## 100+ Smart Ways to Free Up Time with AI

For entrepreneurs and other leaders

**Tom Sharp**Al Leadership

100+ tips, tricks, tools and prompts to be a better and smarter leader, with help from Al



Al is all the rage right now.

It's also an amazing tool for any leader's toolbox. That's why I created this inspiration book—to make AI more handson, share my own insights and discoveries, and to inspire you to free up a ton of time.

I may have gone slightly overboard with the tips. Oops. Sorry.



Hi, I'm Tom.

I'm pretty sure you haven't heard of me.

I've mostly been working with entrepreneurs and leaders in a little European country, speaking and writing in an obscure and indecipherable language.

But since I've packed my bags for America, I'm ready to blaze trails again.

I'm here to connect with new people, new leaders, and am looking forward to share interesting, practical tips and tricks that are grounded in solid concepts.



Today, I want to whisk you away on a journey through the marvelous world of Artificial Intelligence.

This is one of the most captivating topics right now, at least for me.

What's especially intriguing to me is how Al can simplify a ton of the leadership advice that you've been hearing for the last five decades.

Like having a handy leadership assistant, right at your fingertips.





#### Which made me wonder.

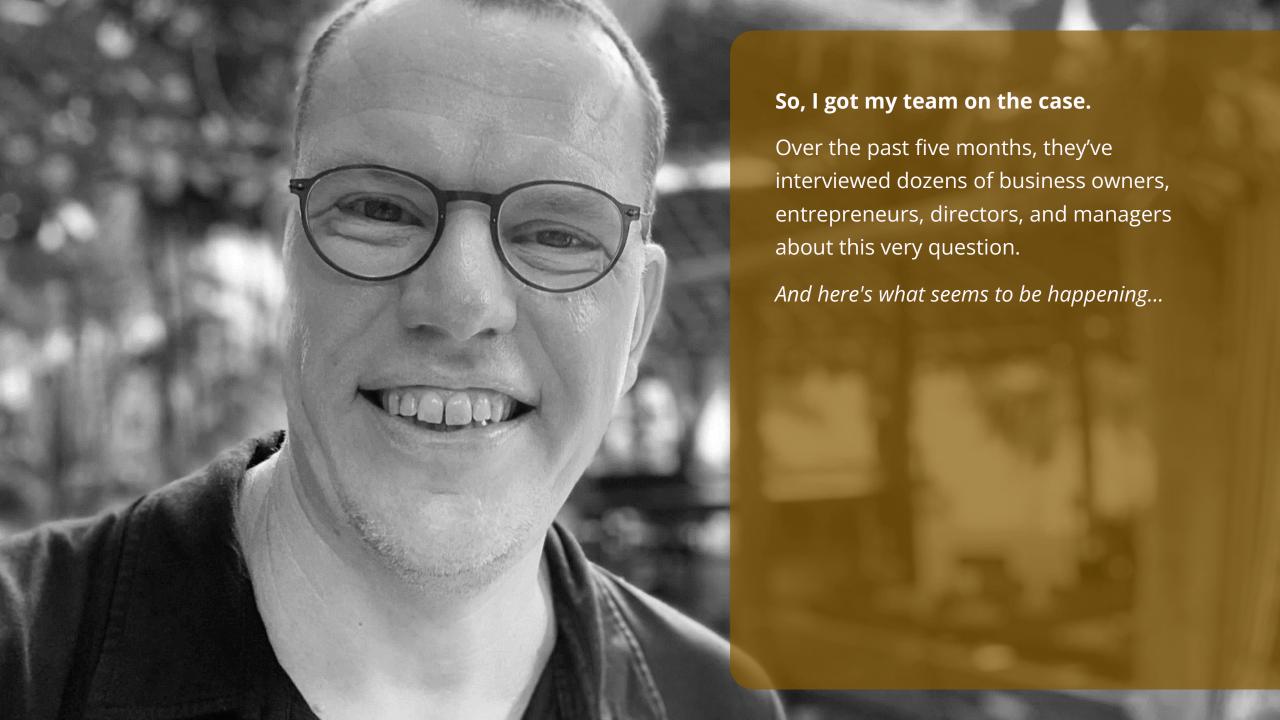
Why does there seem to be a lack of interest among so many business owners and other leaders?

Why doesn't AI seem attractive to them? Important? Urgent?

Is the lens through which I see the world so much different from theirs? Are they really missing the things I'm seeing? They can't be oblivious to the massive changes that are looming on the horizon, can they?

But why don't they seem to feel the responsibility to dive into this? Especially considering their roles as leaders?

Or am I crazy—that's still a possibility, right?





Most leaders find themselves short on time, caught up in a whirlwind of other priorities.

Sure, ChatGPT initially sparked some excitement, but when those too-good-to-betrue promises didn't pan out, disappointment set in.

Now, many leaders are tempted to cut their losses and turn a blind eye to the looming tsunami of change heading our way.

Of course, ignoring it means missing out on the unfolding developments, and you might not realize just how quickly the landscape can and will shift.



Some other sizzling topics are also stirring the pot: privacy, security, energy consumption, and the looming threat of job loss.

Naturally, a cloud like this puts a damper on enthusiasm, too.

On top of that, the field is a jumbled mess—chaotic, technical, and overwhelmed by a deluge of news that's often not even relevant to leaders.

No wonder people are checking out. But it's hardly ideal.

#### After all, the rest of the world isn't just twiddling its thumbs.

Imagine your biggest competitor mastering Al in incredibly smart ways, while you're still ignoring it. Could they end up running circles around you in a matter of months, or perhaps years?

#### We also can't just hit the pause button.

If the rest of the world is gearing up for a new age with AI while we're just lounging around, what kind of future are we setting up for ourselves—and for our kids?

It's a challenge leaders can't ignore.

Right now, diving into AI experiments can bring huge wins for leaders:

- Sharpen your thinking
- Boost your creativity
- ☐ Take over mind-numbing routine tasks
- Help free up plenty of your time

I'd love to show you how, in this inspiration book.



So, I took a dive into my own ChatGPT and Claude histories, checking out how I've been *really* using AI, and I've put together a treasure trove of ideas for you:

- A list of the hottest AI tools making waves right now
- A collection of practical tips (and some powerful prompts) to elevate your leadership and supercharge your team's performance
- And some of my fundamentalleadership concepts to make sense of it all



I honestly think it's high time for every business owner, entrepreneur and leader to dive into AI:

- Snatch up the low-hanging fruit
- Get acquainted with the most important Al techniques
- Shake off those jitters
- Reap the rewards—alongside your team

Al has a lot to offer. But, truth be told, I've got another reason up my sleeve as well.



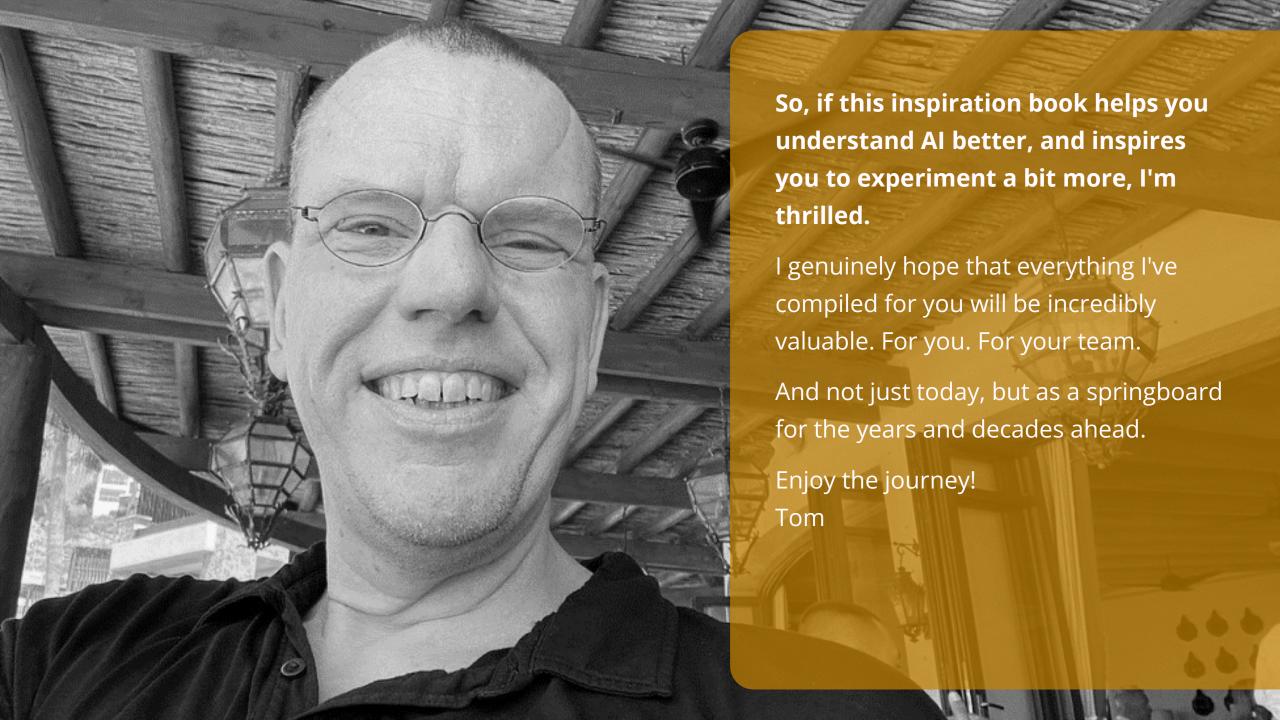
I truly believe that leaders from all walks of life need to get to know Al.

I believe that we have to explore what we can achieve using it, figure out what we truly want, and also decide what we're better off without — together.

These conversations, debates, and decisions are just too important to leave to a handful of people in Silicon Valley.

But that's exactly what will happen if other leaders in society don't engage and learn what makes AI tick.

The best, and perhaps the only way is to dive in, and start now. This is the time to experiment and play.

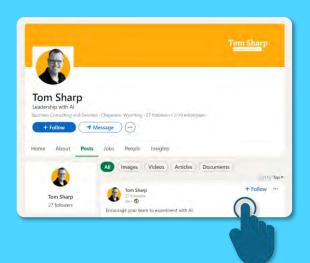




#### Let's be Friends on the Socials

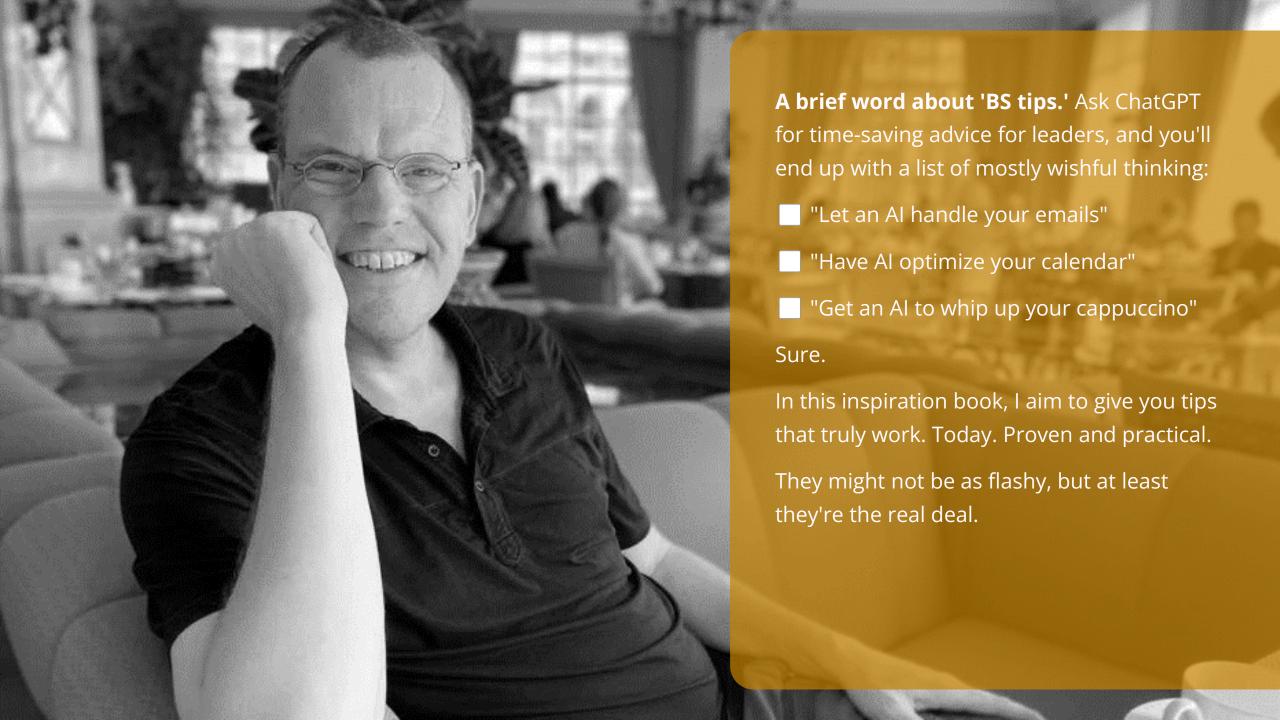
I'd love to share the latest news, tips, inspiration, and my own experiences with you:

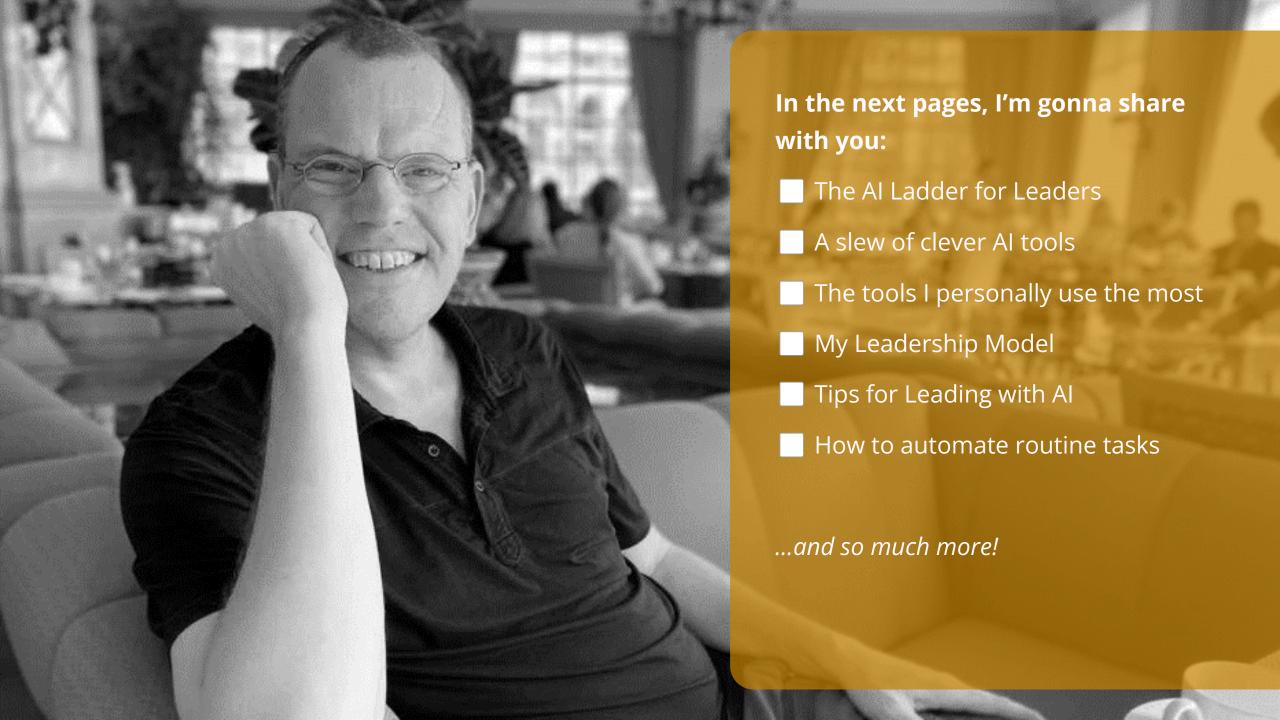






### "This is the perfect moment to dive into creating new business models that embrace AI. Start today. This week. Definitely within the year."







