

Transcript | AI Skills Lab | AI for Policymaking

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00:00:10.620 --> 00:00:11.730

Lowell Weisbord: Hello!

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00:00:12.280 --> 00:00:13.970

Lowell Weisbord: And welcome!

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00:00:14.410 --> 00:00:18.559

Lowell Weisbord: We're gonna give everyone a few minutes to join our event.

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00:00:18.970 --> 00:00:33.789

Lowell Weisbord: But I want to welcome everyone to the third session in the AI Skills Lab series. We're covering AI for policymaking, which is a really exciting topic. My name is Lowell Weisbord, I'm a Senior Product Manager here at Apolitical.

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00:00:33.970 --> 00:00:50.869

Lowell Weisbord: The AI Skills Lab is a monthly virtual event series brought to you as part of our Government AI Campus. So, the thought is to bring you really tangible, actionable tips and hacks to streamline your everyday tasks with AI. Today, we're talking a little bit about the policy-making process.

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00:00:51.110 --> 00:01:01.840

Lowell Weisbord: As folks join the room here, it'd be great to hear from all of you. Do post in the chat where you're joining us from, maybe what organization you work for, so we can all get a sense of who's in the room.

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00:01:02.010 --> 00:01:12.430

Lowell Weisbord: I'm looking out the window in slightly sunny, slightly chilly London, the United Kingdom, but it would be great, again, to hear where everyone's calling in from.

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00:01:12.850 --> 00:01:19.489

Lowell Weisbord: So today we're going to be covering how to use AI tools to draft clear policy ideas and experiment.

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00:01:19.500 --> 00:01:33.979

Lowell Weisbord: And do all sorts of quite cool things, use AI to communicate better. And for those of you who may be joining us for the first time, welcome. AP Political's the world's largest community for government, used by over a quarter of a million public servants.

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00:01:33.980 --> 00:01:44.440

Lowell Weisbord: from more than 170 countries. Our mission is to make government smarter, and we do this by equipping public servants worldwide with the knowledge and skills they need to lead this change.

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00:01:44.530 --> 00:01:57.169

Lowell Weisbord: It's great to have everyone coming into the chat, from the Ministry of Justice, from Saskatchewan, Ontario Welcome Center for Technology and Government at the University of Albany in my home state of New York.

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00:01:57.360 --> 00:02:02.410

Lowell Weisbord: The British High Commission in India, Nottinghamshire.

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00:02:02.620 --> 00:02:11.850

Lowell Weisbord: Copenhagen, Wales... Welcome all. It's great to see such a diverse, interesting group of folks on this event.

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00:02:12.040 --> 00:02:29.149

Lowell Weisbord: This is gonna be a compact, quick 30 minutes, tightly focused on building your AI skills and seeing some really phenomenally cool stuff from James here. So I'm going to keep the rest of this intro very short, but a quick technical note is just that this event is recorded for on-demand viewing.

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00:02:29.310 --> 00:02:41.950

Lowell Weisbord: On the apolitical site, so please don't record it yourself. Contact details for privacy concerns are in the apolitical homepage footer. Closed captions are available and can be toggled on or off in your screen settings on the Zoom event.

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00:02:42.100 --> 00:02:46.369

Lowell Weisbord: As we get into it here, I'm gonna introduce

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00:02:46.370 --> 00:03:04.420

Lowell Weisbord: James Ansell, who you should be able to see right on our screen. James is the head of foresight in the Cabinet Office here in the UK, where his team reports on the future of the world, really. In the course of experimenting with AI, he's moved from prompting to building AI-powered tools to automate various parts of his role.

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00:03:04.420 --> 00:03:22.100

Lowell Weisbord: Including tools that spot emerging risks from news outlets around the world, and look at how different countries are approaching policy problems. James is going to show us some of these various projects and how he's built them in this session today. So, without further ado, James, I'll pass it over to you.

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00:03:25.710 --> 00:03:27.120

James Ancell: Great, can you hear me okay?

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00:03:27.560 --> 00:03:44.760

James Ancell: Fantastic. Hi everybody, my name is James Ansel. I am, as I was saying, I'm Head of Foresight in the Cabinet Office over in the UK. I'm going to... I'll talk really briefly about what I do, and I'll talk about some of the experiments we've been running. Hopefully you can see

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00:03:44.870 --> 00:03:46.360

James Ancell: my screen there.

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00:03:47.660 --> 00:03:49.940

James Ancell: Yep, please be AI and Policy Making log, give me another.

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00:03:50.340 --> 00:03:51.170

Lowell Weisbord: Looks good.

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00:03:51.170 --> 00:03:56.770

James Ancell: Okay, cool. It's great. I've had to switch to my personal laptop at the last minute, so it's, yeah.

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00:03:56.950 --> 00:04:01.709

James Ancell: So, just a little bit about me, and then we'll start sharing some stuff. I'm the head of force at the Cabinet Office.

