

The Operator's AI Triage Sheet

A new AI thing lands in your inbox every single day. Most of it does not touch your job. Here is how to decide in 60 seconds whether to act on it, watch it, or skip it without guilt.

We will be honest with you: we read 47 newsletters a week, and we have done our share of the hyping too. This is not about being above it. It is about surviving the firehose. Run any announcement through the three questions below before you let it onto your calendar.

STEP 1 · THE 30-SECOND RELEVANCE CHECK

1 Does this change what your team ships, sells, or spends this quarter?

If it does not move a deliverable, a number, or a deadline you already own, it is industry news, not your news.

2 Does it touch a system you actually run? (CRM, ERP, the finance stack, the tools your team logs into daily.)

A model that gets smarter is interesting. A model that plugs into the system your team lives in is your problem to manage.

3 Is there a clear answer to "who would own this here"?

If you cannot name the person on your org chart who would run it, you are not ready to act, and that is fine. Note it and move on.

STEP 2 · THE VERDICT

Two or three YES → Act

- › Ask the team for a 30-minute briefing, not a hype parade. "What does this change for us, in one page."
- › Request a one-page impact summary before any tool gets bought or piloted.
- › Run it through a simple Build vs. Buy and Head vs. Heart check before committing budget.

Zero or one YES → Skip

- › You have permission to ignore it. JOMO over FOMO.
- › You do not have to engage with everything to be on top of it.

Say this in the meeting: "We have clocked it. It does not touch what we own this quarter, so we are consciously parking it and revisiting if that changes."

Three principles that make the triage stick.

Daily is inventory. Weekly is insight.

The daily AI feed is a list of things that happened. It is not a list of things that matter to you. The triage sheet exists to convert one into the other. If a story cannot survive the three questions, it was inventory.

"Cited as the reason" is not proof.

When a vendor says their tool drives a result, or a company says AI drove a decision, that is a claim in a press release, not evidence. Ask what actually changed and who measured it before you repeat it upward.

The advantage is integration, not invention.

You are almost never going to win by adopting the newest model first. You win by wiring the tools you already have into how your team actually works. Most announcements are about invention. Your job is integration. Triage accordingly.

We read 47 newsletters so you don't have to.

The AI Minute is a free weekly briefing for people who have to make AI decisions at work and do not have time to drown in the noise. One issue, every Tuesday, in under 60 seconds. The filter, not the firehose.

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