## Perplexity, DeepL, ChatGPT, Claude, Midjourney and TurboScribe

Some of Tom's favorite AI tools of the moment

### AI

Having a computer or machine perform tasks that would normally require human intelligence

#### What is AI?

Al, or artificial intelligence, is a fascinating set of ideas, concepts and technologies designed to enable computers to think, much the same way humans do.

The whole field has been around for 60 years, but a 2017 breakthrough brought a breath of fresh air. We've called that 'Generative Al.' You probably know this from ChatGPT, which in late 2022 ensured that even the general public can now use Al.

Suddenly we could start chatting with an Al. Very special! And super convenient, if you know what you're doing.

When you use ChatGPT, you're chatting with an Al model in the cloud.

This type of AI model is known as an LLM, or 'Large Language Model.'

In ChatGPT, the AI model you're interacting with is called 'GPT,' and it's built by the folks at OpenAl.

There are actually several different versions of the GPT model, like 40 and o1.

Other companies, such as Anthropic, Google, Meta, xAI, and Mistral, have their own AI models and chatbots too.

# "If it feels like too much effort, chances are it won't happen."

Tom's second principle

## The AI Ladder for Leaders

Let's try to clear up some confusion about Al





#### The AI Ladder for Leaders

[5] Machine Learning

[4] Software Development

[3] No/Low-Code Tools

[2] Al Chatbots

[1] Specialized Tools with Al

#### The AI Ladder for Leaders

[5] Machine Learning

[4] Software Development

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[2] Al Chatbots

[1] Specialized Tools with Al

To clear up some confusion around AI, I've got a ladder for you. It has 5 steps for experimenting with AI, ranging from super simple to colossally complicated. Just start at the bottom and work your way up.

Many leaders hesitate to dive into AI because they assume it will instantly be complex. Big challenges, tricky privacy and security issues—it's understandable. Any new technology brings fresh misunderstandings.

Because Al is much more powerful than most innovations of the past few decades, the confusion is even greater. Suppliers love a spectacle, often to attract new investors. The media blow it up even more. And, of course, the first pioneers make some notable blunders. Before you know it, everyone is discouraged.

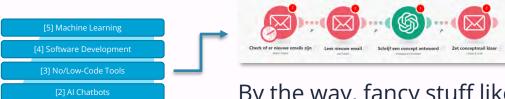




#### Preparing email replies

**But it's very possible to start small with AI.** It doesn't all have to be grand and full of risks right from the get-go.

I'm a big fan of small experiments. Starting small lets you see results quickly, and helps you understand what AI can and can't do for you. That's exactly how most of us leaders learn best—by just doing it. So, there's absolutely nothing wrong with starting at the bottom of the ladder.



By the way, fancy stuff like having automatic replies prepared for incoming emails don't have to be very complicated either. We'll dive into that later, on the third step of the ladder.

## Specialized Tools with AI

The first step





#### [1] Specialized Tools with AI

[5] Machine Learning [4] Software Development [3] No/Low-Code Tools [2] Al Chatbots [1] Specialized Tools with Al

The simplest way to leverage AI is by deploying a specialized tool. This sits right at the first step of the ladder.

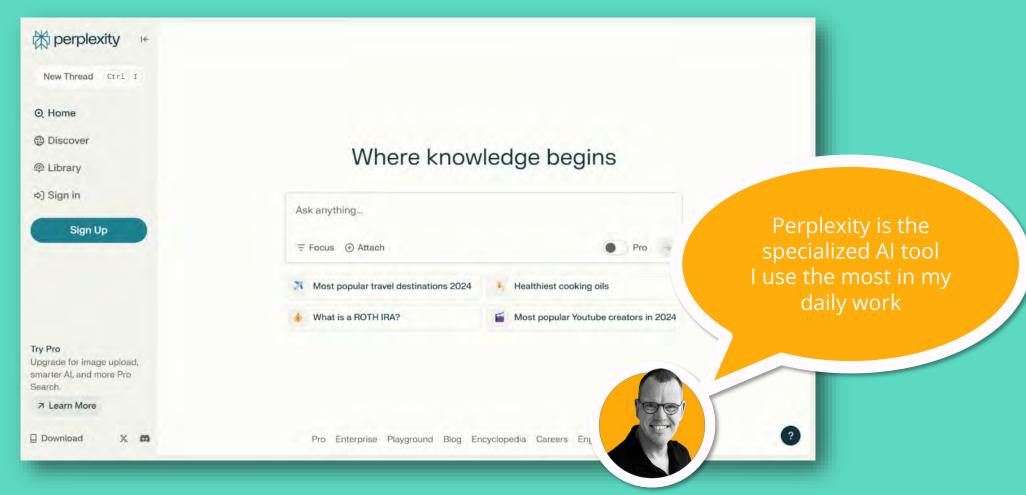
These tools focus on doing one or two tasks really well, using Al under the hood to get the job done, without you needing to know exactly how it works.

For instance, a friend of mine hadn't touched AI at all but needed to translate a 44-page PowerPoint. I suggested she try the AI translation tool DeepL, and within two minutes, the entire job was finished!

"Works super well! Thanks for the tip!" she messaged.

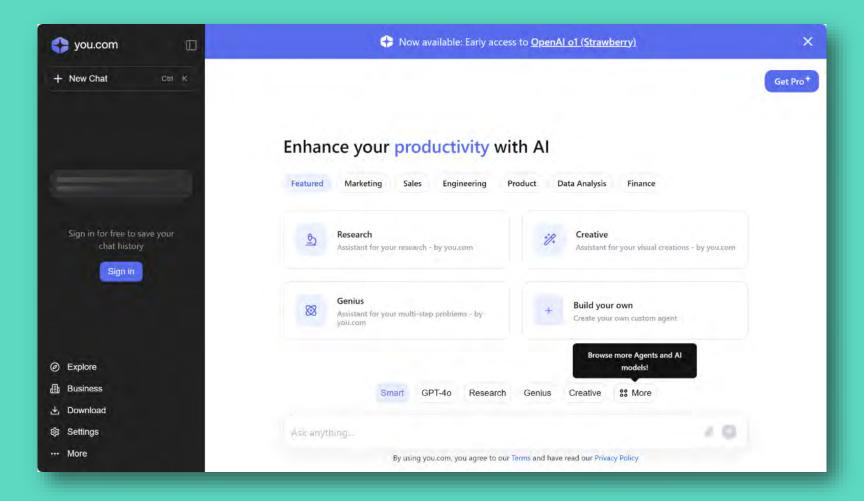
On the following pages, I've compiled a whole series of useful tools for you.

## Research



Perplexity.ai is a fantastic search engine that explains things, cites sources, and saves me a lot of time almost every day. Check out their app as well

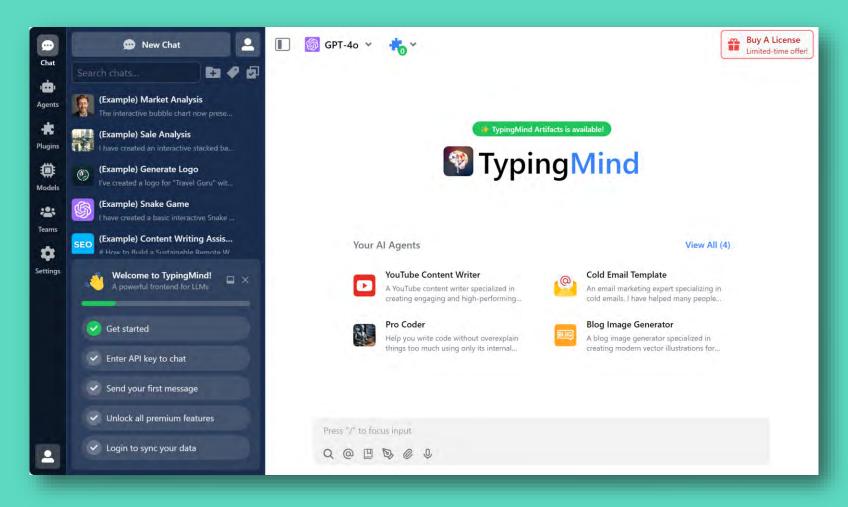




You.com allows you to use multiple Al models (such as GPT and Claude) from a single interface



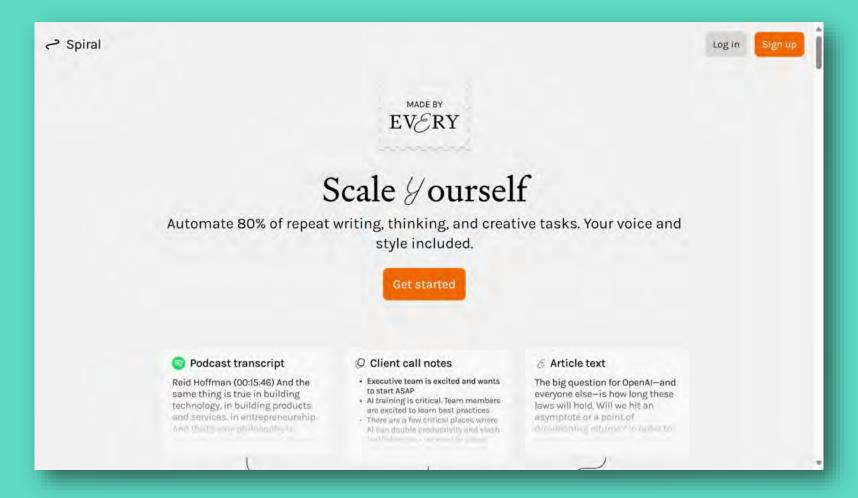




I've heard good stories about TypingMind, too, although I haven't tried it myself yet

### Texts

writing, editing, translating



There's a whole array of AI tools out there, like Spiral, that assist you in crafting texts with AI

Contact Sales

Get Grammarly It's free

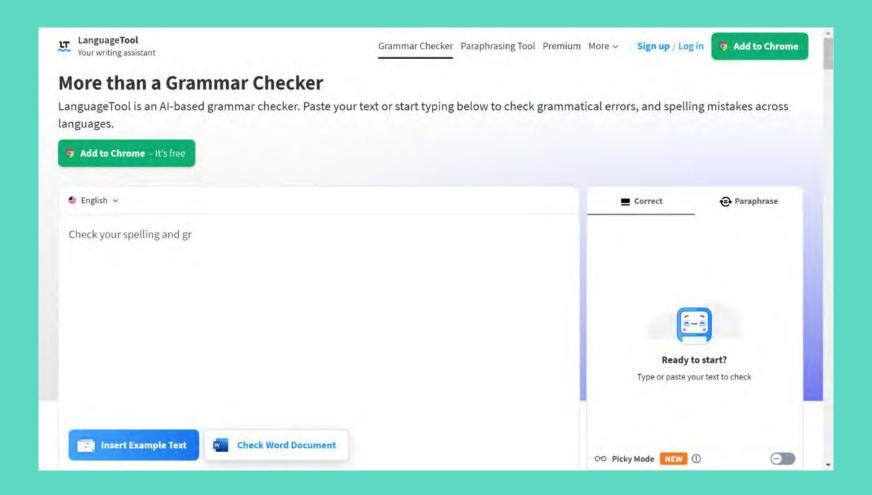
G grammarly Product v Work v Education v Pricing Resources v



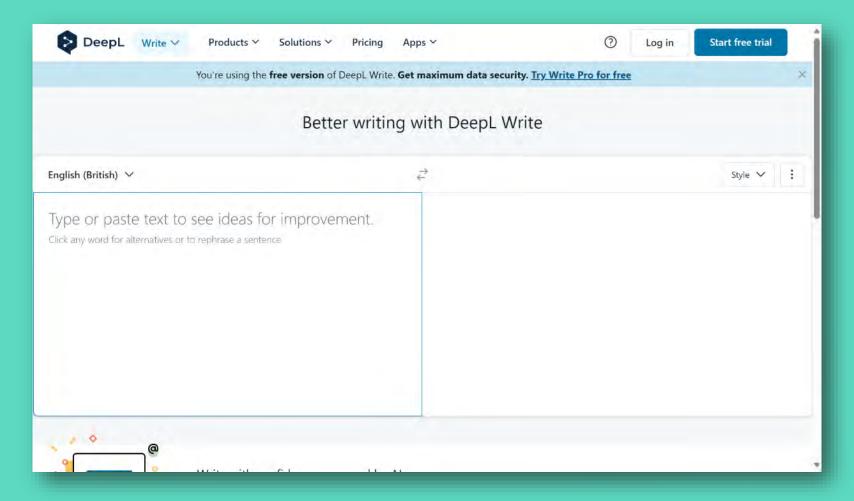
ProWritingAid offers the same service, and gives you smart suggestions to elevate your writing

### [1] Specialized tools with AI

7

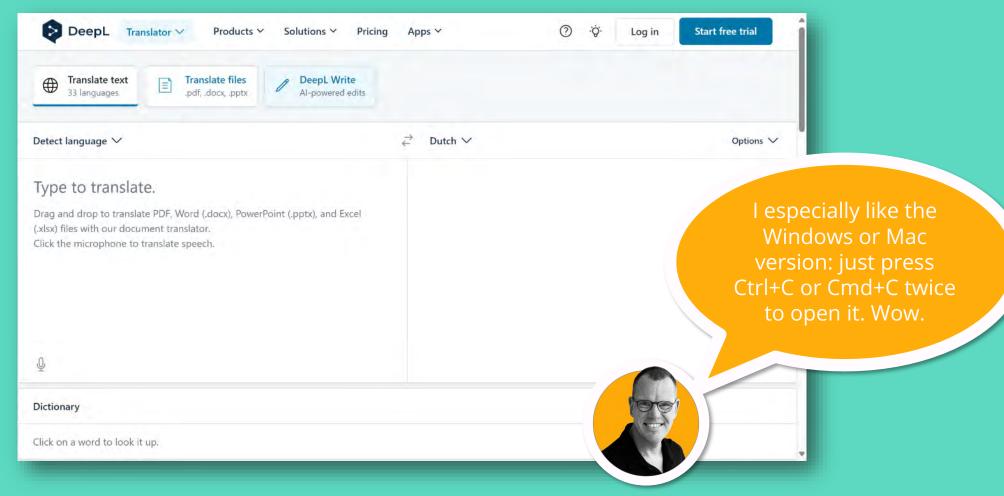


LanguageTool also helps with quick and accurate language checks, making sure you always come across as professional and error-free



With DeepL Write, you can effortlessly rephrase your texts. Sometimes, it's really useful to express things a bit more elegantly



