

Obsessing Over AI is Optional

Dan Mahr @ DroneDeploy

LeadDev LDX3 NYC | 2026-09-16

**"What can we do to increase
our adoption of AI?"**

TechCrunch

OpenAI unveils GPT-4.5 'Orion,' its largest AI model yet

Updated 2:40 pm PT: Hours after GPT-4.5's release, OpenAI removed a line from the AI model's white paper that said "GPT-4.5 is not a frontier AI model."

Feb 27, 2025

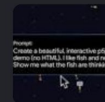


Lifehacker

Gemini 2.5 Pro Is Google's Most Powerful AI Model Yet, and It's Already Free

Google has pushed out a shiny new AI model in the form of Gemini 2.5 Pro—and it's available for free. As with many recent AI model releases, the reasoning...

Apr 1, 2025



WIRED

How Chinese AI Startup DeepSeek Made a Model that Rivals OpenAI

On January 20, DeepSeek, a relatively unknown AI research lab from China, released an open source model that's quickly become the talk of the town in Silicon...

Jan 25, 2025



CNBC

Anthropic launches Claude 4, its most powerful AI model yet

Anthropic, the Amazon-backed OpenAI rival, on Thursday launched its most powerful group of artificial intelligence models yet: Claude 4.

May 22, 2025



Interconnects AI

Llama 4: Did Meta just push the panic button?

Where Llama 2's and Llama 3's releases were arguably some of the top few events in AI for their respective release years, Llama 4 feels entirely lost.

Apr 7, 2025



Gemini CLI



OpenAI Codex

TechCrunch

OpenAI unveils GPT-4.5 'Orion,' its largest AI model yet

Updated 2:40 pm PT: Hours after GPT-4.5's release, OpenAI removed a line from the AI model's white paper that said "GPT-4.5 is not a frontier AI model."

Feb 27, 2025



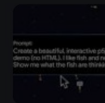
Claude Code

Lifehacker

Gemini 2.5 Pro Is Google's Most Powerful AI Model Yet, and It's Already Free

Google has pushed out a shiny new AI model in the form of Gemini 2.5 Pro—and it's available for free. As with many recent AI model releases, the reasoning...

Apr 1, 2025

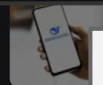


WIRED

How Chinese AI Startup DeepSeek Made a Model that Rivals OpenAI

January 20, DeepSeek, a relatively unknown AI research lab from China, released an open source model that's quickly become the talk of the town in Silicon...

Jan 25, 2025



Google Antigravity

CNBC

Anthropic launches Claude 4, its most powerful AI model yet

Anthropic, the Amazon-backed OpenAI rival, on Thursday launched its most powerful group of artificial intelligence models yet: Claude 4.

May 22, 2025



Interconnects AI

Llama 4: Did Meta just push the panic button?

Where Llama 2's and Llama 3's releases were arguably some of the top few events in AI for their respective release years, Llama 4 feels entirely lost.

Apr 7, 2025



CURSOR



GitHub Copilot



Windsurf



Judge allows 'New York Times' copyright case against OpenAI to go forward

Lawyers for The New York Times believe that the paper's articles are one of the biggest sources of copyrighted text that OpenAI used to build ChatGPT into the...

Mar 26, 2025

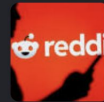


Forbes

'Would-Be Bank Robbers': Reddit Escalates AI Data Wars With Perplexity Lawsuit

Earlier this week, Reddit filed a federal lawsuit against Perplexity AI, alleging the "answer engine" orchestrated a ploy to illegally scrape and profit from...

Oct 23, 2025



TechCrunch

OpenAI unveils GPT-4.5 'Orion,' its largest AI model yet

Updated 2:40 pm PT: Hours after GPT-4.5's release, OpenAI removed a line from the AI model's white paper that said "GPT-4.5 is not a frontier AI model."

Feb 27, 2025

Gemini 2.5 Pro Is Google's Most Powerful AI Model Yet, and It's Already Free

Google has pushed out a shiny new AI model in the form of Gemini 2.5 Pro—and it's available for free. As with many recent AI model releases, the reasoning...

Apr 1, 2025

The Verge

Consumer safety groups are demanding an FTC investigation into Grok's 'Spicy' mode

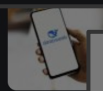
The letter goes on to state that if the limitation of the "Spicy" mode for user-uploaded photos is ever removed, it "would unleash a torrent of obviously..."

Aug 14, 2025



Geek Made a Model that Rivals

own AI research lab from China, released an...
the talk of the town in Silicon...

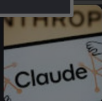


Google Antigravity

Anthropic launches Claude 4, its most powerful AI model yet

Anthropic, the Amazon-backed OpenAI rival, on Thursday launched its most powerful group of artificial intelligence models yet: Claude 4.

May 22, 2025



Interconnects AI

Llama 4: Did Meta just push the panic button?

Where Llama 2's and Llama 3's releases were arguably some of the top few events in AI for their respective release years, Llama 4 feels entirely lost.

Apr 7, 2025



WIRED

Meta Secretly Trained Its AI on a Notorious Piracy Database, Newly Unredacted Court Docs Reveal

Meta just lost a major fight in its ongoing legal battle with a group of authors suing the company for copyright infringement over how it trained its...

Jan 9, 2025



The Washington Post

AI guzzled millions of books without permission. Authors are fighting back.

Authors are appealing for help from Congress and the courts after Meta and Anthropic used millions of books to create AI technology, without seeking...

Jul 19, 2025



NPR

Judge allows 'New York Times' copyright case against OpenAI to go forward

Lawyers for The New York Times believe that the paper's articles are one of the biggest sources of copyrighted text that OpenAI used to build ChatGPT into the...

Mar 26, 2025



Forbes

'Would-Be Bank Robber' With Perplexity Lawsuit

Earlier this week, Reddit filed a federal lawsuit against Perplexity, claiming the "answer engine" orchestrated a plot...

Oct 22, 2025

Business Insider

I had only positive performance reviews during 2 years at Meta. I still got laid off as a 'low performer.'

A former Meta employee said they felt the company had betrayed them and destroyed their confidence.

Feb 24, 2025



TechCrunch

OpenAI unveils GPT-4.5 'Orion,' its largest AI model yet

CNN

Intel cuts 15% of its staff as it pushes to make a comeback

Intel said Thursday it has mostly completed plans it announced last quarter to cut 15% of its workforce, as the struggling chipmaker attempts a turnaround.

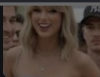
Jul 24, 2025



Consumer safety groups are demanding an FTC investigation into Grok's 'Spicy' mode

The letter goes on to state that if the limitation of the "Spicy" mode for user-uploaded photos is ever removed, it "would unleash a torrent of obviously...

Aug 14, 2025



ABC7 Bay Area

Microsoft to cut about 3% of workforce in its largest mass layoff in over 2 years

Microsoft to cut about 3% of workforce in its largest mass layoff in over 2 years ... Microsoft began laying off nearly 3% of its entire workforce Tuesday, its...

May 13, 2025



WIRED

Meta Secretly Trained Its AI on a Notorious Piracy Database, Newly Unredacted Court Docs Reveal

Meta just lost a major fight in its ongoing legal battle with a group of authors suing the company for copyright infringement over how it trained its...

Jan 9, 2025



Business Insider

I had only positive performance reviews during 2 years at Meta. I still got laid off as a 'low performer.'

A former Meta employee said they felt the company had betrayed them and destroyed their confidence.

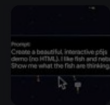
Feb 24, 2025



Gemini 2.5 Pro Is Google's Most Powerful AI Model Yet, and It's Already Free

Google has pushed out a shiny new AI model in the form of Gemini 2.5 Pro—and it's available for free. As with many recent AI model releases, the reasoning...

Apr 1, 2025

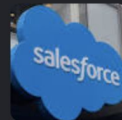


Reuters

Salesforce to cut 1,000 roles, Bloomberg News reports

Salesforce is cutting more than 1000 jobs as it simultaneously hires workers to sell new artificial intelligence products, Bloomberg News reported on...

Feb 3, 2025



Llama 4: Did Meta just push the panic button?

Where Llama 2's and Llama 3's releases were arguably some of the top few events in AI for their respective release years, Llama 4 feels entirely lost.

Apr 7, 2025



The Washington Post

AI guzzled millions of books without permission. Authors are fighting back.

Authors are appealing for help from Congress and the courts after Meta and Anthropic used millions of books to create AI technology, without seeking...

Jul 19, 2025



NPR

Judge allows 'New York Times' copyright case against OpenAI to go forward

Lawyers for The New York Times believe that the paper's articles are the sources of copyrighted text that OpenAI used to build ChatGPT into a powerful AI.

Mar 26, 2025

TechCrunch

OpenAI unveils GPT-4.5 'Orion.' It's

Fast Company

DeepSeek's \$1 trillion stock market crash: Nvidia, TSMC, and Broadcom recover some losses after AI shock

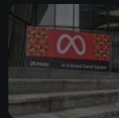
US-listed shares of tech giants are gaining some lost ground this morning after a China-based startup shocked the AI world with a powerful LLM.

Jan 28, 2025



views during 2 years at
former.'

ny had betrayed them and destroyed



CNN

Intel cuts 15% of its staff as it pushes to make a comeback

Intel said Thursday it has mostly completed plans it announced last quarter to cut 15% of its workforce, as the struggling chipmaker attempts a turnaround.

Jul 24, 2025



Gemini 2.5 Pro Is Google's Most Powerful AI Model Yet, and It's Already Free

Business Insider

Wall Street's fear of an AI slowdown is 'laughable,' Morgan Stanley says

One of Wall Street's top banks isn't worried about the artificial intelligence trade even as it struggles amid fears of lower investment by companies in 2025.

Apr 26, 2025



CNBC

Meta, Microsoft roar higher on strong earnings as AI spending booms

Shares of Meta and Microsoft popped after reporting strong earnings that beat analysts' expectations. Meta and Microsoft have been investing heavily in AI...

Jul 31, 2025



Feb 3, 2025



Llama 4: Did Meta just push the panic button?

Where Llama 2's and Llama 3's releases were arguably some of the top few events in AI...

