Al-Powered Innovation: Making Tech Accessible & Boosting Firm Productivity

EX023

Thursday, June 5, 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM

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AIA25 Conference on Architecture & Design

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Speakers List

• Bret Tushaus, VP Product Management, Deltek



Course / Learning Objectives

- Discuss the fundamentals of AI and ML relevant to architecture firms and businesses in general.
- Find out how to pinpoint key areas where these technologies can streamline workflows and improve project management.
- Gain practical insights by analyzing real-world examples of Al applications in action.
- Develop strategies for adopting AI to enhance efficiency and decision-making.



Business Pressures and Challenges



















Business Pressures and Challenges

Availability of good candidates

Inflation and interest rates

Tariffs
Socioeconomic
disruption

Political uncertainty

Finding and retaining qualified staff

Increasing project complexity

Is Technology the Answer?



Business Pressures and Challenges

67% expecting to lose market share within two years if they fail to progress significantly in digital transformation.

Deltek. CLARITY



Is Technology an Answer?

And AI is at the root of that answer.



Al productivity boost has the potential to increase global GDP by up to \$13 trillion by 2030

- McKinsey Global Institute (2020)

Generative AI used for design optimization and simulation can reduce design time by up to 30%

- Autodesk (2022)



- Forrester (2021)

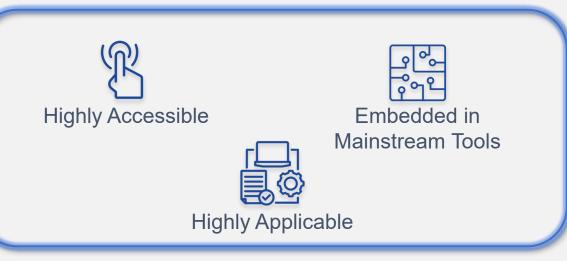
Al-driven automation of repetitive engineering tasks can reduce project execution time by up to 25%

- Deloitte (2022)

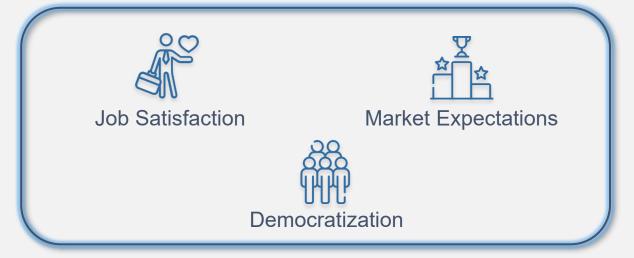


Why is Al at the root of that answer?

PRACTICALITY



INDIRECT BENEFITS





Where Will You Be One Year From Now?

- Option A (Stagnation):
 - Still manually assembling proposals
 - Still retyping meeting notes
 - Still wondering what tools might help
- Option B (Momentum):
 - Proposal content drafted in seconds
 - Teams freed up for creativity
 - Al running in the background of your operations





Understanding the Al Spectrum

Traditional AI (narrow)

- Creates new data (text, images, music)
- Data-driven learning (neural networks)
- Entirely new content
- Innovative chef creating new dishes
- Creativity, content generation, exploring possibilities

VS

Generative AI (strong)

- Analyzes data, performs specific tasks
- Explicit rules and algorithms
- Solutions or classifications
- Master chef following a recipe
- Accuracy, efficiency, reasoning



Understanding the AI Spectrum

Traditional AI (narrow)

VS

Generative AI (strong)

- Smart Buildings
- Decision Support
- Project Management
 - Generative Design
 - Etc...



Your Al Moment is Now











You don't need to master Al to benefit from it. You just need to start.





STRUCTURING AI FOR REAL RESULTS



Structuring AI for Real Results

What is it?

• A strategic guide and self-assessment tool that helps C-Suite leaders align AI with their business goals.

Who Authored It?

Walter Pasquarelli, tech and Al expert and evangelist.

How does it work?

The playbook breaks down Al adoption into five critical pillars.

Includes a Self-Assessment Tool

 The playbook provides a structured self-assessment, allowing leaders to pinpoint gaps, prioritize areas for improvement, and build a roadmap for Al-driven transformation.



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Structuring AI for Real Results

- Start with Purpose: Align Al initiatives to real business challenges, not just shiny tools.
- Focus on Foundations: Strategy, data, governance, and culture matter more than any single technology.
- **Prioritize Pragmatic Wins:** Target use cases that create immediate value and build momentum.
- Think Long-Term: Al is a journey, not a project, lay the groundwork for continuous evolution.
- Empower People: Technology succeeds when your teams are ready, curious, and supported.