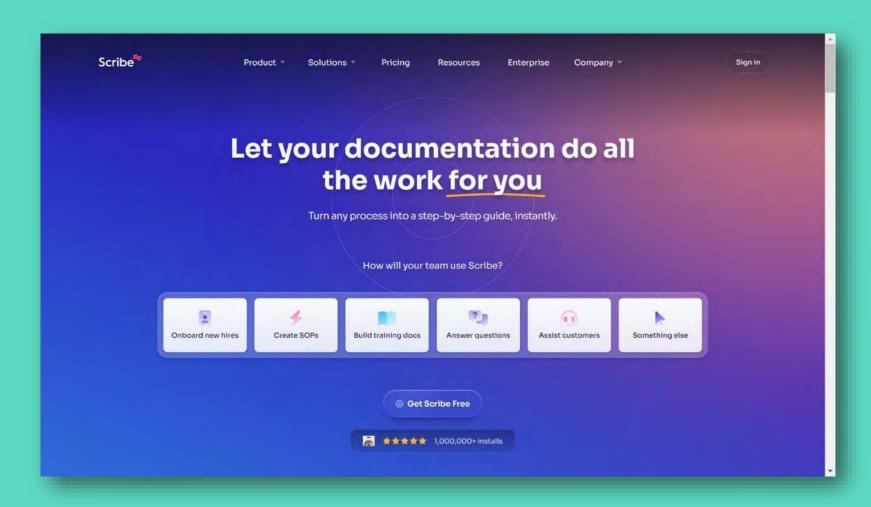


DeepL Translate lets you translate not just individual sentences but entire business documents with just the push of a button

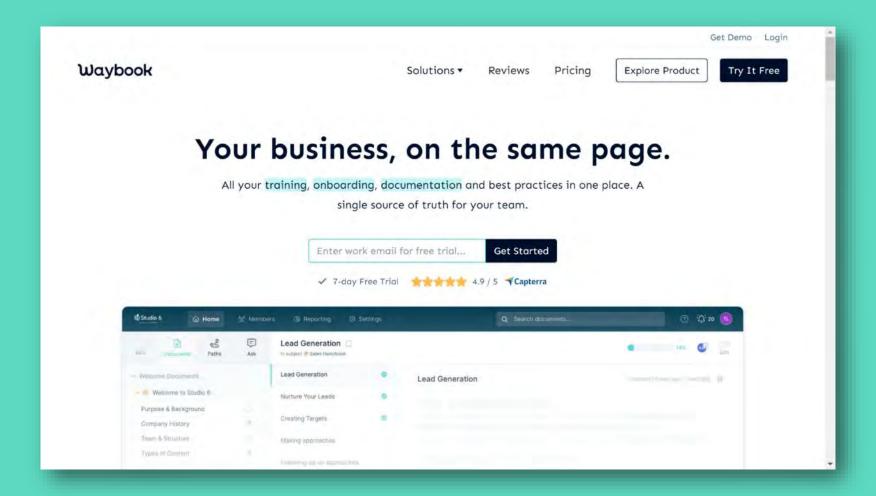


# Standard Operating Procedures

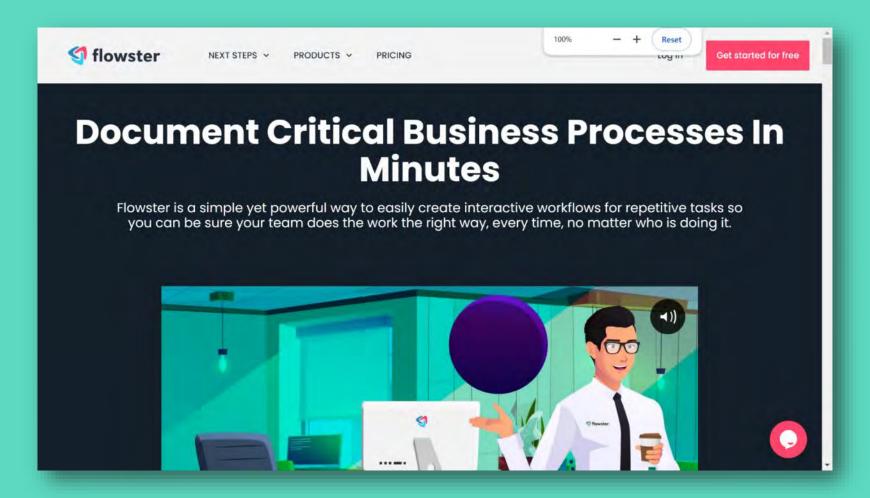
record, explain, review



I don't know any leader who relishes creating procedures for routine tasks. Fortunately, tools like Scribehow can now handle that automatically for you!



Waybook is another app where you can document step-by-step processes and effortlessly share visual guides, helping your team work more efficiently

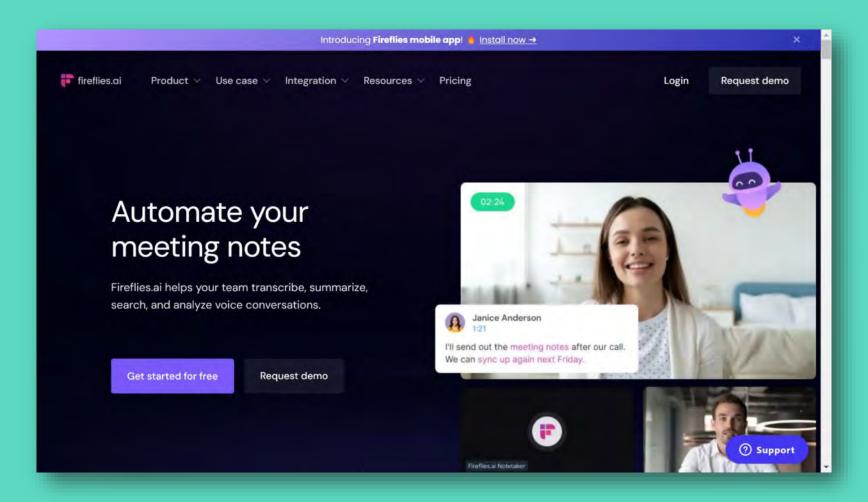


Flowster is another option for streamlining business processes by creating detailed workflows. This way, your team won't overlook anything

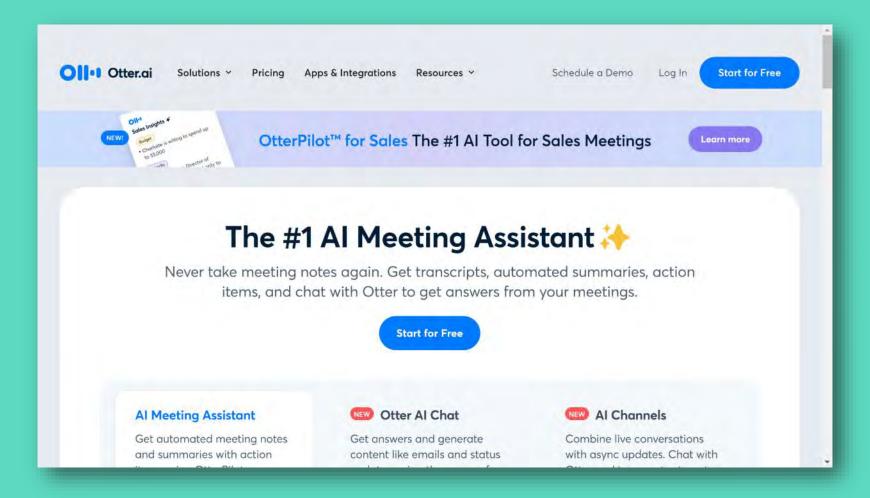
## Meetings

transcribing, notes, minutes

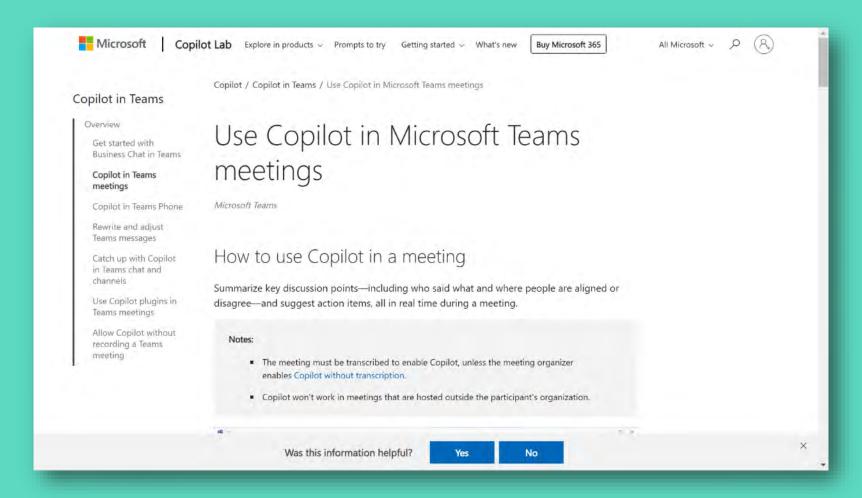




With Fireflies.ai, you automatically record meetings, generate transcripts, and gather key insights



Otter.ai can also do that for you. This saves you time and ensures you don't miss anything crucial. Sharing notes becomes easier as well



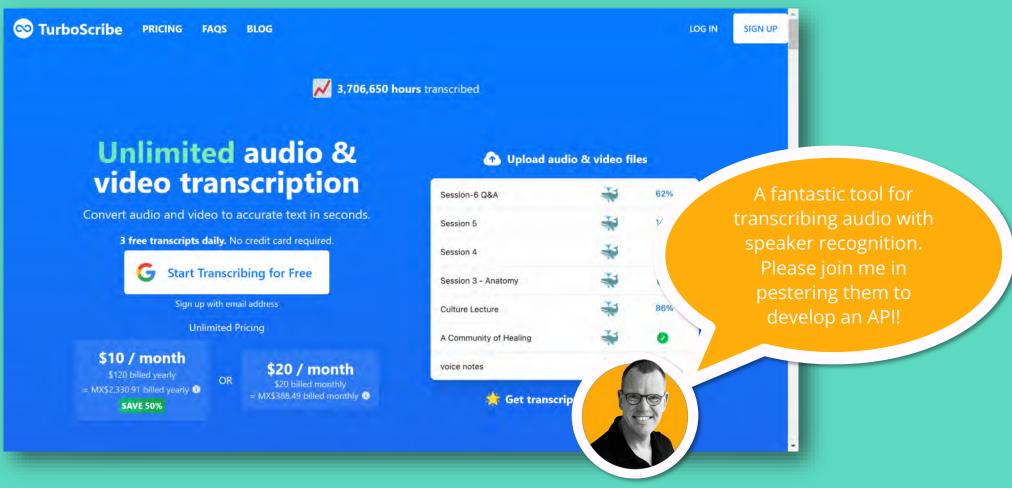
Microsoft Copilot can also help you with taking minutes and sharing online meetings

# Meetings

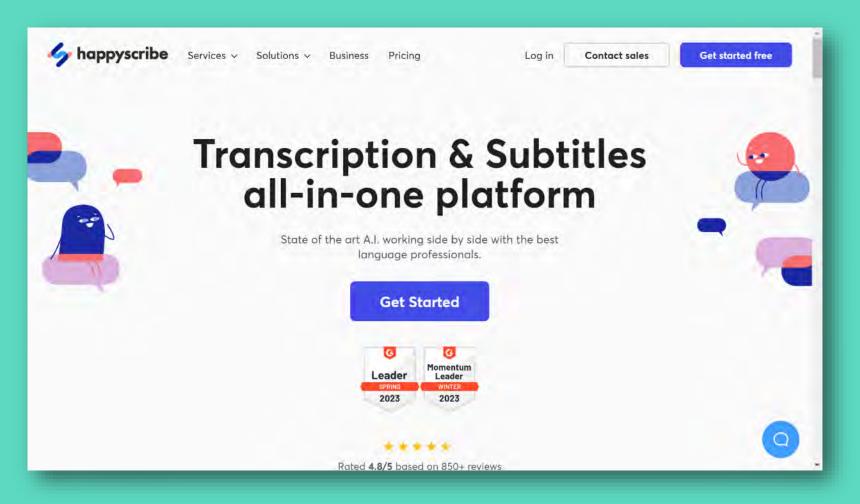


### Audio

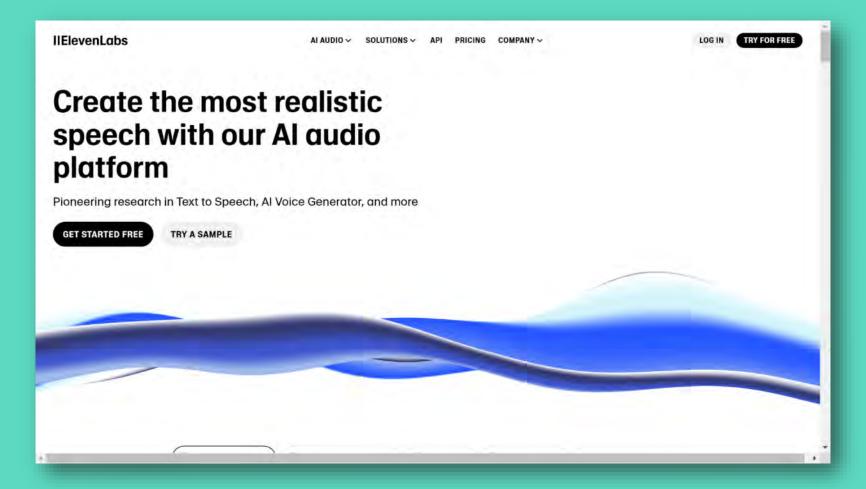
transcribe, generate



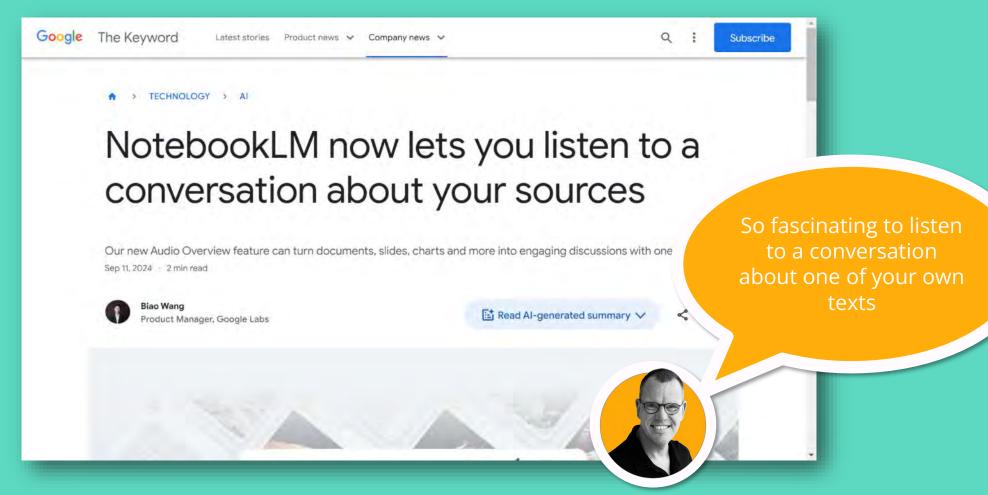
Tools like Turboscribe.ai don't integrate directly into your meetings, but they do create transcripts from individual audio and video files.