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00:04:02.070 --> 00:04:14.650

James Ancell: been mucking around with AI and experimenting with it a fair bit, and as I play around with it, people seem quite interested in some of the things I've been making, and I get asked to sort of show you some of the things we've done. I don't have any...

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00:04:14.920 --> 00:04:18.169

Lowell Weisbord: If you wanna... it's not presenting, just in case you're meant to be presenting.

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00:04:18.170 --> 00:04:22.839

James Ancell: Yeah, it's okay, it's okay, we're flicking between lots of tabs, so thank you.

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00:04:23.490 --> 00:04:25.469

James Ancell: So, what we're looking for is

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00:04:25.570 --> 00:04:43.530

James Ancell: I'm a UN, so I teach AI skills to some people in the UN sometimes, they've asked me to come and do that. I used to be head of digital and data policy, so I have worked in policy roles, and I know a bit about what that's like. I think the other thing to say is I've got no training in software development, so everything I'm showing you is entirely within

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00:04:43.610 --> 00:04:46.060

James Ancell: The gift of things people on the call could do.

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00:04:46.650 --> 00:04:54.250

James Ancell: We're going to get more complicated as we go, so over the next, sort of, 10-15 minutes, I'm just going to blast you with ideas of stuff you can make with AI.

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00:04:54.300 --> 00:05:10.109

James Ancell: The first thing I'm going to say is there are risks to using AI in your policymaking. First of all, you've probably heard about hallucination. The AI can come up with things that aren't necessarily, factually true. My suggested mitigation is, in your prompts.

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00:05:10.200 --> 00:05:16.909

James Ancell: say, provide all citations with links so I can check. So whenever you build something, I would always suggest you include that in the prompt.

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00:05:17.070 --> 00:05:19.540

James Ancell: And the second thing is, there was a real risk that

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00:05:19.800 --> 00:05:23.959

James Ancell: there's a lack of diverse voices, the AI will only tell you what it's trained on.

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00:05:24.060 --> 00:05:35.630

James Ancell: And there also, potentially, there's a hostile state that could try and insert misinformation into what the AI says. So I think it's really important that you see... still see challenge, and lots of challenge for the work you do.

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00:05:36.000 --> 00:05:41.420

James Ancell: The third thing that comes up a lot when we talk about AI in policymaking is the risk of degradation of skills.

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00:05:41.560 --> 00:05:42.460

James Ancell: So...

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00:05:43.240 --> 00:05:51.919

James Ancell: you are... you are accountable as a policymaker for what comes out of it. You know, you can't ever blame the AI for what it does, and so I think retain the fact you are

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00:05:52.050 --> 00:05:54.689

James Ancell: You are still accountable as a policy professional.

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00:05:55.140 --> 00:05:59.549

James Ancell: The critical thinking skills of what we need to develop, and...

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00:05:59.740 --> 00:06:04.900

James Ancell: I think I would also consider when it's appropriate to not use AI in policy development, which there might be some times.

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00:06:04.910 --> 00:06:21.979

James Ancell: I think very often people say, oh, you can tell that an AI wrote this. There are ways to prompt. I think there are ways to prompt to make it sound less like an AI wrote it. So including things like, don't use m dashes, those hyphens you see throughout work. You can iterate your prompts to get them better, and we'll talk a bit about how to do that in a second.

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00:06:22.710 --> 00:06:25.009

James Ancell: Probably the final major point, I would say, is

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00:06:25.390 --> 00:06:41.809

James Ancell: definitely do not upload any sensitive data to an external AI. That is probably the most important thing I think I've found. There are exceptions to that, in the sense of sometimes I will make things, and I'll show you in a second, where I've used dummy data. And that's really intentional, because

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00:06:42.270 --> 00:06:55.019

James Ancell: it means I can build something using an AI, and then I can maybe edit it later and put in some more sensitive data on a more secure system. But yeah, there's definitely risk of skipping consultation, rushing analysis when you do this.

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00:06:55.220 --> 00:06:57.979

James Ancell: Because it's a shortcut at times.

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00:06:58.200 --> 00:07:04.510

James Ancell: I wanted to show you this, because I really like this. It's from the Dubai government.

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00:07:06.090 --> 00:07:18.930

James Ancell: which looks at... just to flush it up on screen, I think it's a great example. Whenever they produce work, they will use a stamp to say whether it's AI-produced, human-led, machine-assisted, machine-led, or all machine. So, to what degree?

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00:07:19.030 --> 00:07:28.640

James Ancell: Has AI been used in this? And I think this is really interesting from a trust in government perspective, because they are showing... they're being really transparent about how they're using AI in their work.

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00:07:28.930 --> 00:07:35.880

James Ancell: I think it's really... I'd be really interested if other governments pick up on this over time. And then on the right-hand side of this page, you've got an example.