WSJ

How Much AI Spending Is Too Much? Investors Are Starting to Wonder

The S&P 500 and Nasdaq have their biggest one-day drops in weeks after Big Tech companies lay out 2026 AI spending plans.

Nov 4, 2025



AI Jazeera

Nvidia becomes first US company to reach \$4 trillion market cap

Nvidia has notched a market capitalisation of \$4 trillion, making it the first public company in the world to reach the milestone and solidifying its position...

Jul 9, 2025

Authors are appealing for help from Congress and the courts after Meta and Anthropic used millions of books to create AI technology, without seeking...

Jul 19, 2025





Judge allows 'New York Times' copyright case to go forward

Lawyers for The New York Times believe that the paper's articles are the source of copyrighted text that OpenAI used to build ChatGPT into

Mar 26, 2025



OpenAI unveils GPT-4.5 'Orion'



Intel cuts 15% of its staff as it pushes to

Intel said Thursday it has mostly completed plans it announced last week to cut 15% of its workforce, as the struggling chipmaker attempts a turnaround.

Jul 24, 2025



Meta, Microsoft roar higher on strong earnings, AI spending booms

Shares of Meta and Microsoft popped after reporting strong earnings that exceeded analysts' expectations. Meta and Microsoft have been leading the market in AI spending.

Jul 31, 2025



layoff in over 2 years



Nvidia becomes first US company to cap

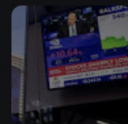
Nvidia has notched a market capitalisation of \$4 trillion, becoming the first US company in the world to reach the milestone and solidifying its position...

Jul 9, 2025



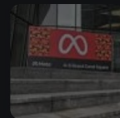
DeepSeek's \$1 trillion stock market crash: Nvidia, TSMC, and Broadcom recover some losses after AI shock

US-listed shares of tech giants are gaining some lost ground this morning after a China-led sell-off in AI stocks.



views during 2 years at 'former.'

ny had betrayed them and destroyed



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

IF ANYONE BUILDS IT, EVERYONE DIES

WHY
SUPERHUMAN AI
WOULD
KILL US ALL

ELIEZER
YUDKOWSKY &
NATE SOARES

Gemini 2.5 Pro Is Google's Most Powerful AI Model Yet, and It's Already Free



Wall Street's fear of an AI slowdown is 'laughable,' Morgan Stanley says

One of Wall Street's most powerful voices says AI is not slowing down, and it struggles to see a downside to the technology's impact on the economy.

Apr 26, 2025



Llama 4

Where I live

AI 2027

Daniel Kokotajlo, Scott Alexander, Thomas Larsen, Eli Lifland, Romeo Dean

We predict that the impact of superhuman AI over the next decade will be enormous, exceeding that of the Industrial Revolution.

We wrote a scenario that represents our best guess about what that might look like.¹ It's informed by trend extrapolations, wargames, expert feedback, experience at OpenAI, and previous forecasting successes.²

AI Spending is Too Much? Investors Are Starting to Worry

Nasdaq have their biggest one-day drops in weeks after Big Tech unveils 2026 AI spending plans.



s are



Authors are appealing for help from Congress and the courts after Meta and Anthropic used millions of books to create AI technology, without seeking...

Jul 19, 2025



Judge allows 'New York Times' copyright case to go forward

Lawyers for The New York Times believe that the paper's articles are the sources of copyrighted text that OpenAI used to build ChatGPT into

Mar 26, 2025



OpenAI unveils GPT-4.5 'Orion'



Intel cuts 15% of its staff as it pushes to

Intel said Thursday it has mostly completed plans it announced last week to cut 15% of its workforce, as the struggling chipmaker attempts a turnaround.

Jul 24, 2025



Meta, Microsoft roar higher on strong earnings, AI spending booms

Shares of Meta and Microsoft popped after reporting strong earnings that beat analysts' expectations. Meta and Microsoft have been leading the market in AI spending.

Jul 31, 2025



AI spending in over 2 years



Nvidia becomes first US company to reach \$4 trillion market cap

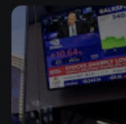
Nvidia has notched a market capitalisation of \$4 trillion, becoming the first US company in the world to reach the milestone and solidifying its position as a leader in the AI chip market.

Jul 9, 2025



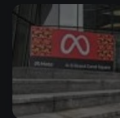
DeepSeek's \$1 trillion stock market crash: Nvidia, TSMC, and Broadcom recover some losses after AI shock

US-listed shares of tech giants are gaining some lost ground this morning after a China-based AI startup's stock market crash.



Views during 2 years at 'former.'

any had betrayed them and destroyed



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

IF ANYONE
BUILDS IT,
EVERYONE
DIES

WHY
SUPERHUMAN AI
WOULD
KILL US ALL

ELIEZER
YUDKOWSKY &
NATE SOARES

Gemini 2.5 Pro Is Google's Most Powerful AI Model Yet, and It's Already Free



Wall Street's fear of an AI slowdown is 'laughable,' Morgan Stanley says

One of Wall Street's most powerful voices says the market's fears of an AI slowdown are 'laughable.'

Apr 26, 2025



Llama 4

Where I last

AI 2027

Daniel Kokotajlo, Scott Alexander, Thomas Larsen, Eli Lifland, Romeo Dean

We predict that the impact of superhuman AI over the next decade will be enormous, exceeding that of the Industrial Revolution.

We wrote a scenario that represents our best guess about what that might look like. It's informed by trend extrapolations, wargames, expert feedback, experience at OpenAI, and previous forecasting successes.²



AI Spending is Too Much? Investors Are Starting to Question

Nasdaq have their biggest one-day drops in weeks after Big Tech unveils 2026 AI spending plans.



are



Authors are appealing for help from Congress and the courts after Meta and Anthropic used millions of books to create AI technology, without seeking...

