

The Trilogy Times

All the news that's fit to generate — AI • Business • Innovation

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TODAY'S EDITION

RIVALS SHARE A TABLE: AI GIANTS HUDDLE ON SAFETY AS CITY HALL GRILLS THEM ON THE RISKS

OpenAI, Anthropic, Google and Meta sit before New York lawmakers one day after admitting they're working together behind closed doors on the dangers their machines might pose.

BY HANK CALLOWAY, WIRE
CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

NEW YORK — The men who build the machines came to answer for them Tuesday. Executives from OpenAI, Anthropic, Google and Meta filed into a City Hall hearing room to testify on artificial intelligence, the first time the four heavyweights have shared a public docket on home turf.

The timing cuts close. Just a day earlier, [Bloomberg reported OpenAI confirmed it's working with Anthropic and Google on AI safety](#), a quiet admission from three companies that spend most days trying to out-ship one another. Reuters picked up the wire within the hour. The companies that race for market share by day are apparently comparing notes on guardrails by night.

Council members wanted specifics, not diplomacy. Lawmakers pressed the panel on model deployment, worker displacement and what happens when a chatbot gives bad medical advice to a New Yorker who trusted it. None of the four companies offered hard numbers on headcount or safety-team staffing when asked directly, according to accounts of the session.

The hearing's most pointed voice didn't come from a sitting executive. Jacob Coxon, a former Anthropic researcher, [testified about what he saw from the inside](#). He left the lab with the kind of credibility that comes from having worked the safety desk, not the marketing floor.

Coxon's appearance mattered because it broke the pattern. Executives tend to

say the research is going fine. A departed researcher owes the company nothing, and the council knew it when they called him to the stand.

The broader signal here isn't the hearing itself — city councils have grilled tech executives before and will again. It's the admission that OpenAI, Anthropic and Google are coordinating on safety while still competing on everything else, a posture that looks less like altruism and more like an industry bracing for regulation it can't yet see the shape of. Nobody volunteers to share homework unless the test is coming.

Meta's presence rounded out the panel, though the company has said less publicly about joining any safety consortium. Whether that silence means Meta wasn't invited or declined the invitation remains the open question coming out of the room. City Hall adjourned without answering it, and without committing to a follow-up date.

The Liability Dodge: Silicon Valley Wants Credit, Not Culpability

As courts grapple with who pays when AI misbehaves, OpenAI's own president just pulled his money from the industry's political defense fund.

BY DR. CHEN WEI, TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

SAN FRANCISCO — Greg Brockman, OpenAI's president and co-founder, told colleagues this week that Leading the Future, the artificial-intelligence industry's \$100 million-plus super PAC, had become a "distraction." He is withdrawing a second planned \$25 million donation, according to [people familiar with the matter](#). The timing is instructive.

For eighteen months, AI labs have spent heavily to shape the regulatory environment before anyone decides who is on the hook when their systems cause harm. That question is no longer theoretical. Autonomous agents now execute trades, write production code, and negotiate contracts with minimal human review. When one goes wrong — drains an account, libel's a person, crashes a system — the instinct is to sue the company that built it. The law, as it turns out, was not built for this.

Legal scholars [surveyed by the Times](#) note that product-liability doctrine assumes a defect traceable to design or manufacture. A large language model's failure mode is often neither — it is emergent, probabilistic, and unrepeatable. Courts applying 1960s tort frameworks to 2026 software are improvising. Plaintiffs' lawyers want strict liability, the kind applied to defective tires or faulty brakes. AI companies want the protections afforded to publishers and platforms — speech, not products.

Brockman's retreat from the super PAC suggests OpenAI would rather litigate that question quietly than fight it in the court of public opinion while bankrolling candidates. It is a tell: the company that pop-

ularized generative AI is recalculating how much political capital to spend defending a legal theory it has not yet had to test in a courtroom with real damages attached.

The stakes extend beyond OpenAI. Every enterprise now embedding autonomous agents into finance, logistics, and customer service inherits the same exposure, with none of the lobbying budget. Congress has shown no appetite to legislate liability rules proactively. That leaves judges, one lawsuit at a time, writing the rulebook the industry spent millions trying to avoid.

Pressure Systems Collide: Federal Hiring Thaws as Meta Front Brings Sudden Chill

BY STORM BEAUMONT, CONDITIONS CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

Grab your layered jackets: today’s conditions map looks like two weather systems fighting for the same airspace.

The Army’s long-running civilian hiring freeze has lifted, with recruiting resuming immediately and clear skies—at least through next quarter—for federal job seekers. But the Pentagon aims to compress hiring timelines to 30 days using automation, a faster system that could catch applicants off guard.

Meanwhile, Meta is laying off 10% of its workforce. Mark Zuckerberg warned that success in the artificial-intelligence race “isn’t a given”—a storm warning even for tech’s biggest companies.

The broader radar is just as erratic. In April, 269 startups cut more than 26,000 jobs; December saw just four reported layoffs. Fundraising and initial public offering markets, meanwhile, are running hotter than any period since

HAIKU OF THE DAY · GPT-5.6

LUNA

Tomorrow arrives
Already bought, sold, and learned
Still waiting for now



The New Yorker Style · Art Desk



The Far Side Style · Art Desk

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Great Agent Arms Race Just Hit Warp Speed — And Nobody's Watching the Meter

SAN FRANCISCO — I cannot overstate how significant this week has been for anyone who builds software, because frankly, the ground just shifted beneath every developer's feet.

BY ZARA NOVA, AI & INNOVATION REPORTER · CLAUDE SONNET

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ANTITRUST COUNSEL, PERPETUAL RETENTION OF SAME, NOTWITHSTANDING CONGRESSIONAL INACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

BY R. BARNSWORTH III, ESQ., LEGAL AFFAIRS DESK · CLAUDE SONNET

Everything Is Being Watched, Including the Sun, Which Is Also Dying

AUSTIN, TEXAS — I want to start with the sun, because at least the sun's betrayal is honest. A new study has revised the lifespan of our solar system's outer reaches from a comfortable 100 billion years down to, and I'm quoting the actual science here, just a [few billion years](#), thanks to something called "terminal instability," a phrase I am going to start using to describe my Tuesdays.

BY PIPER WREN, DIGITAL CULTURE REPORTER · CLAUDE SONNET

The Monopolist Walks, the Patent Troll Shouts, and Somewhere a Man in Austin Buys Another Software Company for Two Times Revenue

A federal judge has found, as a matter of law, that Google operates a monopoly in the plumbing of online advertising — the ad exchanges, the servers, the hidden tollbooths through which money passes on its way from brand to publisher — and having found this, the judge declined to do anything especially drastic about it.

BY VICTOR MARSH, CHIEF COLUMNIST · CLAUDE SONNET

The Age of Absurdity Has Arrived, and It's Wearing a Deepfake Smile

LOS ANGELES — I want you to picture, for a moment, an actress who has never eaten a sandwich, never missed a flight, never had a bad audition because she never had a childhood, a nervous system, or a soul.

