ADAPTABILITY AS THE NEW AI LITERACY: AI PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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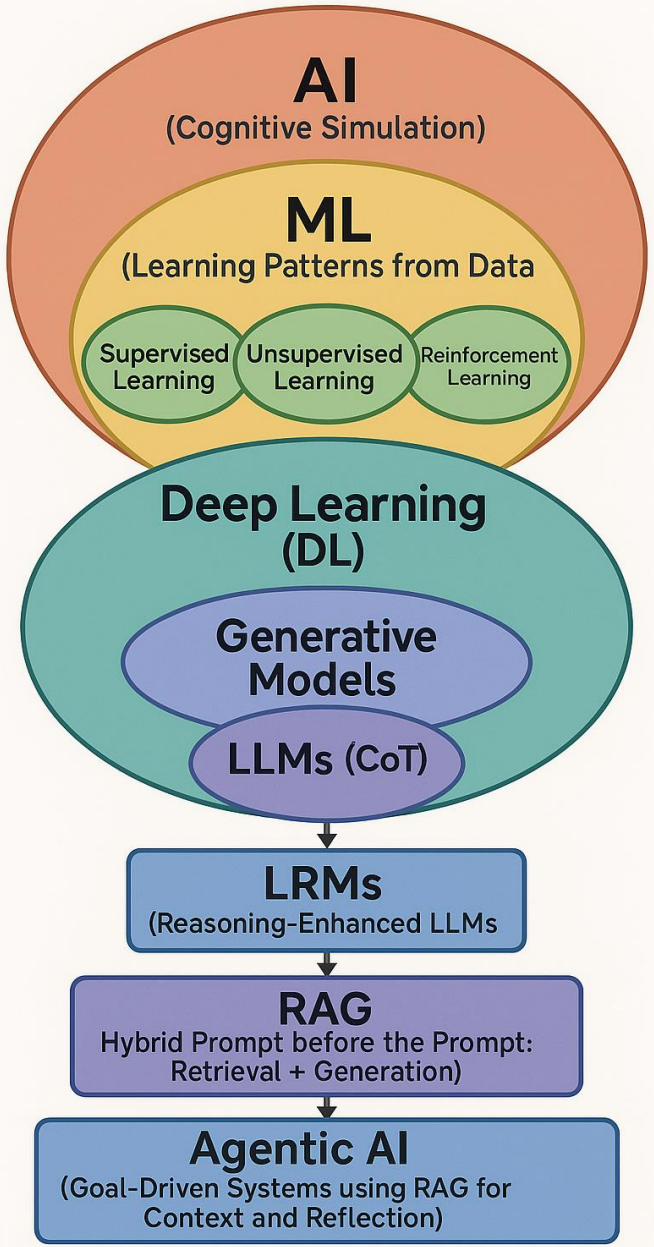
HARGIS RESEARCH AGENDA



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DRIVING QUESTIONS

1

How do we lead with confidence when AI is evolving faster than our ability to understand it?

