

david viney

SPEAKER KIT



— ABOUT

Poacher and Gamekeeper

David is a rare combination of a practitioner (who has built enterprise AI at scale) and a civil society champion of digital rights. So, he can bring a balanced, independent perspective.

THE PERFECT WAY TO ROUND OUT A PANEL, OR COMPLETE A SPEAKER ROSTER. AVAILABLE AS KEYNOTE (45 MIN), KEYNOTE WITH Q&A (60 MIN), PANEL, OR FIRESIDE CHAT.

David has 30 years' experience leading enterprise technology and transformation programmes inside some of the UK's largest and most complex organisations.

At WPP, he built WPP Open, a £250m agentic AI platform spanning the group's technology stack. At Heathrow, Arup, BSI, and the BBC, he led live service & transformational change delivery across infrastructure, platforms, and products.

Beyond the day job, David has served as an NGO board trustee for over a decade, sits on the AIGAS (AI Governance Standards) board, and is engaged with the London Business School in research on the intersection of AI strategy and organisational change.

He now works as a Fractional CIO and AI Transformation Director — bringing enterprise-grade technology and AI leadership to organisations that don't need, or can't yet justify, a full-time C-suite hire.



TOPIC OVERVIEW

Navigating the AI J-Curve

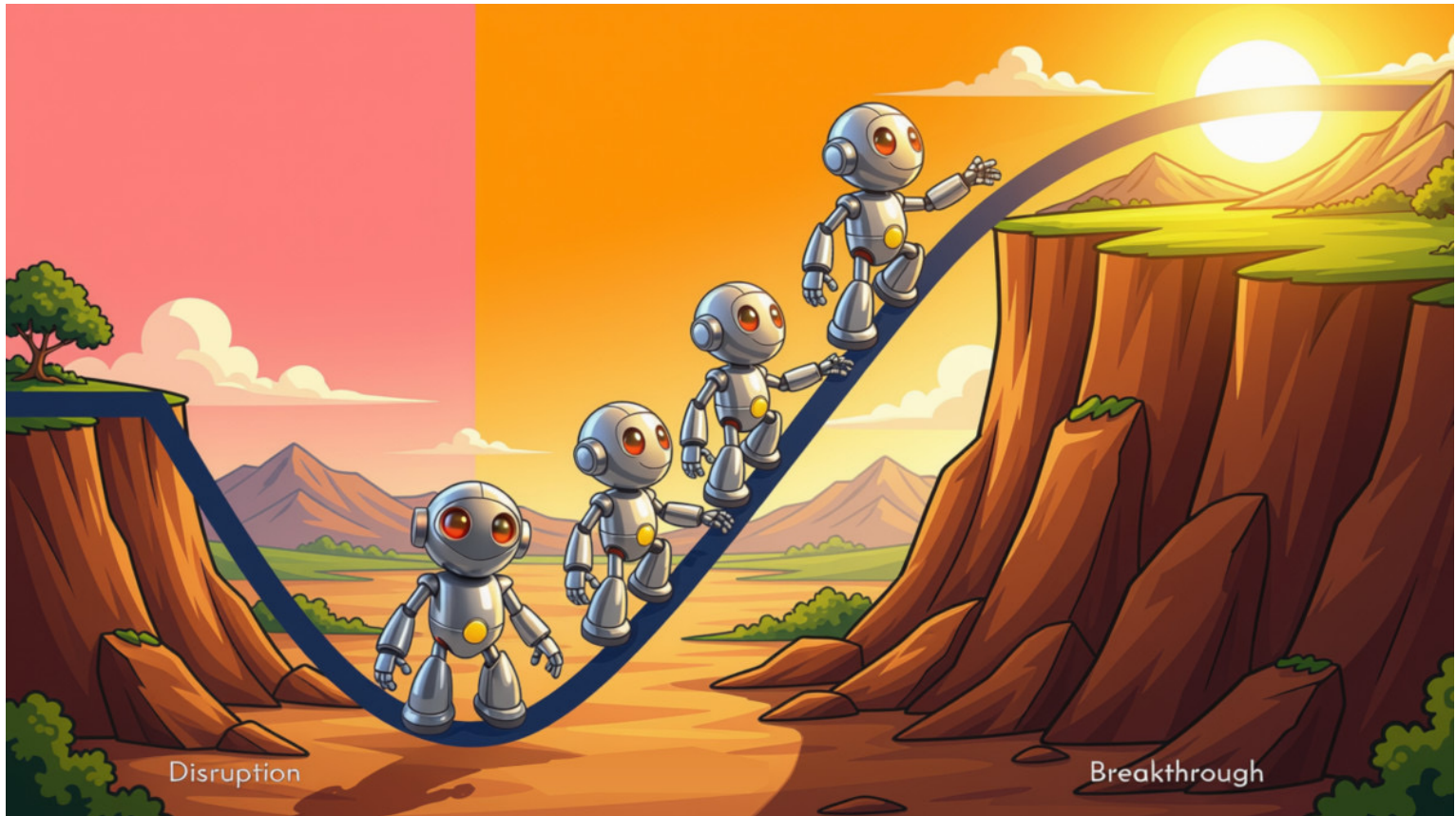
BOARDS & NEDS

CIOs & CTOS

TRANSFORMATION TEAMS

TECH CONFERENCES

INVESTMENT COMMUNITY



Every AI transformation goes through a J-Curve: performance dips before it rises, costs precede benefits, and the organisations that pull the plug too early — just before the inflection point — are the ones that lose.

David's broadly-cited J-Curve framework identifies three novel challenges that make AI change management an order of magnitude harder than anything before it. For transformation teams, a practical toolkit. For boards and NEDs, the honest briefing they rarely get.

Takeaways

- ⦿ Why AI transformation is structurally different from every previous digital wave
- ⦿ The three novel challenges — and what to do about each
- ⦿ How to read the J-Curve and know if you're in the dip or off the edge
- ⦿ What boards need to ask — and what honest answers look like
- ⦿ How to accelerate the benefits while genuinely mitigating the harm

TOPIC OVERVIEW

The Seatbelt Didn't Kill the Car

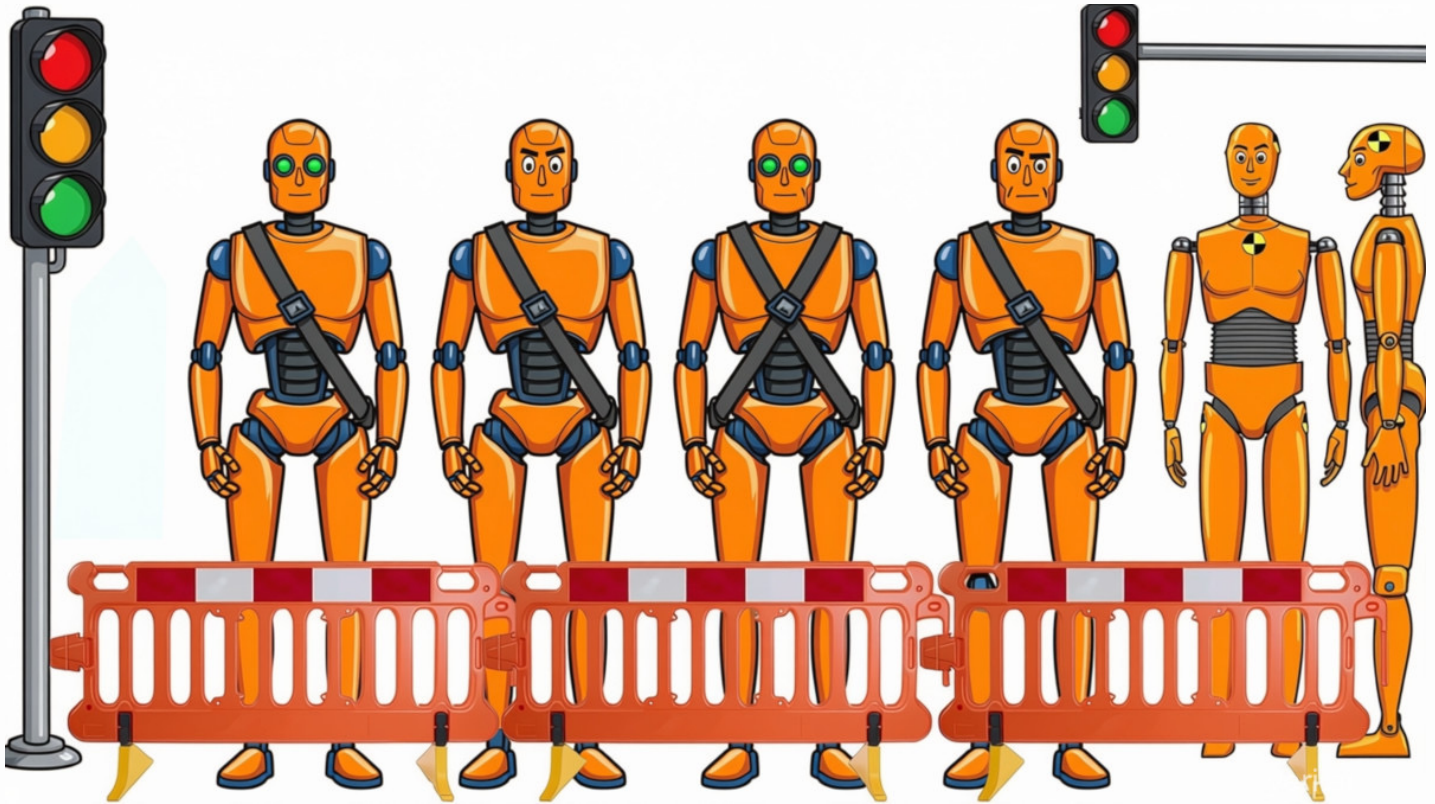
POLICY MAKERS

REGULATORS

BOARDS & NEDS

LEGAL & COMPLIANCE

PROFESSIONAL BODIES



In 1896, Bridget Driscoll became the first car accident fatality in the UK. The coroner hoped "such a thing would never happen again". Every generation of transformative technology has faced the same argument: that safety regulation will kill innovation. The seatbelt didn't kill the car. It saved it. And AI governance, done right, will not kill AI.

Drawing on direct experience building enterprise AI platforms and working with AIGAS and ISO 42001, this talk makes the practical case for governance as competitive advantage — and demolishes the false choice between innovation and accountability.

Takeaways

- ⦿ Why the innovation-versus-regulation framing is a false choice
- ⦿ What AI governance looks like inside organisations doing it well
- ⦿ How ISO 42001 and the EU AI Act actually create opportunity
- ⦿ What boards should ask about AI liability — and how to get honest answers
- ⦿ The governance moves that protect organisations and unlock trust simultaneously

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Don't be a Lemming Leader

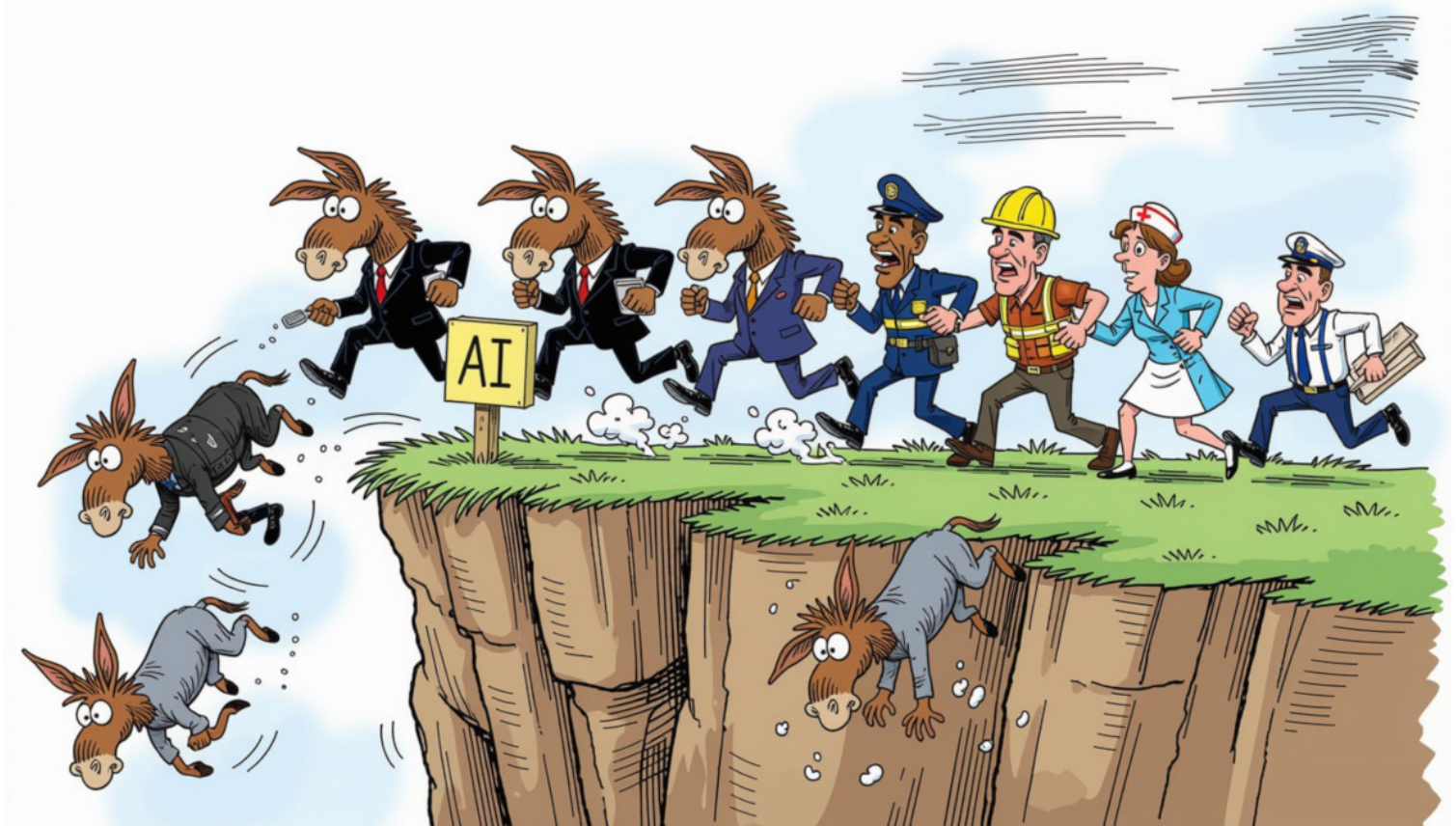
CEOS

CPOS

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS



The mood is turning. 80% of the public mistrust AI and demand greater regulation. A neo-Luddite movement is rising — not because people fear technology, but because the revolution is happening to them, not for them.

And the leaders running fastest toward AI adoption are often running blindly — driven by competitive anxiety rather than strategy, lemmings in good suits leading their organisations toward a cliff they haven't looked over. This is the talk that says it out loud. From a witness who was in the forest when the decisions were made.

Takeaways

- ⦿ Why the public anger about AI is legitimate — and what leaders are missing
- ⦿ How to tell whether your AI strategy is vision or herd instinct
- ⦿ How to restore hope & agency for the young and the disadvantaged
- ⦿ How to lead a mixed workforce of humans, agents, and embodied AI
- ⦿ What non-lemming leadership actually looks like — and how to be it