Jul 19, 2025

fall behind



obsolescence

keep up



burn out

fall behind



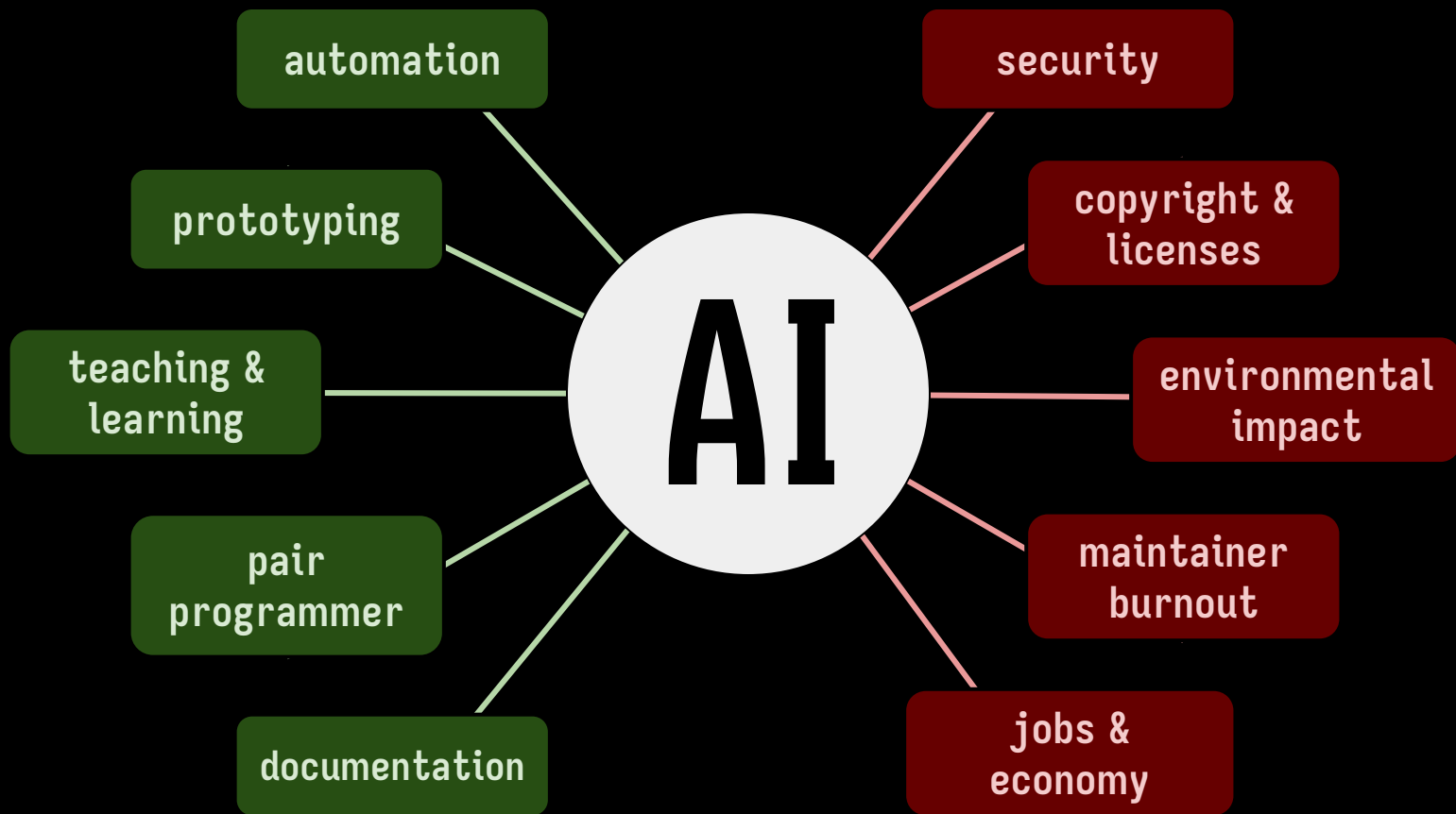
obsolescence

keep up

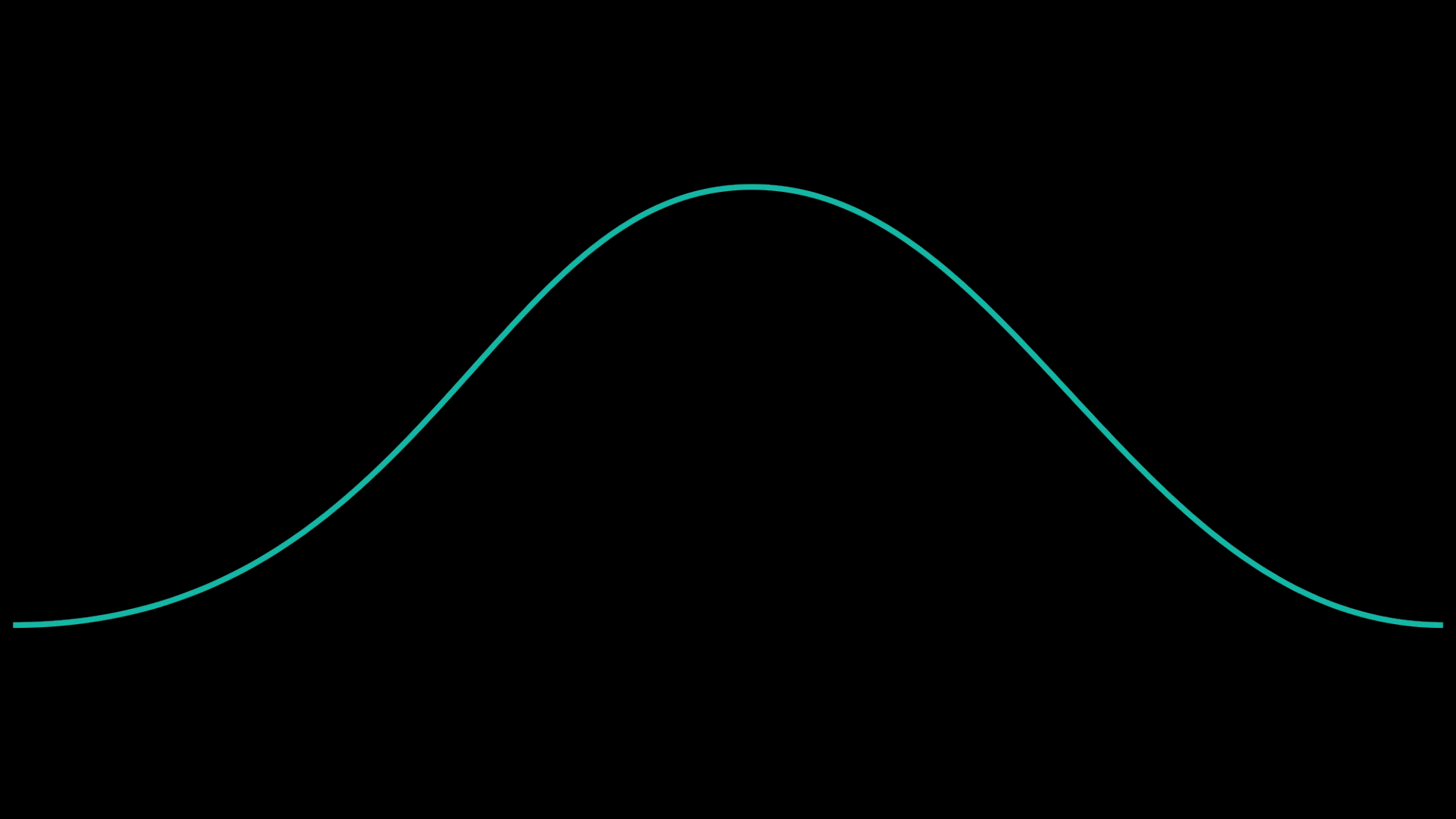


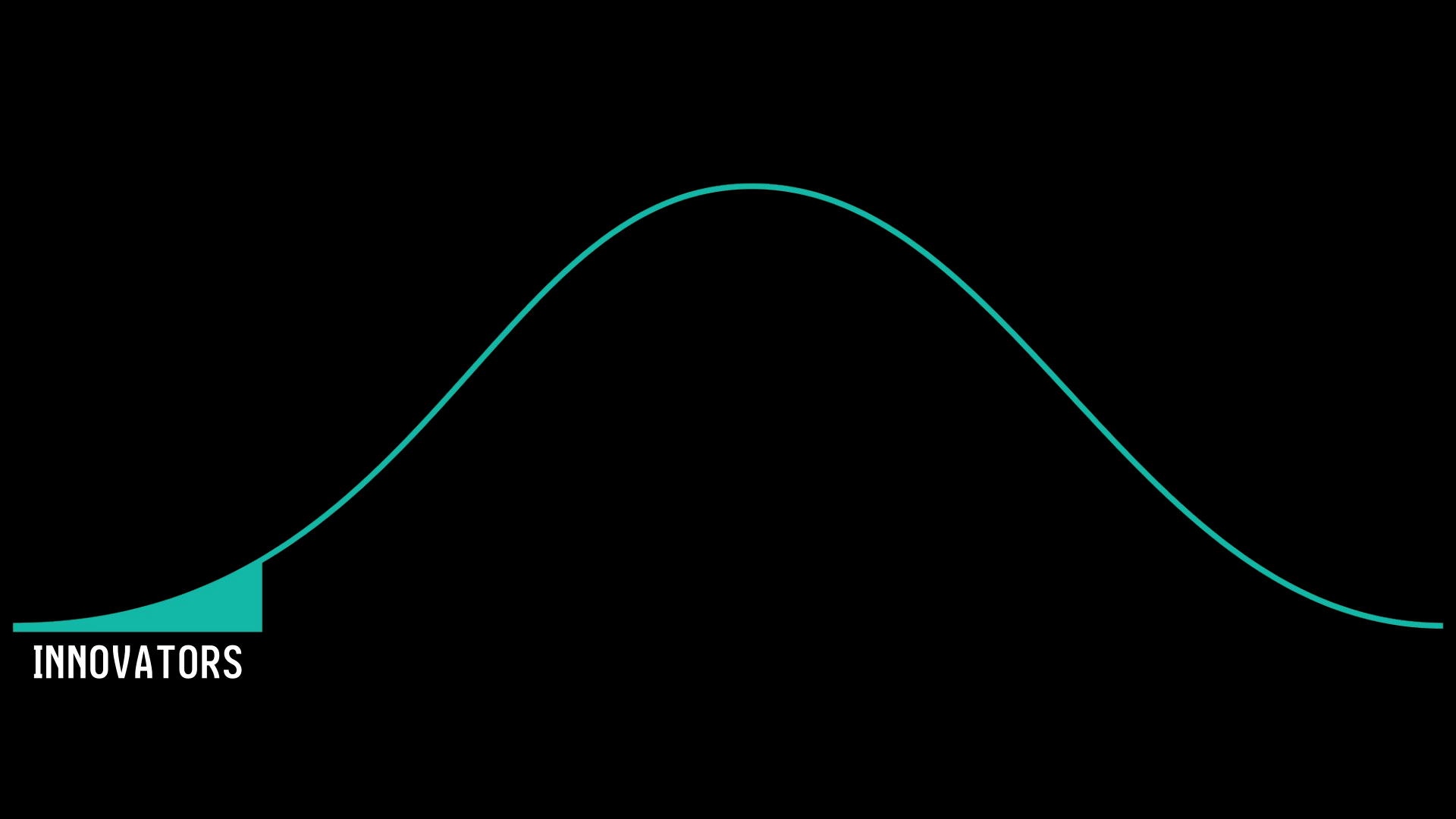
burn out

**I AM NOT
ANTI-AI**



- 1) What is an Early Adopter? Why does everyone want you to be one?
- 2) Do you actually need to be an Early Adopter to be effective?
- 3) If not, what do you do instead - for yourself and your organization?