2

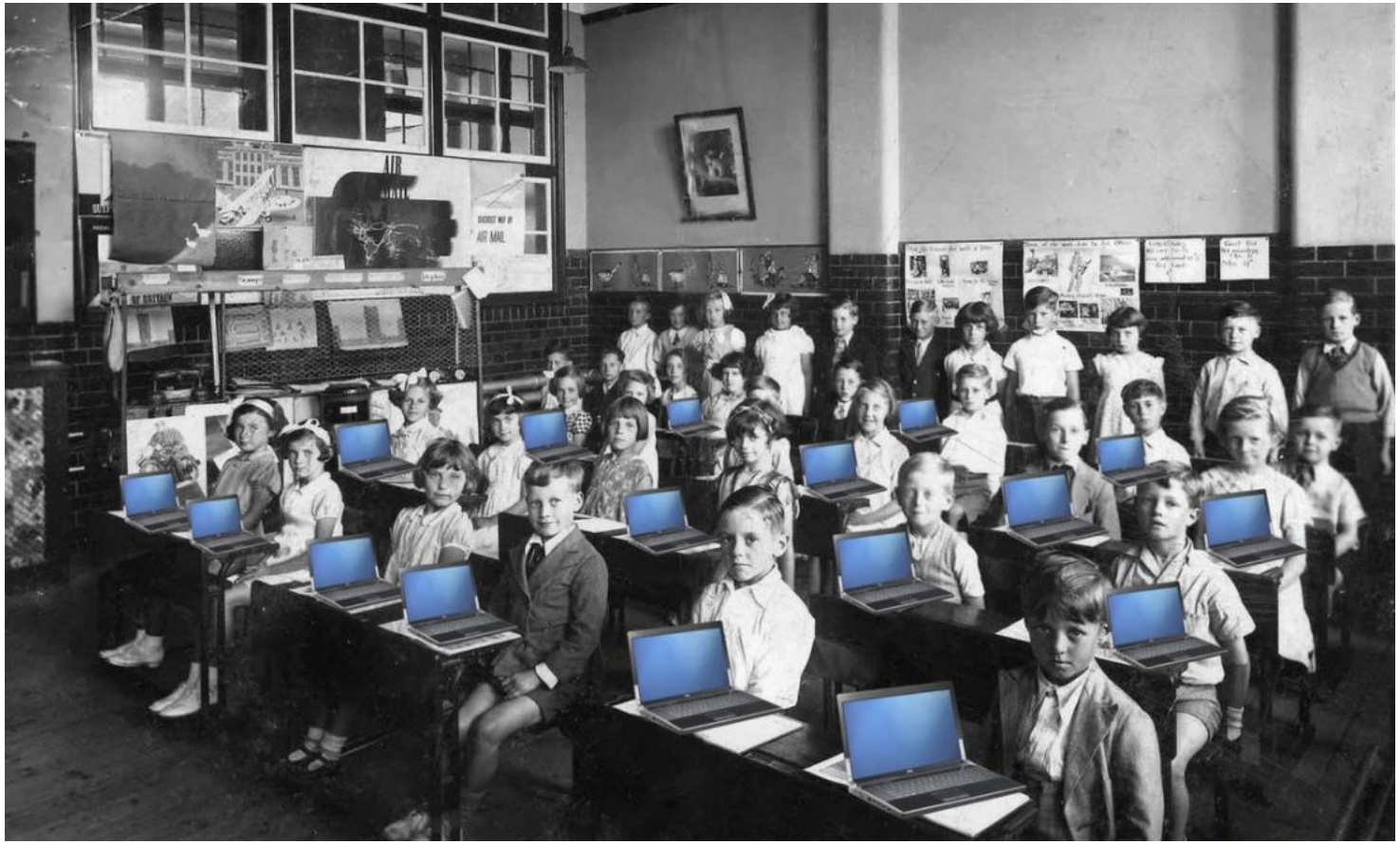
What does responsible AI governance look like and how do we balance innovation with safety?

Rather than viewing AI as a disruptive newcomer, leaders will discover how adaptability - not tech, serves as the core principle for meaningful AI integration.

AGENDA

- We've Seen This Before
- AI is Not New - Why Now?
- AI as a Philosophy & Metaphor
- What is AI?
- AI Approach: Adaptability
- Adapted Learning Parallels
- Adapted Ed Example

We've seen this before…



AI Is Not New - Why Now?

1800's
Babbage developed analytical engine
Lovelace laid groundwork for programmable logic.

1950-60

Turing Test | McCarthy
machines could reason, solve problems, mimic learning

1960-80
AI tried to simulate intelligence through "if-then" logic — slow, expensive, and fragile.

1970-90

Funding declined due to lack of breakthroughs.

2000-10
Data + Power + Algorithms.
Internet created vast data sets. Cloud/GPUs enabled fast processing. Models can train AI.

2020s

AI creates human-like language, images, and sound.
Infrastructure caught up.