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00:07:36.440 --> 00:07:42.650

James Ancell: of a real product that I found on their website, and they put this stamp mark on it showing, this is what we've done.

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00:07:42.820 --> 00:07:57.260

James Ancell: this is, you know, we've used humans for getting the ideas, we've used humans for the product design, but then we used humans and machine to do the literature review. So they're being really explicit as to what role AI has played in the production of that paper, that policy paper, that research.

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00:07:57.410 --> 00:07:59.040

James Ancell: I think that's really interesting.

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00:07:59.170 --> 00:08:06.800

James Ancell: Now we're going to move on to some prompts. The first thing I wanted to show you is... is meta-prompting, if you've never done meta-prompting before.

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00:08:07.130 --> 00:08:24.140

James Ancell: This is where we say, like, I want a prompt to generate a two-page policy submission for a much longer report. Write me a prompt that delivers the tone, format, brevity. It's for the UK Prime Minister, so think about what he values, look online for best practice. And there's... we've got some really great publications online that talk about how to talk to ministers.

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00:08:24.470 --> 00:08:28.360

James Ancell: What this will do is generate a better prompt, So...

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00:08:28.490 --> 00:08:34.179

James Ancell: There are definitely ways to prompt, and there are some real brilliant methods and structures you can use for prompting.

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00:08:34.320 --> 00:08:42.939

James Ancell: I've become very keen on using metaprompting, where I just ask AI to come up with a really developed prompt, and then I will look at it in more detail.

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00:08:43.419 --> 00:08:49.159

James Ancell: So, like, if we, we'll look at some examples of this in a minute, but this is the first example I wanted to show you.

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00:08:49.630 --> 00:08:51.399

James Ancell: That you can take this.

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00:08:51.810 --> 00:08:57.780

James Ancell: you could run this into an AI, we can share the slides afterwards, and it'll come up with a much longer prompt, which we could then

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00:08:57.940 --> 00:09:05.479

James Ancell: put in whatever research, and it would then draft a policy paper. But including this initial step might get you to a much higher quality prompt.

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00:09:05.680 --> 00:09:10.509

James Ancell: The second thing I thought I'd share with you is something which,

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00:09:10.860 --> 00:09:14.560

James Ancell: I was just building a second ago, just as we were writing up this call.

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00:09:15.490 --> 00:09:22.570

James Ancell: This is something that I've actually done, and I know everyone on the call, this is not strictly policy, but there's no reason why you couldn't do this if you were going into a negotiation.

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00:09:22.730 --> 00:09:24.849

James Ancell: Or you were going to a difficult conversation.

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00:09:25.240 --> 00:09:36.469

James Ancell: I have a job interview coming up, and I want you to prefer an HTML file with my notes in it, including some examples, so I can pick from answers, questions for job specification,

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00:09:36.650 --> 00:09:38.840

James Ancell: And let's just make this bigger.

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00:09:40.110 --> 00:09:45.630

James Ancell: I've used dummy data for this, because I just want to show you how it would work. Make everything collapsible and start collapsed.

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00:09:45.950 --> 00:09:52.430

James Ancell: So I can show you the specific data. There you go. Before you write any code, write me a prompt for this application to maximize its usefulness.

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00:09:52.850 --> 00:09:54.970

James Ancell: Let's have a look at what it's just done.

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00:09:55.400 --> 00:09:57.210

James Ancell: Oh, no, not that one. Here we go.

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00:09:57.600 --> 00:10:01.790

James Ancell: So, this is... So up here, we said.

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00:10:02.400 --> 00:10:04.330

James Ancell: I want you to write me a prompt.

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00:10:06.000 --> 00:10:12.059

James Ancell: And then... Minorize that. And then here it's got the comprehensive prompt.

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00:10:12.770 --> 00:10:18.000

James Ancell: So this is discussing everything that should go into this problem, the question bank structure, how it should look.

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00:10:18.280 --> 00:10:23.280

James Ancell: And I've said, yes, make me that. And it's running, and it's still running.

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00:10:23.970 --> 00:10:25.849

James Ancell: I wonder if we need to refresh this screen.

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00:10:30.720 --> 00:10:37.980

James Ancell: I actually made one earlier on today for something, for a job interview I actually had, but I'm not sure I want to share that with everyone. So we'll go, we'll say yes.

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00:10:38.150 --> 00:10:39.429

James Ancell: Make me that now.

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00:10:43.650 --> 00:10:48.090

James Ancell: And what you'll see, I'm using Claude here, which is an AI...

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00:10:48.410 --> 00:10:55.279

James Ancell: Now, I think Claude's really... it's quite good for an AI, because it will show you in a side panel exactly what it's developing.

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00:10:57.470 --> 00:10:58.539

James Ancell: So there we go.