Pillar: Strategy & Scope

- Align to Business Goals
- Prioritize Practical Use Cases
- Define Scope Clearly
- Champion Outcome Over Technology
- Accept Iteration

- ✓ Identify 1-2 internal challenges (e.g., proposal generation).
- ✓ Start with "internal-first" use cases before expanding to client-facing.
- ✓ Have a 30-minute leadership brainstorm to list all recurring headaches in operations—circle one and find an AI tool to test.



Pillar: Infrastructure & Integration

- Audit Existing Capabilities First
- Ensure Data Accessibility and Quality
- Think Modular and Scalable
- Leverage Cloud & Open APIs
- Partner, Don't Build from Scratch

- ✓ Assign someone to catalog what Al capabilities are already in the firm's existing tools.
- ✓ Audit your tools—what AI is already built in (e.g., MS Copilot, Deltek AI features).
- ✓ Partner with a vendor for cloud, storage, or data prep needs.



Pillar: Compliance & Governance

- Create Accountability Roles
- Emphasize Human Review
- Monitor for Bias and Risk
- Plan for Evolving Regulations

- ✓ Ask the question "Have we defined responsible use of AI and made it clear to the team?"
- ✓ Create a simple "Al Use Policy" (what's OK, what's not).
- ✓ Assign an "Al steward" for compliance tracking.



Pillar: Monitoring & Evaluation

- Set Clear Success Metrics Early
- Track Both Quantitative and Qualitative Value
- Pilot, Measure, Scale
- Commit to Ongoing Learning
- Celebrate and Publicize Wins Internally

- ✓ Choose one pilot AI use case (e.g., automated meeting notes) and track time saved each week.
- ✓ Recommend quarterly reviews of Al experiments

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Pillar: Culture

- Normalize Experimentation
- Upskill Everyone, Not Just Tech Staff
- Lead by Example
- Recognize and Reward Early Adopters
- Frame AI as an Empowerment Tool

- ✓ Host Al Exploration Days or "Prompt Jams".
- ✓ Create internal champions or an Al working group.
- ✓ Ask each team to try one AI tool this month and share learnings in a 10minute "AI moment" at the next staff meeting.



How Does the Assessment Work?

- This assessment is designed to help organizations evaluate their readiness for adopting Gen AI.
- It asks 20 targeted questions
- Each question offers five possible responses, representing different stages of readiness.
- Each response is assigned a score from 0 to 4, reflecting the organization's level of progress.

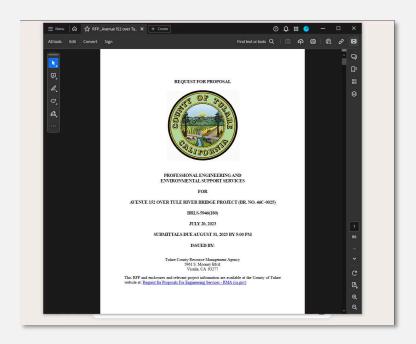


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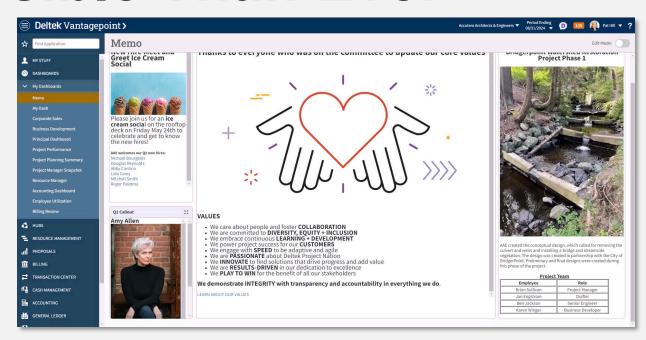
Content Creation, Summary and Distillation





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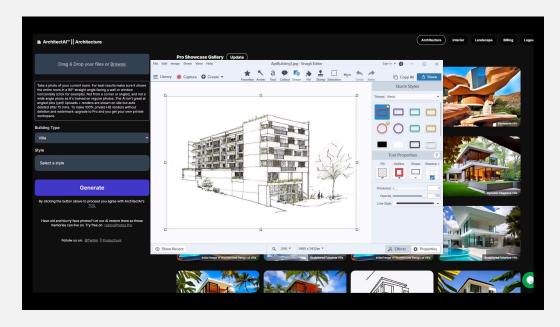
Digital Assistance





Al is More Accessible Than Ever

Generative Design





KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Key Considerations



Do not be intimidated; Al technology is more accessible than ever



Look at what tools and investments you already have in place; your most accessible Al is in tools you already have



Follow industry thought leadership to keep up with the rapid pace of change



Keep security, data privacy and appropriate usage in mind



Remember that it's not all about technology, leverage the diverse talent in your firm



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