

Your AI Isn't Intelligent. It's Pattern Machinery.

The dominant fallacy isn't that AI doesn't work. It's treating pattern recognition as autonomous, dependable intelligence.

SWIPE →

Four Fallacies That Distort Decision-Making

01 The fallacy of autonomous AI

02 The fallacy of functionality

03 The fallacy of precision and objectivity

04 The fallacy of inevitable ROI

01

The Fallacy of Autonomous AI

Systems marketed as "autonomous" often hide extensive human work: data labelling, prompt engineering, escalation paths, and operational oversight.

02

The Fallacy of Functionality

Some systems are broken by design — inferring "criminality" from a face has no defensible measurable correlate. No amount of tuning fixes a conceptually unsound problem.

03

The Fallacy of Precision and Objectivity

Excessive precision usually signals overfitting, not accuracy. Models inherit and amplify the historical bias already in the data they were trained on.



AI is a useful pattern infrastructure with bounded reliability, not a substitute for institutional judgment.

Terence Kok

Enterprise AI Strategist

The Fallacy vs. Technical Honesty

THE FALLACY

Autonomous decision-maker

Deployed, so functional

Precise, so objective

TECHNICAL HONESTY

Probabilistic infrastructure

Valid only if the construct is sound

Precision often means overfitting

The Fallacy of **Inevitable ROI.**

In boardrooms and policy papers, AI is presented as an inevitability: deploy it and productivity gains follow. Adoption data says otherwise — most organisations report experimentation, but only a small fraction reach mature, scaled integration with measurable value. The gap isn't technical. It's weak problem selection, limited operational redesign, under-investment in data quality, and inadequate change management.

Towards a More Technically Honest Agenda

Probabilistic infrastructure → Construct validity first →
Accountability by design → System-level value

The four fallacies and the rigorous stance that replaces them:
terencekok.com/blog/moving-from-fallacy-technical-honesty

Technical honesty isn't pessimism. It's discipline.

Design for error tolerance and clear escalation, not the illusion of autonomous intelligence.



Terence Kok · Enterprise AI Strategist

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