Weekly ChatGPT Users [How People Use ChatGPT]

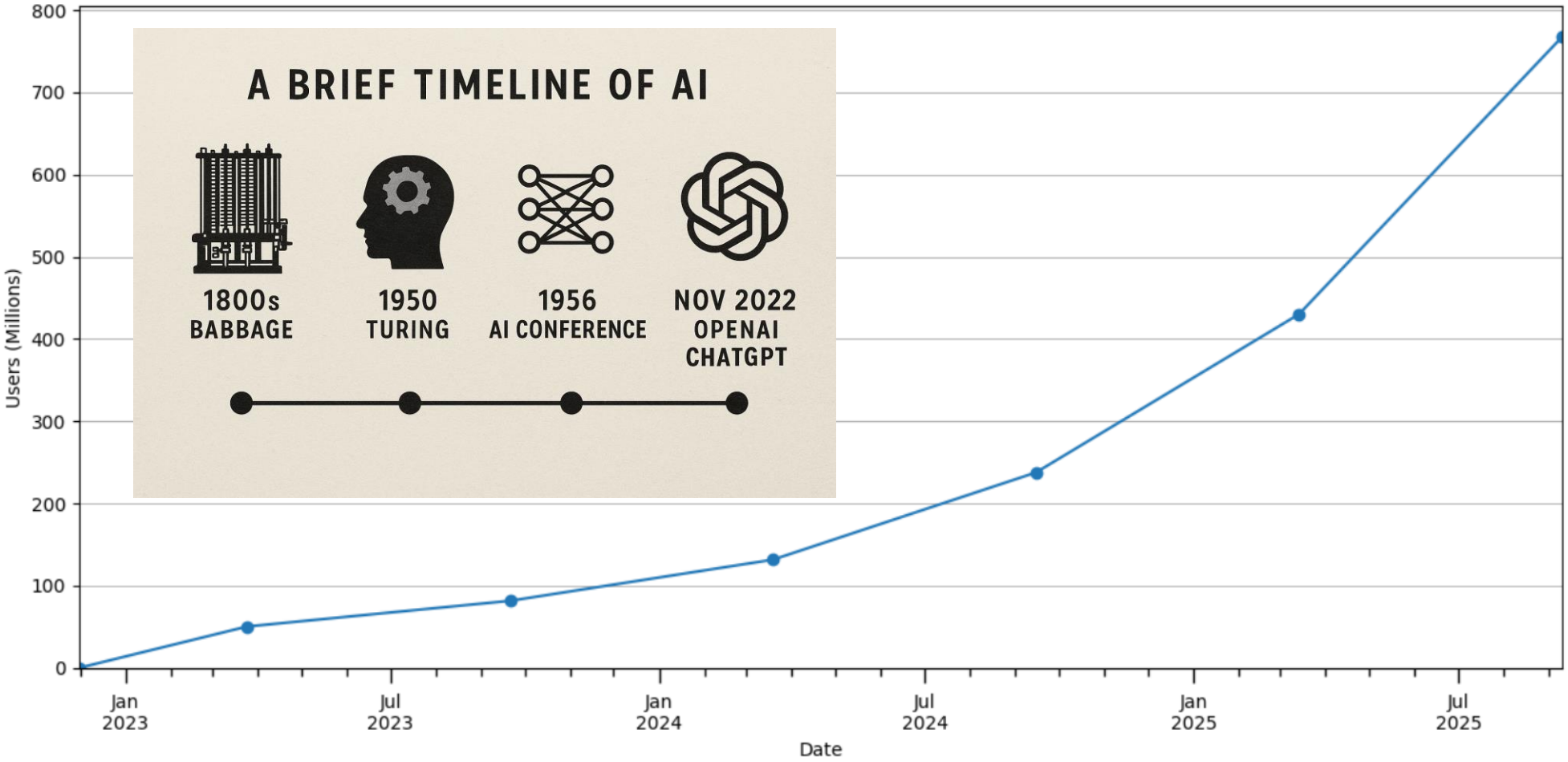