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00:10:59.480 --> 00:11:01.570

James Ancell: Now it's beginning to write the code out.

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00:11:03.290 --> 00:11:04.519

James Ancell: Here we go.

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00:11:05.930 --> 00:11:13.939

James Ancell: So what it's doing now is it's making, basically, a small website that has in all of the potential answers to a job interview question.

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00:11:14.020 --> 00:11:32.319

James Ancell: That you could be facing, and so that in the interview, if it's a virtual interview, you can have that up on Scheme, you can be clicking through the different responses. So if they ask you a question about when you've had to have a difficult conversation, you can click on that. I'm going to leave that running. I'm going to go back to the slides, because we're low on time today. I'm going to show you some more stuff whilst that's running.

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00:11:33.510 --> 00:11:50.539

James Ancell: This third one, I know someone on the call was from Jamaica, I saw, so I thought I'd run this for Jamaica. I want a prompt that would make me a website zoomable interactive map of the Jamaican government. When I click on two people, I want to see the shortest street between them. When I click on a connection, I want to see how they know each other. So this one...

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00:11:50.720 --> 00:11:52.789

James Ancell: Is running up here.

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00:11:53.170 --> 00:11:57.279

James Ancell: So if you notice, so this is the... It's developed the code here.

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00:11:57.590 --> 00:12:06.710

James Ancell: Now, interestingly, it hasn't loaded, so what I'm going to do is I'm going to click copy, I'm going to take that code, I'm going to go to this website here. This is called a compiler. The compiler is where you can take code.

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00:12:06.970 --> 00:12:10.640

James Ancell: It's HTML code. What we'll do, we're just going to paste that in here.

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00:12:13.210 --> 00:12:14.500

James Ancell: And we're gonna click run.

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00:12:14.910 --> 00:12:22.560

James Ancell: Cool. So, that was with one prompt. I've now got this map here of the Jamaican government. I can click on two people.

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00:12:24.420 --> 00:12:26.800

James Ancell: And what it will show you is the links between them.

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00:12:27.300 --> 00:12:28.819

James Ancell: It'll show you it. Now.

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00:12:29.010 --> 00:12:41.569

James Ancell: If you're working in lobbying, or you're looking at influencing or diplomacy, this could be quite useful, because you can map out stakeholders and see the links between them. If you're working in intelligence or research, you might want to use this to map out

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00:12:41.880 --> 00:12:48.539

James Ancell: the flow of information from the person you want to be hearing from to where you are. So again, this is zoomable.

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00:12:48.720 --> 00:12:52.489

James Ancell: And I made that with, with, what, one prompt, effectively.

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00:12:52.630 --> 00:12:54.470

James Ancell: One prompt generates the code.

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00:12:54.610 --> 00:12:59.249

James Ancell: And then I'm uploading the code into this compiler, and then I'm clicking run.

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00:12:59.600 --> 00:13:00.919

James Ancell: So that took me...

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00:13:01.430 --> 00:13:13.320

James Ancell: well, what's that, a couple hundred words? Run. Let's get back to our, let's get back to our map of our interview preparation tool and see if that's finished. No, it's still going. Great. So...

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00:13:13.800 --> 00:13:15.020

James Ancell: I'm gonna keep talking.

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00:13:15.460 --> 00:13:21.880

James Ancell: I'm gonna skip that one, actually. Let's talk about news scanning. So this was something that I found

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00:13:22.340 --> 00:13:25.450

James Ancell: A lot of people get very interested in when I demonstrate it.

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00:13:26.070 --> 00:13:31.560

James Ancell: In this spreadsheet here, I've got a load of news sources from around the world, and then

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00:13:32.320 --> 00:13:35.570

James Ancell: So if I click on this, this is what's known as an RSS feed.

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00:13:35.760 --> 00:13:37.120

James Ancell: So it's basically...

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00:13:37.340 --> 00:13:43.250

James Ancell: the world news written in code. So, China Xi calls Trump an unusual move to discuss Ukraine. Great.

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00:13:44.290 --> 00:13:48.419

James Ancell: Now, what we're doing is we're then collecting all of those headlines from around the world.

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00:13:48.690 --> 00:13:53.469

James Ancell: And then we're getting AI to look through all of these headlines.

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00:13:53.920 --> 00:13:58.419

James Ancell: For whether or not There is a risk to my country in this.

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00:13:58.950 --> 00:14:18.710

James Ancell: Now, it could be that you need to look at news... so the prompt that we've given it here basically says, imagine you're an analyst for the UK government. I want you to look

through everything that's going around the world and spot things that might be a future risk to the UK. Ignore things that are obvious, or are going to be on the front page of newspapers. I'm actually looking for things where the secondary effect, or the tertiary effect.

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00:14:18.710 --> 00:14:20.920

James Ancell: might be, you know, harmful to the UK.

