



AI LEADER BRIEF

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Your Strategic Edge in an AI-Augmented World

In This Week's Brief:

- Top News: Autonomous Workspaces & CEO AI Moves
- Myth Busters: Reframing What's Holding Your Teams Back
- Prompt of the Week: Evolve Your Leadership Identity
- What You Can Do Now That Matters: Activate Conversations That Shape the Future
- 5 Words Leaders Should Know: Stay Fluent in the Strategic AI Dialogue
- Strategic Moves for This Week: Start Conversations That Count
- What Just Dropped: Strategic AI Developments

Top News: AI Transforming Business Operations



Autonomous Workspaces Reshape IT Planning

Modern AI-powered workspaces are solving what was once a tradeoff between user experience and enterprise security. These environments now self-heal, predict threats, and optimize workflows in real time.

Why this matters: If you're still thinking of AI as a tool for individuals or departments, you're behind. These breakthroughs require organizational-level design, not isolated pilots. They demand executive foresight—not IT handoffs.

[Source: Stratodesk & IGEL – July 2025]



Delta Air Lines CEO Leans Into Enterprise AI to Enhance Operational Resilience

Delta's CEO Ed Bastian recently announced expanded partnerships to use AI in optimizing crew scheduling, aircraft maintenance, and customer disruption forecasting. This includes real-time data orchestration across global hubs—augmenting both frontline agility and leadership visibility.

Why this matters: Enterprise-wide AI is no longer theory. Forward-looking CEOs are using it to stress test their operating models against uncertainty and capacity limits. These moves signal how AI readiness is becoming synonymous with operational resilience and board-level strategy.

[Source: Delta Q2 2025 Earnings Call | CNBC]

Myth Busters: Reframe the Thinking That's Holding You Back



Myth: IT owns AI implementation.

Truth: AI success is cross-functional. Leaders from operations, HR, finance, and client experience must co-create the vision—not just receive the tools.

Myth: Fastest ROI wins come from automating what we already do.

Truth: The highest value lies in rethinking how we work—not just speeding up current processes.

Prompt of the Week: Evolve Your Leadership Identity

Hey Chat, I want to reflect on how AI is shaping me as a leader. Ask me five questions—one at a time—about how I define leadership purpose, culture, talent values, and trust in an AI-augmented future. Then summarize the leadership identity I'm projecting and suggest one shift to evolve next.

- ① **Why it matters:** This prompt draws out how your vision, behaviors, and values are being expressed—or tested—by AI integration. It helps ensure your leadership evolves intentionally, not reactively.



What You Can Do Now That Matters



Activate Your Network

Host a cross-department listening session with no pitch deck. Ask:

- What questions do you have about AI?
- Where are you curious?
- What worries you?
- What real problems could it help solve?



Facilitate Future Visioning

In your next senior team meeting, ask:

"If AI reshaped our business model over the next three years, what would our people need to thrive in that new system?"

Let the conversation stay strategic—not technical.

5 Words Leaders Should Know

Stay Fluent in the Strategic AI Dialogue

Agent Orchestration

Coordinating multiple AI agents across platforms to work toward shared goals with data transparency.

Autonomous Workspace

A secure digital environment that adjusts, protects, and performs independently using AI.

Zero-Trust Prediction

AI threat detection based on behavioral analysis rather than traditional perimeter defenses.

Data Fabric

The connective tissue that makes data discoverable and usable across business silos for AI-powered insight.

AI Mindshare

The attention, capacity, and willingness your people have to meaningfully engage AI in their day-to-day work.

This Week's Strategic Moves for Leaders



Ask This of Your Executive Team

"Where are we treating AI like a vendor solution—when it actually needs to be a leadership conversation?" Hold a 60-minute pause. Surface the assumptions, anxieties, and blind spots driving your current approach. Where is curiosity missing? Where are you following instead of designing?



Ask This of Yourself

"If my role is to future-proof this organization, what have I done this month to increase our collective readiness—not just our tech stack?" Review your last 30 days. Have you talked about ethical use? Skill readiness? Cultural shifts? Those are your true differentiators.

THE AI STRATEGIC LEADER™ PROGRAM

Join the new Cortex AI Strategic Leader Program

Lead smarter. Deliver faster. Adapt confidently.

For leaders and executives ready to grow their AI-powered impact. An experience designed to bring out your strategic mindset.

"This didn't just make me faster. It made me sharper, more strategic, and more confident in what I'm delivering." - Betsy H, Cortex AI Event

Cohorts will be limited to 12-14 leaders/executives only. (Cohort 1 & 2 are already filled that are kicking off this fall - now accepting leaders & executives for Cohort 3 in January, 2026)

Facilitated by: Lynda McNutt Foster, Founder & CEO, Cortex Leadership Consulting

Cohort Format

- 1 Full-Day Kickoff Day, In-Person Session in Roanoke, VA
- 2 Interactive Virtual Practice Labs (you choose which fits your schedule)
- 1 Personalized Coaching Session with Lynda McNutt Foster (90 min) (at your convenience)
- 1 Full Project Delivery Day, In-Person Session in Roanoke, VA



- Projects you pick to work on, designed for high-impact on your role, team, or organization

Why This Program / Why Now?

- AI tools like CoPilot and ChatGPT are already embedded into the apps you use every day.
- Most leaders are barely scratching the surface of what's possible-let alone preparing their teams.
- This cohort is for people who want to lead the change-not be surprised by it.
- We combine tool mastery, real-time collaboration, and Conversational Intelligence to make you and your team future-proof while you deliver a high-impact project.

What You'll Learn to Do

- Think in systems and solve high-level challenges with AI - and deliver a high-impact project of your choice!
- Master prompt engineering using real business goals (not gimmicks)
- Collaborate with CoPilot, ChatGPT, Gemini and other internal systems more effectively
- Build trust by learning how to bring out your visionary thinking and communicate change with clarity
- Understand your personal Cortex AI Profile and how to grow your strengths
- Use AI to scale your thinking, increase your influence, and extend your capacity
- Align your use of AI with your organization's compliance and regulatory boundaries

Whether you're required to use Microsoft CoPilot or exploring a mix of tools, this program is built to match your reality. We customize prompts, use cases, and strategies to the AI environment you're working within.

📧 Contact info@cortexleadership.com for more information on joining the January or February 2025 cohorts now forming. You can't afford not to start applying high-level AI skills now to your leadership. Special discounts and considerations apply to existing or past Cortex Leadership clients.