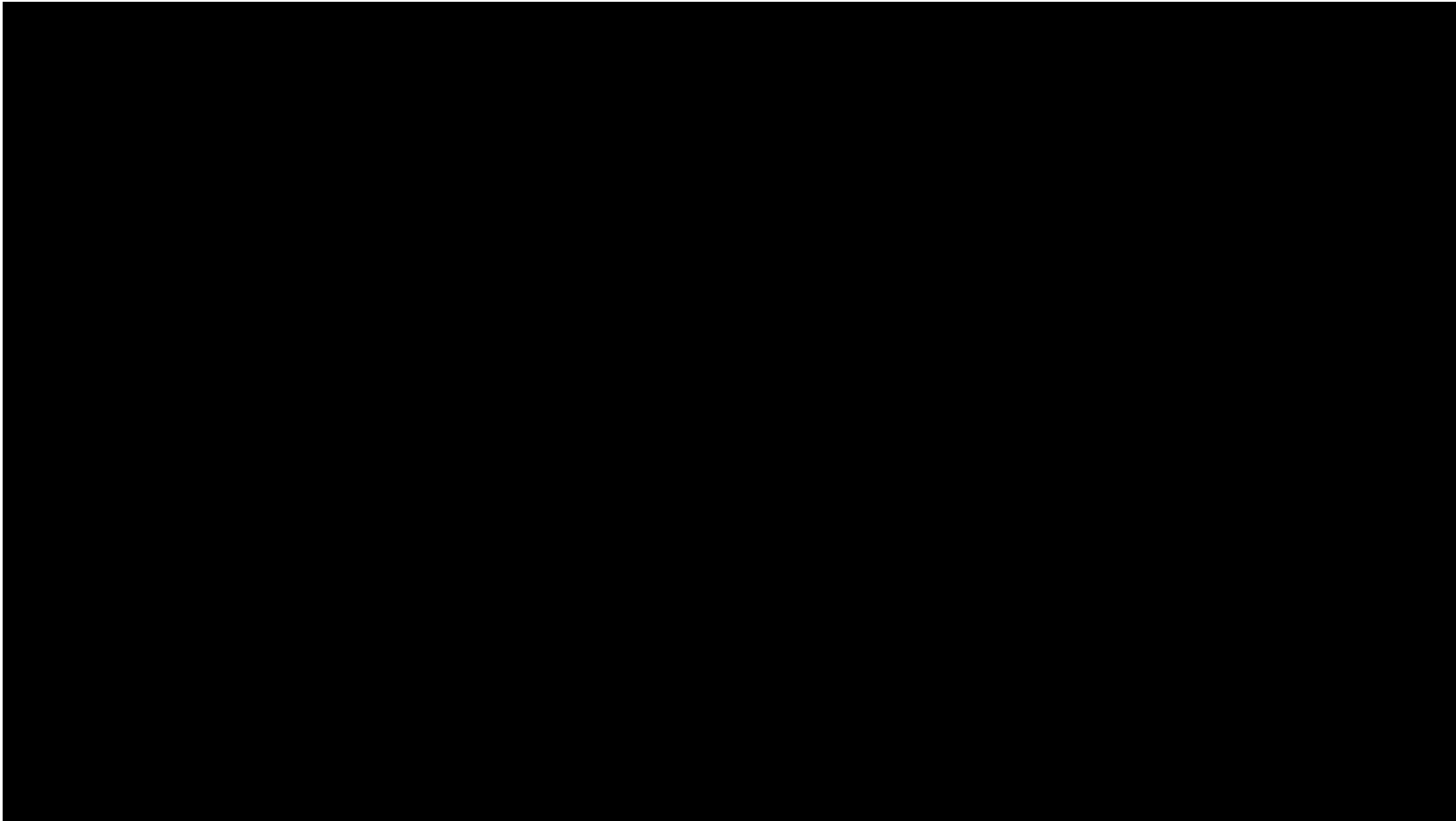






A WORD FROM YOUR HOST

Nii Attoh-Okine

Chair

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Zihui Ma

Ph.D. in Civil Engineering,
Master of Engineering in
Project Management



Lingyao Li

Ph.D. in
Civil Engineering



Ayushi Patel

Master of Engineering in
Project Management





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Supercharging Agile Teams, AI Agents, and You: A Corporate Rebel's Playbook

Kanika Tolver

Certified Scrum Master, Product Owner and Agile Facilitator

PMSYMPOSIUM.UMD.EDU



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Who is Kanika Tolver?

