The sharpest AI recommendation is a brute-force heuristic

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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By Recommended Reading from Tech Founders • August 17, 2026

Aaron Levie's endorsement of a Jeffrey Huber post offers the sharpest practical test for agent opportunities; adjacent recommendations add humility, design fundamentals, and a governance lens.

The most actionable pick is Aaron Levie's pointer to Jeffrey Huber's formulation that AI is "better at brute forcing than you": Levie treats it as a way to find agent opportunities where tireless, exhaustive work was previously impractical. [1, 2]

The standout: a practical test for agent opportunities

- **Title:** "AI is better at brute forcing than you" (the opening line of the post; no formal title is supplied).
- **Content type:** X post.
- **Author/creator:** Jeffrey Huber.
- **URL:** Original post. [1, 2]
- **Recommended by:** Aaron Levie, who calls it a "pretty good way" to think about the value of agents and where the opportunity lies. [2]
- **Key takeaway:** Agents can tirelessly perform work that was valuable but not remotely practical before—such as simulating every security risk, reading every contract, or combing through a customer base for upsell signals. Levie's startup heuristic is to target markets where adding compute qualitatively changes what customers can do. [2]
- **Why it matters:** This is a usable screen for agent ideas: look for domains where exhaustive analysis is valuable, repeatable, and previously too costly or laborious for people to carry out. [2]

Two design-side correctives

Stop the AI Confidence Theater

- **Content type:** Post.
- **Author/creator:** Elena Vera.
- **URL:** Not supplied in the recommendation; context in the Lenny's Podcast interview.
- **Recommended by:** The Lenny's Podcast host, who describes it as a "really great post." [3]
- **Key takeaway:** The post is presented as a critique of people broadcasting AI accomplishments as if they have figured everything out, even though few of those examples are actually working well. The surrounding advice is to be humble, keep experimenting, and stay curious as the tools change. [3]
- **Why it matters:** It is a useful guardrail against mistaking polished AI success stories for a repeatable operating method.

The Design of Everyday Things

- **Content type:** Book.
- **Author/creator:** Not named in the interview passage.
- **URL:** Not supplied in the recommendation; context in the Lenny's Podcast interview.
- **Recommended by:** Ian Silber, head of product design at OpenAI. [3]
- **Key takeaway:** Silber calls it a classic that shapes how he thinks about design and says it is worth reading whether or not someone works in tech. [3]
- **Why it matters:** Among AI-specific recommendations, this is a reminder to return to durable design principles rather than treating new tools as a substitute for understanding how products should work. [3]

A contextual governance recommendation: *The Vision of the Anointed*

- **Content type:** Book.
- **Author/creator:** Thomas Sowell.
- **URL:** No direct book link is supplied; recommendation context in David Sacks's post.
- **Recommended by:** David Sacks, who invokes the book while arguing about the concentration of authority over frontier AI. [4]
- **Key takeaway:** Sacks says the book captures the mindset of "elite intellectuals" convinced that only they are enlightened enough to control the outcome, and uses that framing to criticize concentrating power in a small group. [4]
- **Why it matters:** It offers a political-philosophy lens for the central governance dispute Sacks identifies: whether frontier AI is too powerful

to distribute or too powerful to centralize. [4]

Sources

1. X post by @jeffreyhuber
2. X post by @levie
3. OpenAI's Head of Design: This is the best time in history to be a designer | Ian Silber
4. X post by @DavidSacks