I've heard great things about HappyScribe, too. Personally, I find reading these kinds of transcripts both more enjoyable and faster than having to watch entire videos



On the flip side, ElevenLabs.io can read your texts aloud with incredibly lifelike voices. Handy for voice-overs and other audio content

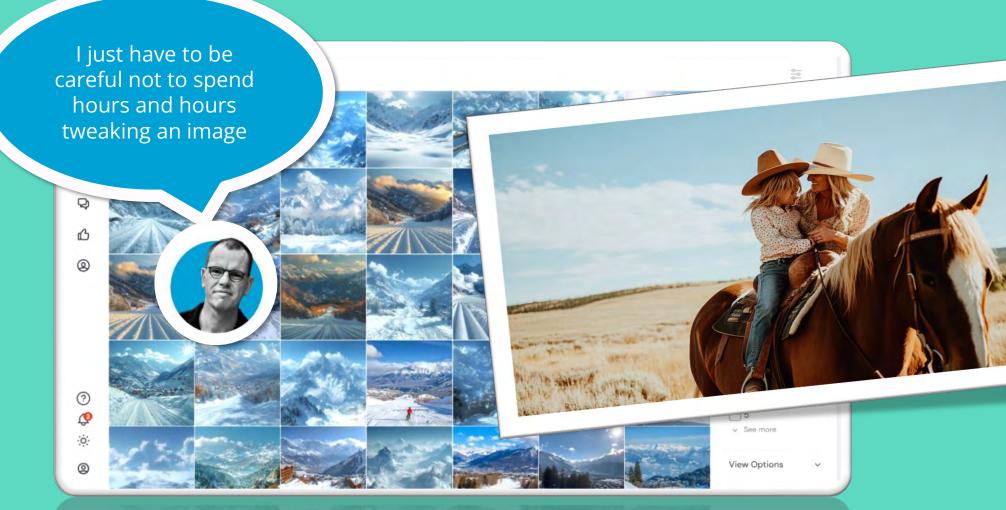


NotebookLM from Google is a comprehensive tool for collecting and processing texts. One of its coolest features is the ability to create 'podcasts' based on an article or any other text you provide



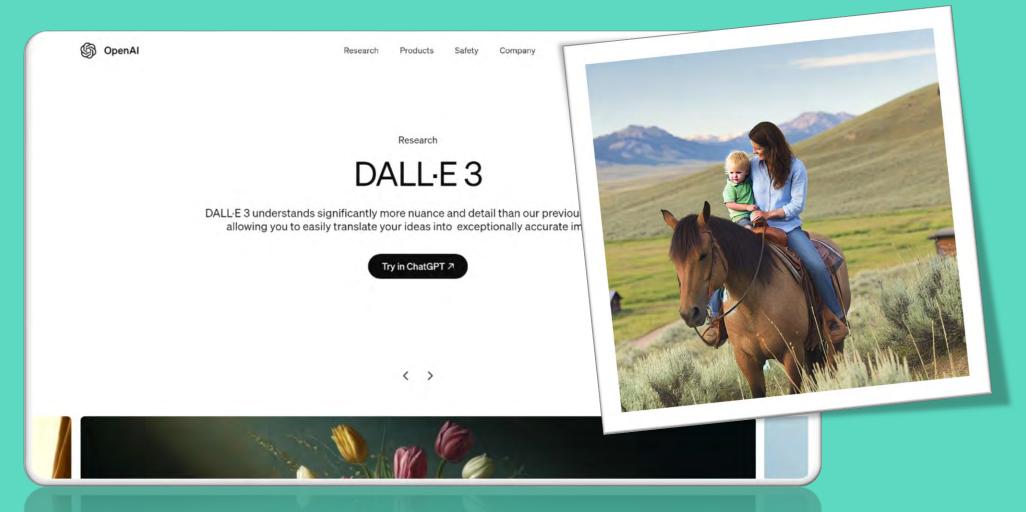
# Images

generate, convert texts



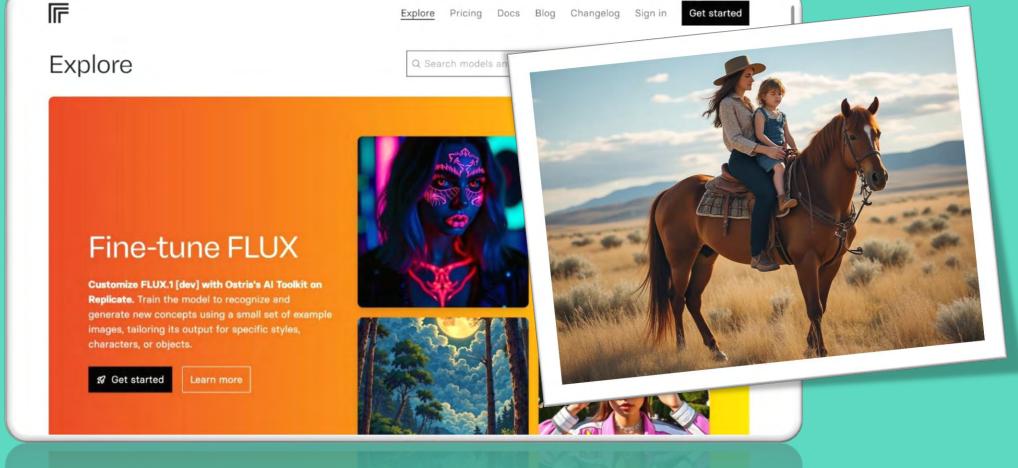
With Midjourney, you create images based on simple text and quickly bring your creative ideas to life



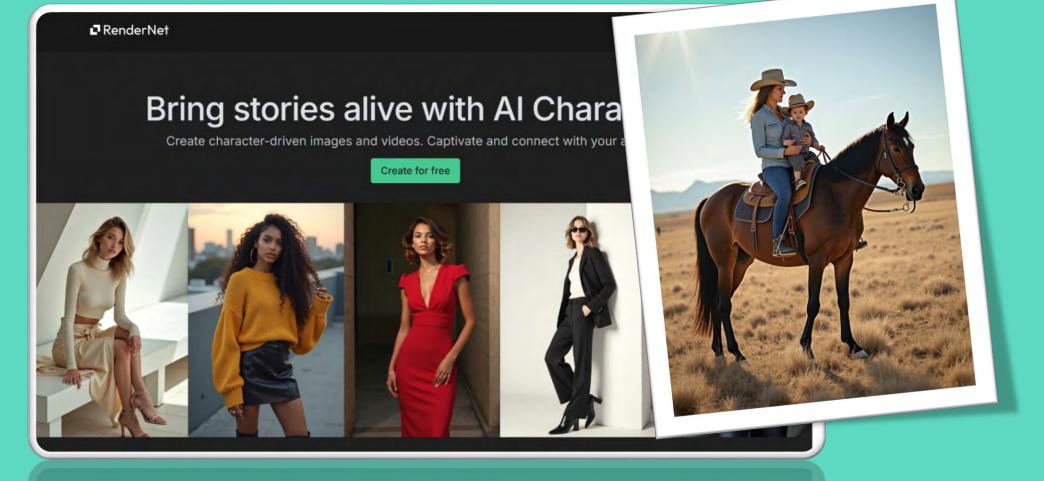


You can also generate images with DALL-E. It's integrated into ChatGPT, so you can give your instructions right there

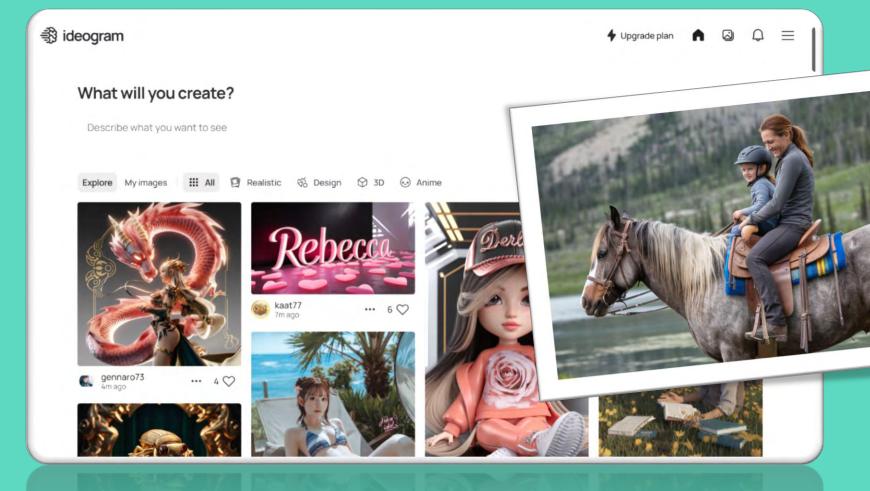
Get started



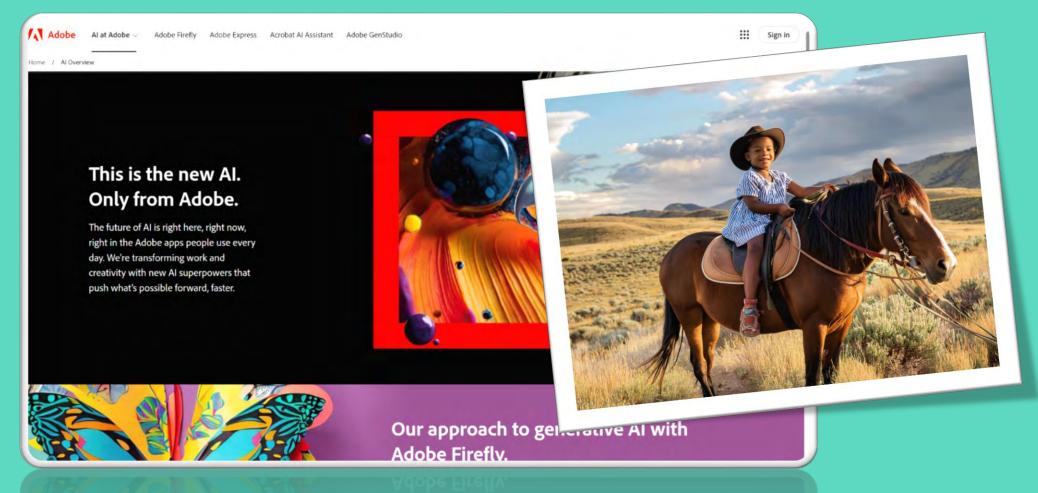
Flux is particularly good at handling hands and texts, which were often challenging for earlier AI image generators



Rendernet is specially designed to consistently feature a particular main character or persona. Very useful if your brand has a mascot



ideogram can integrate relatively long texts into the generated images. Perfect for creating images with banners or billboards



And of course, Adobe offers various AI tools for image generation and editing, for example in Photoshop and Illustrator



I use this quite often when taking pictures of a book on my Kindle, or of a manual

Did you know that your favorite AI chatbot can also read and type out texts from images, known as OCR (Optical Character Recognition)?

### Sketches

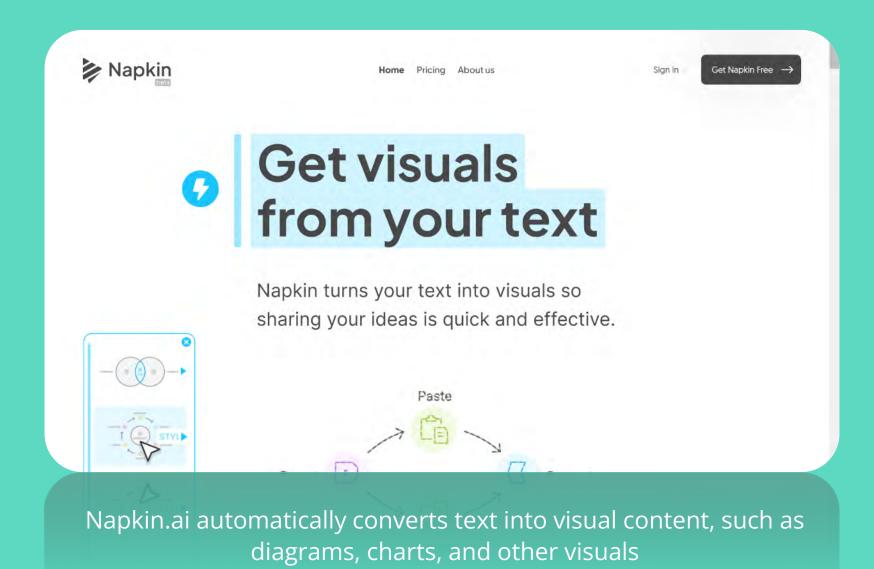
diagrams, drawings



Sketchwow.com is a design tool for visually appealing, hand-drawn diagrams, workflows, and presentations — now also with Al









### Find Me on Social Media

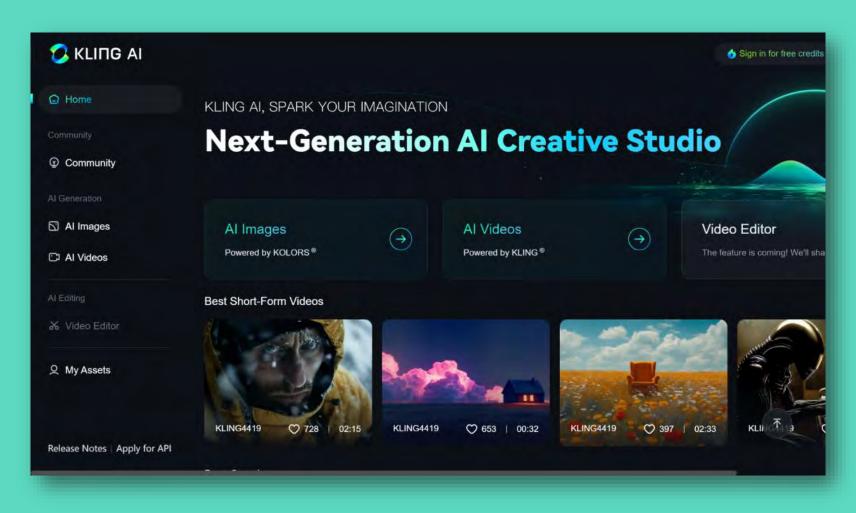
I'd love to share news, tips, inspiration, and my personal stories with you





## Video

generate, edit

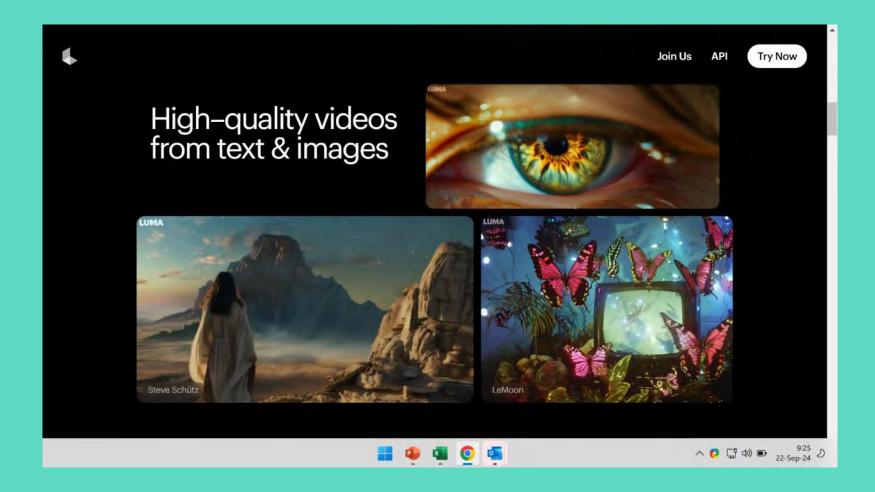


With tools like klingai.com, you can create videos purely based on your own text descriptions