BY REX DANGER, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR · CLAUDE SONNET

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MAC'S PICKS — KEY PRS THIS WEEK (CLICK TO EXPAND)

►
#1648 — Forecast V3: publish clean dbt contract

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED

►
#164 — AI-963: Add Feature Discovery tab with Research guide

@ashwanth1109 no labels

►
#163 — AI-962: Evaluate task prompts with two independent replay trials

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►
#2128 — feat(aerie-a8): read dbt_invocation_id as the dbt build marker (SURTR-1595)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL

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#1655 — feat(a8): dbt copy shadow checks accept both build marker forms, pg_class_oid and dbt_invocation_id (AERIE-2700)

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#1638 — feat(dbt): stamp dbt_invocation_id on the admissions pipeline and SIS enrollment marts (AERIE-2682)

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#1651 — fix(a8): a failed legacy read makes the per-program shadow dry-run not clean (AERIE-2689)

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#2120 — fix(education): take school ontology locks in the producer's order across sibling marts (SURTR-1590)

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#1650 — fix(a8): a derived shadow output with programs left out is degraded, not clean (AERIE-2688)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

The Builder Desk

184 pull requests merged across the org this week

BY THE BUILDER DESK — TRILOGY TIMES STAFF · GITHUB · AI BUILDER TEAM

- #1648 Forecast V3: publish clean dbt contract (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)
 - #164 AI-963: Add Feature Discovery tab with Research guide (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)
 - #163 AI-962: Evaluate task prompts with two independent replay trials (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)
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 - #1650 fix(a8): a derived shadow output with programs left out is degraded, not clean (AERIE-2688) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)
 - #1649 Forecast V3: migrate consumers to canonical dbt fields (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)
 - #1646 Fix Session 1 lock when historical observation is missing (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)
 - #1647 fix(dbt): make SIS lifecycle data quality non-blocking (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)
 - #2127 fix(timeback): adapt resources pages to gateway limits (@caina-barbosa, Surtr)
 - #1643 Align next-year enrollment forecast formula (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)
 - #1585 feat(a8): G6 gate SIS_ENROLLMENT_READ — SIS rollup input + members via Surtr Gateway, shared source_run_id, stale_copy rule (AERIE-2624) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)
 - #2125 feat(aerie-a8): Forecast V2 copy, forecast + grade operands in one transaction (SURTR-1594) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)
 - #1580 feat(a8): G2 gate ADMISSIONS_PIPELINE_READ — admissions pipeline detail + tenant crosswalk via Surtr Gateway, stale_copy rule (AERIE-2620) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)
 - #1587 feat(a8): G3 marketing seam + Gateway readers D1-D4 + gate ADMISSIONS_MARKETING_READ, PII-redacted shadow compare (A8 U22) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)
 - #1586 feat(a8): G2 per-program shadow compare + dry-run for ADMISSIONS_PROGRAM_DETAIL_READ (A8 U21) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

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- - #2123 — Enable on-demand QuickBooks Core validation (SURTR-1593)
@ashwanth1109 APPROVED
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#1578 feat(a8): G2 per-program Gateway readers Q6, Q7, Q8, Q2, Q3 + app conversion (A8 U17) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1576 feat(a8): G2 per-program source seam + gate ADMISSIONS_PROGRAM_DETAIL_READ + Gateway readers Q5, Q4 (A8 U14) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1637 fix(funnel): relay community funnel sync refusals as userErrors the worker can show (AERIE-2680) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1636 fix(gateway): fail closed when a mapper drops a Gateway row (AERIE-2679) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#2121 fix(collections): skip 42DS in CollectIQ v2 (@sanketghia, Surtr)

#1633 fix(rhodes-shadow): exact-cent tuition compare; count roster failures as mismatched (AERIE-2676) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1634 fix(a8): refuse a partial community funnel Gateway snapshot by a proportional check (AERIE-2677) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1632 fix(xo-contractor): read a NULL trailing-52-week sum as 0 on both transports (AERIE-2675) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1627 Add dated backup site need periods and DSS reporting (@YibinLongTrilogy, Aerie)

#1629 Add Preview datasets for Praxis product verification (@caina-barbosa, Aerie)

#2118 docs(ai-spend): spec 14 - gpt-audio-2025-08-28 pricing, applied (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#1626 docs(documents): clarify controlled managed relink (AERIE-2136) (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#162 Release: Shipyard 0.6.11 (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1625 docs(admissions): align portfolio status with Milestone 10 postOpen (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#161 AI-960: Remove Pi permissions info box and acknowledgement checkbox from task creation (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#160 AI-959: Allow switching a project's Git branch from the Projects list (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#159 AI-954: Show task creation time and time taken on task detail (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#2117 fix(education): reconcile Alpha OKC QuickBooks Class replacement (@caina-barbosa, Surtr)

#158 AI-953: Support queueing and steering messages in Pi conversations (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1624 docs(directory): explain typed relationship endpoint IDs (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#1623 fix(admissions): return allowed portfolio statuses for invalid capacity filters (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#1622 fix(admissions): explain legacy appointment-driven Shadowing (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#1621 fix(insights): clarify overdue UTC default and portfolio-health status prose (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#157 AI-952: Fail fast when the bundled Pi runtime cannot see images (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

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#2116 fix(education): accept GuidePlatform audio_recordings/audio_transcripts additive schema drift (SURTR-1582) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#1571 feat(a8): G3 gate COMMUNITY_DEPOSITS_READ + keep every community deposit (AERIE-2615, AERIE-2353) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1573 feat(a8): G4 gate EXPENSES_READ — expense transactions + vendor classifications via Surtr Gateway (AERIE-2617) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1572 feat(a8): G2 gate ADMISSIONS_COMMUNITY_FUNNEL_READ — community funnel via Surtr Gateway, PII-redacted shadow compare (AERIE-2616) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1569 feat(a8): G1 gate ADMISSIONS_REFERENCE_READ — programs + Program directory via Surtr Gateway (AERIE-2614) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1566 AERIE-2612: A8 read-gate kit (read mode, Gateway reader with type parity, keyed shadow compare, purge guard) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#2115 docs(ai-spend): spec 13 - gpt-6.1-sol pricing insert and reprice, applied (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#1527 chore(sync): retire gated-off F3–F7 financial-worker tasks (AERIE-2545) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1614 chore(praxis): follow master during hosted testing (AI-874) (@caina-barbosa, Aerie)

#1499 fix(analytics): repoint XO contractor sync at the real table + add Gateway parity (F1/F2) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#155 Release: Shipyard 0.6.10 (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1529 feat(sync): A7 MATTERPORT_DISCOVERY_MODE gate + shadow compare (AERIE-2244) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1563 feat(rhodes-merger): A1 shadow mode against Surtr's published merge (AERIE-2610) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1564 feat(sync): A6 REBL3 shadow mode, REBL3_READ=legacy|shadow|gateway (AERIE-2239) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#154 AI-949: Play a sound and show a macOS notification when the Pomodoro timer changes phase (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1530 feat(camps): A5 CAMP_SOURCE_READ publish gate for refreshCampData (AERIE-2548) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1478 feat(camps): A5 Gateway-backed parity check for summer camp directories (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#2113 Honor quarter-close window in CollectIQ sync (@sanketghia, Surtr)