- Wife
- Born in Washington, DC
- 20 years of GovTech Experience
- Senior AI Product Manager
- Certified Scrum Master
- Certified Scrum Product Owner
- Certified Agile Facilitator
- Sneaker Collector



***"I want to be
involved
in AI projects."***

*— What I told my boss, before anyone
else in government was ready*

**You don't wait for the dream opportunity.
You position yourself so it finds you.**

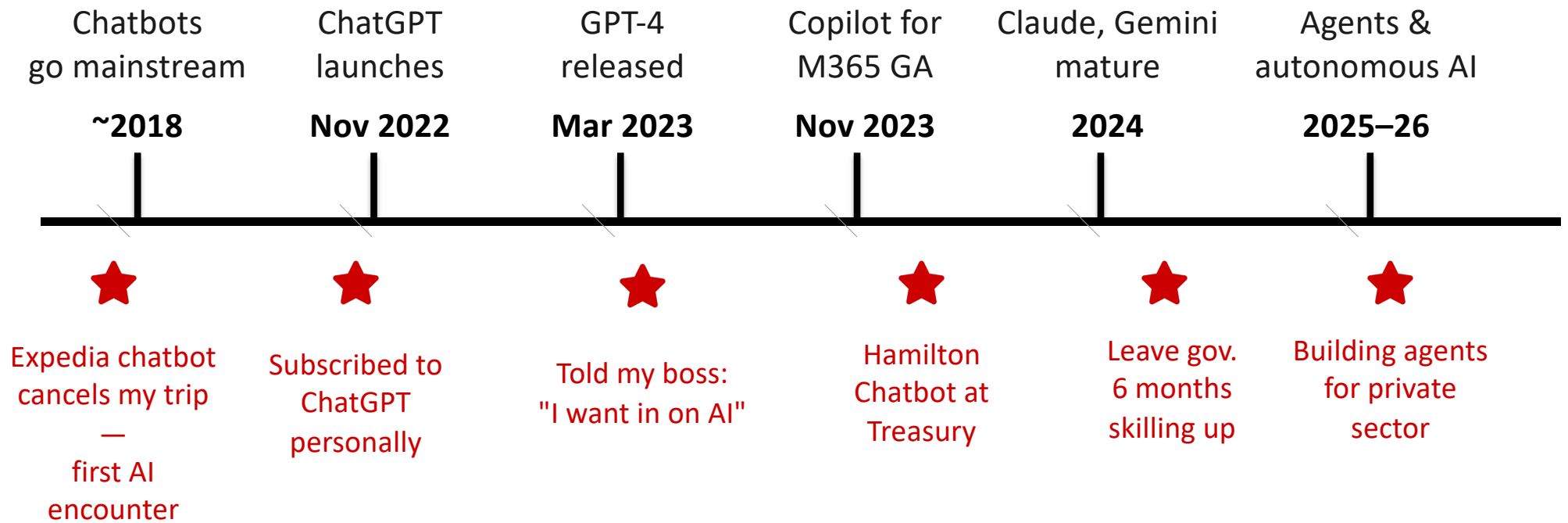


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The AI Timeline — and Where I Was On It



Meet Hamilton.

Treasury's first AI-powered self-service chatbot.
Tier-zero IT support.

Troubleshooting.
Hardware & software requests.

Complex issues → live agent via Teams.



REAL RESULTS

+30%

Self-Service Adoption: Users resolving issues without human intervention

+35%

Team Efficiency: Reduction in manual ticket handling and resolution time

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***“ They still
want to go into
the bank.”***

Two kinds of fear:

1. End users didn't want to change.
2. My team feared being replaced.

I was not filled with fear. I was filled with excitement.



