

// field note – first published on LinkedIn

How to stay irreplaceable in the age of AI

(the TTC way)

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TIME

the hidden layer of
value



TRUST

the human multiplier



COOPERATION

the new leverage

Everyone I talk to lately asks the same question.

How can I stay irreplaceable when artificial intelligence does everything faster, cheaper, and sometimes better?

Machines never sleep, but they still cannot be trusted. What truly sets people apart in a world of relentless automation? Not speed, but something deeper. That is where the TTC framework comes in: Time, Trust, Cooperation. It explains why some people remain essential while others fade away.

// a personal story

In one of my past jobs, I was asked to explain how I saw my role.

I said: « My goal is to make my job obsolete as soon as possible ».

That idea changed everything. I wasn't there to build an empire. I was there to build systems, train others, and make the work run without me. I call it the Self-Destruct Strategy: destroy your job before someone else does. Paradoxically, it made my contribution last beyond my role.

// 01 – TIME

The hidden layer of value

AI compresses everything, but progress is not speed. Humans who stretch time stay relevant. They see the long view and remember how decisions age.

This is Time Depth, the ability to act today while holding the thread of tomorrow. AI may have data, but only you have meaning.

// 02 – TRUST

The human multiplier

Trust remains the strongest currency. People do not trust machines. They trust humans who know when and how to use them.

A friend said something that struck me:

"We do trust machines, but only for their accuracy. We trust that they will execute exactly what we ask. But that is not the same as trust in the human sense. Accuracy is not agency."

We rely on AI's precision, not its moral judgment or loyalty. Trust grows when people see you take responsibility and stay calm when others panic.

AI can predict, but it cannot care. It can advise, but it cannot own the outcome.

// 03 – COOPERATION

The new leverage

Machines scale tasks. Humans scale relationships. The more complex the world becomes, the more cooperation multiplies impact. Teams that trust each other adapt faster than code that only optimizes.

// the TTC equation

Irreplaceability = Time Depth × Trust Equity × Cooperation Reach

grow all three to move from replaceable execution to lasting influence

// for the next generation

When my 15-year-old daughter asks what to study, I tell her: think long-term, build trust, and cooperate. These are not soft skills; they are survival skills.

// final thought

Being irreplaceable is not about becoming superhuman. It is about doubling down on what makes you human.

- Use AI to free time, not fill it.
- Use data to deepen trust, not replace it.
- Use technology to expand cooperation, not isolate talent.

What one TTC-inspired habit will you start tomorrow — thinking longer, building trust faster, or helping someone cooperate better?

That is the TTC way. It is not about beating the machine. It is about reminding the system what makes it worth running.

→ Run the diagnostic · airportbathroomtest.com

A companion to the forthcoming book “The Airport Bathroom Test” – TIME × TRUST × COOPERATION