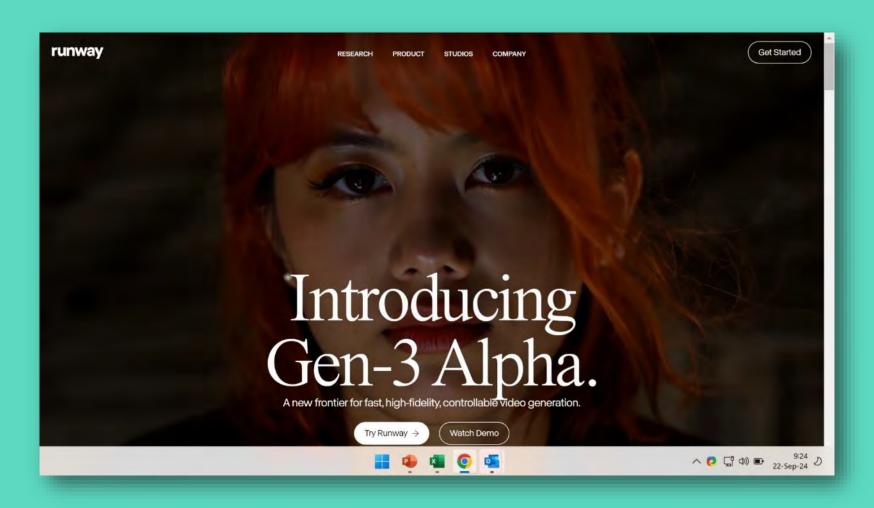




The MiniMax model from hailuoai.com/video is among the best video generators available right now



Lumalabs.ai also receives a lot of praise for the quality of its generated videos

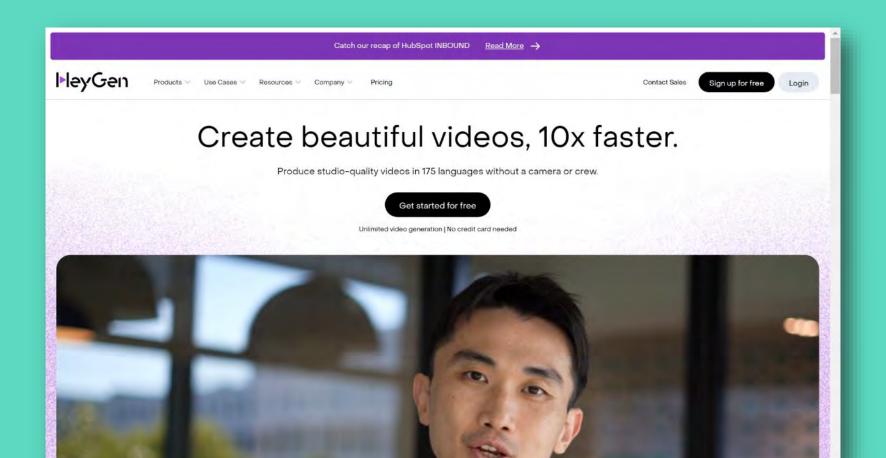


Just like runwayml.com, by the way

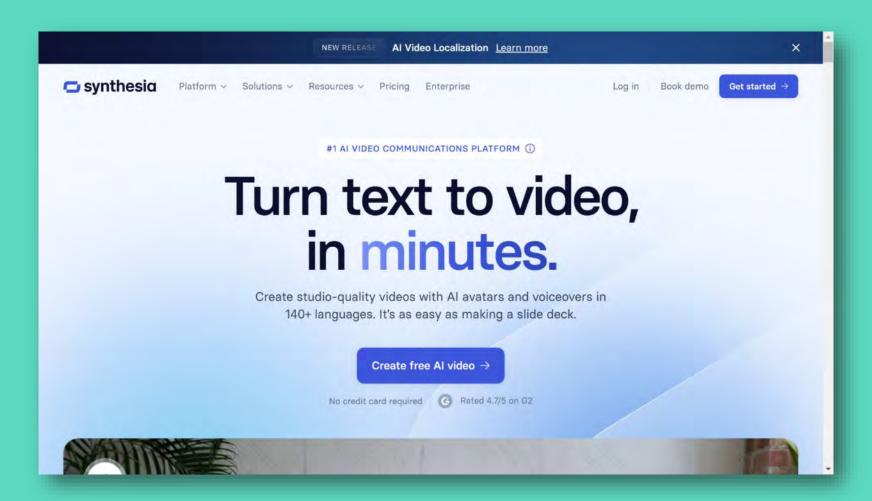


### X

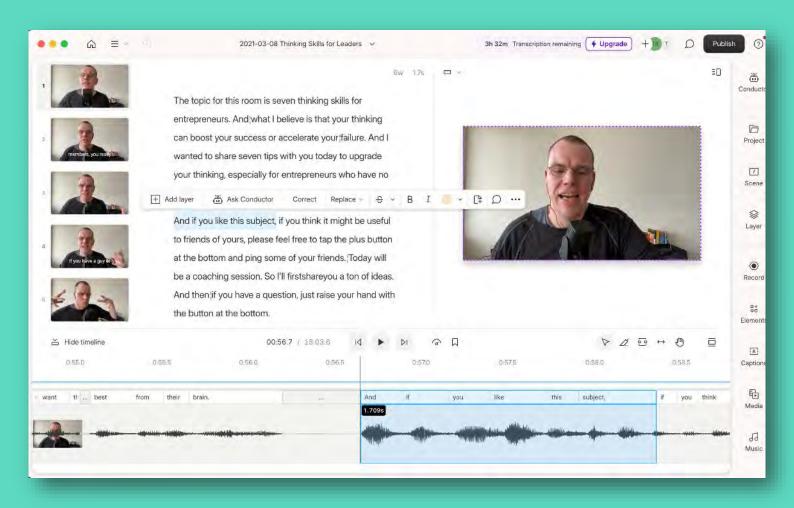




Heygen.com is used more in the business market, among other things, for creating talking-head videos



Synthesia.io does that too. You can use these types of tools to create instructional videos, for example

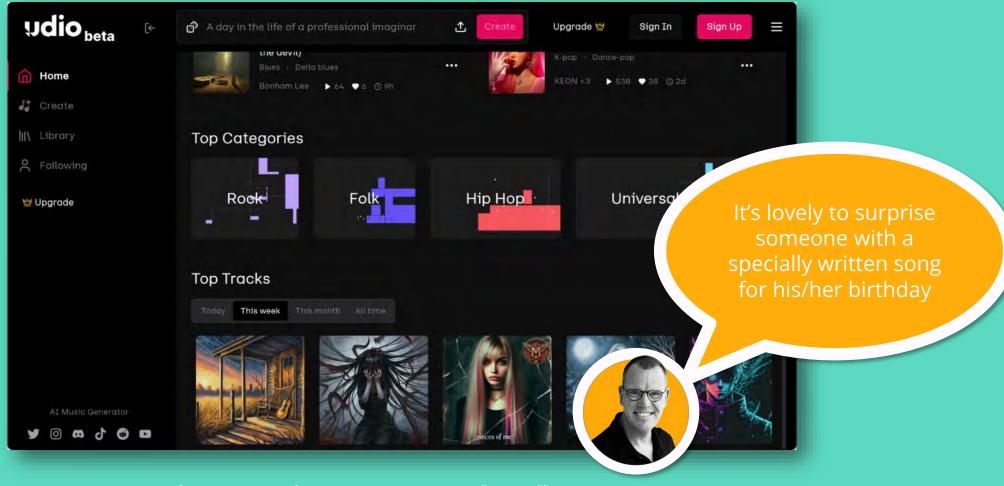


I've been using Descript.com for years. It lets you edit videos just by editing the transcribed text—it's that simple



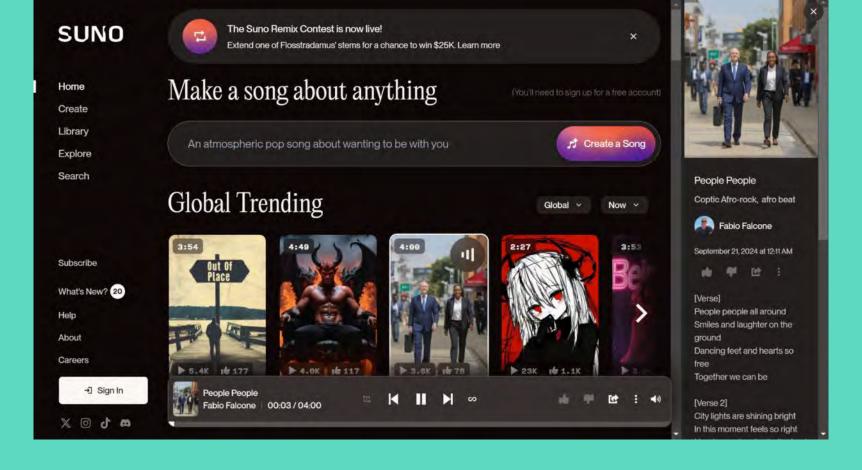
## Music

generate songs



More and more tools are emerging that allow you to create music with AI, such as udio.com





Suno.com is in the mix too. I'm not entirely sure how this might benefit your leadership, but thought it's too cool not to mention



## And if you're looking for even more AI tools...





Looking for even more specialized AI tools? Just head over to theresanaiforthat.com

That was just the first batch of tips. More is on the way, so stick around.

Right now, I'm really curious to hear what has caught your eye so far. What resonated with you? What are you planning to take and run with?

In the meantime, please do share this inspiration book with other entrepreneurs and leaders.

And don't forget to share your successes with me, too. Go ahead, tag me (@tomsharpsays), or use the #aileadership tag.

If I spot your post, I'd absolutely love to drop in with a personal response.

How cool would it be to give you a virtual high-five?



## AI Chatbots

The second step

## [2] AI Chatbots

[5] Machine Learning

[4] Software Development

[3] No/Low-Code Tools

[2] Al Chatbots

[1] Specialized Tools with Al

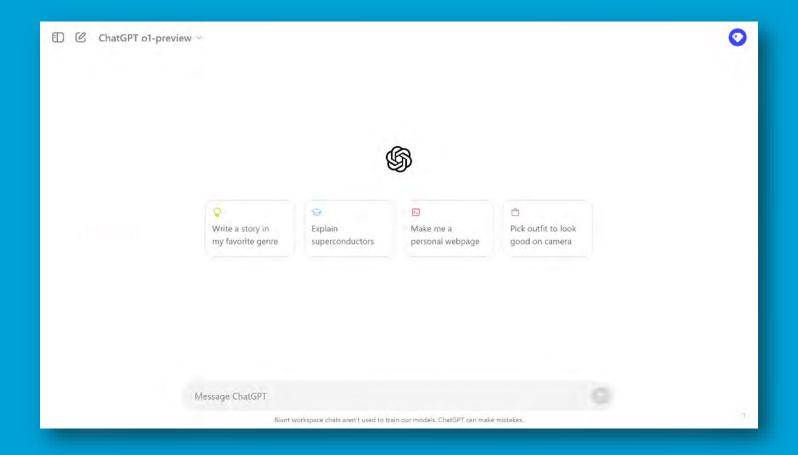
Moving a step up from specialized AI tools, we're climbing the ladder to work with AI chatbots like ChatGPT and Claude.

Just like with most people, it's best to ask them things they're already good at.

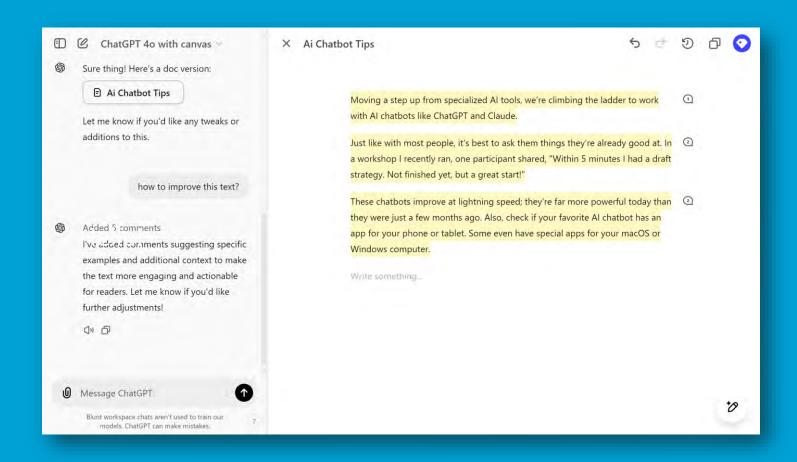
In a workshop I recently ran, one participant shared, "Within 5 minutes I had a draft strategy. Not finished yet, but a great start!"

These chatbots improve at lightning speed; they're far more powerful today than they were just a few months ago.

Also, check if your favorite AI chatbot has an app for your phone or tablet. Some even have special apps for your macOS or Windows computer.



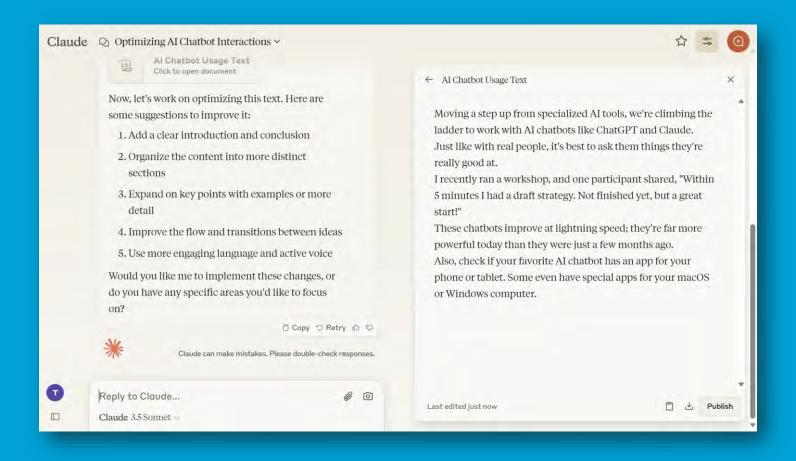
ChatGPT is the most used AI chatbot. OpenAI, the creator, continually launches new models, like the recent o1, which doesn't just respond right away, but first attempts to reason what the best answer to your question might be



With the new Canvas feature, you can talk with ChatGPT (on the left) about the document (on the right). Keeps things nice and organized

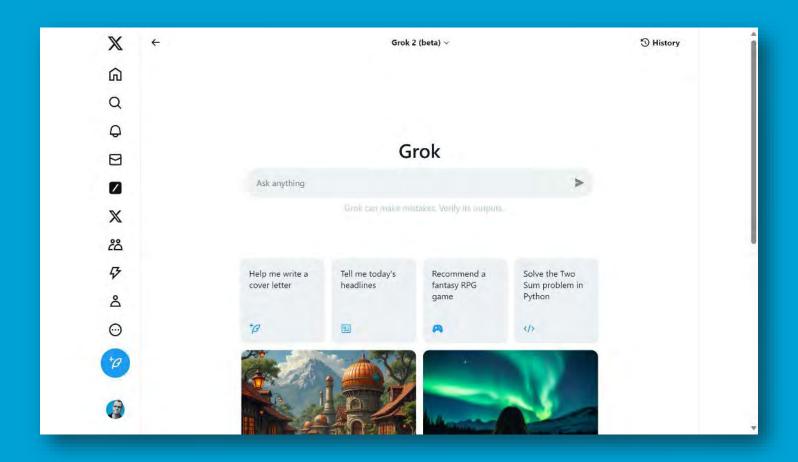


Claude is another well-known model. I often switch between Claude and ChatGPT. Sometimes one outshines the other, and sometimes they help unravel what the other got tangled in. It's a bit of a dance, really, with each stepping up when the other gets stuck