Shift to Systems Thinking

Managing a system, not a procedure.

INPUTS → **OUTPUTS**

Your value isn't your process.
It's what you produce.

*Stop defining yourself by your procedures.
Start defining yourself by the value you create.*



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AI Across the Agile Lifecycle



"AI is teaching us to unlearn."

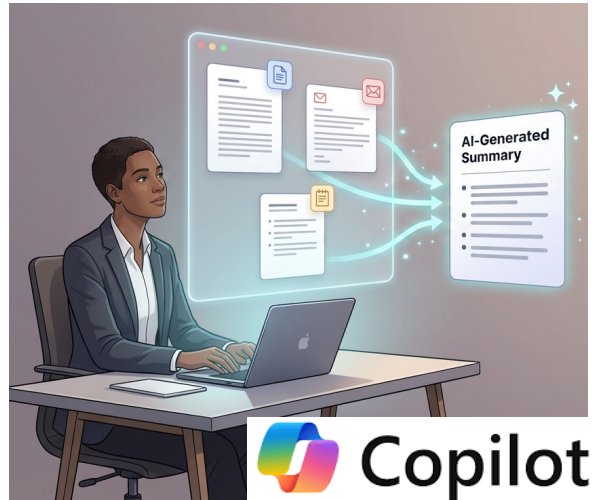
*You move faster — but you test and iterate far more.
This is systems-level, integrated thinking.*

What This Looks Like in Practice



Jira Intelligence

Auto-generated user stories
& backlog management



Microsoft Copilot

Docs, emails, meeting notes,
AI-powered summaries



Building AI with AI

Using AI tools to build
AI solutions — simultaneously

**This isn't theory.
This is what we lived at Treasury.**

Your Team Just Got Bigger.



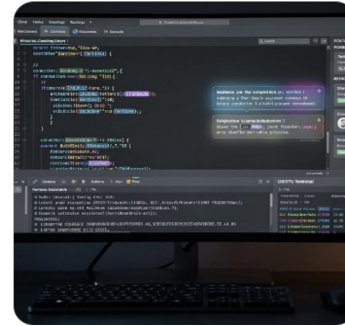
Scrum Copilot

Standups,
tracking, nudges



QA Agent

Automated
testing,
regressions



Dev Assistant

Code gen, review,
docs

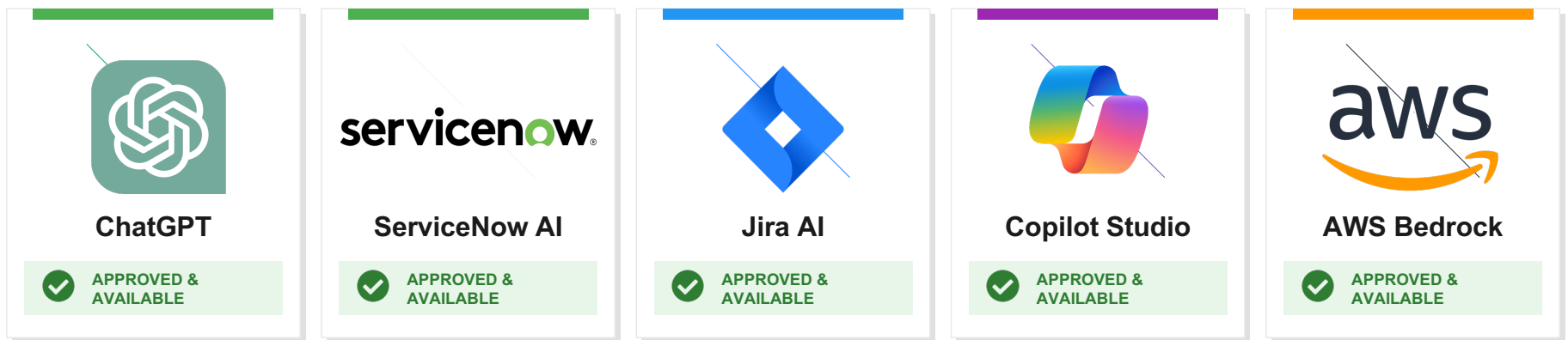


Product Analyst

Usage data →
priorities

Agentic AI doesn't just assist — it acts.