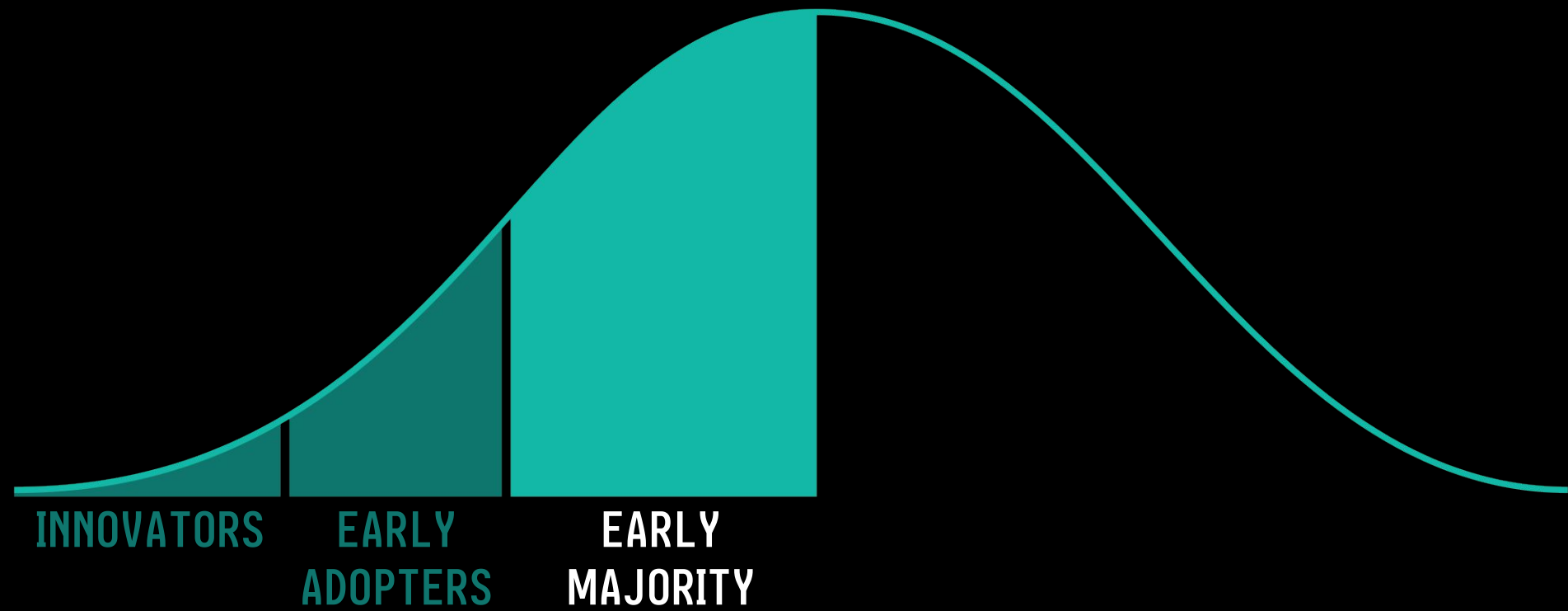


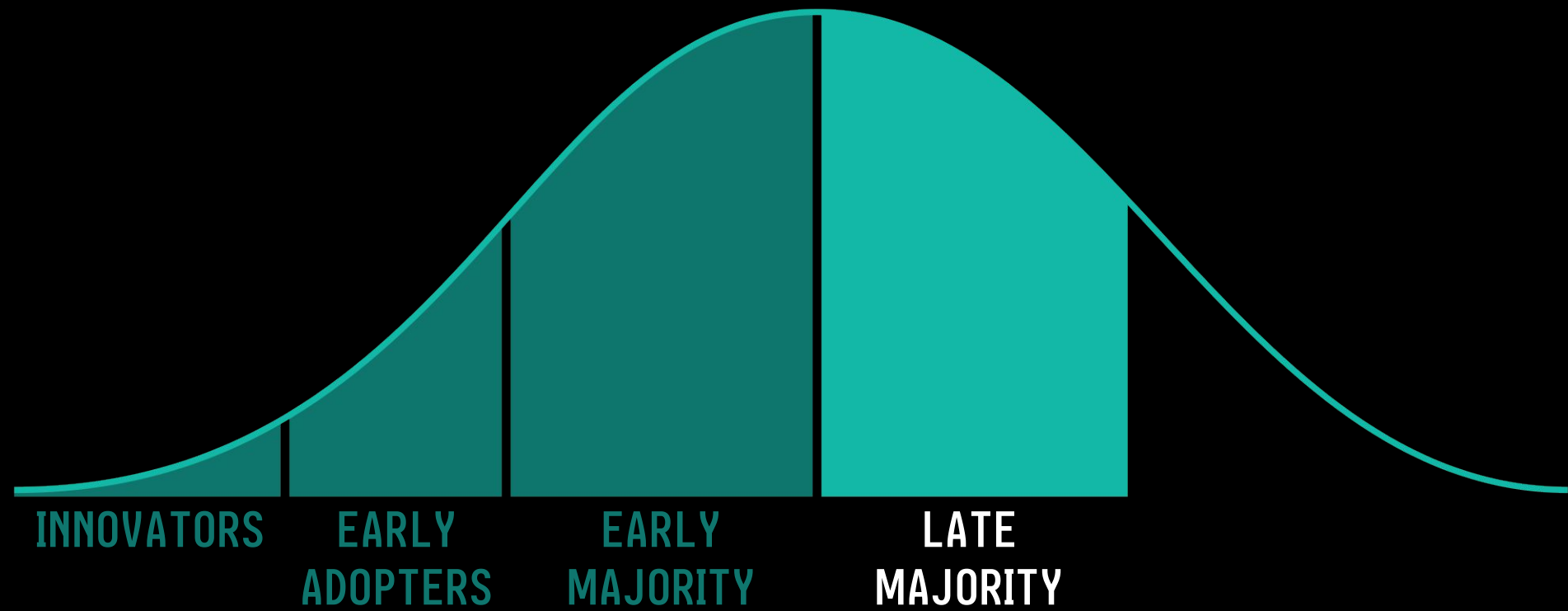


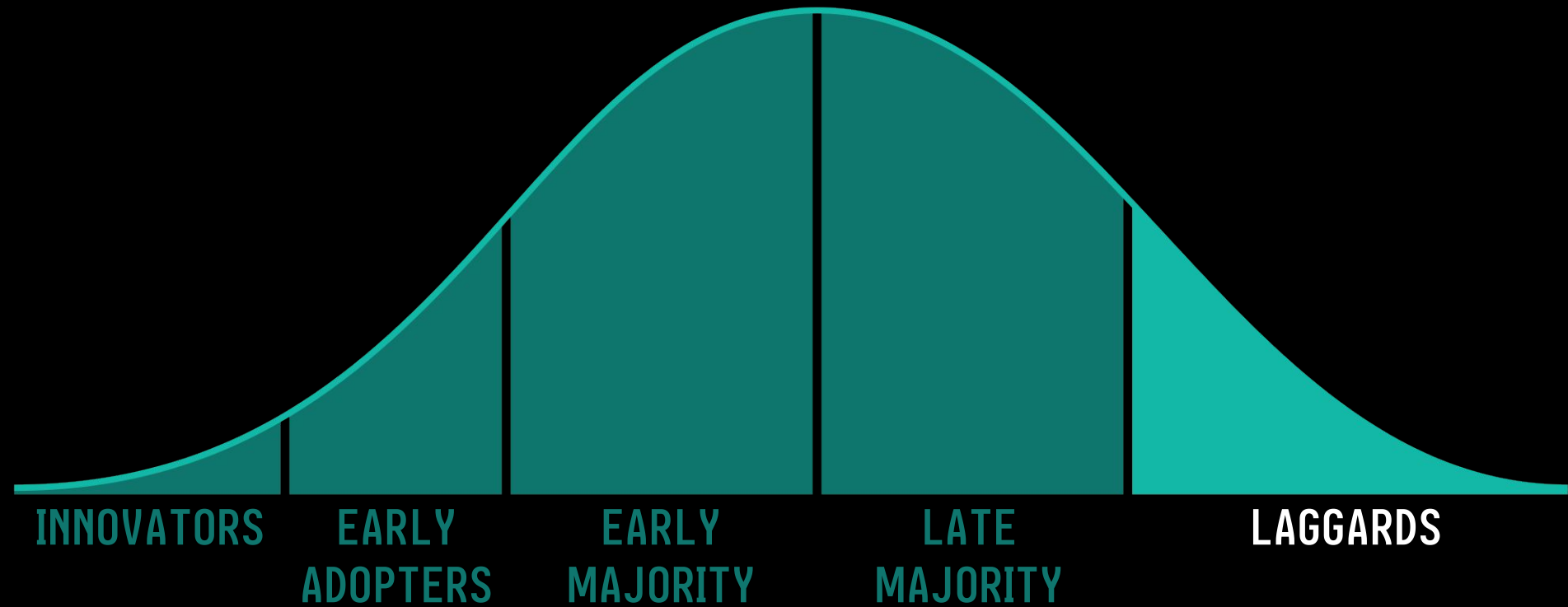
A bell curve is plotted on a black background. The left tail of the curve is shaded in a solid blue color. Below this shaded area, the word "INNOVATORS" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters.