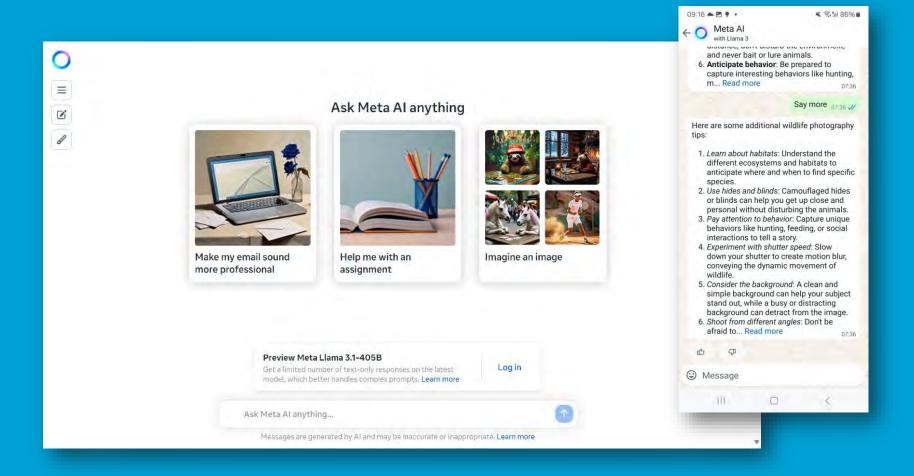
Claude was the first to introduce their Artifacts feature, which lets you chat with the model on the left while viewing a document on the right. ChatGPT now has a similar feature called 'Canvas,' but the standout thing about Artifacts is that it can even execute code for simple programs

### [2] Al Chatbots

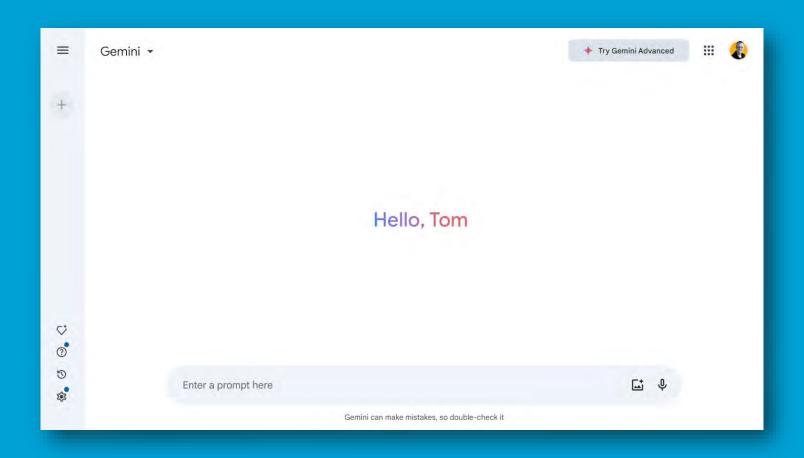


Grok is the Al model integrated into X/Twitter, for paid users. The xAl team is super ambitious, and I'm really curious to see how their model evolves

### [2] Al Chatbots



Llama is Meta's Al model, and you can actually chat with it directly in WhatsApp



Gemini is one of Google's Al models, known for its large memory capacity and its multi-modal capabilities, meaning it can handle images and even video effectively



Mistral is a French Al model of European origin. No surprise, then, that their chatbot is called "Le Chat"



Al chatbots can help you with all sorts of things. I've got more ideas and inspiration on that coming up.

One of the surprising talents of these chatbots is how good they are at assist you with your leadership. How cool is that?

*Let's see how that works.* 



# Leadership



# What is Leadership?

What is leadership? Here's my definition for today: "Helping people work together to make dreams come true."

Leadership is about improving lives—whether it's people, animals, or the world as a whole.

By the way, that was a pretty radical idea for most of history. Honestly, it still is!

Ultimately, I believe good leadership isn't about us as leaders. It's about doing it for others.

But that doesn't mean you're unimportant.

Quite the opposite!

My definition of leadership: 'Helping people work together — to make dreams come true'













## Tom's Leadership Model



In my leadership model, you'll find seven areas, seven competencies, seven facets.

We'll work from the ground up, starting with the foundation: 'Profile.' Profile is all about you: who you are.

If you want to let AI assist you in effective leadership, I suggest starting there too—right at the bottom.

Improving your leadership begins with you, and your unique profile.

# Leading with AI

Helping people work together — to make dreams come true, with the help of a computer or machine that performs tasks that normally require human intelligence.



# Lead in a Way that Truly Suits You: Profile



## Lead in a Way that Truly Suits You: Profile

**Profile is who you are at your core.** It's more than just your personality. It encompasses your passions, experiences, talents, dreams, knowledge, limitations, pitfalls, your unique manual, and all the things you're great at—as well as everything you'd rather never do again. Everything. Absolutely everything about you.

**That's why it's so vital for leadership.** Your profile impacts nearly every part of your work. And, of course, the work of your team members, each with their own unique profiles.

Let's see how AI can help you work more from your profile.







Upload the reports of all the personality tests you've ever taken and ask your favorite AI chatbot for tips on how you, in particular, can lead best

Then go ahead and ask for ideas and suggestions about your strengths and how to best utilize them in your work



Look at this report. What pitfalls and weaknesses is this person likely to have?

Name 3 pitfalls/weaknesses for each pillar of the Kolbe test. For each potential pitfall or weakness, provide at least 5 concrete suggestions to solve or avoid problems.



Do the same with your weaknesses, and ask for concrete suggestions on how to avoid or solve them, for instance based on the Kolbe-A test Please give me 20 insights to become a better leader for the person with the attached Kolbe profile

Based on the Kolbe A Index results for Tom, here are 20 insights to help him become a better leader:

- 1. Embrace your natural ability to simplify complex information. Use this skill to communicate vision and strategy clearly to your team.
- 2. Leverage your adaptability in organizing tasks. This flexibility can help you navigate changing business environments more effectively.
- 3. Capitalize on your strength in improvisation. This can be valuable in crisis management and quick decision-making situations.
- 4. Utilize your talent for restoration in maintaining and improving existing systems and processes.
- 5. Encourage brainstorming and idea generation sessions, as your Quick Start strength (10) indicates you excel in innovative thinking.
- 6. Be aware that you may need to make a conscious effort to provide detailed

Reply to Claude...

Claude 3.5 Sonnet v

I think this is much more fun and useful than just reading a report from a personality test

The first couple of a whole series of valuable insights from Claude

Brainstorm with your AI chatbot about what kind of exceptionally valuable work truly suits you. Not just for now, but also for 2-5 years down the road

Ask an AI chatbot for tips to make your work more enjoyable for you. Ideally, again based on your personality test reports

43



### Gather ideas to relax, based on your profile. That's very important given all the thinking you do as a leader

Brainstorm with an AI chatbot about what kind of people you need in your team to perfectly complement you. That makes delegating a lot easier, too





[2] Al Chatbots

46

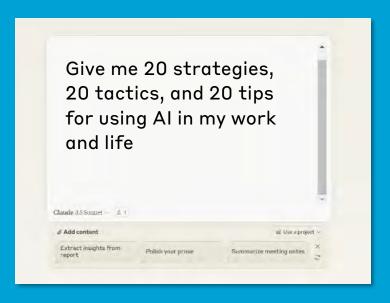
Ask questions about your collaboration with your colleagues—especially helpful if you're allowed to upload their personality tests as well

Brainstorm with an AI chatbot about all the work you'd like to offload as soon as possible—then make plans together on how to make that happen

47



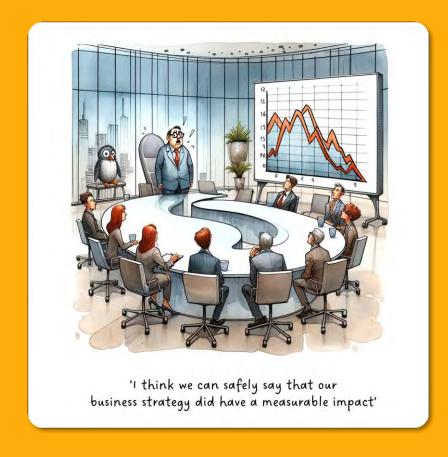
48



Ask for a whole series of concrete tips, ideas, and tactics to benefit from adding AI to your work



# Develop Solid Strategies to Tackle Persistent Problems



### Trust Go Away! Delegate Communicate Team Strategy **Profile**

## Develop Solid Strategies to Tackle Persistent Problems

### Right after Profile comes Strategy.

Here, strategy is an umbrella term. It covers just about everything you're consciously doing to make good decisions. This includes research, defining your strategy, tactics, planning, evaluation, and so on.

Many people prefer to ignore problems.

Smart leaders don't.

Some people rush to solve problems quickly.

Wise leaders avoid that too.

The most effective leaders aim to tackle the underlying 'Core Challenge' rather than just the symptoms.

Addressing one root cause instead of a hundred separate symptoms lets you achieve much more with your energy and time.

### Strategy for Freeing Up Time

After pinning down your profile, building solid strategies is probably the most valuable move to free up your time.

Think of it as navigating through a jungle—the better the plan, the shorter the trek. Fewer mountain passes to conquer and less chance of running into bears, lions, or those pesky mosquitoes.

People love a leader who plots the most efficient course. The fewer miles and detours, the more time you have for everything else.

On the right, you'll find my strategy wheel, which maps out the whole process. I can't get into all the nitty-gritty details in this inspiration book, but I hope the following suggestions and tips already prove helpful to you.





49

I am working on a new strategy to achieve my goal, but I want to ensure that my goal is extremely clear. Interview me and help me refine my goal so that it becomes SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound). Ask one question at a time.

### Make your vague goals super concrete by having an AI chatbot interview you



## Literally talk to your AI Chatbot

In the ChatGPT app on your smartphone, you can literally chat with an Al, using your voice and ears.

For many leaders, this is the ideal way to brainstorm with an Al chatbot. Use it in your car, while taking a walk, or when sunbathing.

ChatGPT's new advanced speech model makes this back-andforth communication smoother than ever.











Brainstorm with your chatbot to create a list of all the data you could gather before building a new strategy

Some of that information, especially about markets or other external developments, can probably be found by your AI chatbot itself—also check out Perplexity



**52** 

building solid strategies—

I am building a solid strategy and have made a list of current obstacles. Can you help me find the underlying Core Challenge (the Bottleneck according to Eli Goldratt, or the Crux according to Richard Rumelt)? I want to address the cause, not the symptoms. It would help if I could create a Current Reality Tree, but I don't have the software and am not sure how to do it. Interview me, one question at a time, and help me identify my current Core Challenge.

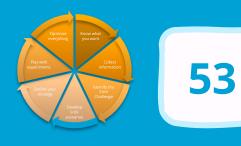








[2] Al Chatbots



Brainstorm with the help of an AI to come up with at least 9 to even 99 completely different scenarios to solve your Core Challenge

Have the entire list of scenarios sorted by how cheap and easy they are to implement





#### Ask an AI chatbot to help you combine the very best scenarios into a comprehensive strategic plan

Then, have an interview about that strategy to truly make it a 'good strategy' based on Rumelt's criteria





[2] Al Chatbots





Come up with a few small experiments together, to test the most risky parts of your strategy on a small scale

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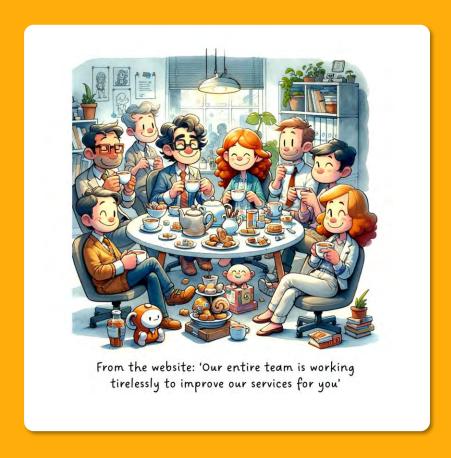
Have a brainstorming session with your chatbot to generate a series of optimizations for everything you're testing out in your new strategy







# Build a Top Team with Top Talent for Top Performance





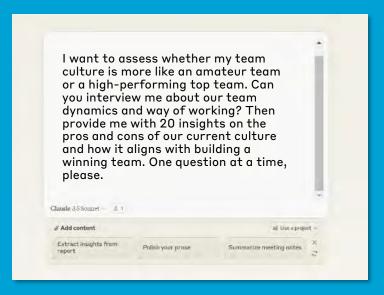
### **Build a Top Team with Top Talent for Top Performance**

The third competency of leadership is building and upgrading **your team**. Some leaders get to create brand-new teams, but most of us aim to upgrade the team we already have.

By the way, you don't do this work just for yourself. It's much better for your people too, to work in a top-notch team rather than a casual, amateur level one.

I can't spill too much details from my one-on-one coaching, but if you see how much time, money, and heartache is involved in dealing with team members who aren't the right fit, you'll be motivated to sort this out as soon as possible.





Ask an AI to interview you and challenge your thinking to decide between building a top-tier team, or to settle for a more casual group of people

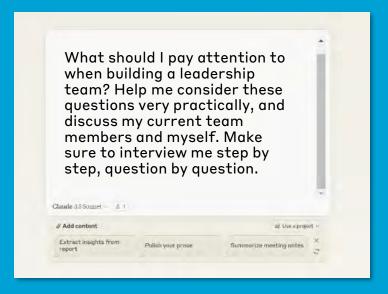




Let your AI chatbot assist you in crafting a "Dream Orgchart", my term for an organizational chart designed for two years down the road

With the help of your chatbot, create very clear job descriptions for each role, each "hat," in your dream organizational chart





Seek help from AI to create a solid plan for building your leadership team so that you no longer have to manage everyone by yourself

Team up with AI to create a recruitment campaign that resonates with the hearts of the top candidates for your job opening

I don't have space to elaborate on the whole excellent in helping you of your target audience

Work with your chatbot to create a 'funnel' that lets you efficiently filter for applicants who truly fit you and your team





Brainstorm with an AI to create a solid plan for welcoming new team members and onboarding them smoothly

Get interviewed about a team member who isn't functioning well and ask for suggestions on how you can help them fix it



#### Come up with a plan together with AI to encourage your team members to increasingly use AI

Dream, with some help from a chatbot, about building a beautiful, healthy team culture—even for the next hundred years, why not?

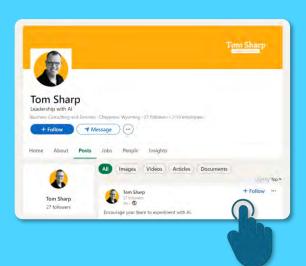




### Let's Meet on Social Media

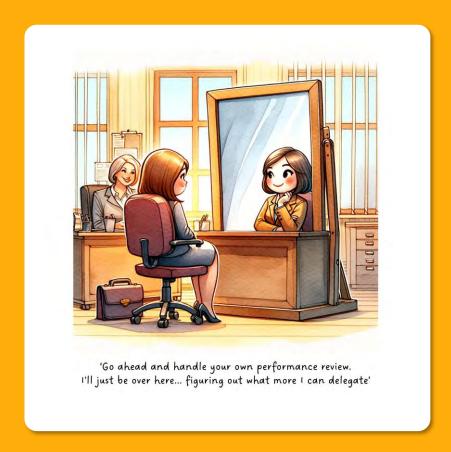
There, I gladly share more knowledge, tips, inspiration, and personal experiences with you:







# Smart and Shameless Delegation



## **Smart and Shameless Delegation**

Delegation is the fourth competency of good leadership, and it seems pretty straightforward.

But let's be honest. Most leaders are hard workers. Chances are, you are too. It's part of what makes you successful and why you got promoted or started your own business.

The tricky part is not shifting gears enough and sticking with the mindset of "I solve problems by just working a little harder." Makes sense, because that's what always worked.

But when you do that, are you really leading?







