

AI as Expert vs AI as Executor

HIGHLIGHTS

AI is moving from **analysis to execution**.

The distinction is not technical.
It is structural.

When systems shift from advising to acting, authority boundaries determine exposure.

AI as Expert

Example

An AI system analyzes competitor pricing and recommends a response.
The CEO reviews and approves.

Assumption

Authority remains personal.

Consequences

- Decisions remain reviewable.
- Strategic intent is explicit.
- Accountability sits with the executive

Mitigation

- Defined approval thresholds.
- Clear ownership of the final decision.
- Documentation of rationale.

AI as Executor

Example

An AI system automatically adjusts pricing within predefined limits.

Assumption

Authority is pre-delegated.

Consequences

- Execution scales.
- Market impact accelerates.
- Accountability concentrates at design level.

Mitigation

- Explicit execution boundaries.
- Defined override authority.
- Continuous executive visibility.

What Changes at Scale

As autonomy expands:

- Speed compounds.
- Human intervention becomes indirect.
- Exposure shifts from operator to architect.

ACTION: Before Expanding Autonomy

- Who defines execution boundaries?
- Who authorizes delegation?
- Where does override authority sit?
- Is the system defensible under scrutiny?

Autonomy scales. Authority contains.

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