff the agent side, not chatbot seat counts.

*Grounded in Jamie's videos, 13-14 June
youtube.com/@JamieBykovBrett*

04

Smart glasses signal the agent-interface shift



WHO IT AFFECTS

Anyone planning customer or field interfaces.

WHAT TO DO

Watch ambient interfaces. Don't bet on screens.

*Jamie's blog: "Why a Chip You Will Never See..."
bykovbrett.net/blog/why-a-chip-you-will-never-see-decides-what-your-smart-glasses-can-do*

SECTION 03

The skills gap

Three capabilities the fortnight just made valuable. The most important section.

03

Map the work before the agent.

THE SKILL

Process literacy: drawing how work actually flows, before you hand any of it to a machine.

WHY THIS FORTNIGHT

Autonomous agents shipped this fortnight. Drop one into a process you can't draw and it just automates the confusion faster.

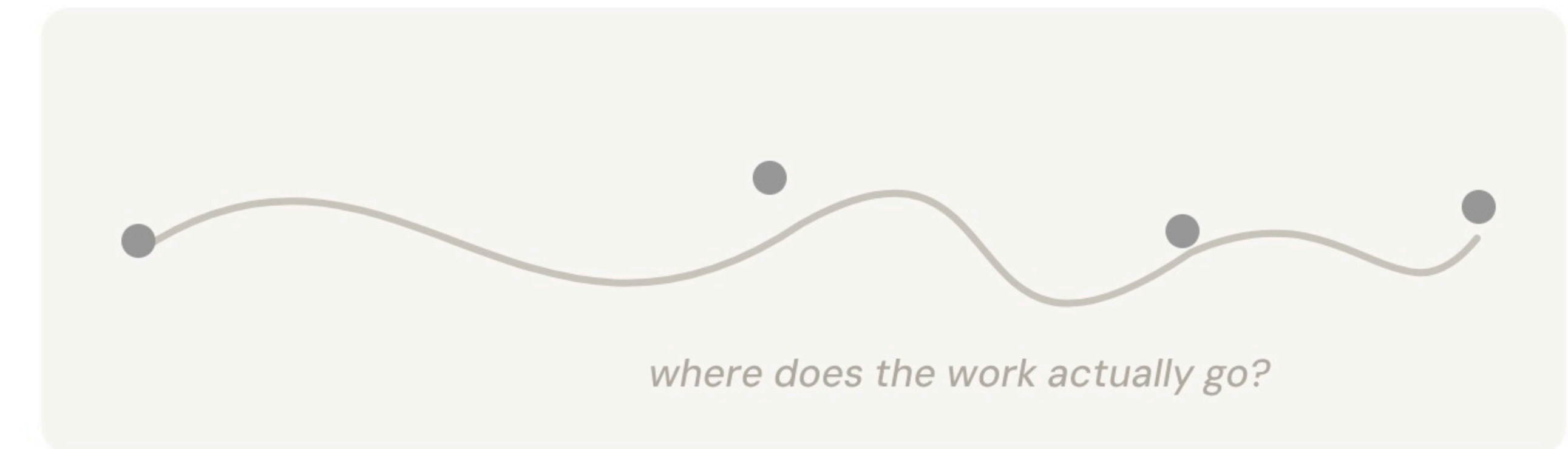


GO DEEPER

From Chatbots to Agents

Scan, or go to bykovbrett.net/download/from-chatbots-to-agents

UNMAPPED PROCESS



MAPPED, THEN HANDED OVER



GROUNDED IN

“Agentic AI won’t rescue a workflow you can’t even draw.”