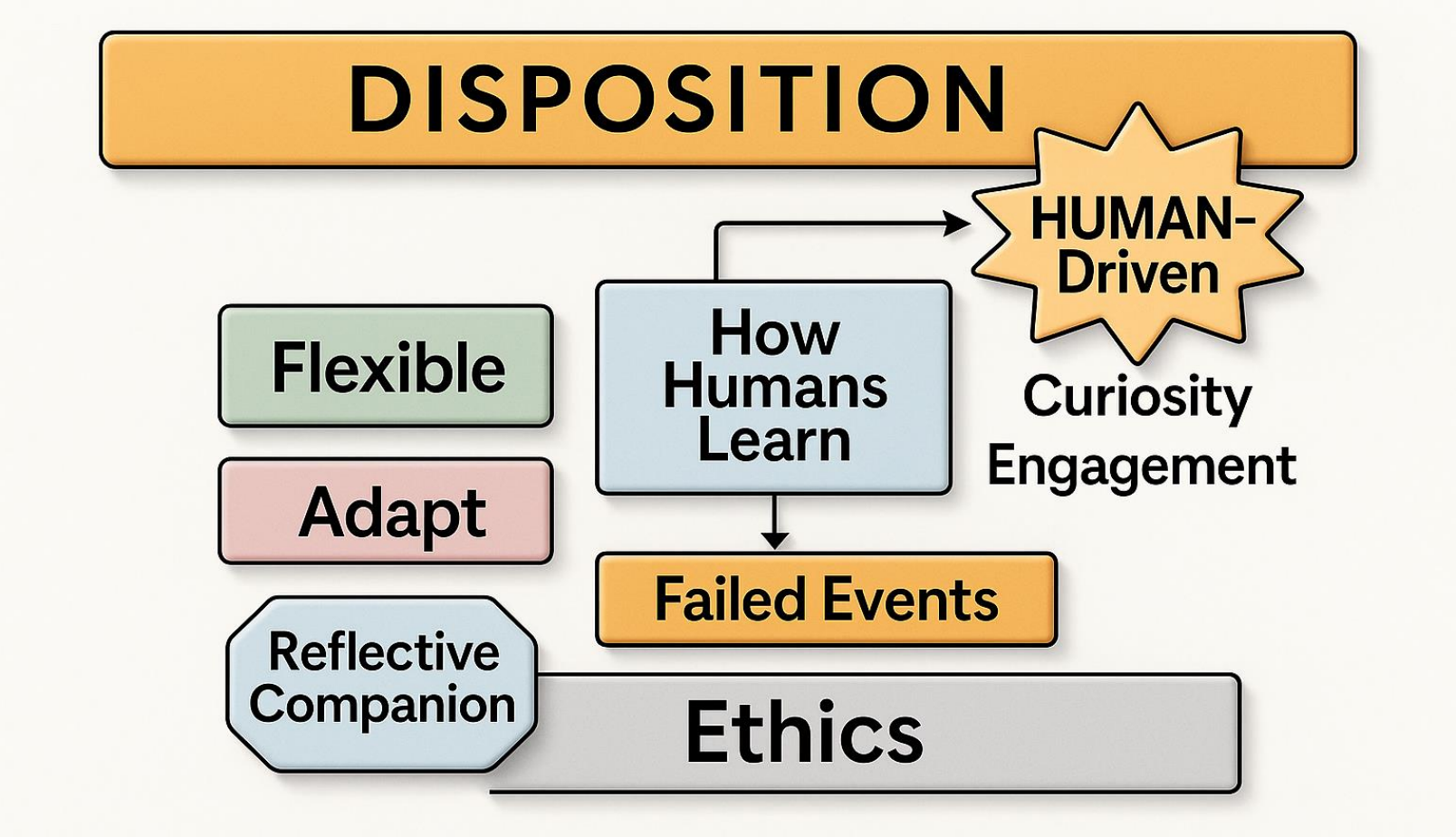