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00:14:20.980 --> 00:14:29.060

James Ancell: It could also be that you want to look for something else. Maybe there's a domain you work in that you want to look for. Maybe you want to be looking at journals.

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00:14:29.310 --> 00:14:35.059

James Ancell: science journals or social media. But AI is very good at finding needles in haystacks.

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00:14:35.170 --> 00:14:40.319

James Ancell: So... We built out this tool to do a few things. It runs off the back of a spreadsheet.

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00:14:40.730 --> 00:14:51.640

James Ancell: So it's not... again, I used AI to write the code for it, didn't write a line of code, and the AI grabs the new stories, it then uses the AI to check whether

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00:14:51.860 --> 00:15:02.119

James Ancell: what might be harmful to the UK, and to score it for the most risk, you know, most dangerous things to the least dangerous. And then, it also does something interesting. It summarizes what other countries are doing.

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00:15:02.600 --> 00:15:09.850

James Ancell: So we can compare what different countries are doing on a certain policy topic. So what are... what is every country around the world doing on AI this week?

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00:15:10.180 --> 00:15:16.060

James Ancell: This is very good at collecting that. I built another scanner the other day. This is an even simpler version. This is just...

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00:15:16.200 --> 00:15:18.470

James Ancell: News feeds on this page from around the world.

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00:15:18.730 --> 00:15:22.080

James Ancell: And then, again, there's a tiny bit of code.

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00:15:22.290 --> 00:15:23.690

James Ancell: Running behind this.

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00:15:23.950 --> 00:15:35.030

James Ancell: which is grabbing all the news headlines, and then you can actually, in the latest Google Sheets, you can write equals AI, and then put in a prompt. So this one says, you're a UN policy analyst.

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00:15:35.160 --> 00:15:38.710

James Ancell: tell me whether or not this headline is going to be important for the UN.

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00:15:38.870 --> 00:15:45.419

James Ancell: And then what you'll see is this one is yes, and it gives a reason why, this one is no, and this is a reason why.

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00:15:45.940 --> 00:15:54.020

James Ancell: So again, your ability to scan huge sources of information, and news articles, or social media, and then look for the things

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00:15:54.350 --> 00:15:57.140

James Ancell: That are of particular interest to you in your policy area?

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00:15:57.260 --> 00:16:00.240

James Ancell: And it might be, again, it might be comparing what other countries are doing.

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00:16:00.650 --> 00:16:05.109

James Ancell: when I spoke to some diplomats, I know, they said, could you look for meetings between

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00:16:05.280 --> 00:16:21.859

James Ancell: senior leaders around the world. Often, those are written up in newspapers, therefore we can spot them, and we can see who's meeting who, and whether they're meeting them more quickly. The health people I spoke to said, could we use this for looking for diseases, like measles around the world? And, like, the answer is yes, we can get that

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00:16:22.090 --> 00:16:30.389

James Ancell: big list of news articles, and we can look for disease stuff. Should we go back and see if, finally, that, my interview preparation scan has worked? Here we go.

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00:16:30.680 --> 00:16:45.340

James Ancell: Right, great. So, here we go, here's the dashboard. So, my headline stats here, my unique value proposition, here are my examples. If they ask me a question about policy development, I can click on this, and there's my answer in the star format. So.

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00:16:45.460 --> 00:16:52.750

James Ancell: What was that? That was... One prompt, asking it to make a better prompt, Then we would then upload

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00:16:52.960 --> 00:17:07.679

James Ancell: your CV, any previous job applications, and now it's made me something that I could have open in a job interview, and then click on the right question answers and choose from them in the heat of the moment. All my questions for them, this is what I asked for.

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00:17:07.720 --> 00:17:15.009

James Ancell: I have recommended this to people, and I have also used it myself, and I can tell you it's much more useful than having a big document full of notes.

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00:17:16.780 --> 00:17:26.569

James Ancell: Lowell, I'm at time. I have more. Like, I've probably got 30 of these things that I can, run through.

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00:17:27.829 --> 00:17:29.739

James Ancell: Yeah, let's stop there.

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00:17:30.180 --> 00:17:42.529

Lowell Weisbord: Let's be clear, I mean, I think we were just getting into the real power that I think you were seeing through the hearts coming through the screen, to see that when you, you know, create these interactive dashboards.

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00:17:42.530 --> 00:17:51.450

Lowell Weisbord: You can do... there's kind of endless possibilities to what you can do as a policy person, or really anyone working in government who wants to do clever things.

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00:17:51.450 --> 00:17:57.399

James Ancell: So why don't we get into the questions? And I think that can guide us, maybe, to other examples as well.

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00:17:57.400 --> 00:18:00.540

Lowell Weisbord: as we dig in. So...