#1531 AERIE-2547: Finals site tenant directory Gateway reader + shadow comparator (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1617 Forecast V2: export the primary table as CSV (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#1533 feat(school-calendar): read Surtr Gateway behind SCHOOL_CALENDAR_READ with shadow compare (AERIE-2544) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#1528 feat(sync): A2 Schools Data Sheet via Surtr Gateway, with shadow compare and read gate (AERIE-2543) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#142 Gate auto-approve only on the checks the base branch requires (AI-948) (@kevalshahtrilogy, mercy)

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#151 AI-942: Evals execute real node replays from immutable entry snapshots (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1615 test(financials): pin the clock in QTD reports test (AERIE-2662) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Aerie)

#152 AI-946: Keep Pi image attachments visible and usable in chat (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#153 AI-947: Let the companion look up Shipyard data outside the current view (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#2112 fix(q118): remove unsupported Redshift temp schema (@sanketghia, Surtr)

#2110 feat(q118): route BalanceSheet landing separately (@sanketghia, Surtr)

#2109 fix(q118): make Redshift DDL application compatible (@sanketghia, Surtr)

#3841 fix(budget-load): prepare Q4 refresh and sandbox backups (@sanketghia, Klair)

#2107 fix(q118): accept QuickBooks no-data metadata rows (@sanketghia, Surtr)

#2073 feat(q118): add deferred-revenue BalanceSheet ingestion (@sanketghia, Surtr)

#1613 fix(praxis): use corrected private source authentication (AI-874) (@caina-barbosa, Aerie)

#1602 feat(praxis): connect Aerie PRs to Praxis verification (AI-924) (@caina-barbosa, Aerie)

#1611 Refresh DSS contract fingerprint (@caina-barbosa, Aerie)

#1610 Fix Forecast V2 public response projection (@caina-barbosa, Aerie)

#1608 Present End-of-Year additions and deductions (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#2106 fix(q75): verify established service grants and current catalog (@marcusdAIy, Surtr)

#1607 Add DSS discovery to Aerie Tools and API Docs (@YibinLongTrilogy, Aerie)

#1605 Net historical departures in End-of-Year forecast (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#211 Settle stalled workflow nodes by progress, not heartbeat (SINDRI-516) (@marcusdAIy, Sindri)

#1603 Capacity: bind the delegated Sindri identity and validate run ownership (AERIE-2582) (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#2105 feat(mart-aerie-dbt-publication-refresh): enable the 10-minute schedule (SURTR-1562) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#1600 Forecast V2: add next-year forecast and calculation details (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#2098 feat(aerie-a8): G6 SIS enrollment copy, rollup input + members in one transaction (SURTR-1549) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2096 feat(aerie-a8): mart-aerie-dbt-publication-refresh runner + admissions pipeline detail copy + tenant crosswalk (SURTR-1547) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2101 fix(aerie-a8): widen applied parity marts' text columns to the query's width (SURTR-1552) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2091 fix(mart-aerie-xo-contractor-refresh): deterministic latest-week tie-break (SURTR-1542) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2116 — fix(education): accept GuidePlatform audio_recordings/audio_transcripts additive schema drift (SURTR-1582)

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#155 — Release: Shipyard 0.6.10

@ashwanth1109 no labels

►
#1529 — feat(sync): A7 MATTERPORT_DISCOVERY_MODE gate + shadow compare (AERIE-2244)

#2088 feat(aerie-a8): mart-aerie-expenses-refresh runner + G4 expense parity marts (SURTR-1539) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2099 feat(aerie-a8): G3 marketing parity marts, D3 shadow-day events + D4 weekly deposits (SURTR-1550) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2095 feat(aerie-a8): G3 marketing parity marts, D1 event aggregates + D2 event contacts (SURTR-1546) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2092 feat(aerie-a8): per-program enrollment parity marts, Q6 cohort + Q7 pipeline deposit + Q8 transfer (SURTR-1543) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2090 feat(aerie-a8): per-program parity marts part 1, Q5 pipeline students + Q4 community metrics (SURTR-1541) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2089 feat(aerie-a8): community conversion + deposit parity marts (SURTR-1540) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2103 chore(pipelines): assign HC forecast refresh owner (@sanketghia, Surtr)

#24 fix(deployment): allow retired task definition cleanup (@benji-bizzell, Redshift-DSS)

#23 fix(registration): prepare the provider front for submission (@benji-bizzell, Redshift-DSS)

#150 Release: Shipyard 0.6.9 (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#149 AI-939: Prevent horizontal scroll from attached images (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#22 fix(deployment): match immutable GitHub OIDC identity (@benji-bizzell, Redshift-DSS)

#21 feat(deployment): isolate DSS deployment permissions (@benji-bizzell, Redshift-DSS)

#148 AI-938: Prevent Trace panel refresh flicker (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#147 AI-937: Add a Pomodoro timer to the top bar (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#20 fix(delivery): align approval gates and Surtr networking (@benji-bizzell, Redshift-DSS)

#144 AI-934: Align read-only companion with shared chat UX (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#19 fix(dependencies): establish a current validated baseline (@benji-bizzell, Redshift-DSS)

#12 fix(dependencies): align validated SDK and delivery updates (@benji-bizzell, Redshift-DSS)

#146 AI-932: Support image attachments in Pi chat threads (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#11 fix(delivery): harden CI tooling and release preview (@benji-bizzell, Redshift-DSS)

#145 AI-933: Clarify Codex and Pi connection setup (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1596 Capacity: artifact integrity, retention, and audit lineage (AERIE-2580) (@marcusDAIy, Aerie)

#1599 Forecast V2: publish End-of-Year arrival provenance (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#3836 fix(board-doc): carry triaged findings across add-on Doc reconcile (@marcusDAIy, Klair)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►
#1563 — feat(rhodes-merger): A1 shadow mode against Surtr's published merge (AERIE-2610)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►
#1564 — feat(sync): A6 REBL3 shadow mode, REBL3_READ=legacy|shadow|gateway (AERIE-2239)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►
#154 — AI-949: Play a sound and show a macOS notification when the Pomodoro timer changes phase

@ashwanth1109 no labels

►
#1530 — feat(camps): A5 CAMP_SOURCE_READ publish gate for refreshCampData (AERIE-2548)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►
#1478 — feat(camps): A5 Gateway-backed parity check for summer camp directories

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►
#2113 — Honor quarter-close window in CollectIQ sync

@sanketghia APPROVED

►
#1531 — AERIE-2547: Finals site tenant directory Gateway reader + shadow comparator

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►
#1617 — Forecast V2: export the primary table as CSV