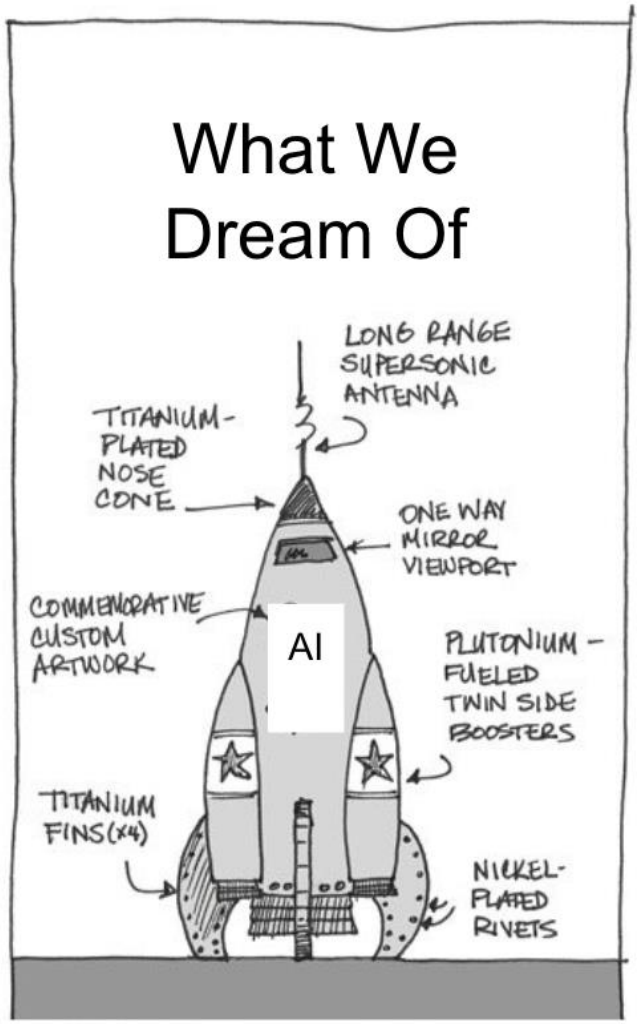
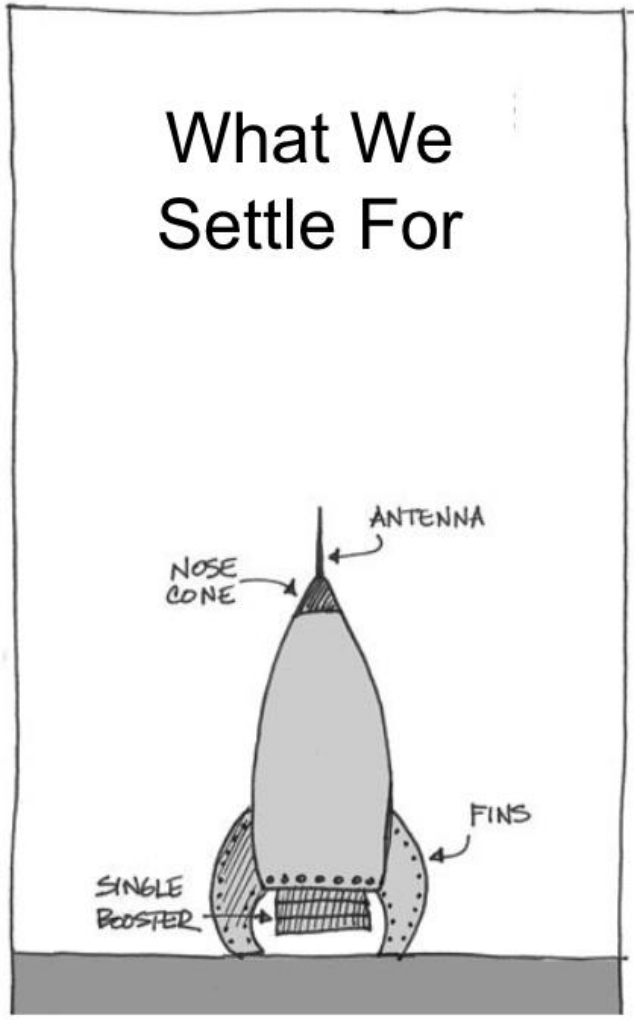


