

How Do I Prepare For A Future I Can't See?

A graduate, a manager, an owner, and a CEO all asked me some version of this. The fear underneath isn't the same one.

Four Different Fears

01 The graduate

No track record to point to, and a narrower door than the class before.

02 The mid-career professional

Knowing you should change, and finding it easier to freeze instead.

03 The enterprise owner

Rewriting the plan with no pause button on the business it describes.

04 The C-suite leader

A confident answer expected long before the results are actually in.

62%

of college seniors say they feel pessimistic about their career prospects, up from 46% a year earlier.

Monster.com, 2026 Graduate AI Readiness Survey

No Track Record To Point To

Every generation before this one could point to a resume as proof they'd already done the work. Nearly half of hiring managers now say they'd rather invest in AI tools than hire and train a new graduate. The reps that used to build judgment are disappearing first.

Monster.com, 2026 Graduate AI Readiness Survey

40%

of employees fear losing their job to AI, up from 28% just two years earlier.

Mercer, 2026 Global Talent Trends

Knowing And Still Not Moving

65% say they're afraid of falling behind if they don't adapt quickly. 45% say it still feels safer to keep working the way they already know how. That gap, not the fear itself, is the real trap.

Microsoft, 2026 Work Trend Index

77%

of small businesses using AI regularly still have no formal AI policy in place.

SBE Council, 2026 Small Business Tech Use Survey

Confident Answers, Uncertain Ground

Owners are redesigning the business while still running it, with no pause button. Leaders carry it further: 73% of CEOs report real stress about their AI strategy, and nearly 4 in 10 say their company won't survive a decade on its current path.

Dataiku, 2026 CEO Survey · PwC, 29th Global CEO Survey

Shrink The Horizon

Plan in quarters you can actually verify, not years you're guessing at. Get real reps handling AI output instead of just reading about it. Stay close to someone at a different stage than you. They're seeing a different slice of the same problem.

The Discomfort Doesn't End. What You Do With It Does.

Nobody has a clean forecast right now, at any level. That was never really the plan. Waiting for one is.



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