Use an AI chatbot to brainstorm about how you currently handle delegation. Then, go back and forth to reflect on and refine your approach

Seek guidance in crafting your vision of ideal delegation. Ask for ideas to implement your preferred methods effectively

Get support in exploring and addressing underlying emotions, such as shame or perfectionism, that hold you back from delegating more

Let an AI calculate your costs per hour, giving you a clearer picture of your worth and helping you make more effective decisions

#### Provide a list of routine tasks to an AI and ask for a categorization into Nickel, Silver, and Gold Tasks

Practice with AI tools to implement more effective delegation strategies and refine them even further

I want to improve my delegation skills. Can you interview me about my current process, what works well, and what I struggle with? Then suggest specific skills I need to develop and offer exercises or other resources to help me with that.

Ask your favorite chatbot to practice with you to improve your delegation skills



Use AI to determine which tasks are best delegated to whom, taking into account the individual profiles of your team members

Prepare clear briefings with the help of AI to efficiently and thoroughly delegate tasks, projects, and processes



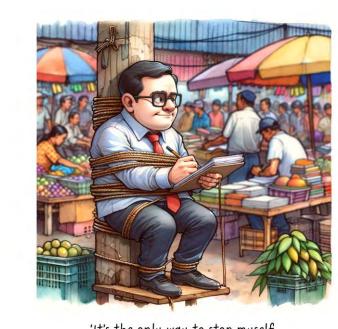




Develop an approach for ensuring the quality of delegated work without resorting to micromanagement



## **Clear Communication**



'It's the only way to stop myself from checking my email all the time'

### **Clear Communication**



The fifth aspect of leadership is communication. Without it, there isn't really a team—you're just a bunch of individuals.

By the way, here's my favorite definition: "Communication: the art of talking past each other as closely as possible."

But how do you make that happen? It likely depends on your profile. Are you extroverted or introverted? A creator or a manager?

Different profiles come with different preferred communication styles.

Use AI to reflect on how you can effectively incorporate your personal profile into the communication with your team members

Let AI assist you in crafting solid strategies for streamlined and effective team communication



I am interested in implementing the 'Railroad Tracks' concept for my team's communication. Can you guide me through this? Ask me about our current work process,

team size, and communication needs.

After each answer, suggest fixed 'tracks' we could experiment with to see how they might help us as a team.



Use AI to brainstorm ways to standardize communication within your team. This can save everybody a ton of meta-communication

Conduct a role-play with AI about introducing binary emails, that can be answered with 'yes' or 'no'

Use AI to think about how you can transition from 'pulling' to the much more proactive 'pushing' in your communication with your team

84

I want to have my team create a dashboard for the key metrics in our work. Can you guide me through this process? Ask me about the most critical aspects of our business, current reporting methods, and my preferences for data visualization. Then provide suggestions for what should be included in the dashboard and how it can be effectively structured. Claude 3,5 Sonnet 4 1 # Add content 1/2 Use a project Extract insights from Summarize meeting notes

Task your team with creating and maintaining weekly dashboards. And, as you expect, ask your favorite chatbot to help you build a good plan to start this process



Chat with your AI about the usefulness of all the meetings within your team. Ask for alternative communication methods that could significantly cut down their number

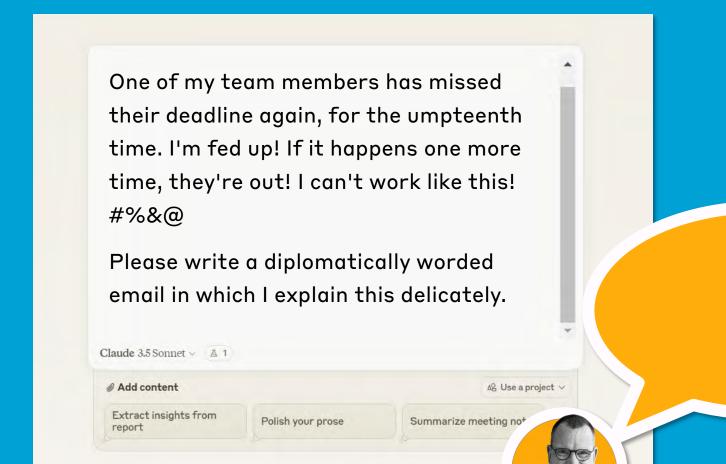
Let AI generate transcripts, summaries, and action point lists from your meetings



Use AI to practice communicating carefully in difficult situations and during potential crises

Have AI transform your heartfelt emails into more diplomatic versions









# Tangible Trust



'Of course I trust you. You're a professional, right?'



# Tangible Trust



#### The sixth competency of leadership revolves around trust.

If your team members can't trust you, how can they truly work well for you, right?

But if that's true, it works the other way around too: if you cannot trust your own team members, how can you effectively work with them?

If they want to work for you, you need to be able to rely on them.



89

Use a chatbot to analyze situations where trust played a critical role. Then, brainstorm concrete steps to strengthen that trust based on those insights

Let AI assist you in exploring the level of trust within your team. Work together to create a list of behaviors that, in your opinion, either build trust or break it down

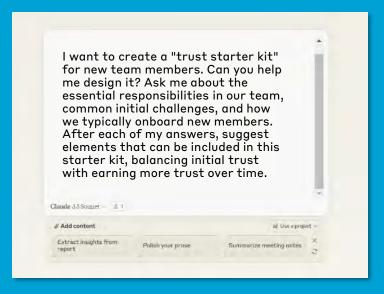


Together with an AI, come up with specific actions to improve trust between different teams or levels within your organization

Get inspired by AI to adopt daily habits that consistently demonstrate reliable behavior



93



Brainstorm specific ways to test and boost trust in your team members, like giving them more responsibility or increasing their autonomy



94

Brainstorm together to find ways to integrate short feedback loops into your work processes. This way, you'll quickly discover who is worthy of your trust

Get your chatbot to help you pinpoint areas in your team where trust is lacking. Then ask for ideas on how to tackle and fix those issues



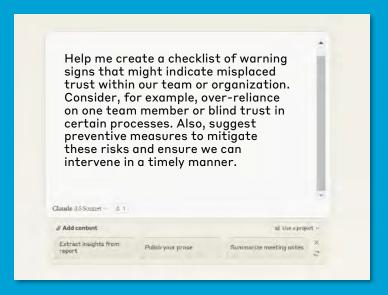
[2] Al Chatbots

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Let yourself be questioned about your lack of trust in a team member. With the help of your favorite chatbot, work together to identify patterns, uncover causes, and explore solutions

Use AI to create a plan for monitoring delegated tasks, ensuring nothing ever slips through the cracks again

98



Have an AI create a checklist for identifying and preventing misplaced trust. Then, collaborate on developing preventive measures



# Go Away!



Another wonderful day of serenity and bliss



# Go Away!



And then the seventh component of good leadership: Go **Away!** Yes, it was kind of tongue-in-cheek. But that doesn't make it any less important.

The best leaders ensure their team doesn't constantly rely on them. Instead, they make sure their people can independently manage the daily operations.

How else will you find time to think deeply? To develop new plans? To build solid strategies?

*And, very important, to relax?* 

[2] Al Chatbots

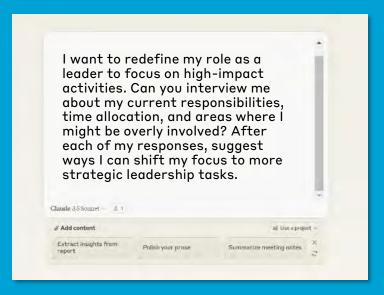


Let AI convince you of how bad it is to solve every problem by working harder. Then ask for tips, ideas, and strategies to break that pattern

Get interviewed to create a clear performance card (job description) for your own role as the leader of your team, including your core tasks and responsibilities



101



Get AI to help analyze the tasks, projects, and processes that eat up your time. Then, ask for ideas to eliminate or delegate anything that doesn't align with your performance goals



Dream with an AI chatbot about your ideal workweek. What does it look like? What's the perfect balance between strategic tasks, pioneering, and relaxation for you?

Use AI to craft a plan for a 'no overtime' policy. Ask for concrete tips to build a culture where overtime is the exception, not the rule

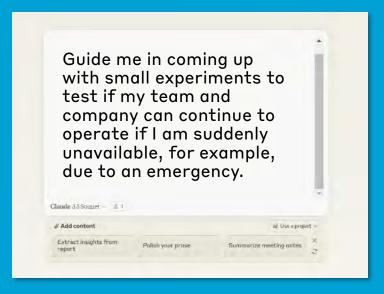


104

Brainstorm with an AI chatbot on how to keep your team running smoothly, even when you're not around

Let an AI interview you about your evenings, weekends, and vacations. Are you truly disconnecting from work? If not, how is that affecting you? What are you missing out on in terms of relaxation, recovery, and inspiration because of it?





Work together to develop small experiments that test whether your team and company can keep running smoothly if you'd suddenly be unavailable



[2] Al Chatbots

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Ask an AI chatbot for suggestions on how to free up significant time for important things that often get overlooked

Chat with an AI chatbot about what's stopping you from seriously considering the future of your team or company in the age of AI. Why, for instance, aren't you yet developing new business models?

Wow, that was a whole series of leadership tips, and we're not done yet.

I know, it may feel a bit overwhelming now.

But once you start seeing the connections between the seven leadership competencies, you'll realize how much you can achieve by truly working from your own profile and building a top-performing team.

Learned something? I'd so appreciate it if you could share this inspiration book with other leaders in your network, and on social media.





## Connect with Me Online

That's where I can share news, offer more tips and inspiration, and share my own struggles and insights with you:





# Other Things I Use AI Chatbots For, Myself

A couple of unrelated ideas from my daily work that will hopefully inspire you as well

### Have Excel formulas built for complex calculations, or complete macros

Ask an AI for all the advantages, disadvantages, and technical challenges for designing a new system



# Ask for lists of words when I need ideas for better term or a new code name

Brainstorm ideas together before I start building a new app



[2] Al Chatbots



Just-in-time learning: explain to me how something works, like the cooling system in an a/c

Figure out how to automatically run a script every hour on my Mac—what a mess that is!





Ask for a summary of a book I read awhile back but want to revisit

Look for examples and real-world applications of a complex, theoretical term









### Find and explain an abbreviation from a field I'm not familiar with

Get a list of different frameworks or models to explore a particular topic



# Ask to have my detailed instructions transformed into a concise prompt for an AI chatbot

Alter the formatting of texts. Quickly zap away extra spaces and tabs, for instance



Review a complete outline on a topic and get advice on which points are the most interesting and important

Spot the deepest or most surprising insights in a text I wrote



Transform my jumbled notes into clear, readable text so others can benefit too

Find the perfect saying for a specific expression





Find the lyrics to a song that's been stuck in my head forever, but I just can't seem to track them down

Find the name of the theme song from an old TV series



Find out why I'm getting a specific error message when I start a computer program, what it means, and how I can fix it

Quickly pinpoint and fix an error in a log file packed with hundreds of lines

# No/Low-Code Tools

The third step





# [3] No/Low-Code Tools

[5] Machine Learning [4] Software Development [3] No/Low-Code Tools [2] Al Chatbots [1] Specialized Tools with Al

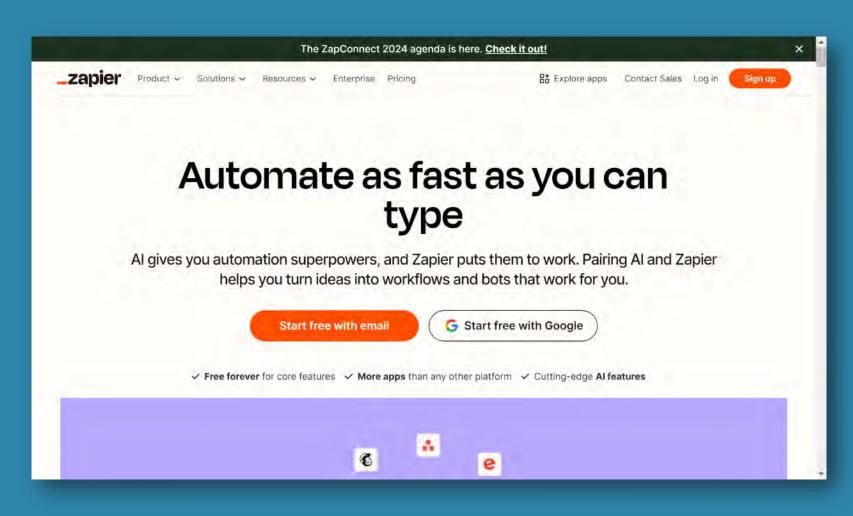
On the next step of the Al ladder, you can begin automating all those tedious routine tasks.

Using no-code or low-code tools, you can "program" without actually writing any "code."

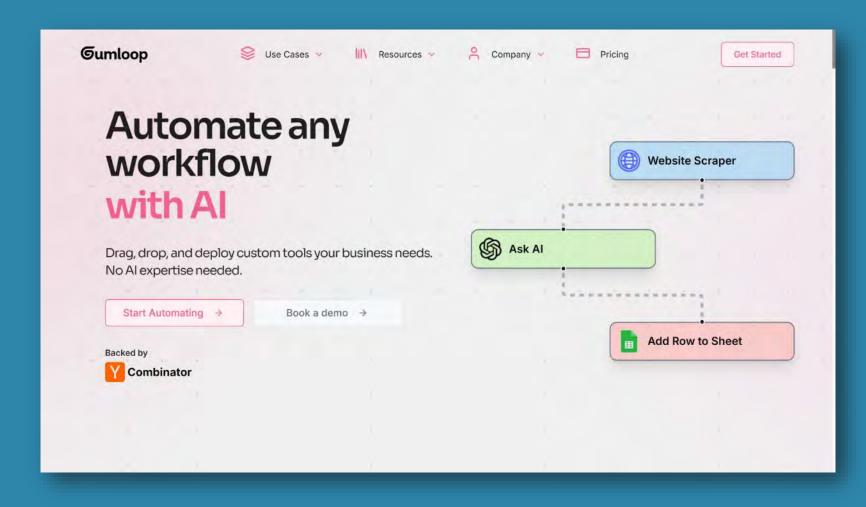
Picture this: a new customer submits a request through your website. Your no-code tool automatically searches their site, creates a summary, drafts a proposal complete with a personal introduction, and builds a draft version of a presentation. How much work would that save your team?

And that's just the start.