Figure 3: Weekly active ChatGPT users on consumer plans (Free, Plus, Pro), shown as point-in-time snapshots every six months, November 2022–September 2025.

AI as a Philosophy

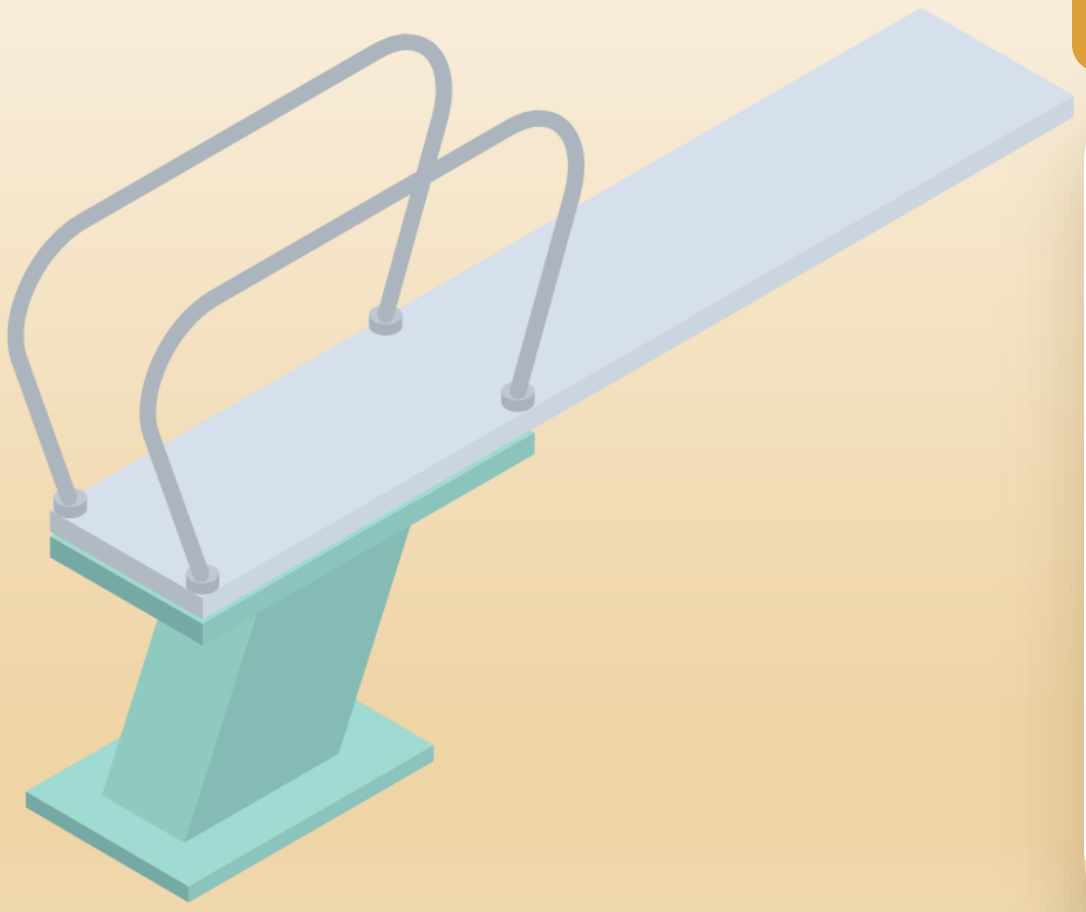



What We Dream Of
LONG RANGE SUPERSONIC ANTENNA
TITANIUM-PLATED NOSE CONE
ONE WAY MIRROR VIEWPORT
COMMEMORATIVE CUSTOM ARTWORK
AI
PLUTONIUM-FUELED TWIN SIDE BOOSTERS
TITANIUM FINS(x4)
NICKEL-PLATED RIVETS


What We Settle For
ANTENNA
NOSE CONE
FINS
SINGLE BOOSTER

AI Philosophy We Need
BIKE
RAMP

Human-Centered AI Philosophy



Springboard for a Philosophy

"Tech does not drive change. People do."