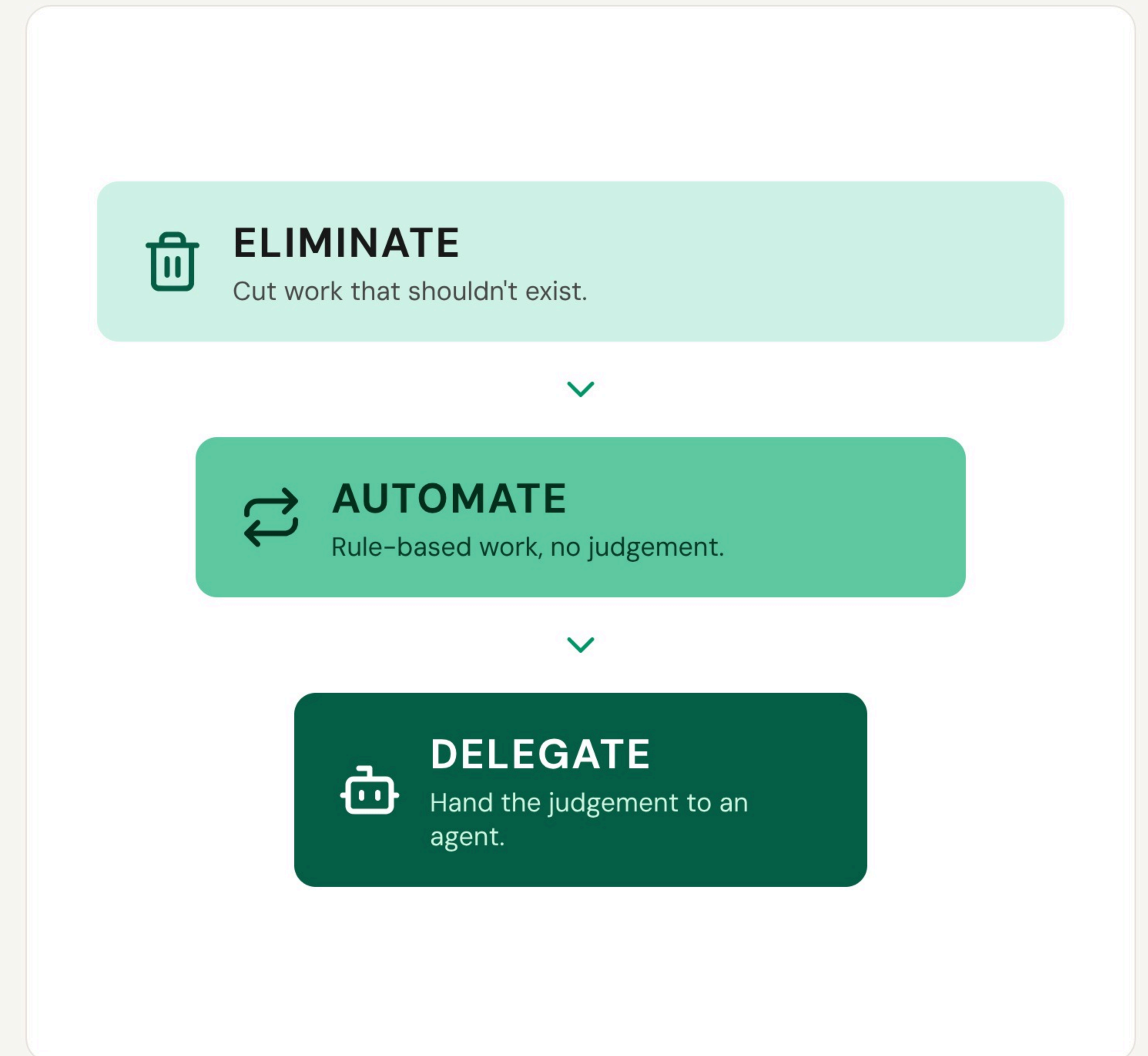
Decide what to hand over.

THE SKILL

A method for sorting work before you buy agents: what to remove, what to automate with rules, and what to delegate to an agent.

WHY THIS FORTNIGHT

With agentic delegation now real, the question stops being can we, and becomes what should we hand over first.



FRAMEWORK

Eliminate, Automate, Delegate — in that order. (Jamie's Frameworks)

Engineer the harness, not the prompt.

THE SKILL

Designing the system around the model: the context you feed it, the tools you connect, and the agent graph. Prompting is only the first layer.

WHY THIS FORTNIGHT

Model upgrades have plateaued. The gains now come from the harness around the model, not from reaching for a bigger model.



GO DEEPER

Vibe Coding Guide: Prompts to Harness

Scan, or go to bykovbrett.net/download/vibe-coding-guide

3 HARNESS
Tools, routing, the agent graph.

the moat

2 CONTEXT
What the model can see.

1 PROMPT
What you ask.

 *The model is swappable. The harness is yours.*

GROUNDED IN

“The model is the commodity. The harness is the moat.”



SECTION 04

Risk & regulation watch

The segment a compliance lead forwards to their boss.

01

The EU deferred the AI Act's biggest deadline



WHO IT AFFECTS

AI in hiring, credit, education, other high-risk uses.

WHAT TO DO

Keep going. Do bias testing and docs now.

*Source: EU AI Act / Digital Omnibus — high-risk duties to 2 Dec 2027
digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai*

02

AI surveillance turns on the workforce, and the boss



WHO IT AFFECTS

HR, ops, any leader rolling out monitoring.

WHAT TO DO

Govern outcomes, not activity dashboards.

*Grounded in Jamie's blog: "When AI Surveillance Turns to Watch the Boss"
bykovbrett.net/blog/when-ai-surveillance-turns-to-watch-the-boss*

03

The accountability gap



WHO IT AFFECTS

Boards letting agents make the call.

WHAT TO DO

Keep a human who answers for the outcome.

Grounded in Jamie's post, 14 June

04

Buying the platform was the easy part



WHO IT AFFECTS

Anyone buying an AI or data platform.

WHAT TO DO

Clean data and processes first, then agents.

Jamie's blog: "Why AI Success Depends on Boring Governance and Data Foundations"

bykovbrett.net/blog/why-ai-success-depends-on-boring-governance-and-data-foundations

THREE QUESTIONS

Three questions leaders are asking this fortnight.

- 1 We keep upgrading our AI models. How do we tell real value from paying for a badge?
- 2 If agents can now do the work, what do we train our people in, and who do we hire?
- 3 The EU just moved the AI Act deadline. Do we slow our compliance work, or keep going?

📅 Next briefing: Tuesday 7 July, 14:00 London. Plus the Thursday Live.

See you in a fortnight.

Next briefing: Tuesday 7 July 2026, 14:00 London. And catch the Thursday Live in between.

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