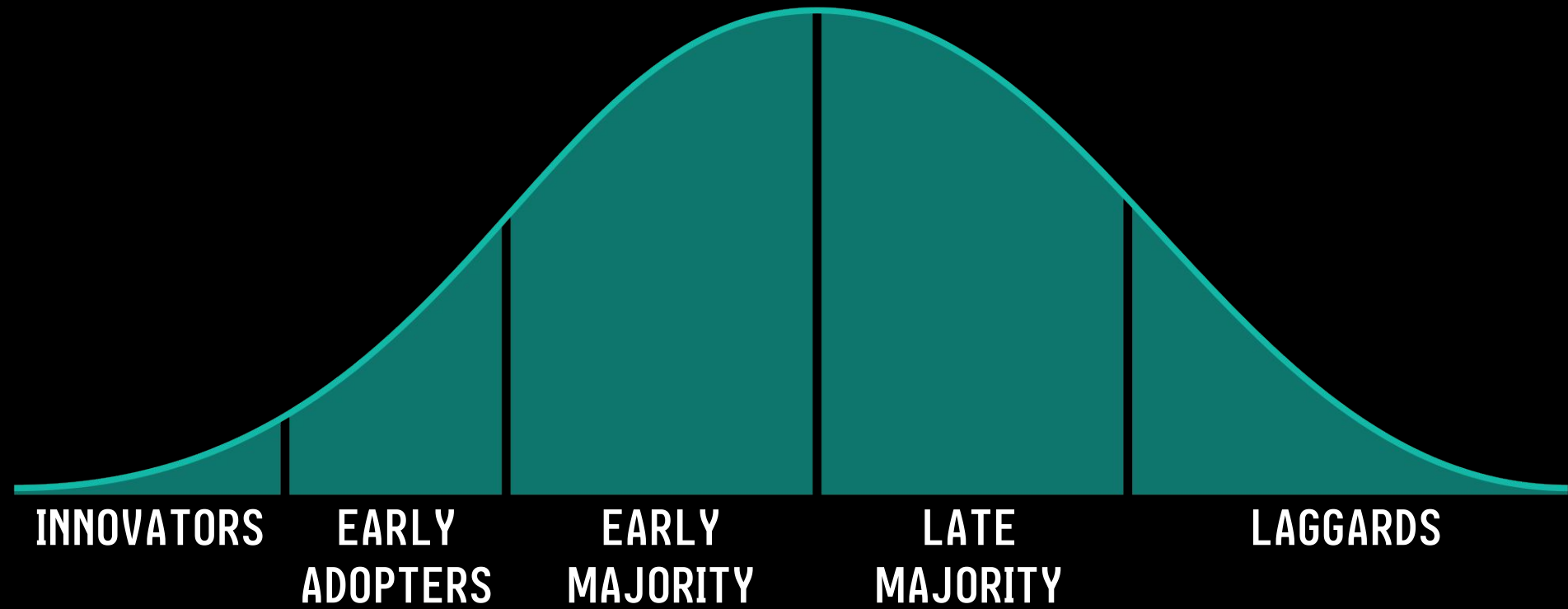
INNOVATORS

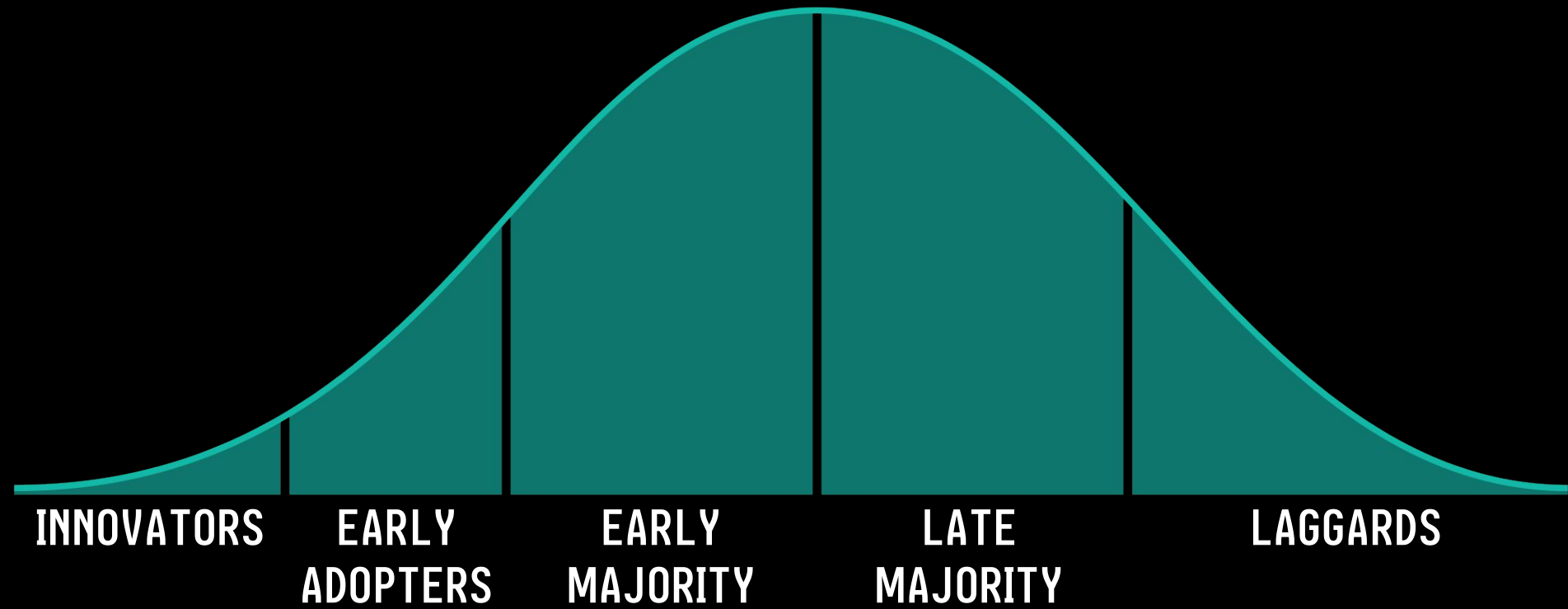












CAVEAT 1: Not a Law Of Nature

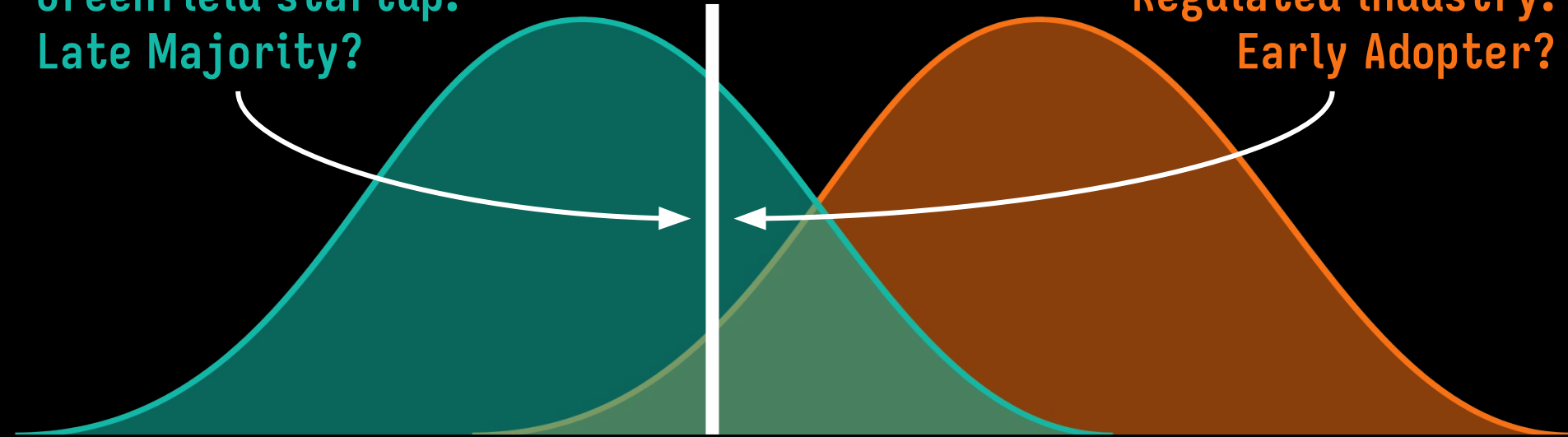
Technology that never
achieves mainstream
adoption?



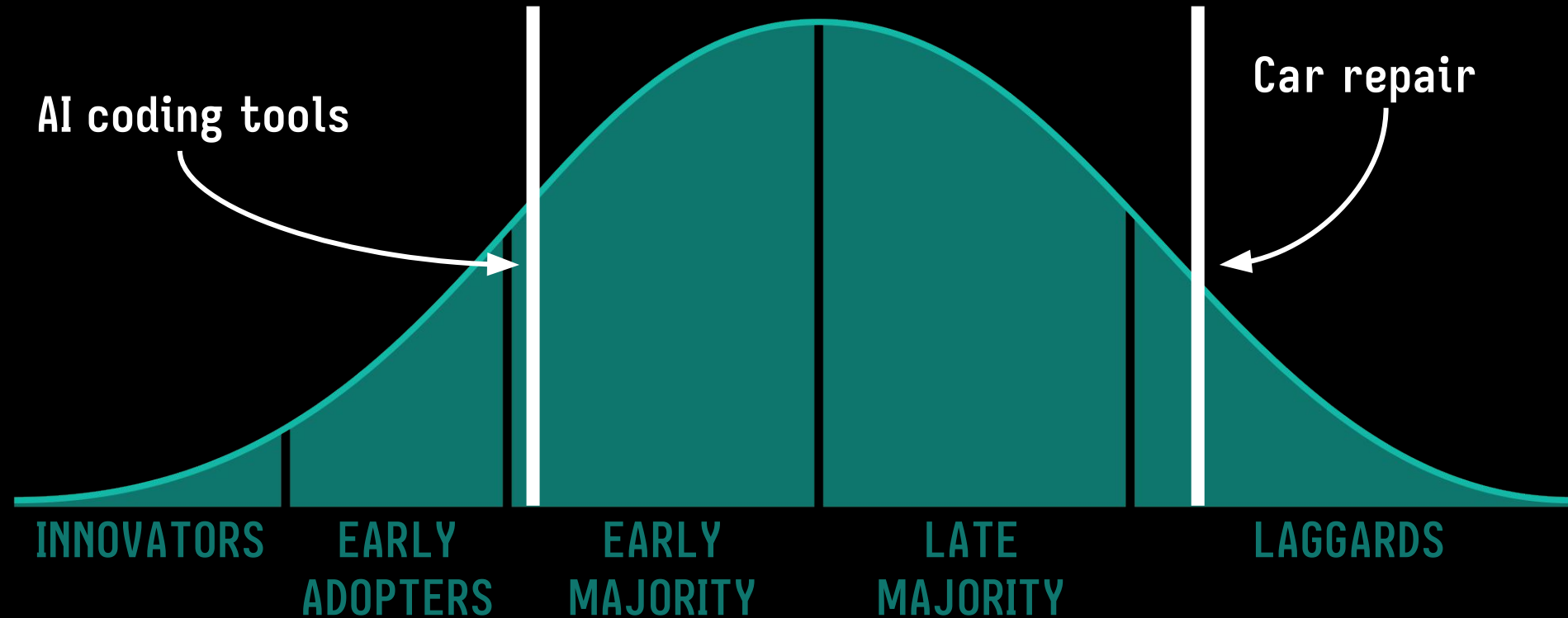
CAVEAT 2: Cohort-dependent

Greenfield startup:
Late Majority?

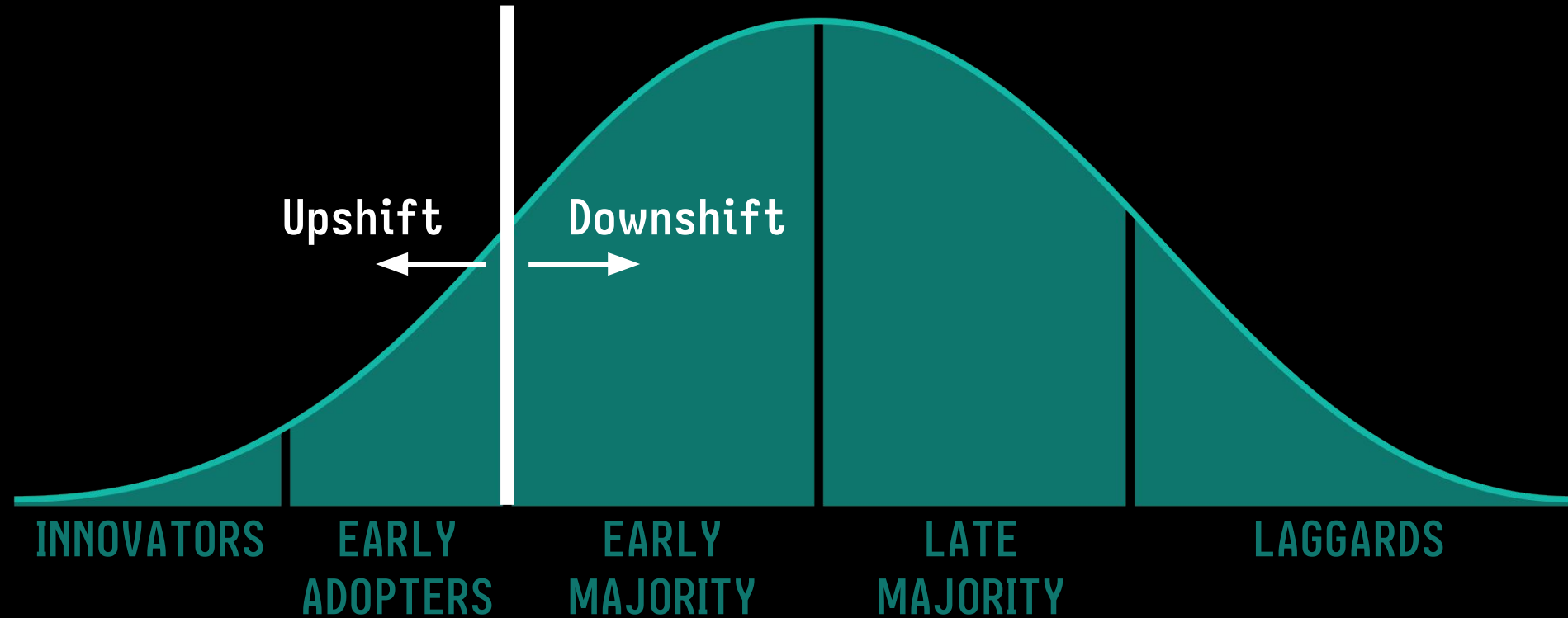
Regulated industry:
Early Adopter?



