

AI News Digest

09/28/2026 - 10/04/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

AI Transforms Business Operations with Automation and Efficiency

Recent developments in AI are revolutionizing business operations by automating manual tasks, enhancing efficiency, and transforming the role of data scientists. Companies like Basis, Chatham Financial, and Outmarket are leveraging AI to streamline processes, reduce costs, and improve productivity. The integration of AI is also raising questions about the future of work, regulatory pressures, and the need for sustained and scalable AI operations. As AI usage becomes more widespread, leaders must consider the implications of buying AI on a per-request basis versus investing in ownership.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ AI is transforming the role of data scientists from primarily coding and data interpretation to empowering stakeholders to self-serve and minimizing low-value work.
- ✓ Companies are using AI to automate manual accounting tasks, such as Basis's use of GPT-6 Astra to complete a 50-tab tax workbook in half the time.
- ✓ The increasing demand for sustained and scalable AI operations is driving enterprises to shift from isolated AI pilots to production portfolios.

IMPLICATIONS

- As AI usage becomes more widespread, businesses will need to consider whether buying AI on a per-request basis or investing in ownership is more cost-effective.
- The integration of AI will continue to raise questions about the future of work and the need for workers to develop new skills.
- Regulatory pressures will mount as AI becomes more prevalent in business operations, with a focus on ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness.

Key Metrics: 50-tab tax workbook completed in half the time using GPT-6 Astra; \$34.5M raised by Insurtech Outmarket; 30 minutes to under 5 minutes: reduction in review time for Chatham Financial's Process Zero service; 2028: expected applicability of EU's payments package, PSD3, and the new Payment Services Regulation

1. AI Made Data Scientists Faster. Now It's Expanding the Job.

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Industrial, Manufacturing & Systems Engineering, Mathematical Sciences, Accounting & Information Systems, Economics & Finance

Topics: Enterprise AI, AI-assisted Coding, Semantic Layers, Agent Skills

Impact Score: 20.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

AI has advanced significantly over the past year, transforming the role of data scientists from primarily coding and data interpretation to empowering stakeholders to self-serve and minimizing low-value work. Data scientists now rely heavily on AI to write analysis code, with manual SQL and Python coding reduced to simple tasks such as quick table inspections or aggregations. AI-generated code is reviewed by data scientists, and repeated workflows are packaged into "Agent Skills" that reduce time spent on process rediscovery and encourage knowledge-sharing. The increased reliance on AI has highlighted the importance of semantic layers for ensuring the accuracy and reliability of generated output.

<https://towardsdatascience.com/ai-made-data-scientists-faster-now-its-expanding-the-job/>

2. How the bad science of AI doomerism is good for big business

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration, Philosophy, Economics & Finance, Sociology & Anthropology

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, AI Regulation, Superintelligence Risk Assessment

Impact Score: 19.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Experts question the notion of superintelligence emerging from current AI systems, citing a lack of scientific basis for such claims. Some researchers describe advanced AI in exaggerated, "God-like" terms, sparking concerns about catastrophic outcomes. However, these concerns are not grounded in scientific evidence, but rather in science fiction. Major AI companies propose self-regulation, setting their own standards and processes, rather than being audited by independent parties.

<https://ainowinstitute.org/news/press/how-the-bad-science-of-ai-doomerism-is-good-for-big-business>

3. The eternal complement

Category: Research

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Economics & Finance, Sociology & Anthropology, Philosophy, Computer Science

Topics: Science & Research, AI Ethics & Safety, Research Productivity

Impact Score: 16.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

The authors discuss the mismatch between humanity's ability to conceptualize the universe and its physical limitations, highlighting two possibilities: that deep truths can be discovered without exploration or that minds have outrun execution capacity. Research productivity studies show that sustaining progress requires increasingly more researchers and resources, with effective research effort rising twenty-three-fold from the 1930s but measured research productivity falling by a factor of forty-one. The authors argue that genius should be considered as one input to a production process, requiring evidence, instruments, and support staff to actualize ideas, and that frontier intelligence and execution capacity are complementary inputs. Progress relies on a support system, including institutions, laws, bureaucracy, funding mechanisms, and supply chains, to execute on ideas.