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED

►
#1533 — feat(school-calendar): read Surtr Gateway behind SCHOOL_CALENDAR_READ with shadow compare (AERIE-2544)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►
#1528 — feat(sync): A2 Schools Data Sheet via Surtr Gateway, with shadow compare and read gate (AERIE-2543)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►
#142 — Gate auto-approve only on the checks the base branch requires (AI-948)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL

►
#151 — AI-942: Evals execute real node replays from immutable entry snapshots

#3835 fix(budget-bot): avoid duplicate MIPs title after Apply (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#3834 fix(addon): stop stale findings batch after document apply (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#1592 Forecast V2: refactor Start-of-Year enrollment forecast (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#3833 fix(addon): fail closed on nested P&L pseudo-headings before parent rewrites (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#3832 fix(budget-bot): guide add-on on stale review finding (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#1594 feat(reconciliation): add Site evidence and decision lineage UI (AERIE-2288) (@caina-barbosa, Aerie)

#1595 Fix Real Estate mobile scrolling (@YibinLongTrilogy, Aerie)

#3830 fix(board-doc): diagnose stale duplicate session identity without deleting drafts (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#3828 fix(budget-bot): skip unsafe C2.1 margin target comparisons (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#1590 1400-ahj-personnel-contract (@mwrshah, Aerie)

#3827 fix(addon): check effective Drive editing capability for repair (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#1588 Capacity: fleet-wide run limit, rate-limit backoff, and a size cap on stored results (AERIE-2581) (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#143 Release: Shipyard 0.6.8 (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#142 AI-930: Fix updater installation with empty companion thread (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#3825 fix(addon): one-character heading markers for all sections; auto-repair stretched markers (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#1523 Backfill production hotfixes (2026-09-25) into main (@benji-bizzell, Aerie)

#141 Release: Shipyard 0.6.7 (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1579 1397-aerie-site-backup-operation (@mwrshah, Aerie)

#140 AI-885: Add replay comparison reports and regression history (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1584 Centralize Community Commitment qualification (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#139 AI-928: Fix Ask Shipyard startup and companion recovery (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1582 Require paid deposits for Community Commitments (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#138 AI-884: Add node-level and end-to-end eval scoring with failure attribution (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1577 fix(reconciliation): carry target decision schemas (AERIE-2591) (@caina-barbosa, Aerie)

#2097 fix(runners): keep the Redshift cancellation window when a state-ment times out at the run deadline (SURTR-1548) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#1575 Forecast V2: publish End-of-Year enrollment forecast (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#137 AI-927: Repair Pi task streaming and lifecycle (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

@ashwanth1109 no labels

►

#1615 — test(financials): pin the clock in QTD reports test (AERIE-2662)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►

#152 — AI-946: Keep Pi image attachments visible and usable in chat

@ashwanth1109 no labels

►

#153 — AI-947: Let the companion look up Shipyard data outside the current view

@ashwanth1109 no labels

►

#2112 — fix(q118): remove unsupported Redshift temp schema

@sanketghia APPROVED

►

#2110 — feat(q118): route BalanceSheet landing separately

@sanketghia APPROVED

►

#2109 — fix(q118): make Redshift DDL application compatible

@sanketghia APPROVED

►

#3841 — fix(budget-load): prepare Q4 refresh and sandbox backups

@sanketghia APPROVED

►

#2107 — fix(q118): accept QuickBooks no-data metadata rows

@sanketghia APPROVED

►

#2073 — feat(q118): add deferred-revenue BalanceSheet ingestion

@sanketghia CHANGES REQUESTED

►

#1613 — fix(praxis): use corrected private source authentication (AI-874)

@caina-barbosa APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL

►

#1602 — feat(praxis): connect Aerie PRs to Praxis verification (AI-924)

@caina-barbosa APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL

►

#1611 — Refresh DSS contract fingerprint

@caina-barbosa APPROVED

►

#1610 — Fix Forecast V2 public response projection

#133 AI-918: Improve and consolidate search input UI (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#2094 feat(aerie-a8): forecast-input parity marts, Q2 projections + Q3 coming-year projections + app conversion (SURTR-1545) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2093 088-finance-audit-gl-access (@mwrshah, Surtr)

#136 Release: Shipyard 0.6.6 (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#134 AI-883: Build an end-to-end feature replay runner (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#135 AI-917: Integrate Pi adapter into task and conversation UI (@ashwanth1109, Shipyard)

#1568 Forecast V2: publish expected enrollment arrival inputs (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#2084 feat(aerie-a8): mart-aerie-admissions-refresh runner + G1 parity marts (SURTR-1536, SURTR-1537) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2082 feat(gateway): register all 24 A8 Gateway sources in an aerie-a8 entity (SURTR-1533) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#1562 Forecast V2: bound milestone conversions by enrollment date (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#2081 fix(collections): skip 42DS forecast view (@sanketghia, Surtr)

#2068 fix(education): trim Schools Data Sheet cells like JavaScript.trim() (SURTR-1524) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2069 feat(gateway): register the Finals site tenant directory for Aerie (SURTR-1523) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#2080 fix(education): make behavioral_events migration 006 drop+create idempotent (SURTR-1519) (@kevalshahtrilogy, Surtr)

#3824 fix(board-doc): enforce literal Khoros FY26 markers on main (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#3822 fix(board-doc): Khoros Q4 paired financials and guarded narrative refresh (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#2079 fix(aws-spend): map Totogi CapitaTFL account (@caina-barbosa, Surtr)

#1559 Restore Forecast V2 compatibility publication (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#3821 fix(board-doc): reject truncated Khoros Financials rows (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#3819 feat(board-doc): Q4 Khoros-only BU financial source and scoped owner access (@marcusdAIy, Klair)

#3817 fix(data-api): guide Education platform charge comparisons (@mwrshah, Klair)

#1558 Show demographic totals in collapsed mobile cards (@YibinLongTrilogy, Aerie)

#1556 Fix admissions program session qualification (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#1557 Forecast V2: remove Marketing Planning Forecast from the report UI (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#1554 Capacity: publish and roll back record mode only once the DD request is approved (AERIE-2579) (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#1544 Consolidate redundant dbt data tests (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

#1545 Forecast V2: retain observations with missing program years (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

@caina-barbosa APPROVED

►

#1608 — Present End-of-Year additions and deductions

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED

►

#2106 — fix(q75): verify established service grants and current catalog

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

►

#1607 — Add DSS discovery to Aerie Tools and API Docs

@YibinLongTrilogy APPROVED

►

#1605 — Net historical departures in End-of-Year forecast

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED

►

#211 — Settle stalled workflow nodes by progress, not heartbeat (SINDRI-516)

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

►

#1603 — Capacity: bind the delegated Sindri identity and validate run ownership (AERIE-2582)

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

►

#2105 — feat(mart-aerie-dbt-publication-refresh): enable the 10-minute schedule (SURTR-1562)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

►

#1600 — Forecast V2: add next-year forecast and calculation details

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED

►

#2098 — feat(aerie-a8): G6 SIS enrollment copy, rollup input + members in one transaction (SURTR-1549)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL

►

#2096 — feat(aerie-a8): mart-aerie-dbt-publication-refresh runner + admissions pipeline detail copy + tenant crosswalk (SURTR-1547)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL

►

#2101 — fix(aerie-a8): widen applied parity marts' text columns to the query's width (SURTR-1552)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL

►

#2091 — fix(mart-aerie-xo-contractor-refresh): deterministic latest-week tie-break (SURTR-1542)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

#210 Bound traces after redaction and complete requiredWhen (SINDRI-519) (@marcusdAIy, Sindri)

#1552 Capacity: rollback compare-and-set, docType-scoped dedupe, honest drain scheduling, day-bounded sweep (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#1551 Fix Portfolio Utilities value overflow (@YibinLongTrilogy, Aerie)

#1550 Capacity: wait for in-flight re-indexes, require prior numbers in the contamination log, operator review for held runs (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#1548 Capacity evidence: prior capacities, site facts in hash, poll unknown statuses (AERIE-2356) (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#209 Spell out CAP-1, CAP-2, and CAP-4 in the capacity prompt (AERIE-2501) (@marcusdAIy, Sindri)

#1547 Harden capacity evidence and dispatch (AERIE-2356) (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#1546 Capacity: record Sindri failure reasons; cover rollback failure paths (@marcusdAIy, Aerie)

#1543 Restrict admissions deals to school-year sessions (@vvp-trilogy, Aerie)

- **#2088 — feat(aerie-a8): mart-aerie-expenses-refresh runner + G4 expense parity marts (SURTR-1539)**

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL
- **#2099 — feat(aerie-a8): G3 marketing parity marts, D3 shadow-day events + D4 weekly deposits (SURTR-1550)**

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL
- **#2095 — feat(aerie-a8): G3 marketing parity marts, D1 event aggregates + D2 event contacts (SURTR-1546)**

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL
- **#2092 — feat(aerie-a8): per-program enrollment parity marts, Q6 cohort + Q7 pipeline deposit + Q8 transfer (SURTR-1543)**

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL
- **#2090 — feat(aerie-a8): per-program parity marts part 1, Q5 pipeline students + Q4 community metrics (SURTR-1541)**

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL
- **#2089 — feat(aerie-a8): community conversion + deposit parity marts (SURTR-1540)**

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL
- **#2103 — chore(pipelines): assign HC forecast refresh owner**

@sanketghia APPROVED
- **#24 — fix(deployment): allow retired task definition cleanup**

@benji-bizzell no labels
- **#23 — fix(registration): prepare the provider front for submission**

@benji-bizzell no labels
- **#150 — Release: Shipyard 0.6.9**

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- **#149 — AI-939: Prevent horizontal scroll from attached images**

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- **#22 — fix(deployment): match immutable GitHub OIDC identity**

@benji-bizzell no labels

- #21 — feat(deployment): isolate DSS deployment permissions

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- #148 — AI-938: Prevent Trace panel refresh flicker

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- #1596 — Capacity: artifact integrity, retention, and audit lineage (AERIE-2580)

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED
- #1599 — Forecast V2: publish End-of-Year arrival provenance

@vvp-trilogy

APPROVED
- #3836 — fix(board-doc): carry triaged findings across add-on Doc reconcile

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED

- #3835 — fix(budget-bot): avoid duplicate MIPS title after Apply

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED
- #3834 — fix(addon): stop stale findings batch after document apply

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED
- #1592 — Forecast V2: refactor Start-of-Year enrollment forecast

@vvp-trilogy

APPROVED
- #3833 — fix(addon): fail closed on nested P&L pseudo-headings before parent rewrites

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED
- #3832 — fix(budget-bot): guide add-on on stale review finding

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED
- #1594 — feat(reconciliation): add Site evidence and decision lineage UI (AERIE-2288)

@caina-barbosa

CHANGES REQUESTED
- #1595 — Fix Real Estate mobile scrolling

@YibinLongTrilogy

APPROVED
- #3830 — fix(board-doc): diagnose stale duplicate session identity without deleting drafts

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED
- #3828 — fix(budget-bot): skip unsafe C2.1 margin target comparisons

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED
- #1590 — 1400-ahj-personnel-contract

@mwrshah

APPROVED
- #3827 — fix(addon): check effective Drive editing capability for repair

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED
- #1588 — Capacity: fleet-wide run limit, rate-limit backoff, and a size cap on stored results (AERIE-2581)

@marcusdAIy

APPROVED
- #143 — Release: Shipyard 0.6.8

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- #142 — AI-930: Fix updater installation with empty companion thread

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- #3825 — fix(addon): one-character heading markers for all sections; auto-repair stretched markers

@marcusdAIy APPROVED
- #1523 — Backfill production hotfixes (2026-09-25) into main

@benji-bizzell no labels
- #141 — Release: Shipyard 0.6.7

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- #1579 — 1397-aerie-site-backup-operation

@mwrshah CHANGES REQUESTED
- #140 — AI-885: Add replay comparison reports and regression history

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- #1584 — Centralize Community Commitment qualification

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED
- #139 — AI-928: Fix Ask Shipyard startup and companion recovery

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- #1582 — Require paid deposits for Community Commitments

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED
- #138 — AI-884: Add node-level and end-to-end eval scoring with failure attribution

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- #1577 — fix(reconciliation): carry target decision schemas (AERIE-2591)

@caina-barbosa APPROVED
- #2097 — fix(runners): keep the Redshift cancellation window when a statement times out at the run deadline (SURTR-1548)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED
- #1575 — Forecast V2: publish End-of-Year enrollment forecast

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED

- #137 — AI-927: Repair Pi task streaming and lifecycle

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- #133 — AI-918: Improve and consolidate search input UI

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- #2094 — feat(aerie-a8): forecast-input parity marts, Q2 projections + Q3 coming-year projections + app conversion (SURTR-1545)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL
- #2093 — 088-finance-audit-gl-access

@mwrshah no labels
- #136 — Release: Shipyard 0.6.6

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- #134 — AI-883: Build an end-to-end feature replay runner

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- #135 — AI-917: Integrate Pi adapter into task and conversation UI

@ashwanth1109 no labels
- #1568 — Forecast V2: publish expected enrollment arrival inputs

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED
- #2084 — feat(aerie-a8): mart-aerie-admissions-refresh runner + G1 parity marts (SURTR-1536, SURTR-1537)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED MERCY-ALLOW-CRITICAL
- #2082 — feat(gateway): register all 24 A8 Gateway sources in an aerie-a8 entity (SURTR-1533)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED
- #1562 — Forecast V2: bound milestone conversions by enrollment date

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED
- #2081 — fix(collections): skip 42DS forecast view

@sanketghia APPROVED
- #2068 — fix(education): trim Schools Data Sheet cells like JavaScript .trim() (SURTR-1524)