# Eliminate Routine Work with AI

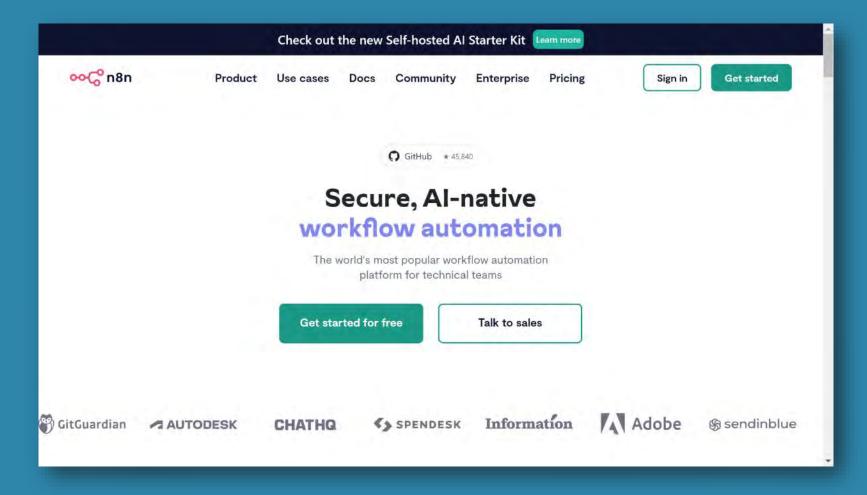


No-code tools like Zapier.com let you set up and execute standard processes without any programming



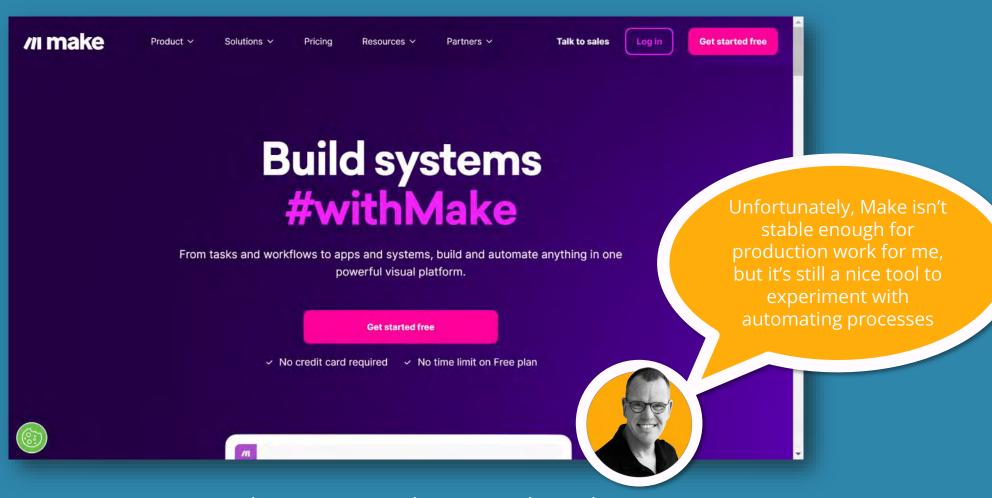
That's why these kinds of tools, such as Gumloop.com, are called no-code tools. It means you don't need to write any code





There are also low-code tools, like n8n. When working with these, you do write some code, but very little, hence "low-code"

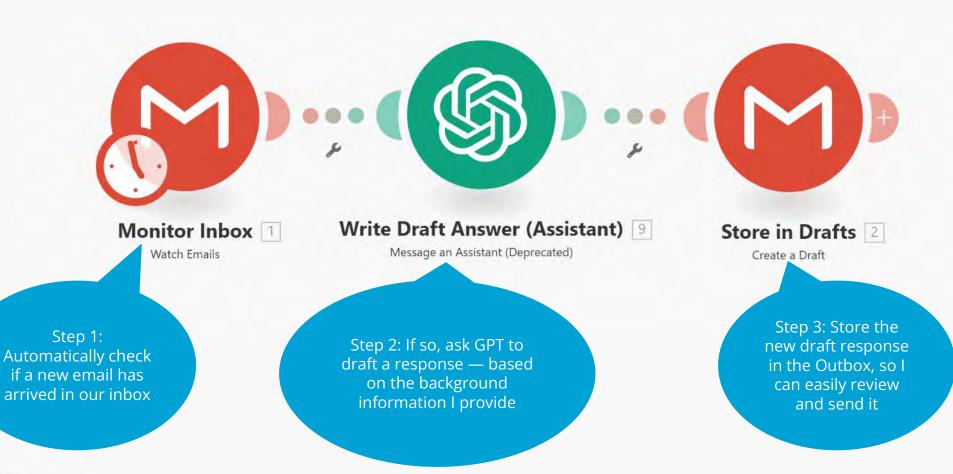




Make.com is another no-code tool. Make is nicely visual, which many people like

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For example, this is a simple procedure (Make calls it a 'scenario') for automatically drafting email responses:



































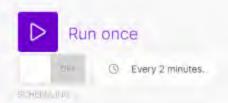


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This scenario checks every 2 minutes if a new audio or video file has been placed in a specific folder and then automatically transcribes it to text

















- Automatically assign tasks to team members based on project updates in tools like Trello or Asana
- Automatically add new leads to your CRM system from web forms or social media.
- Automatically process orders by updating inventory, notifying suppliers, and sending order confirmations upon a sale on the e-commerce platform
- Automatically generate support tickets in the helpdesk system from customer inquiries via email or social media

- Automatically schedule and post content on various social media platforms
- Automatically synchronize data between different applications so all team members have the latest information
- Automatically send personalized email campaigns based on user behavior
- Automatically generate periodic reports by aggregating data from various sources. into a single dashboard



## And...

- Automatically collect RSVPs from registration forms and update event participant lists in real-time
- Automatically send follow-up emails to leads or customers after a certain time or based on their actions
- Automatically post blog updates, announcements, or promotions on social media at optimal times
- Automatically add new leads from web forms to the CRM and assign follow-up tasks

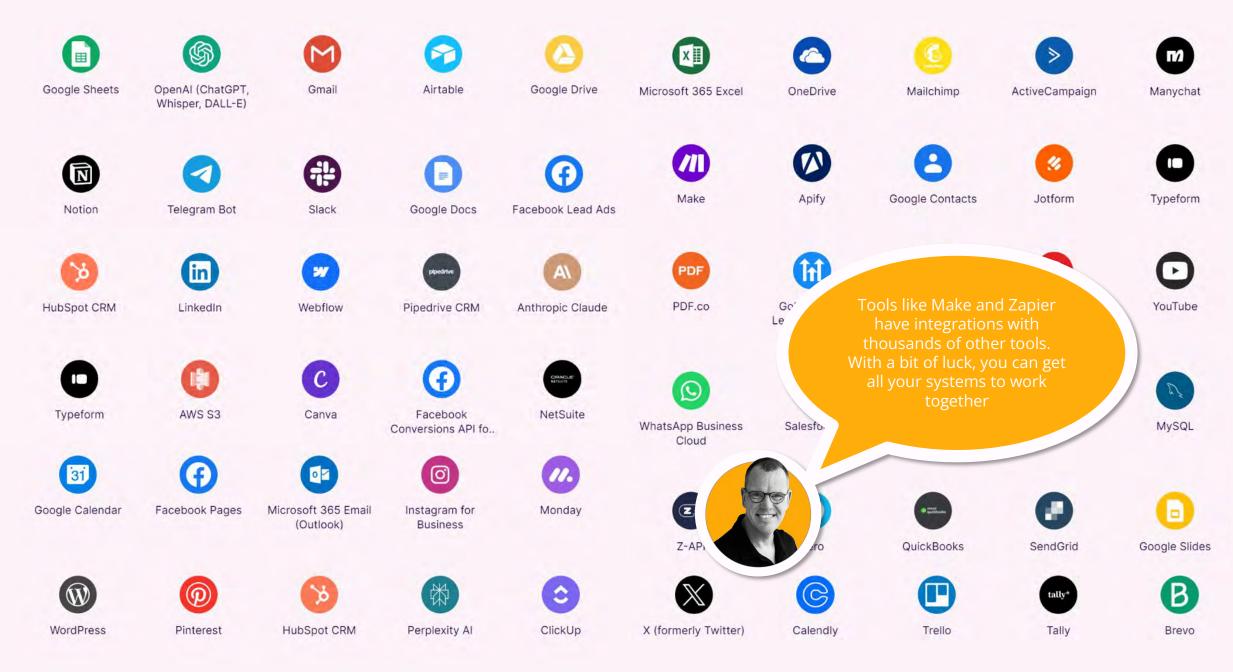


## And...

- Automatically generate invoices based on new sales or completed quotes
- Automatically send new customer orders to suppliers or fulfillment centers.
- Automatically send a notification in Slack or via email when an important document is signed

If you can imagine it, chances are you can automate it





# Software Development

The fourth step





## [4] Software Development

[5] Machine Learning [4] Software Development [3] No/Low-Code Tools [2] Al Chatbots [1] Specialized Tools with Al

No-code and low-code tools are fantastic. But sometimes, it's more convenient—and wiser—to build your own software, or hire someone to do it for you.

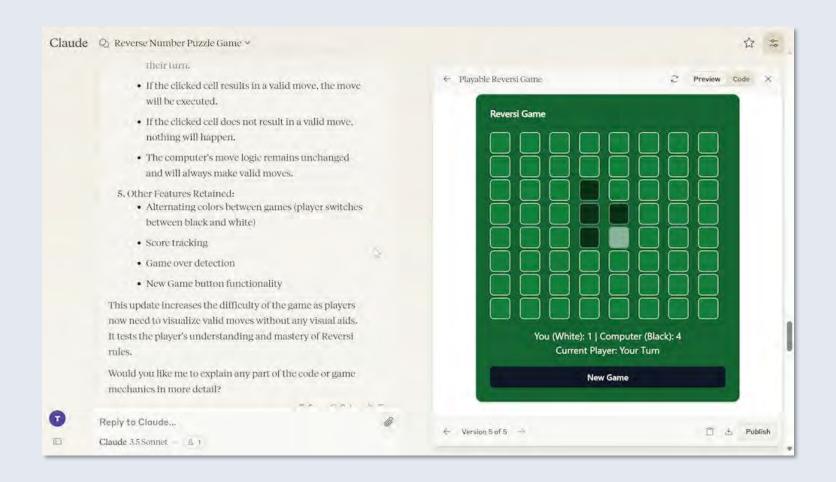
Even if you have no experience in software development, as a leader it's still helpful to keep an eye on that world—even if it's just out of the corner of your eye.

Software is, after all, the beginning of most major revolutions in our modern world.

The beauty is that AI can be a massive help in building, and understanding, software code.

We could chat about this forever, but let's save it for another time.

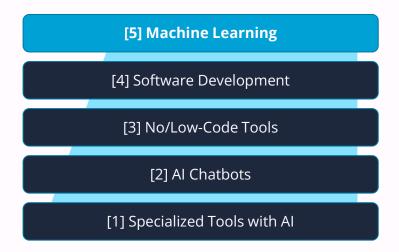
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Let me share just one quick example. Ask Claude to build a simple game for you, like Othello here, and then enjoy playing it directly in a so-called 'artifact'



## [5] Machine Learning



## More for completeness than as an invitation to dive in, here's the fifth step: Machine Learning.

The first four steps of the Al ladder focus on 'GenAl,' or Generative Al, which is the type that creates new things like text, images, music, and video.

There's also an earlier form of AI: Machine Learning.

Machine Learning is popular in large organizations to provide personalized recommendations. You've seen it in action with the recommendations you see in Amazon, Netflix, and Spotify.

It's also used for creating weather forecasts and detecting potential fraud.



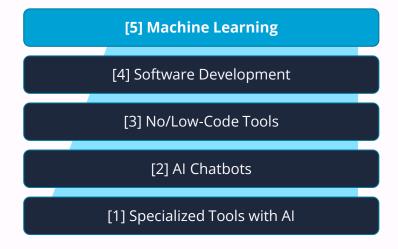
## [5] Machine Learning

To carry out truly valuable Machine Learning projects, you need a lot of high-quality data.

The first step is to collect, clean, and prep this data, then select and train one or more models. Afterward, you evaluate, validate, and refine your model, and integrating it into your existing systems. All of these are jobs for specialists.

I recently heard about a small business owner who wanted to dive into Al, but first wanted to gather a lot of data. That makes me think about Machine Learning immediately.

And I question if that's really the best first step for the average SMB. The low-hanging fruit is with GenAl (steps 1-4). Plus, remember that all the time, money, and energy you pour into Machine Learning can't be used to profit from those quicker wins.



# The AI Ladder for Leaders

[5] Machine Learning

[4] Software Development

[3] No/Low-Code Tools

[2] Al Chatbots

[1] Specialized Tools with Al

That's it. Those are the five steps on the ladder to experiment with AI in your company or team.

Start at the bottom, the base. Then move up step by step.

Along the way, enjoy the view. Relish all the time you save. And explore all the new possibilities (and business models) you uncover.

I hope this ladder will be a tremendous help in lighting up your path to the future.

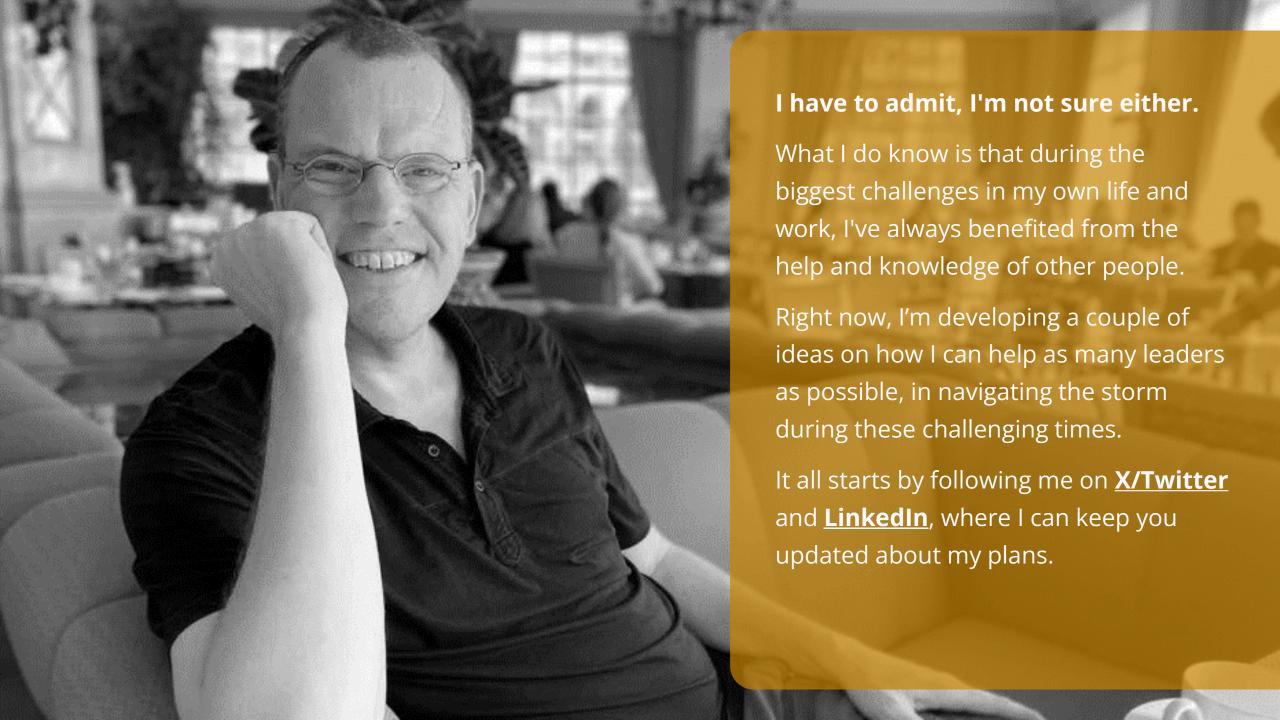
## But, Tom, what happens next?

How will Al evolve amidst all the upheavals in the world sparked by its rise?

- Will I still have a job?
- Will I need to lay off team members?
- Will my company survive?

How weird is it going to get?





### One last thing.

My Leadership Map to Mastery provides you with a clear sense of where you are on your personal leadership journey.

I've always found that having a complete overview of any area I want to develop is incredibly helpful.

So, I'm excited to share that map with you, too.

Just download the map from my blog





That's all, folks.

I hope you found it valuable—that's why I wrote this inspiration book.

I'd love to hear what you think.

Please feel free to email me directly at tom@tomsharp.blog, or reach out on <a href="LinkedIn"><u>LinkedIn</u></a> or <a href="X/Twitter">X/Twitter</a>.





# Let's Stay in Touch

I'd love to share news, tips, inspiration and my own experiences and stories with you:



