Altman and Schmidt Recommend Essays Against Handing Control to AI; Guo Points to Colossus's Bret Taylor Q&A

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Sam Altman and Eric Schmidt each praised an essay arguing that humans should not hand society over to AI. Sarah Guo recommended a Colossus interview with Bret Taylor, and Aaron Levie and Patrick O'Shaughnessy shared posts arguing that AI will let services businesses scale.

Two essays argue humans should keep control of AI

Sam Altman called Boaz Barak's *Human empowerment in a few fake graphs* "really really good" and gave no further reason [1]. Barak disagrees with the view that AI will necessarily take over control. He argues that people should keep their autonomy and sovereignty however well AIs are aligned [2]. His proposals are to use AI to make AI understandable and controllable by humans, and possibly to "cap its rate of progress" rather than its absolute intelligence. He admits he doesn't know how such a "speed limit" would work and expects it to take both regulation and technical means [2].

Eric Schmidt called Alexandr Wang's *Superintelligence is Arriving* "Extraordinary, and correct" [3]. Wang treats the proof of the Riemann Hypothesis as the start of a major shift. He argues that the remaining gaps for AI are domain know-how, plumbing and experimentation, not intelligence [4]. He reaches the same conclusion as Barak: society should not accept a "handover" to AI, and the industry needs to act "meaningfully" differently from the default path [4]. Taken together, Altman and Schmidt backed the same anti-handover argument on the same day.

Guo: Colossus's Bret Taylor Q&A

Sarah Guo shared Colossus's Q&A with Bret Taylor, conducted by Dom Cooke [5]. Her praise: "However good you think @btaylor might be — as a friend, entrepreneur, engineer, product guy, enterprise sales leader, consigliere to the F500, and senior statesman of technology — he's better" [6]. The interview asks whether it is easier or harder than ever to build a company that lasts, and whether Sierra, which Colossus says is valued at over $30 billion, could become the company that outlives him. Taylor's earlier startups, FriendFeed and Quip, were shut down by the companies that bought them [5].

Services businesses that scale like software

Aaron Levie called @ypatil125's post "a pretty key insight." The post's line: "If you're bullish on AI, you should believe services businesses can scale like software" [7, 8]. Levie explained that agents decouple output from the time put in, while experts are still needed up front to make sure the right outcomes are delivered. He expects this in cybersecurity, marketing, legal, accounting and IT transformation [7].

Patrick O'Shaughnessy made a similar point, calling Michael "a person to watch" and linking his post [9]. The post says AI will expand the services TAM, improve unit economics and raise valuation multiples, making it "an amazing time to refound services companies" [10].

Shorter picks

- **Ariel Ekblaw** (space architect, speaking with Reid Hoffman) chose Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* trilogy as her all-time sci-fi pick. She said the Apple TV version is good but recommends the book. Her recent pick, Neal Stephenson's *Seveneves*, "inspired a huge amount of my PhD," including her work on biomimetic robots and swarms [11].
- **Keith Rabois** recommended a "nice profile" of his first boss in politics: *Robert Giuffra's Life in Litigation* [12].
- **Paul Graham** pointed to his essay on Jessica when asked how he judges founders' character before helping them gain power. His answer: "I just ask Jessica" [13].
- **Bill Gurley** pointed followers, with only pointing-down emojis, to Sam Buntz's post. The post says philosopher Thomas Nagel singled out Anthropic as "particularly abominable" in its approach to AI [14, 15].
- **Anj Midha**, speaking on 20VC, praised the last lecture Satya Nadella ("Satcha" in the transcript) gave in his Stanford class and said it is on YouTube. He mentioned it while arguing that infrastructure leaders need to "start thinking like scientists" [16]. Episode

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Sources

1. X post by @sama
2. X article by @boazbaraktcs
3. X post by @ericschmidt
4. X article by @alexandr_wang
5. X post by @colossusmag
6. X post by @saranormous
7. X post by @levie
8. X post by @ypatil125
9. X post by @patrick_oshag
10. X post by @mjlee_2014
11. The next infrastructure boom is in space (space architect Ariel Ekblaw & Reid Hoffman) | Summit '26
12. X post by @rabois
13. X post by @paulg
14. X post by @bgurley
15. X post by @SamBuntz
16. "Fire the Bankers": Most VCs Won't Survive AI | Why the Inference Layer is Uninvestable | Anj Midha