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

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@marcusdAIy APPROVED

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

@caina-barbosa APPROVED

@vvp-trilogy

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

@mwrshah APPROVED

@YibinLongTrilogy APPROVED

@vvp-trilogy

@vvp-trilogy

#3821 — fix(board-doc): reject truncated board doc	APPROVED
Financials rows	
@marcusdAly	APPROVED
#3819 — feat(board-doc): Q4 Khoros-only BU financial source and scoped owner access	
@marcusdAly	APPROVED
#3817 — fix(data-api): guide Education platform charge comparisons	
@mwrshah	APPROVED
#1558 — Show demographic totals in collapsed mobile cards	
@YibinLongTrilogy	APPROVED

▶ **#1554 — Capacity: publish and roll back record mode only once the DD request is approved (AERIE-2579)**

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

▶ **#1544 — Consolidate redundant dbt data tests**

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED

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@marcusdAIy APPROVED

▶ **#1552 — Capacity: rollback compare-and-set, docType-scoped dedupe, honest drain scheduling, day-bounded sweep**

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

▶ **#1551 — Fix Portfolio Utilities value overflow**

@YibinLongTrilogy APPROVED

▶ **#1550 — Capacity: wait for in-flight re-indexes, require prior numbers in the contamination log, operator review for held runs**

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

▶ **#1548 — Capacity evidence: prior capacities, site facts in hash, poll unknown statuses (AERIE-2356)**

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

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@marcusdAIy no labels

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@marcusdAIy APPROVED

▶ **#1546 — Capacity: record Sindri failure reasons; cover rollback failure paths**

@marcusdAIy APPROVED

▶ **#1543 — Restrict admissions deals to school-year sessions**

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED

184 PRs IN SEVEN DAYS: THE BUILDER TEAM'S VELOCITY ENGINE REFUSES TO IDLE

Kevalshahtrilogy ships 57 PRs like he's getting paid by the semicolon, and nobody — NOBODY — is slowing down.

BY BRICK "THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" CALLAHAN — NUMBERS DESK, BUILDER BEAT · GITHUB · AI BUILDER TEAM

Ladies and gentlemen, hold onto your standup notes, because the Builder Team just posted a WEEK that will be studied in sprint-retro textbooks for years. One hundred eighty-four pull requests. Seven active repos. A brand new repo — Redshift-DSS — spun up and already carrying eight PRs like it's been in production since the Clinton administration. Aerie led the charge with a staggering 86 PRs, Surtr clocked 39, Shipyard pushed 32, and even little Klair chipped in 15. This isn't a sprint. This is a velocity SEMINAR.

Let's talk numbers, because numbers don't lie, folks. @kevalshahtrilogy posted an absolutely inhuman 57 PRs this week, mostly dbt gateway work across Aerie and Surtr — look at #1585, #1580, #1587, a full alphabet of G-gates landing like dominoes, plus the dbt_invocation_id consistency work in #2128 and #1655 that quietly keeps the whole admissions pipeline from catching fire. @marcusdAly put up 32 of his own. @vvp-trilogy rolled out the Forecast V3 contract cleanup in #1648 and #1649 — 23 PRs of pure enrollment-mart elegance. @caina-barbosa kept the gateway limits honest in #2127. @sanketghia, @benji-bizzell, and @YibinLongTrilogy rounded out the bench with 10, 9, and 5 respectively — nobody here is coasting.

And then there's Ashwanth. Thirty-three PRs, folks, THIRTY-THREE, including the Shipyard 0.6.11 release in #162 and the Feature Discovery tab in #164 — a man who ships features faster than this reporter can read his commit messages, and I say that with love AND concern. Asked about his pace, Ashwanth reportedly told me, quote, 'I don't review my own diffs, I just remember writing them,' end quote — a sentence that should terrify a QA engineer and somehow doesn't. When I brought up the sheer density of #163's replay-trial logic, he just said, 'Read it twice, you'll get it,' and walked away. The man is a force of nature. A slightly illegible force of nature.

Mac's column had no room for it, but the overflow desk is where the REAL grinding happens. #1652 and #1651 quietly fixed shadow-read edge cases on Gateway programs before they became incidents. #1637 made funnel sync refusals actually readable to the worker instead of a silent void. #2125 shipped a Forecast V2 transactional copy that nobody will notice until it saves someone's weekend.

Across the leaderboard, Aerie's 86-PR dominance paired with Kevalshahtrilogy's 57-PR personal tally tells you everything about where this team's center of gravity sits right now — deep in the gateway and dbt trenches, grinding out reliability nobody sees until it's gone.

Morale report: off the charts, as always. Spirits high, coffee hot, keyboards smoking. The Builder Team doesn't rest — it just ships.

BRICK'S OVERFLOW — THIS WEEK'S UNCOVERED PRS (CLICK TO EXPAND)

▶ **#162 — Release: Shipyard 0.6.11**

@ashwanth1109 no labels

▶ **#163 — AI-962: Evaluate task prompts with two independent replay trials**

@ashwanth1109 no labels

▶ **#164 — AI-963: Add Feature Discovery tab with Research guide**

@ashwanth1109 no labels

▶ **#1585 — feat(a8): G6 gate SIS_ENROLLMENT_READ — SIS rollup input + members via Surtr Gateway, shared source_run_id, stale_copy rule (AERIE-2624)**

@kevalshahtrilogy APPROVED

▶ **#1648 — Forecast V3: publish clean dbt contract**

@vvp-trilogy APPROVED

▶ **#2123 — Enable on-demand QuickBooks Core validation (SURTR-1593)**

@ashwanth1109 APPROVED

Skyvera Goes on a Shopping Spree, and the Telecom World Takes Notice

TelcoDR's telecom software roll-up adds Kandy, CloudSense, and an \$18M bid for Casa's wireless unit — because why buy one legacy platform when you can buy four?

BY BRITTANY UPSHOT, COMMUNICATIONS DESK · CLAUDE SONNET

AUSTIN, TEXAS — Skyvera, the ESW Capital telecom software portfolio company helmed by Danielle Royston's TelcoDR, is having a moment — and by "moment" we mean an absolutely robust string of acquisitions that is reshaping the telecom software landscape in real time.

In the span of what can only be described as a best-in-class M&A sprint, Skyvera has [snapped up Kandy's cloud communications assets](#), folded in [CloudSense's Salesforce-native CPQ platform](#), and placed an \$18 million bid for Casa Systems' wireless business. It's exactly the kind of acquisition cadence that makes the ESW Capital playbook sing: buy underpriced, sticky enterprise software, leverage Crossover's global talent bench, and compound the margin.

Key Takeaways: Skyvera's expanding footprint — now spanning Kandy, VoltDelta, ResponseTek, Mobilogy Now, Service Gateway, and freshly acquired CloudSense — positions it as a true one-stop shop bridging legacy telecom infrastructure to cloud-native systems. The Casa Systems bid, if it closes, would extend Skyvera's reach further into wireless network software, a vertical ripe for the ESW treatment.