- Start with YOUR why.
- Bring YOUR ideas.
- YOU are the content expert.
- YOUR reflective collaborator.
- YOU are in control.

Demystify Generative AI

- Super fast at ONE thing
- Speedy to review & train
- Predict most likely next

- Does NOT think or learn
- Fast to recognize patterns
- Responds, Not reflects

Formally, What is AI?

Narrow AI (ANI)

Trained for a specific, limited set of tasks

General AI (AGI)

Has human-like cognitive abilities across domains

- Simulation of human intelligence in machines.
- Mimic cognitive functions.
- Language processing, image recognition and prediction.
- Open vs. Closed AI

Chatbot Arena Leaderboard

AI Approach: Adaptability

- Starting with **why** engages emotionally, while the **what** and **how** we do something serves as evidence. (Sinek, 2011)
- Capacity to adjust thinking behavior, and strategy in response to rapid AI change while maintaining values.

Emotional Intelligence

Empathy.

Shift AI approaches to meet community needs.

Skills.

Tailor leadership as AI contexts shift.

Self-Awareness.

Notice when AI assumptions no longer serve goals.

Self-Regulation.

Adjust AI policies when new risks arise.

Motivation.

Reframe setbacks as AI opportunities.

Adapted Learning Parallels

Machine Learning

- Supervised: Labeled data; predicts outcomes
- Unsupervised: Finds patterns in unlabeled data
- Reinforcement: Trial and error; rewards/penalties

Human Learning

- Deductive: General rules from examples
- Inductive: Discovering patterns, Inquiry-based
- Operant conditioning: Rewards/punishments

(Memarian & Doleck, 2024)

Adapted Ed Example

Inquiry, 1948

Inquiry, 2025
OpenAI Study Mode

- Let's **unpack** what we know and build from there.
- Let’s dig into this **step-by-step**…
- Want to **write a paragraph** in your own words, and I can help refine?
- Your **tone is clear**, and you’ve explained the ideas with analogies.
- Here’s how we can do it in a way that’s **100% your own work**, just guided by me.

Hargis Example

THANK YOU.

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Creating Custom GPTs

Ethical Use of AI Support

This GPT will provide ethical guidance and support for integrating AI.

Authentic Assessment & AI Guide

This GPT will guide and support faculty in creating authentic assessments integrating AI.

Academic AI Readiness Index (AARI)

Helps identify where the institution stands with AI policy, pedagogy, infrastructure, and culture.

- Academic AI Readiness
- AI in Action Case Studies
- Integrating AI into Work & Life
- AI and Academic Integrity
- AI Literacy Feedback
- AI Teaching Assistant
- Effective Teaching Evidence
- Teaching Philosophy Guide

References

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- Koehler, M., &, Mishra, P. (2009). What is TPACK. *Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education, 9,* 60–70.
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- Schunk, D. H. (1996). Learning theories: An educational perspective (7th ed.). Pearson.
- Sinek, S. (2011). Start with why: How great leaders inspire everyone to take action. Portfolio/Penguin.
- Texas HB 149 (Texas Responsible AI Governance Act (TRAIGA)); USDOE AI guidance.

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AI Resources

- IBM AI Videos
- Is AI Making Us Dumb
- What is AI Literacy?
- What is AI (Gemini)
- How to Explain AI to Students (Gemini)
- Personalizing Learning (Gemini)
- Using AI Right Now: Quick Guide
- 60 ChatGPT Assignments (Yee, 2022)
- 30 AI Active Learning (Hargis from 289 list)
- Substack AI in Higher Ed (Hargis, 2025)