What I Still Do Not Know About Where This Goes

The forecasts I refuse to make, the ones that already missed, and how to decide anyway.

Three things in this part

1. Forecasts I refuse to make
2. Forecasts that missed, mine included
3. Five tests for decisions that survive being wrong

3

Forecasts I decline in every client meeting

Which jobs go and when. Which vendor wins. The date agents become reliable enough to leave alone.

Barely better

Expert forecasts barely beat simple extrapolation

Tetlock, Expert Political Judgment, 2005. The most confident forecasters did worst.

2016

“Stop training radiologists”

Hinton, with the best technical grounds anyone had. By 2025 US residency programmes offered a record number of places. Source: Works in Progress.

4.5%

Trust AI with full autonomy

Lower than I expected. I had assumed the limit was the technology. It was who would sign off. A forecast with no scoring date is a mood.

Four things that did not move

1. A named person is accountable
2. Checking is cheap, until it is not
3. Reversibility is worth paying for
4. The evidence standard stays

Decisions that survive being wrong

1. **Reversible.** What does undoing it cost?
2. **Owned.** Who is accountable?
3. **Falsifiable.** What would change my mind?
4. **Dated.** When do we look again?
5. **Two-sided.** What does error cost each way?

> **Fear prices one error precisely and the other not at all.**

Write both costs in a sentence each. It tends to change the answer.

Pick one decision that rests on an AI forecast

Run the five tests. Date the forecast. Diary the review.



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