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00:18:01.000 --> 00:18:11.720

Lowell Weisbord: I think, just to kind of clarify, James, maybe, because I think there were a lot of questions around code and not code, and what are we doing with this code, so one of the questions was, you know, can we develop

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00:18:12.360 --> 00:18:29.510

Lowell Weisbord: should we develop code-related skills for policymaking? That was a question from Alexandre, but do you want to kind of just get into this a little bit? What skills do you think are most important, considering AI is so powerful in that it can generate these useful artifacts?

149

00:18:31.330 --> 00:18:35.819

James Ancell: I... I have a few, like, hypotheses, which is...

150

00:18:37.830 --> 00:18:40.839

James Ancell: I think there's a load of places where, in the policy-making.

151

00:18:41.160 --> 00:18:48.800

James Ancell: pipeline that AI can come in and help. I think I focus today on more of, like, the presentational side of it, so...

152

00:18:48.960 --> 00:18:54.640

James Ancell: Why would you do... Do we have to do a policy paper where we make something really interactive?

153

00:18:55.070 --> 00:18:59.190

James Ancell: 4... Now that anybody can make.

154

00:18:59.390 --> 00:19:09.099

James Ancell: simple websites, anyone can make AI tools, and the stuff I'm showing you today is relatively straightforward, like, it's relatively straightforward. I could teach you to do that. Some of the simple stuff

155

00:19:09.210 --> 00:19:29.070

James Ancell: like, making that interview webpage, I could teach you that, I just have to give you the prompt, and then I would use Claude. You could use Gemini, you could use ChatGPT, but you just have to put that code into a compiler, like the one compiler that I just showed you, and then run it, and then download it, and then keep it on your desktop, open it on your phone.

156

00:19:29.330 --> 00:19:34.670

James Ancell: I guess... I... I wonder if... in the future.

157

00:19:36.060 --> 00:19:43.080

James Ancell: Decision makers are still going to be really low on time, and if there's anything that we can do to accelerate that, how quickly they can understand things.

158

00:19:43.810 --> 00:19:56.049

James Ancell: That is a very good thing. So, if they can play around with levers and switches, if they can zoom in and out, and they can see links on a visualization, anything that builds understanding more quickly, I think, could be really helpful

159

00:19:56.160 --> 00:20:05.059

James Ancell: Because humans are going to be the slowest point in the decision-making process, so that's the bit that I've sort of focused on today. How can we make our work more accessible and interesting?

160

00:20:06.270 --> 00:20:11.870

James Ancell: In terms of code writing, I think this is going to keep getting easier. So the stuff that I've shown you today.

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00:20:12.460 --> 00:20:13.550

James Ancell: But, like...

162

00:20:13.680 --> 00:20:23.779

James Ancell: The deeper end of this work is using AI built into workflows, so using AI to scan news headlines. That's a little bit trickier compared to, like, a single web page. Now.

163

00:20:24.300 --> 00:20:26.509

James Ancell: In the future, that's going to get even easier.

164

00:20:26.690 --> 00:20:37.839

James Ancell: Because you can just put in... you'll be able to just type into an AI, I would like you to make something that scans the news for this, and lets me know if something comes up, and emails me. It will then go and do that. So...

165

00:20:37.960 --> 00:20:41.569

James Ancell: Things that seem a little bit tricky today are going to be easy tomorrow.

166

00:20:41.860 --> 00:20:43.020

James Ancell: Do you see what I mean?

167

00:20:43.300 --> 00:20:50.590

James Ancell: Yeah, so, like, Yeah. If the most complicated stuff I've done today will be the simple stuff tomorrow.

168

00:20:51.490 --> 00:20:52.210

Lowell Weisbord: Yeah, 100%.

169

00:20:52.210 --> 00:20:53.730

James Ancell: Access one compiler, yeah.

170

00:20:54.100 --> 00:21:09.140

Lowell Weisbord: I think this has also been... anybody who kind of follows this space very closely, in the last week, there have been multiple new releases from both Google and Anthropic that have kind of pushed, especially in this area, in terms of creating, kind of.

171

00:21:09.180 --> 00:21:15.499

Lowell Weisbord: instantly usable apps with very little context for compiling code and all of the above.

172

00:21:16.540 --> 00:21:22.120

James Ancell: Yeah, that... I mean, Niamh Hegarty just said she can only access one combine. Yep.

173

00:21:22.300 --> 00:21:24.160

James Ancell: I just put a link in the chat.

174

00:21:25.110 --> 00:21:27.580

James Ancell: I don't know if she can see it. No, she can't see it.

175

00:21:27.930 --> 00:21:29.419

James Ancell: Oh yeah, here we go, everyone.

176

00:21:29.640 --> 00:21:32.430

James Ancell: Niamh, I'll put it in the chat so that everyone can access it.

177

00:21:32.820 --> 00:21:35.040

James Ancell: the... the link I've put in there...

178

00:21:35.530 --> 00:21:41.839

James Ancell: if I've done it right, should take you straight to the Jamaican, government network map.