TOPIC OVERVIEW

I Am Become Slug, the Destroyer of Words

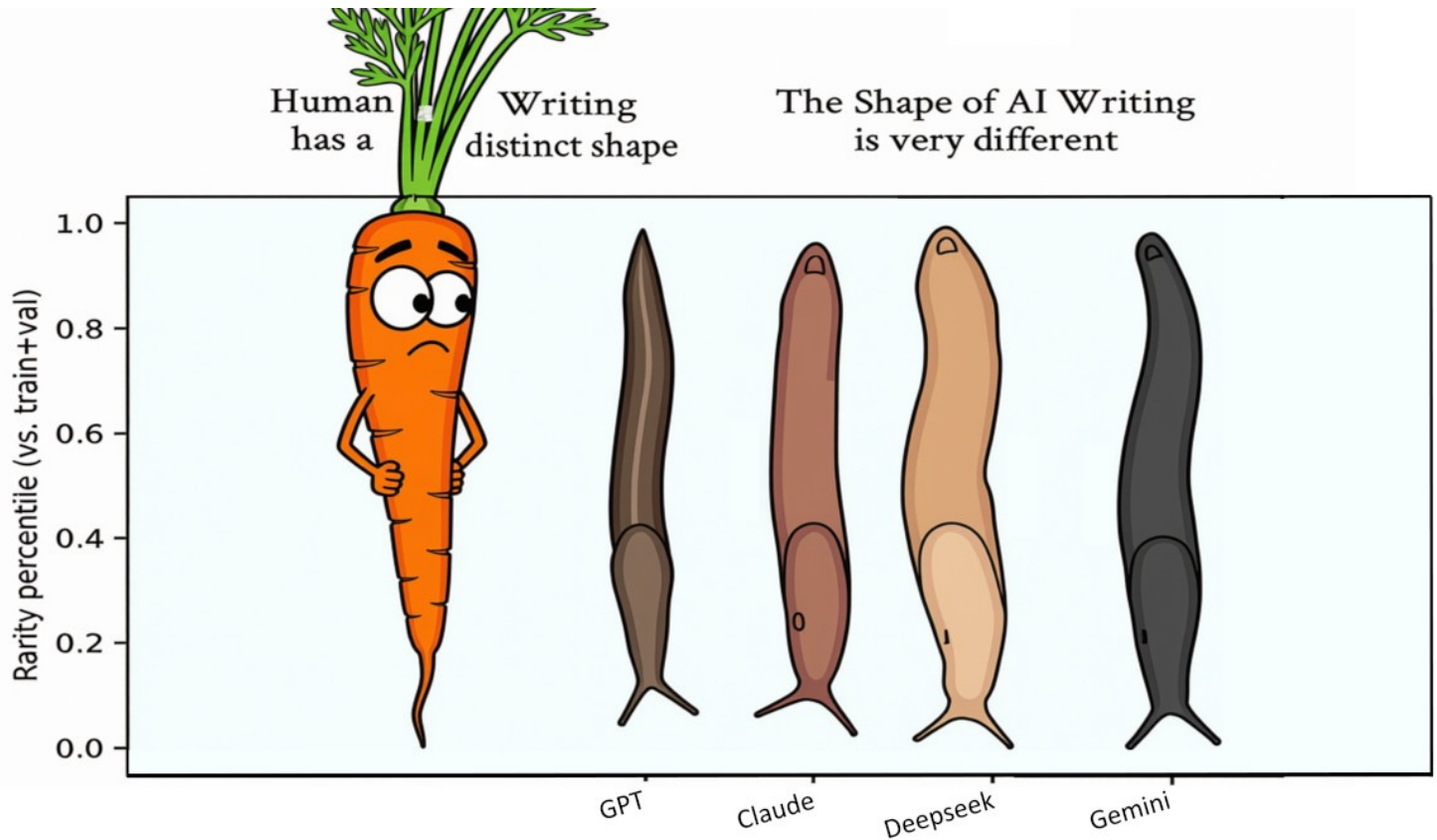
LITERARY FESTIVALS

ARTS ORGANISATIONS

UNIVERSITIES

PUBLISHERS

MEDIA



The real AI singularity is not Terminator. It is averageness, spreading like a cancer through the world of words.

Human writing has shape... like a carrot... rare, irregular, surprising, unmistakably itself. AI writing is a slug: the weighted average of human creativity, optimised for the mode. It eats carrots for breakfast. Breeds. Multiplies. How to spot it. How to control it. Why hallucination is a real problem. And why truth and human distinctiveness in language must be protected.

Takeaways

- ⊙ Why averageness — not AGI — is the biggest threat to human civilisation
- ⊙ What the data tells us about the shape of human vs AI writing
- ⊙ Why defending linguistic distinctiveness is a freedom of expression issue
- ⊙ What are the emerging slug pullets to deal with the problem?
- ⊙ How journalists, writers, readers, and publishers can join the fight

CONNECT WITH DAVID

Navigating
Change



In the
Age of AI

David's team would love to
CHAT WITH YOU ABOUT YOUR CONFERENCE NEEDS

You can chat with David directly or his business manager, Lauren Borg Olivier would be delighted to help you

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