Grow Where You're Planted.



"If you're in a Microsoft shop — and most of you are — that's where you should be learning AI."

Learn AI in the ecosystem your organization already pays for.

Your Best Coach is Already on Your Screen.

The LLM isn't just the product.
It's the instructor, the debugger,
the mentor.

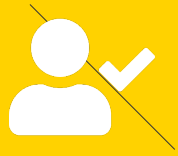
You're never starting from zero.



Governance Still Matters.



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Human in the Loop

AI recommends.
Humans decide.



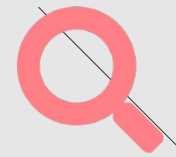
Responsible AI

Bias awareness.
Fairness audits.



Security & Compliance

Data handling aligned
with standards.



Prompt Validation

Review for leakage.
Ensure auditability.

Move fast. Don't move recklessly.

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***"More information
could lead to lack of
implementation."***

I got smarter.
I got nowhere.

***"The overconsumption of building and failing
is where I learned the most."***

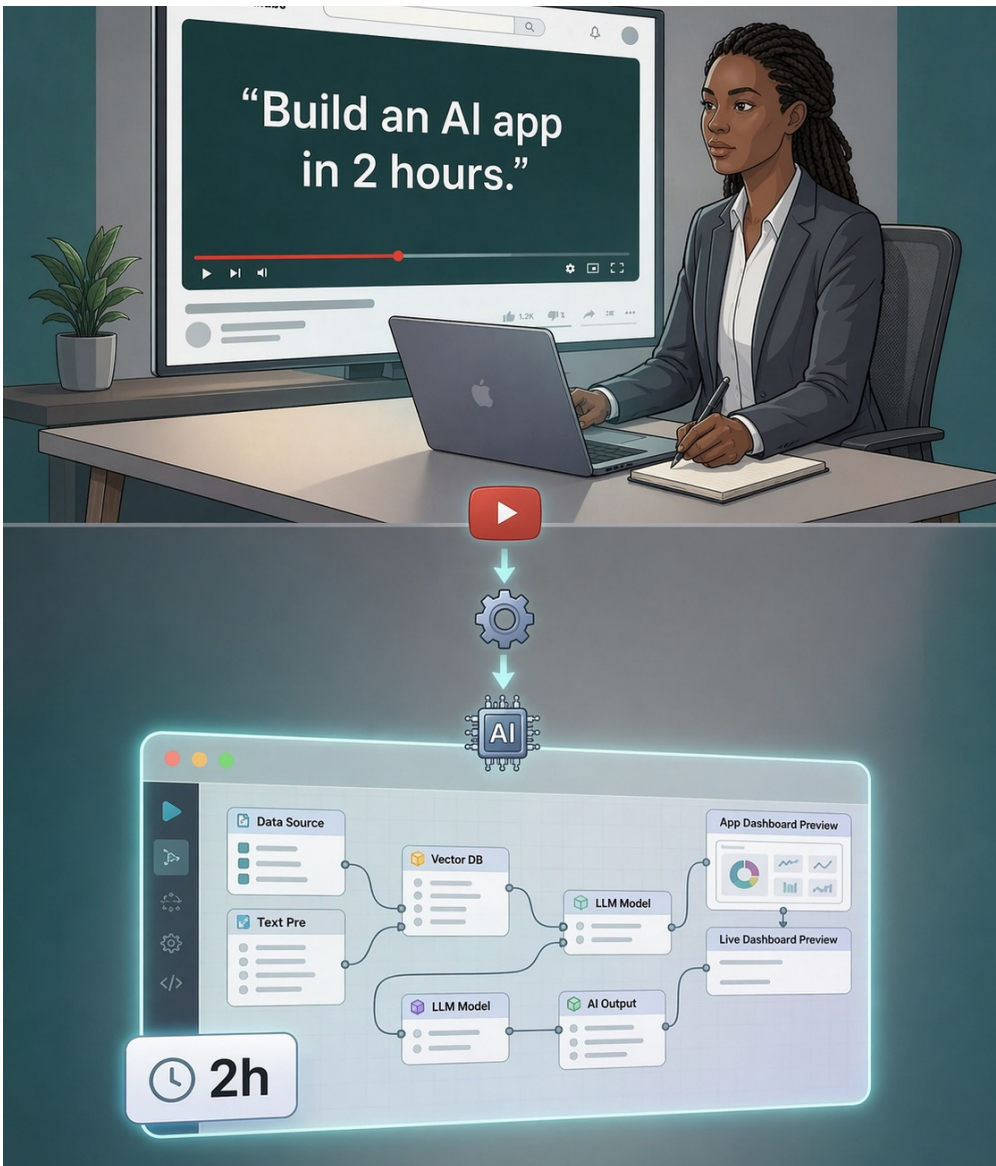


You Are the Product.

Build your learning plan in sprints.
Your AI coach will hold you accountable.
Don't spin. Focus. Execute.

**Like an agile PM — except this time,
you are the product.**





I built an AI agent in 2 hours.

From a 30-minute YouTube video.
No degree. No permission.

Dentist offices. Car dealerships.
Real estate agents. PG County.