179

00:21:42.390 --> 00:21:45.860

James Ancell: Which was a one-shot prompt. I don't know if that works for you, let me know if it was.

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00:21:45.990 --> 00:21:47.989

James Ancell: Should we do another question, Lon?

181

00:21:48.390 --> 00:22:06.679

Lowell Weisbord: Yeah, yeah, let's click on. So, I mean, on the privacy issue, a couple different questions came in, but one of... one anonymous question we have here is just, how might we prompt a scan for potential confidentiality issues that may inadvertently be... be entered? I mean, you're... you're, especially in your role, you're in quite.

182

00:22:06.680 --> 00:22:07.100

James Ancell: Yeah.

183

00:22:07.100 --> 00:22:10.830

Lowell Weisbord: thinking about foresight and things that we have to be extraordinarily careful.

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00:22:10.830 --> 00:22:11.460

James Ancell: Yeah.

185

00:22:13.230 --> 00:22:19.630

James Ancell: Yeah, what, in terms of malicious action, in terms of unintended consequences?

186

00:22:20.060 --> 00:22:22.529

Lowell Weisbord: I think probably both, to some extent, right?

187

00:22:22.940 --> 00:22:24.220

James Ancell: Yeah, I think...

188

00:22:25.410 --> 00:22:29.439

James Ancell: I mean, the temptation with AI is to skip research phases, because it can do it so quickly, but...

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00:22:29.650 --> 00:22:35.010

James Ancell: I... I work in the UK Cabinet Office, it's a central government department. Our value is in aggregating

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00:22:35.230 --> 00:22:38.090

James Ancell: all of the intelligence across departments, centrally, so...

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00:22:38.480 --> 00:22:53.470

James Ancell: I think in the future, there'll be a premium on people who can get information out of people's heads that isn't... the AI isn't trained on. So if you're a really good facilitator, or a really good interviewer, and you can get knowledge out of people's brains that isn't in the AI yet, the AI doesn't know.

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00:22:53.760 --> 00:22:58.590

James Ancell: there's still loads of time for that. I think if you can invite challenge, and you have critical thinking skills.

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00:22:58.870 --> 00:23:04.350

James Ancell: There'll always be time for that. So... I... I, like, I think...

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00:23:04.550 --> 00:23:12.329

James Ancell: this stuff I've shown you today is at, like, the... it's at the innovation, invention phase, but I... I think in the future, there'll be a premium on...

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00:23:12.510 --> 00:23:18.539

James Ancell: there'll always be a premium on collaboration, and the ideas inside people's brains that aren't there with the AI.

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00:23:20.310 --> 00:23:40.270

Lowell Weisbord: Yeah, 100%. Going into another example, maybe there was quite a specific question, but maybe to dig into another kind of policy-making example. So one question here was, for, you know, explanatory memorandum of legislation, what prompts would you recommend policymakers adopt? How could it be used to improve

197

00:23:40.510 --> 00:23:55.190

Lowell Weisbord: explanatory memorandums, because they're subject to less scrutiny, so that they are subject to less scrutiny in the legislative process. So, I mean, take this as a broad one, but do you have any kind of tips or prompting related to the actual kind of

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00:23:56.180 --> 00:23:58.510

Lowell Weisbord: Policy slash legislative process.

199

00:24:03.320 --> 00:24:08.829

James Ancell: I mean, I think there's some really interesting work being done on, like, impact assessment. So, you want to bring out a new policy.

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00:24:09.450 --> 00:24:10.850

James Ancell: You want to...

201

00:24:11.060 --> 00:24:16.139

James Ancell: Maybe get some ideas about who might be affected by it, or the departmental interest might be affected by it.

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00:24:16.480 --> 00:24:18.880

James Ancell: could definitely... AI could definitely do that.

203

00:24:19.010 --> 00:24:31.300

James Ancell: AI can make tables. I make a lot of tables with AI, so what you could say is, break down this legislation, this MOU, into component parts in column A, and then across the top row, I want you to list all the stakeholders, and I want you to

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00:24:31.380 --> 00:24:40.269

James Ancell: put in each box, out of 10, how big a deal this is for them and why. And then that would be a really interesting way to get a rapid assessment of

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00:24:40.580 --> 00:24:43.300

James Ancell: Like, to break it down across stakeholder groups.

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00:24:43.510 --> 00:24:46.029

James Ancell: I've done that. The other thing that I would...

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00:24:46.140 --> 00:24:51.550

James Ancell: I've done a lot of... it's similar to that as wind tunneling, where you might get four scenarios.

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00:24:51.860 --> 00:25:04.339

James Ancell: on the... on column A, and then policy proposals along the other top... top row. And then again, look at what the interactions might be, because there are going to be some scenarios that are very bad for your policies.