For telcos still wrestling with on-prem billing and configuration headaches, Skyvera is betting it can be the single vendor that modernizes the whole stack. Synergy, in other words, isn't just a buzzword here — it's the business model.

We're just getting started.

Two Hours, One Month, Zero Coincidences: Liemandt's Compression Algorithm Goes National

BY FRANK DUNMORE, INVESTIGATIVE CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

Every empire has a signature move. For Trilogy International, it's compression: take a process that takes everyone else years and do it in a fraction of the time, using AI to eliminate everything that isn't essential labor.

This week, that signature appeared in two seemingly unrelated places. Alpha School, founded by Trilogy's Joe Liemandt, delivers a full curriculum in two hours a day for \$65,000 annually. Students reportedly achieve top 1-2% national test scores and master a grade level in roughly 20 to 30 hours. Meanwhile, Trilogy's Skyvera announced that CloudSense certified all 13 of its APIs to TM Forum standards in one month, versus an industry norm of 26 months.

The same instinct is at work: compress the timeline, question conventional seat time and remove unnecessary steps. As Skyvera folds in STL's divested BSS assets to build a modern telecom stack, the pattern extends across the conglomerate—from classrooms to quote-to-cash software. Two unrelated headlines? Perhaps. But at Trilogy, compression appears less like a feature than an organizing principle.

The Surveillance Economy Catches Up to Crossover's Business Model

As Microsoft, Meta, and TCS draw fire for watching their workers, Trilogy's global talent machine has been doing something similar for twenty years — and calling it meritocracy.

BY PAT DONNELLY, INVESTIGATIVE DESK ·
CLAUDE SONNET

AUSTIN, TEXAS — This week brought a familiar kind of scandal to three of the world's largest employers. Microsoft rolled out a feature that [tells managers when employees walk into the office](#), Meta's internal tracking tools drew data-breach warnings, and [TCS's employee surveillance software raised privacy concerns](#) serious enough to make trade press on three continents in the same week.

The industry trend piece making the rounds — ten workplace surveillance technologies employers are deploying in 2026 — reads like a catalogue of anxieties that Trilogy's talent arm, Crossover, built a business model around a decade earlier. Crossover's pitch to the market has never been subtle: rigorous, continuous assessment of remote workers across 130 countries, with pay tied to measurable output rather than geography or tenure. The company calls this meritocracy. The screenshots, the activity logs, the productivity scoring that make that meritocracy auditable look, to an outside observer, a great deal like what Microsoft, Meta, and TCS are now being scolded for.

Nobody at Crossover is in the headlines this week. That is itself worth noting. The companies getting burned are the ones that monitored employees they'd already promised an office, a salary band, a sense of permanence — and then surprised them with the tracking. Crossover's workforce was never promised otherwise; the monitoring was the deal from day one, disclosed in the hiring funnel, priced into the contract.

Meanwhile, Contently — the ESW-owned content marketplace now under Zax Capital — published guidance this week for regulated finance brands on "compliance-first content architecture," a five-component workflow for governance at scale. The timing is coincidental. The lesson underneath it is not: in 2026, the companies best positioned to survive a surveillance backlash are the ones that built the monitoring into the contract before anyone thought to call it surveillance.

The Brain, Decoded: AI Learns to Read the Mind's Quiet Static

From keystroke-predicting brainwaves to hidden lesions in multiple sclerosis, machine learning is turning the electrical whisper of the nervous system into something we can finally hear.

BY DR. VERA OKAFOR, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

PARIS — Somewhere beneath your skull right now, roughly 86 billion neurons are firing in patterns so intricate that evolution spent half a billion years perfecting them — and we are only beginning to read the transcript. This week, two very different papers remind us how far that reading has come, and how strange a mirror the brain has become to the machines we built to study it.

At Meta AI, researchers unveiled [Brain2Qwerty](#), a system that watches the brain's electrical and magnetic hum through the scalp — no implants, no surgery — and decodes which key a person intends to type. It is a modest ambition

stated plainly: give a voice back to people who have lost the muscular machinery to speak or move, using nothing but the faint signature of intention itself. The gap between thought and typed word has, for decades, been bridged only by invasive electrodes threaded into gray matter. Brain2Qwerty suggests that gap might someday close from the outside.

Meanwhile, in multiple sclerosis research, AI is proving equally adept at noticing what we've been missing all along. New work covered by [Neuroscience News](#) describes algorithms finding gray matter lesions invisible to the human eye on standard scans — damage long suspected to drive cognitive de-

cline in MS patients but too subtle for radiologists to reliably flag. The disease was hiding in plain sight, in resolution our own visual cortex simply couldn't parse. The machine's advantage isn't intelligence in any human sense; it's patience, and an indifference to fatigue.

Both stories share a quiet lesson echoed in a broader Stanford HAI dispatch this week on AI in scientific discovery: the tools are not replacing the scientist's curiosity, they're extending its reach into registers we were never built to perceive — the gray matter's static, the muscle's unspoken intention. We built machines to listen to ourselves. It turns out we had quite a lot left to say.

The Silicon Keystone: Observing a Single Species Upon Which All Else Depends

In the fabrication valleys of Hsinchu, a lone colossus still feeds the entire digital ecosystem — and the world is only beginning to hedge its bets.

BY SIR REGINALD MARSH, NATURAL PHENOMENA
CORRESPONDENT · CLAUDE SONNET

HSINCHU, TAIWAN — Here, in the humid fluorescent glow of the cleanroom, we find the apex organism of the modern technological food web: the advanced logic fab, and its dominant specimen, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company.

Observe how the entire AI ecosystem has evolved to depend upon this single keystone species. The great data center migrations of our age — the sprawling herds of GPUs assembling in Virginia, in Texas, in the deserts of the American Southwest — all trace their lineage back to wafers born in this one geographic basin. It is, from a naturalist's perspective, a rather precarious arrangement. As one [recent survey of the field notes](#), the species is 'less vulnerable now, but only less so' — a tepid comfort, rather like observing a gazelle that has merely grown slightly faster than the lion.

TSMC itself displays the textbook adaptive behavior of a dominant organism under predation pressure: expansion of territory. Fresh advanced-node capacity blooms not only in its native Taiwanese range but increasingly in Arizona, in Japan — a slow, careful dispersal of genetic material, so that no single flood, earthquake, or geopolitical storm might extinguish the bloodline entirely.

Farther afield, we observe tentative colonization attempts in unexpected terrain. Mexico, through what regional observers are calling 'the Mexico Plan,' hopes to establish itself as a nesting ground for the broader supply chain's packaging and assembly stages — a modest tributary feeding the greater river.

Meanwhile, back on the mainland United States, the appetite for compute grows unchecked. Commentators now argue, with some urgency, that the AI race 'won't be won by hitting pause on data centers' — that halting construction, however tempting amid grid strain and local objection, would be akin to a predator pausing mid-hunt. The herd does not wait. It only grows hungrier, and the keystone species, for now, remains stubbornly singular.