"I didn't need to wait for someone else to tell me I was good enough."



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Date Jobs. Marry the Dream.

Career Rehab

*"Your career could be changed in one hour
of prompting what you clearly desire."*



A Message to the Leaders in This Room.

"Don't punish your people for using AI."

- Give them the tools.
- Give them the space.
- Let them be corporate rebels.
- Empower them to find the solution.



The ones who can't grow with you will leave.



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What You Can Do Monday Morning

1. Grow where you're planted.
2. Build your plan in sprints — *your AI coach will help.*
3. Master one tool first.
4. Build something. Ship it.
5. Be a corporate rebel.

***** Leaders: give your people the tools and the space.**



There's nobody in the middle.

You either want it, or you don't.

I'm still a toddler in this. Still failing.
Still building. My phone won't stop ringing.

That could be you.





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Questions & Evaluation

Evaluate Session:



Contact Information:

Kanika Tolver

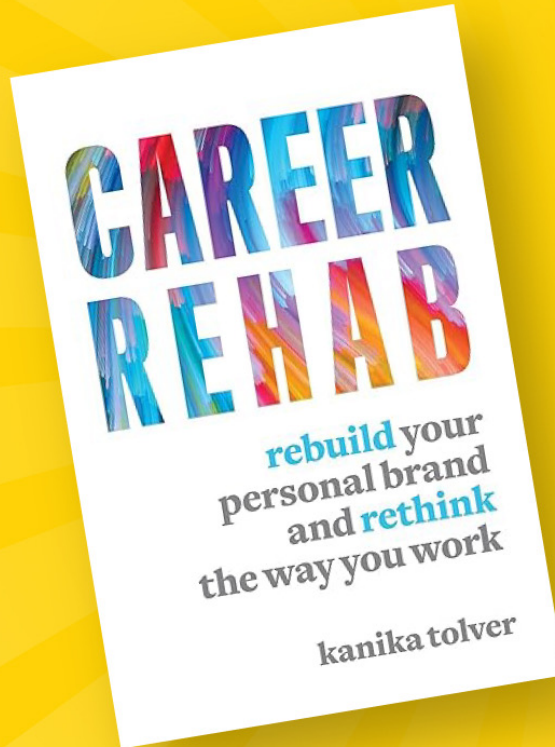
Email: Kanika@KanikaTolver.com

LinkedIn: [@Kanika Tolver](#)

Website: www.KanikaTolver.com



Symposium Book Giveaway!



**Career Rehab: Rebuild Your
Personal Brand and Rethink
the Way You Work**
by Kanika Tolver

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