CAVEAT 3: Technology-dependent



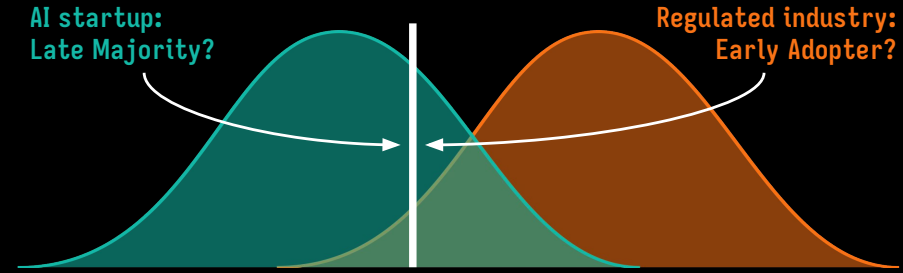
CAVEAT 4: Fluid over time



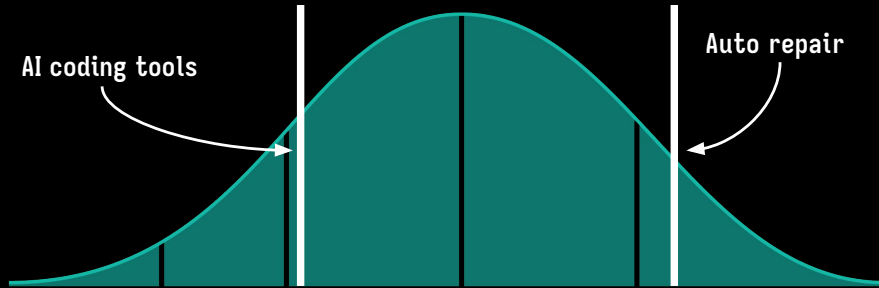
CAVEAT 1: Not a Law Of Nature



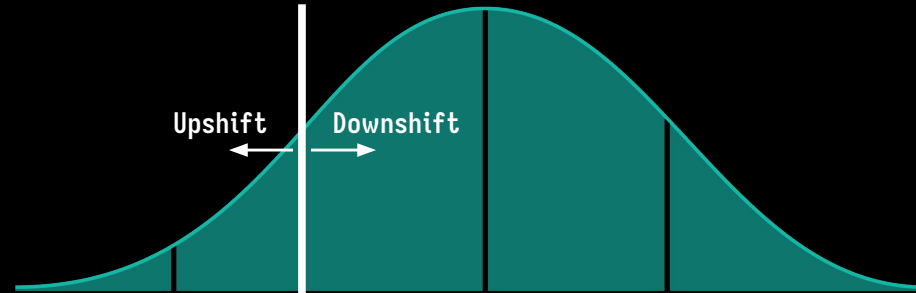
CAVEAT 2: Cohort-dependent



CAVEAT 3: Technology-dependent



CAVEAT 4: Fluid over time



*"If you're not following the news closely,
won't you miss something important?"*

**NO, YOU WON'T
MISS THE BOAT!**

More transformative innovations...

- diffuse faster
- take less effort to adopt

"Cutting-edge" advances

- Git version control
- Automated testing / CI
- Cloud computing
- Containerization
- Infrastructure as code
- Feature flags
- Observability
- Agile
- DevOps

*"If you're not following the news closely,
won't you miss something important?"*

**NO, YOU WON'T
MISS THE BOAT!**

More transformative innovations...

- diffuse faster
- take less effort to adopt

"Cutting-edge" advances

- Git version control
- Automated testing / CI
- Cloud computing
- Containerization
- Infrastructure as code
- Feature flags
- Observability
- Agile
- DevOps

You can be...

an informed voter without obsessing over politics.

a loyal sports fan without following every rumor.

a healthy human without trying every fad diet.

an effective leader without being an Early Adopter.

Is this
tool good?

Is this
tool good
for us?

EARLY
ADOPTERS

EARLY
MAJORITY

Org-specific context:
tech stack
product constraints
strategic priorities
team skill levels
culture
processes
compliance requirements
...

Is this
tool good?

Is this
tool good
for us?

EARLY
ADOPTERS

EARLY
MAJORITY

Org-specific context:
tech stack
product constraints
strategic priorities
team skill levels
culture
processes
compliance requirements
...

Infinite scroll of AI news:

Nutrition

Facts

20 scrolls

∞ servings per day

Serving size

2048

Amount Per Serving

% Daily Value*

Calories

150%

80%

~~Hot takes~~ 48g

210%

~~Click Bait~~ 18g

115%

~~Rage Bait~~ 12g

8%

~~Conflicts of Interest~~ 875mg

0%

~~Hype~~ 190mg

~~Total Substance~~ 6g

47%

~~Moral Fiber~~ 0g

~~Quantitative Results~~ 3g

~~Includes 3g Proprietary Methods~~

~~Practitioner Perspective~~ 1g

Infinite scroll of AI news:

Nutrition

Facts

20 scrolls

∞ servings per day

Serving size

2048

Amount Per Serving

% Daily Value*

Calories

150%

80%

Hot takes 48g

Click Bait 18g

210%

Rage Bait 12g

115%

Conflicts of Interest 875mg

8%

Hype 190mg

0%

Total Substance 6g

Moral Fiber 0g

47%

Quantitative Results 3g

Includes 3g Proprietary Methods

Practitioner Perspective 1g

Curated, high-quality sources:



PODCASTS



RSS FEEDS



NEWSLETTERS



Simon Willison's Newsletter

AI, LLMs, web engineering, open source, data science, Datasette, SQLite, Python and more

Over 65,000 subscribers



PYTHON BYTES

Python headlines delivered directly to your earbuds

(sources subject to personal preference)

Not all content is equal.

Red flags

- Headline ends in a question mark (Betteridge's Law).
- Quotes only execs with vested interests (e.g. stock options).
- Not written by a practitioner.
- Extrapolates current trends into future predictions.
- Provokes fear, excitement, doubt, other strong emotions.

Not all content is equal.

Red flags

- Headline ends in a question mark (Betteridge's Law).
- Quotes only execs with vested interests (e.g. stock options).
- Not written by a practitioner.
- Extrapolates current trends into future predictions.
- Provokes fear, excitement, doubt, other strong emotions.

Green flags

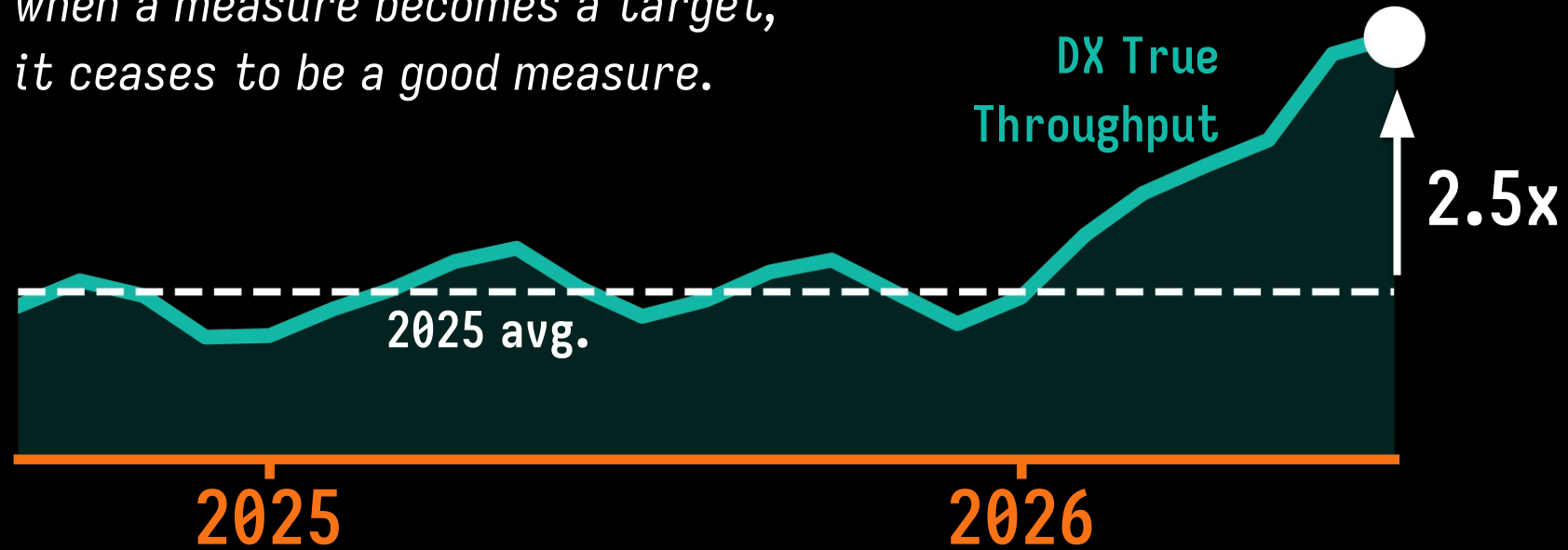
- Written by a neutral practitioner with no financial stake.
- Contains quantitative results.
- Compares multiple tools and techniques.
- Published weeks after launch.
- Links to source code.

"What can we do to increase our adoption of AI?"

"What can we do to increase our adoption of AI?"

Goodhart's Law:

*When a measure becomes a target,
it ceases to be a good measure.*



Culture of Experimentation



Hypothesis: What's the theory of value?



Method: What's the smallest experiment?