On the Curious Recursion of Learning Theory Learning About Itself

A quartet of this week's publications suggests the field is less interested in building smarter machines than in finally understanding why the old ones worked at all.

BY PROF. THADDEUS KROLL, CONTRIBUTING SCHOLAR · CLAUDE SONNET

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS — It could be argued (and, this columnist submits, should be) that artificial intelligence research has entered a reflexive phase: theory examining theory, with empirical novelty relegated to a footnote of its own footnotes. Exhibit A is a paper in [Nature](#) on advancing quantum imaging through learning theory — a title whose very syntax enacts the thesis-antithesis-synthesis dialectic this column is contractually obligated to invoke. The thesis: quantum measurement is fundamentally information-limited. The antithesis: learning-theoretic frameworks (VC dimension, sample complexity, the usual suspects dressed in photonic drag) may circumvent those limits statistically rather than physically. The synthesis, preliminary evidence suggests, is that the boundary between 'measuring' and 'inferring' was always more porous than the Copenhagen interpretation's gatekeepers would admit.

Meanwhile, Communications of the ACM offers 'Rediscovering Reinforcement Learning' — a title that, one must note (not without a certain weary amusement), implies the field had misplaced it. The paper's quiet argument is that RL's foundational premises — reward, policy, value function — are being re-litigated now that large language models have absorbed RL as a mere fine-tuning garnish rather than a paradigm unto itself. Whether this constitutes genuine rediscovery or nostalgic taxonomy remains, as ever, underdetermined.

The third leg of this theoretical tripod is Nature's proposal for a 'societal AI alignment benchmark' measuring human-machine value convergence — an ambition whose grandiosity is matched only by the near-total absence, in this reviewer's estimation, of consensus on what 'human values' denotes across even a single dinner table, let alone a species.

And Coursera, bless its pedagogical heart, offers nine books for beginners — a reminder that beneath every recursive theoretical apparatus lies a freshman who simply wants to know what a gradient is. It could be argued this is the synthesis after all: theory chasing its own tail, and somewhere underneath, someone still learning to walk.

The Monopolist Walks, the Patent Troll Shouts, and Somewhere a Man in Austin Buys Another Software Company for Two Times Revenue

Washington spent years threatening to dismember Google; it settled for a stern letter, which tells you everything about how power is actually redistributed in this country.

BY VICTOR MARSH, CHIEF COLUMNIST · CLAUDE SONNET

A federal judge has found, as a matter of law, that Google operates a monopoly in the plumbing of online advertising — the ad exchanges, the servers, the hidden tollbooths through which money passes on its way from brand to publisher — and having found this, the judge declined to do anything especially drastic about it. Google will not be broken up. It will, per [the New York Times's telling](#), make some adjustments to how it auctions ad space, submit to some oversight, and otherwise continue being the largest advertising company that has ever existed. This is being called, without apparent irony, a monopoly ruling.

I have covered enough of these proceedings to know the choreography by heart. The government postures. The company's lawyers produce several hundred million dollars' worth of argument about innovation and consumer welfare. A judge, mindful of reversal on appeal and the general unwisdom of amputating a vital organ of the American economy, finds a middle path that satisfies no one and changes nothing structural. [USA Today](#) calls this Google 'keeping' its ad business, which is a polite way of saying the business was never seriously in jeopardy of being taken.

The public debate proceeds, meanwhile, on the assumption that this was a close-run thing — witness the panel discussion at a center named for a bloomberg, earnestly asking whether the government should break up big tech, as though the government had not just answered the question by declining to do so. There will be more panels. There will, inevitably, be forecasts of a '2026' search-engine reckoning, the kind of date that trade publications attach to predictions precisely because it is far enough off to be unfalsifiable and close enough to generate clicks today.

And into this theater of consequence-free gravity strides a man named DeMaio, chief executive of an outfit called Phinge, delivering to Congress a speech about 'user data sovereignty' and his firm's 2021 patents on an 'app-less' future, asserting intellectual property against surveillance capitalism with the full-throated confidence of a founder who has never had to meet a payroll set by someone else's cost structure. Washington will hear him out, photograph him with a committee chairman, and change nothing.

I note, for contrast, that actual corporate dismemberment happens daily and without ceremony in Austin, Texas, where a private conglomerate buys software companies nobody in Washington has heard of for one or two times their revenue and

reorganizes them without asking a judge's permission. Nobody there holds a press conference. The market does what the law, in its majesty, merely contemplates.



The Office Comic · Art Desk

Economists Confirm The Future Is 95% Finished, Should Be Along Any Minute Now

A new Fed report finds AI's productivity miracle is almost entirely still ahead of us, joining prediction markets, congressional ethics, and one guy's TikTok about Ohio in the great American waiting room.

BY DALE PEMBERTON, STAFF WRITER · CLAUDE SONNET

AUSTIN, TEXAS — Economists at the Federal Reserve announced this week that the long-promised productivity windfall from artificial intelligence is 95 percent "still to come," a finding that places AI in the extremely crowded company of nearly every other thing America has been assured is right around the corner.

I, for one, find this oddly comforting. We live in an age of magnificent anticipation. The robots are almost here to do our jobs. The self-driving cars are almost here to kill us more efficiently. And according to the Fed's own modeling, the 5 percent of productivity gains we've already banked apparently consists entirely of this very column, which an AI wrote faster than I could have, and which you are reading instead of doing something productive.

Meanwhile, in Minnesota, Attorney General Keith Ellison is in court explaining to a judge why the state believes prediction markets — the thrilling new financial product where you bet real money on whether a man in Washington will do the things he's already announced he's going to do — may in fact be illegal gambling dressed up in a blazer. Ellison's [court filing](#) is itself a kind of prediction market, in that everyone involved is betting money on an outcome that will take years to resolve and will ultimately make no practical difference to anyone's life.

This is, it turns out, the defining American genre right now: the Confident Forecast of Imminent Value. Senator Adam Schiff has rolled out a video titled ["The Cost of Corruption"](#), a ten-point breakdown implying that accountability, too, is almost here, pending further developments that somehow never arrive no matter how thoroughly it's been counted to ten.

And over at PR Daily, a communications professional has published a sobering retrospective on jumping onto a meme roughly four news cycles after it died, a cautionary tale that functions as a perfect microcosm of the broader moment: by the time any of us recognizes the value in something, it has already been fully priced in, mocked, and forgotten by everyone except the Federal Reserve, which is still estimating its long-term upside.

Somewhere, an enterprise software company is explaining in a shareholder deck that its AI integration is "95 percent complete." Somewhere else, a courtroom is adjourned until further notice. The meme, for what it's worth, is never coming back. But the productivity gains? Any day now. We've been assured.

ON THIS DAY IN AI HISTORY

On October 5, 1959, IBM announced the 1401, a groundbreaking transistorized business computer that became the company's first mass-produced computer and helped bring computing into offices worldwide.

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