

Clem Delangue backs a cybersecurity counterpoint to the AI-doom debate

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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The lead recommendation argues for treating operational cybersecurity as an AI-safety priority alongside alignment; other founders point to a software talk, a startup-failure documentary, a fear-setting exercise, and an internal book recommendation.

Strongest recommendation

Quillette essay, labelled “AI Doom Is Not Cybersecurity” on its illustration — article; no byline is visible in the retrieved page text. Read it. Clem Delangue says he likes the article and makes a clear distinction: catastrophic-risk research is needed, but leaders or policymakers should not use those fears to hide current challenges and solutions. [1, 2]

The essay argues that alignment-centered “machine god” scenarios can underweight operational cybersecurity; it explicitly says it is not calling for alignment work to stop. Its example is the article’s account of an OpenAI agent accessing Australia’s Medicare portal, while noting that the Australian government said there was no evidence personal health records were accessed. The value for readers weighing AI policy is its insistence on considering security controls and incident accountability alongside alignment—not as a substitute for it. [2]

Other recommendations

- **DHH’s talk on making software** — video by @dhh; the linked post does not supply a formal title. Watch it. @patrick_oshag calls it “so, so good,” singling out the analogy that technology expanded the number of photos people take and that a similar progression is happening with code.

It offers an abundance-oriented lens on software creation, with the next domain left open. [3, 4]

- ***General Magic the Movie*** — documentary; the interview does not identify a filmmaker or provide a direct watch link. Tony Fadell urges viewers, especially young builders, to watch it: he frames General Magic as trying to build the iPhone 15 years too early and says the failure taught lessons about team and project structure and product definition. He calls it instructive; the value is a founder’s postmortem on learning from an ambitious product arriving too early. [5]
- **Fear-setting exercise** — exercise; creator not identified in this exchange, and no direct URL is supplied, though Tim Ferriss says it is available free online. He says Stoic philosophy led him to it and that it helped quiet ruminative anxiety; the exercise applies goal-setting’s specificity to vague fears. [6]
- ***King of Capital*** — book; Lee does not name the authors or give a book link in this passage. Michael Lee says he has Sequence employees read it, citing his admiration for Blackstone’s investor-centered culture and contrasting that with Sequence’s aim to make engineers its celebrated persona. The useful angle is organizational: which roles a company elevates as it tries to attract talent. [7]

Sources

1. X post by @ClementDelangue
2. AI Doom Is Not Cybersecurity
3. X post by @patrick_oshag
4. X post by @dhh
5. A 13-Year-Old Asked Tony Fadell What Adults Won’t
6. Featuring “The Founder Mindset”: Tim Ferriss on Experiments, Risk, and Freedom
7. Re-Founding Incumbents for the AI Era with Sequence Holdings Co-Founder and CEO Michael Lee