Culture of Experimentation

-  **Hypothesis:** What's the theory of value?
-  **Method:** What's the smallest experiment?
-  **Protocols:** What are the IT and security guardrails?
-  **Data:** What are the inputs and outputs to instrument?
-  **Conclusions:** "Is this tool good *for us*?"

Tactic 1: Channel for sharing headlines



Kat 2:32 PM

Claude just shipped Auto Mode, uses a classifier to decide when to auto execute vs require approval

<https://claude.com/blog/auto-mode>

Interesting middle ground between full autonomy and constant approval loops. Seems like a nice way to reduce friction, curious how people are thinking about using this



Auto mode for Claude Code | Claude

Auto mode lets Claude Code make permission decisions with built-in safeguards — fewer interruptions than default, less risk than skipping permissions. (76 kB) ▾



22 replies Last reply 4 months ago



nick May 13th at 12:16 PM

<https://github.com/mattpocock/skills/blob/main/skills/productivity/grill-me/SKILL.md> 80K ⭐ on github



2 replies



neilsh May 13th at 12:48 PM

kind of similar, I've had good experiences with the [obra/superpowers](https://github.com/obra/superpowers) brainstorming -> writing plans flow: <https://github.com/obra/superpowers>

obra/superpowers

An agentic skills framework & software development methodology that works.

Stars

189209

Language

Shell

Added by GitHub



codes May 13th at 1:37 PM

Matt Pocock has great youtube videos too on other of his AI skills <https://www.youtube.com/@mattpocockuk>

YouTube

Matt Pocock

Become an AI Hero with tips, tricks and tutorials. We don't do vibe coding - this is a channel for real engineers solving real problems.



olia 1:09 PM

<https://blog.pragmaticengineer.com/the-pulse-tokenmaxxing-as-a-weird-new-trend/>

The Pragmatic Engineer

The Pulse: 'Tokenmaxxing' as a weird new trend
At Meta, Microsoft, Salesforce and other large companies, devs are purposefully burning tokens (and money!) to inflate their AI usage and hit AI usage metrics which they treat as targets.

Written by
Gergely Orosz

Apr 23rd



10 replies Last reply 3 months ago



jono Apr 28

<https://image.png>



5 replies

statu

Claude S

Welcome

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

system p

Tactic 1: Channel for sharing headlines



Kat 2:32 PM

Claude just shipped Auto Mode, uses a classifier to decide when to auto execute vs require approval

<https://claude.com/blog/auto-mode>

Interesting middle ground between full autonomy and constant approval loops. Seems like a nice way to reduce friction, curious how people are thinking about using this



Auto mode for Claude Code | Claude

Auto mode lets Claude Code make permission decisions with built-in safeguards — fewer interruptions than default, less risk than skipping permissions. (76 kB) ▾



22 replies Last reply 4 months ago



nick May 13th at 12:16 PM

<https://github.com/mattpocock/skills/blob/main/skills/productivity/grill-me/SKILL.md> 80K ⭐ on github



2 replies



neilsh May 13th at 12:48 PM

kind of similar, I've had good experiences with the [obra/superpowers](https://github.com/obra/superpowers) brainstorming -> writing plans flow: <https://github.com/obra/superpowers>

obra/superpowers

An agentic skills framework & software development methodology that works.

Stars

189209

Language

Shell

Added by GitHub



codes May 13th at 1:37 PM

Matt Pocock has great youtube videos too on other of his AI skills <https://www.youtube.com/@mattpocockuk>

YouTube

Matt Pocock

Become an AI Hero with tips, tricks and tutorials. We don't do vibe coding - this is a channel for real engineers solving real problems.



olia 1:09 PM

<https://blog.pragmaticengineer.com/the-pulse-tokenmaxxing-as-a-weird-new-trend/>

The Pragmatic Engineer

The Pulse: 'Tokenmaxxing' as a weird new trend
At Meta, Microsoft, Salesforce and other large companies, devs are purposefully burning tokens (and money!) to inflate their AI usage and hit AI usage metrics which they treat as targets.

Written by
Gergely Orosz

Apr 23rd



10 replies Last reply 3 months ago



jono Apr 28

<https://image.png>



5 replies

statu

Claude S

Welcome

system p

7

1

9

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

Tactic 2: Show-and-tell



dmahr Feb 12th at 2:28 PM

@engineering-team At 1pm PT we have our next batch of AI tech talks for 2026. We have a few topics in the [the spreadsheet](#), including:

- **@Simon Fisher** Claude tooling for Jira ticket discovery
- **@james.stoneburner** Cursor memory handling
- **@Ben S** etiquette for reviewing large PRs
- Discuss ideas for the upcoming hackathon 🧑‍🤖 📊 ✨ 🤖

See you there! meet.google.com/ves-nqod-nxb



dmahr Dec 18th, 2025 at 9:34 AM

@engineering-team At 1pm PT we have our final round of AI tech talks/lightning talks for 2025. There are a couple of slots available; please put your name and topic on [the spreadsheet](#) if you'd like to present. No slides needed, quick demos are great! meet.google.com/ckv-dzvf-uek

Also, please complete [this brief survey](#) about our AI knowledge sharing. In '26 there will be a focus on operationalizing the AI tools that we've experimented with in '25. Your responses will help guide this process. Thank you in advance!



✨AI✨ Tech Talks
Thursday, July 23 · 4:00 – 5:00pm
Every 2 weeks on Thursday

[Join with Google Meet](#)

140 guests

Dan Mahr
Organizer
Set your working location

Engineers (139) ▾

In our fully remote environment, "over-the-shoulder" learning moments are rare, so we're Making It Happen™ virtually. If you're like me and feel overwhelmed keeping up with new AI models and tools, this is a great opportunity to learn from your teammates what is legit and what is just hype.

If you are interested in demoing an AI coding tool, technique, best practice, success story, or cautionary tale, please sign up for a ~10 minute slot in the "AI Tech Talks" tab of the [Tech Talks spreadsheet](#).

✨AI✨ Tech Talk... Notes by Gemini

When event starts
15 minutes before

DroneDeploy

Going? [Yes](#) ▾ [No](#) [Maybe](#) ▾

Tactic 2: Show-and-tell



dmahr Feb 12th at 2:28 PM

@engineering-team At 1pm PT we have our next batch of AI tech talks for 2026. We have a few topics in the [the spreadsheet](#), including:

- @Simon Fisher Claude tooling for Jira ticket discovery
- @james.stoneburner Cursor memory handling
- @Ben S etiquette for reviewing large PRs
- Discuss ideas for the upcoming hackathon 🧑‍🤖 📄 ✨ 🤖

See you there! meet.google.com/ves-nqod-nxb



dmahr Dec 18th, 2025 at 9:34 AM

@engineering-team At 1pm PT we have our final round of AI tech talks/lightning talks for 2025. There are a couple of slots available; please put your name and topic on [the spreadsheet](#) if you'd like to present. No slides needed, quick demos are great! meet.google.com/ckv-dzvf-uek

Also, please complete [this brief survey](#) about our AI knowledge sharing. In '26 there will be a focus on operationalizing the AI tools that we've experimented with in '25. Your responses will help guide this process. Thank you in advance!





 **🚀 AI 🚀 Tech Talks**

Thursday, July 23 · 4:00 – 5:00pm
Every 2 weeks on Thursday

 [Join with Google Meet](#) 

 140 guests  

 **Dan Mahr** 
Organizer
Set your working location

 Engineers (139) ▾



In our fully remote environment, "over-the-shoulder" learning moments are rare, so we're Making It Happen™ virtually. If you're like me and feel overwhelmed keeping up with new AI models and tools, this is a great opportunity to learn from your teammates what is legit and what is just hype.

If you are interested in demoing an AI coding tool, technique, best practice, success story, or cautionary tale, please sign up for a ~10 minute slot in the "AI Tech Talks" tab of the [Tech Talks spreadsheet](#).

 🚀 AI 🚀 Tech Talk...  Notes by Gemini

 When event starts
15 minutes before

 DroneDeploy

Going? [Yes](#) ▾ [No](#) [Maybe](#) ▾

Tactic 3: Mob programming

"Are you using the CLI exclusively or switching back to Cursor?"

"Which tool did you use to manage the worktrees?"

"How do you get your windows to display like that?"

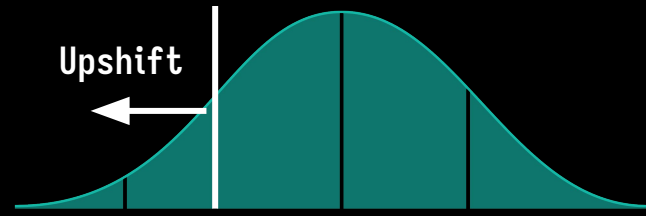
"Won't this fill up the model's context window?"

"Does the effort setting matter for this skill?"

"How did you get Claude to run the linter first?"

Tactic	Scope	Content
1) Slack channel	Broad + shallow	Hypotheses
2) Show-and-tell	In-between	Results
3) Mob programming	Narrow + deep	Conclusions

When to consider upshifting



Enthusiasm: you find joy in experimenting with a technology as a hobby.

Niche: technology is so specialized that few Early Adopters will explore it.

Prototype: your org needs a prototype from a trusted internal champion.

When to consider upshifting



Enthusiasm: you find joy in experimenting with a technology as a hobby.

Niche: technology is so specialized that few Early Adopters will explore it.

