

So you want to learn about Artificial Intelligence? 6 Places Where Directors Can Learn to Get a Board's-Eye View of AI

A list by Nora M. Denzel (nora.denzel@gmail.com)

Note: Nora is a board director and technology executive from the Silicon Valley. These recommendations are her personal favorites and she has no affiliation with any of these recommendations. Enjoy!

1. Coursera Course: AI for Everyone taught by Andrew Ng

- **Notes:** Andrew is a pioneer in AI having been at both Google and Baidu (the 'Google' of China). He also founded Coursera. This is a free online course. The class is divided into 9 lectures all under 10 minutes, so it's easily done when you have a few minutes to spare. Andrew is my favorite speaker on the topic of AI for executives. Download Coursera from the App store and watch it on your device.

2. Book: AI Superpowers by Kai-Fu Lee

- This is a recent book by an ex-employee of both Google and Microsoft, he now lives and invests in China. Great read if you want to really understand what's going on in AI and also have an interest to really understand how fast China is moving in the field of AI.
 - Note: If you learn better by listening or watching a video, just google Kai-Fu Lee and watch any of the videos that come up where he's being interviewed about this book and you can get the essence.

3. AI Blog: Shelly Palmer's AI blog <https://www.shellypalmer.com/blog/>

- This is a free blog from NACD friend Shelly Palmer. You can subscribe to this from his website. He does a great job of summing up all that is going on in AI. Sometimes just reading the headlines are enough for me to get a high-level overview of what's happening. I read the full post when it's applicable to the boards I am on. He has his own strategy firm and can consult; however, he will not market you anything nor will he sell your email address.

4. Book: Machine Platform Cloud by McAfee and Brynjolfsson

- This is a great book for someone who HAS NOT been steeped in technology for their career but wants to 'catch up' on what's going on. It introduces you to new business models, platforms, and the big trends that are going to be disruptive to all industries. This would be the one book I'd recommend to someone who asks me to 'Please summarize the last 30 years of what's been going on in tech so I can be more knowledgeable on my board.'

5. AI Deep Thinking Ted Talk: Sam Harris 'Can we Build AI without losing Control over It?'

- This gets a little deep, however, Sam Harris does a great job of teeing up the deep, philosophical questions that are going on in AI discourse (i.e. If we invent machines that are smarter than we are, will they take over? What happens to all those that lose jobs? How does AI affect income inequality?). I personally think this is a great topic for intellectuals to discuss, however, it's applicability to most of us is well beyond our life time, or the life time of the companies we are in. My 2 cents.