<https://openai.com/index/the-eternal-complement>

4. Basis completes a tax workbook 2x faster with GPT-6 Astra

Category: Applications

Departments: Accounting & Information Systems, Computer Science

Topics: Large Language Models, Automated Accounting, Task Completion Optimization, User Intent Understanding

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 2

Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

Basis developed AI agents using GPT-6 Astra to automate manual accounting tasks, focusing on reliable completion of long tasks. GPT-6 Astra outperformed GPT-5.6 Sol in completing a 50-tab tax workbook, finishing in half the time. The model demonstrated improved understanding of user intent, made better initial decisions, and adjusted its reasoning effort based on task difficulty. Basis saw a 20% improvement in internal evaluation scores with GPT-6 Astra, driven by better user intent understanding and task handling.

<https://openai.com/index/basis-tax-workbook-with-astra>

5. Chatham scales its capital markets expertise with OpenAI

Category: Business
Departments: Computer Science, Accounting & Information Systems, Economics & Finance, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Topics: Enterprise AI, Code LLM, Automation in Finance, AI-powered Application Development

Impact Score: 13.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1	Educational Value: 2	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

Chatham Financial uses Codex and GPT-5.6 to build internal and client-facing AI tools, aiming to automate routine tasks while preserving human judgment. The firm's Process Zero service reengineered trade validation, reducing review time from 30 minutes to under 4 minutes using a Codex-built application. Chatham also developed an internal platform, Chatham Vibes, allowing employees to create AI-powered applications tailored to their work. The company is integrating AI into its next-generation capital markets operating system, Chatham Onyx, using Codex across the development lifecycle.

<https://openai.com/index/chatham-financial>

6. Making AI an asset, not an expense

Category: Business
Departments: Computer Science, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Industrial, Manufacturing & Systems Engineering, Accounting & Information Systems, Economics & Finance
Topics: Enterprise AI, AI Cost Optimization, Scalable AI Operations, AI Investment Strategy

Impact Score: 12.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 1
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 2	Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

Enterprises are shifting from isolated AI pilots to production portfolios, increasing demand for sustained and scalable AI operations. As AI usage becomes steady and predictable, leaders must consider whether buying AI on a per-request basis or investing in owned capacity is more economical. The crossover point at which ownership becomes more cost-effective varies by organization, depending on factors such as model usage, performance requirements, and operating costs. Enterprises should model their actual workloads and expected demand to determine the optimal approach.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2026/09/29/1145186/making-ai-an-asset-not-an-expense/>

7. Europe Agreed on Its New Payment Rules Ten Months Ago. Not One of Them Applies Yet.

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Economics & Finance, Computer Science, Accounting & Information Systems

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Fintech Regulatory Compliance, Payment Services Regulation

Impact Score: 12.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 0

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Fintech regulations agreed upon in the EU and US are facing significant delays between agreement and applicability. The EU's payments package, PSD3, and the new Payment Services Regulation, agreed upon in November 2025, are not expected to apply until 2028. The EU's AI Act high-risk obligations were delayed from August 2026 to December 2027, while transparency rules apply from August 2026. Fintech companies should prioritize planning for currently applicable rules, such as Verification of Payee and MiCA, over those that have been agreed upon but not yet implemented.

<https://www.fintechweekly.com/magazine/articles/psd3-fida-clarity-ai-act-fintech-regulation-waiting-room-2026>

8. Insurtech Outmarket raises \$34.5M just months after prior round

Category: Business

Departments: Computer Science, Accounting & Information Systems

Topics: Enterprise AI, Insurance Policy Evaluation, AI Automation in Insurance

Impact Score: 11.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0

Educational Value: 1

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

Outmarket, a startup led by Vishal Sankhla, uses AI to automate paperwork for insurance agencies and brokers, focusing on commercial insurance policies that involve complex coverage options. The company's AI helps brokers evaluate and recommend policies, freeing them to focus on high-touch tasks. Outmarket has attracted over 300 insurance agencies as customers and recently raised \$34.5 million in Series B funding at a \$335 million valuation. The startup aims to help agencies work more efficiently in the large US property and casualty insurance market.

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/09/28/insuretech-outmarket-raises-34-5m-just-months-after-prior-round/>

9. How Meta Uses A.I. Data Centers to Avoid Billions in Federal Taxes

Category: Business

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Accounting & Information Systems, Economics & Finance, Computer Science

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Tax Incentive Optimization, Risk Mitigation Strategies

Impact Score: 10.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0

Educational Value: 1

Innovation / Novelty: 0

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 2

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Meta utilizes a tax break meant to encourage research and experimentation, which its accountants consider a risky strategy. The tax break is lucrative, indicating significant financial benefits for Meta. Meta's actions involve exploiting loopholes in the tax incentive. Its accountants have expressed concerns about the risks associated with this approach.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/30/technology/meta-ai-data-centers-taxes.html>