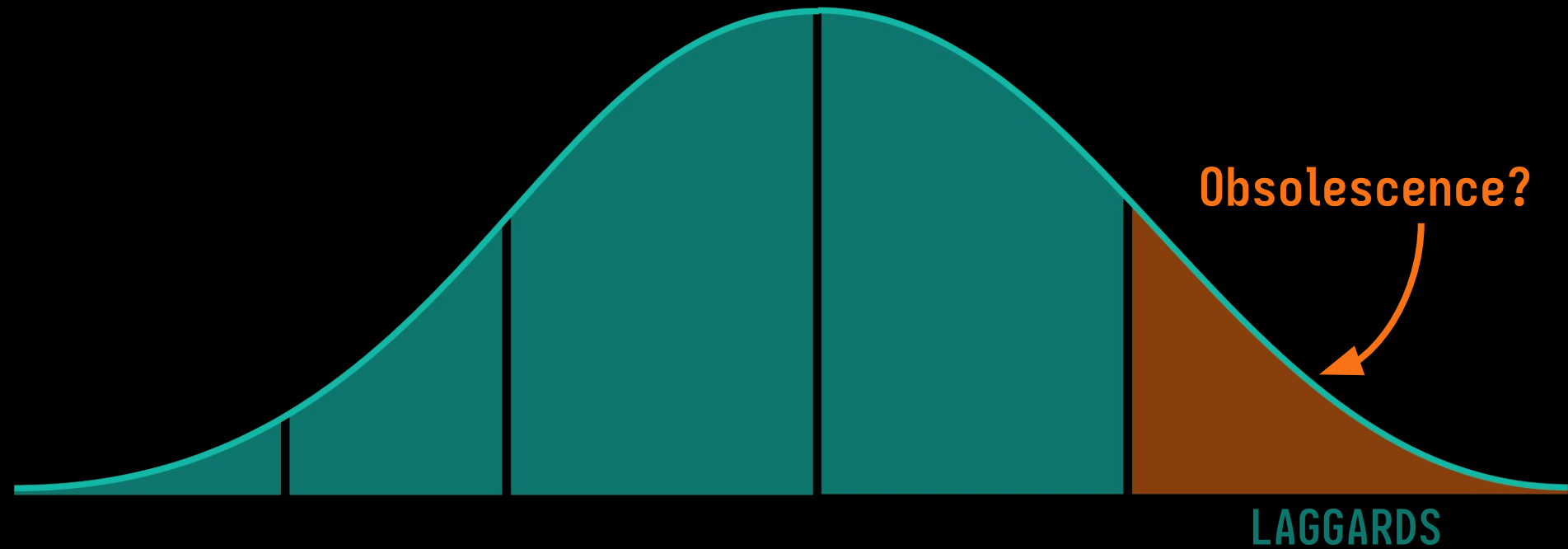
Prototype: your org needs a prototype from a trusted internal champion.

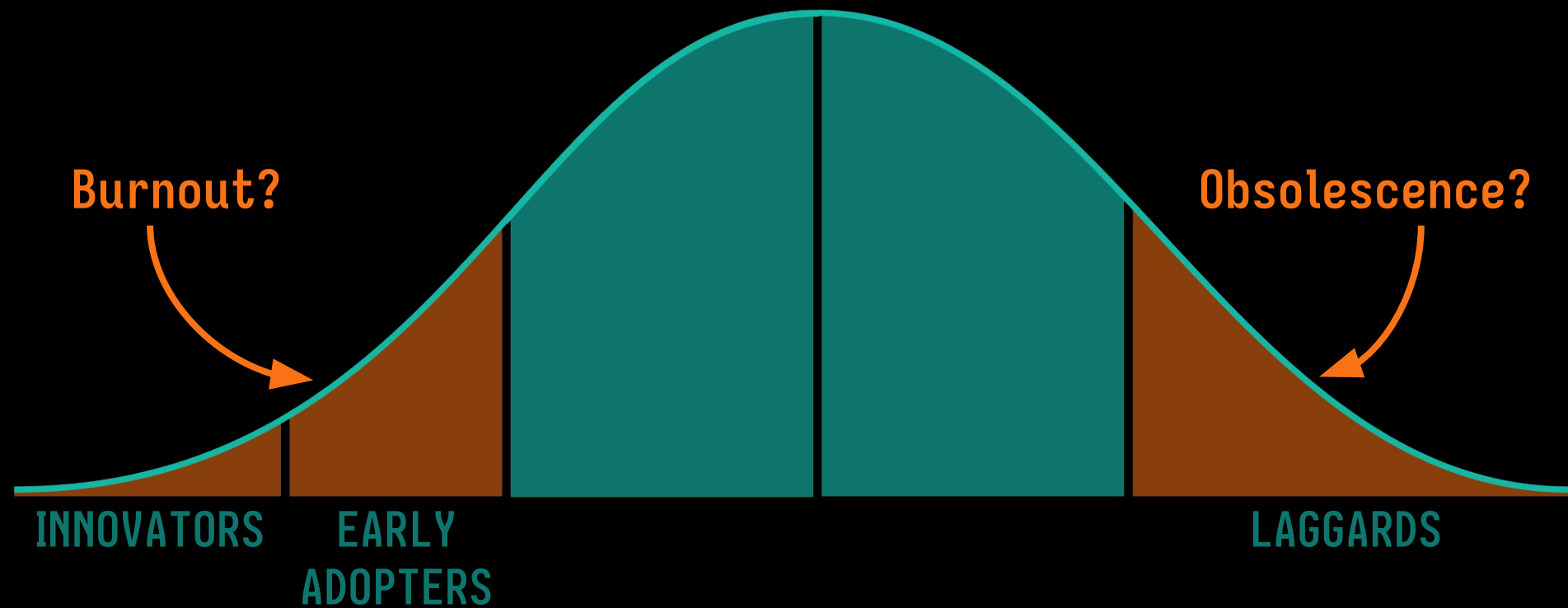
Perfect fit: technology is uniquely well-suited to your org's particularities.

Interview: you want experience with the tools used by a prospective employer.

New job: you just started a new job and want to ramp up quickly.

Life event: circumstances change and you have more time.





Summary:

- Obsessing is optional: we need Early Adopters, but leaders don't have to play that role to be effective.
- You won't miss the boat: more transformative technologies diffuse faster and take less effort to adopt.
- Fit beats first: leaders' competitive advantage is assessing "Is this good for my organization?"

Burnout?

Obsolescence?

Pragmatic
baseline

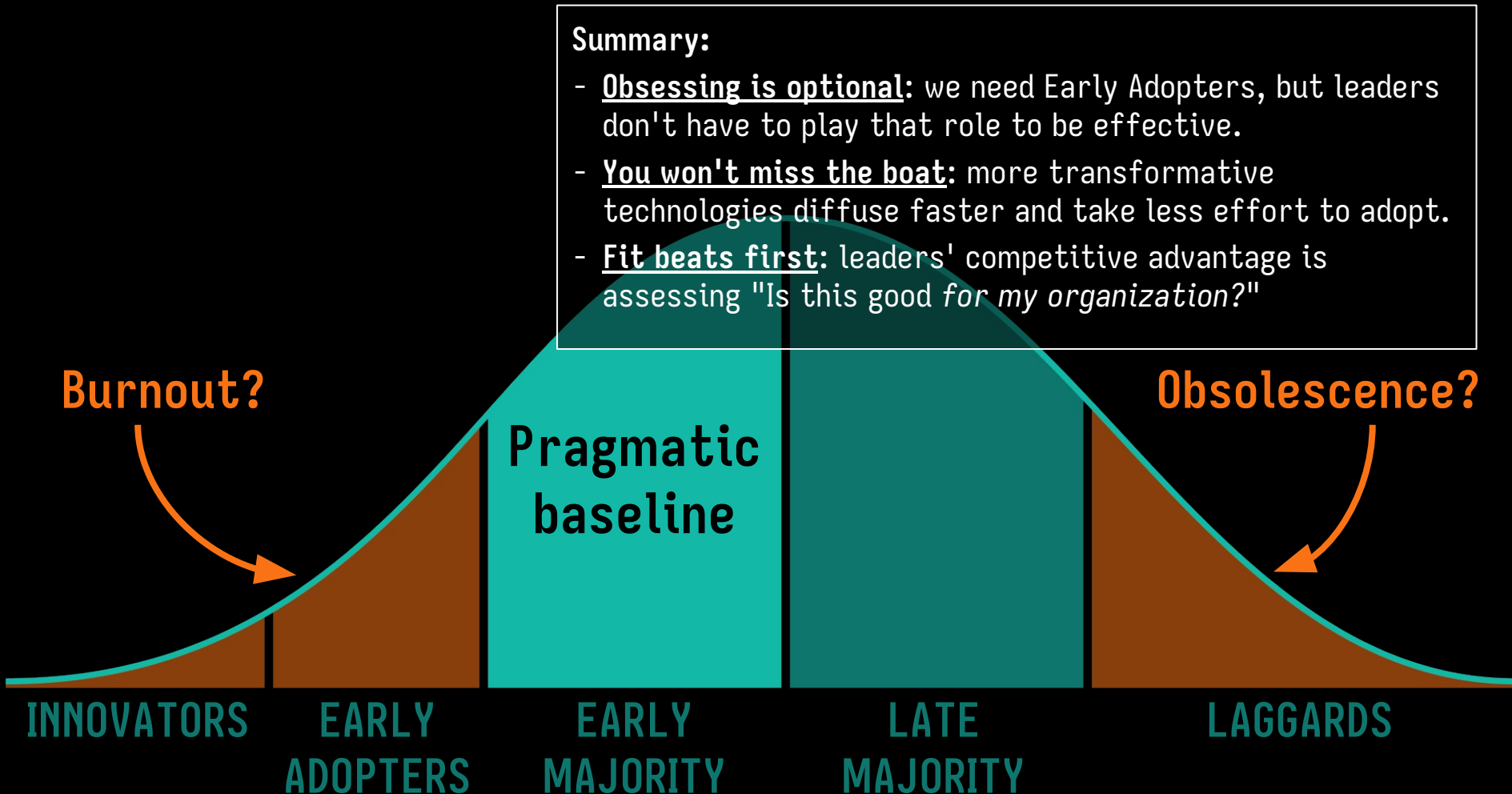
INNOVATORS

EARLY
ADOPTERS

EARLY
MAJORITY

LATE
MAJORITY

LAGGARDS



Obsessing Over AI is Optional



Dan Mahr

Staff Engineer @
DroneDeploy

linkedin.com/in/danmahr

Slides: dmahr.com/leaddev26



Summary:

- Obsessing is optional: we need Early Adopters, but leaders don't have to play that role to be effective.
- You won't miss the boat: more transformative technologies diffuse faster and take less effort to adopt.
- Fit beats first: leaders' competitive advantage is assessing "Is this good *for my organization*?"

Tactics:

- Curate news diet: a handful of high-quality, nuanced sources; no infinite scroll, no clickbait.
- Mind red and green flags: focus on content from *practitioners* with no financial stake.
- Experimentation culture: scientific method beats hype.
- Create spaces for learnings to diffuse: discussion channels, show-and-tells, mob programming.
- Consider upshifting case-by-case: deliberate, time-bound stints, reassessed anytime.