209

00:25:04.750 --> 00:25:13.599

James Ancell: And there are going to be some policies that are very vulnerable across lots of scenarios. So, wind tunneling policy may be quite an interesting one. But again.

210

00:25:13.780 --> 00:25:18.450

James Ancell: I think that there's, I think that you can...

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00:25:18.910 --> 00:25:20.889

James Ancell: You don't want to skip the human phase.

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00:25:22.090 --> 00:25:25.410

James Ancell: Sometimes there's a lot of influence, and...

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00:25:25.550 --> 00:25:36.060

James Ancell: you know, consensus building that you can do when you go out and ask people for information, facilitate workshops and hear from people, that makes it easier to land, or to...

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00:25:36.420 --> 00:25:40.290

James Ancell: To get agreement later. So, I think there's a risk to skipping that phase.

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00:25:40.400 --> 00:25:43.729

James Ancell: But it's very good for getting quick ideas while working at pace.

216

00:25:44.870 --> 00:25:55.489

Lowell Weisbord: Yeah, yeah, 100%. I think... I think generally to that person's question, too, where they're trying to have things less scrutinized, asking AI for scrutiny is actually a really great.

217

00:25:55.490 --> 00:25:58.050

James Ancell: thing you can do, really asking it to be.

218

00:25:58.050 --> 00:26:02.750

Lowell Weisbord: And combining it, kind of, with those meta-prompting techniques you were using, asking it

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00:26:03.180 --> 00:26:09.819

Lowell Weisbord: come from a specific angle, scrutinize it as from this specific stakeholder's perspective, perhaps, or that.

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00:26:09.820 --> 00:26:10.310

James Ancell: Correct.

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00:26:10.310 --> 00:26:10.950

Lowell Weisbord: Ding.

222

00:26:11.010 --> 00:26:12.500

James Ancell: But...

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00:26:12.660 --> 00:26:13.600

Lowell Weisbord: Yeah, keep going.

224

00:26:13.600 --> 00:26:14.220

James Ancell: Listen?

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00:26:14.500 --> 00:26:29.529

James Ancell: No, I just... there's... there's... there's some nice cynicism in the chat, which I really like. People are saying, yeah, should we be doing this? Is there a risk to doing this? Yeah, absolutely there's a risk to be doing this, and you're completely right to call it out, and I think we should be cynical. I think we should be critical.

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00:26:29.570 --> 00:26:36.000

James Ancell: But I think you want to experiment whilst being really cynical and critical, because then you'll... if you can do both of those things, then you'll fly.

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00:26:36.320 --> 00:26:49.219

James Ancell: But I think there's a risk that I'm a bit of a fanboy. I love their stuff. I'm a bit too enthusiastic about it. Whereas I think other people are too critical, and then therefore not looking for opportunity. I think you want the critical optimist.

228

00:26:49.790 --> 00:27:03.299

James Ancell: Aspie's saying, I need extended lab time with you, James. Agree, one of the most helpful sessions I've been on this topic. You can share the slides. Yeah, I'll share the slides, I'll share the prompts, I'll do that via LOL. I think I take a day to teach this when I... when the...

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00:27:03.420 --> 00:27:09.920

James Ancell: Maybe, no, maybe it's, like, 3 or 4 hours to really show you how to do it, and there's a session I've done with the UN

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00:27:10.090 --> 00:27:17.330

James Ancell: going through step by step, and we get more and more complicated as we go. But it's... it's like, I mean, I... again, I,

231

00:27:18.360 --> 00:27:23.579

James Ancell: I, like, I've never coded before. Like, I couldn't write a line of code. I've just...

232

00:27:24.170 --> 00:27:36.920

James Ancell: played with it, and kept flowing with it, and I really enjoyed it. And I think, when I was a kid, I used to, like, draw inventions for stuff, and now with AI, you can just make it. You've got a good idea to try and design it. Anyway, long.

233

00:27:36.920 --> 00:27:44.419

Lowell Weisbord: Yeah, no, no, no, I mean, so appreciate all the enthusiasm in the chat, the cynicism and enthusiasm. Yeah, it's good, though.

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00:27:45.030 --> 00:27:51.269

Lowell Weisbord: I think we're actually getting towards the end of what has undoubtedly been a rapid-fire session with a third.

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00:27:51.270 --> 00:27:51.850

James Ancell: Yeah.

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00:27:51.850 --> 00:27:53.650

Lowell Weisbord: Here,

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00:27:53.840 --> 00:28:10.709

Lowell Weisbord: I can shout out a couple things, just as we get to the end here, and then, James, I'm going to put you on the spot in the last 10 seconds to give us your kind of final takeaway and tip. But, just one quick follow-on resource that I think is related to what folks are asking for here, is we have this kind of effective prompt engineering course.

238

00:28:10.710 --> 00:28:18.420

Lowell Weisbord: that we're putting out. We're gonna have to get James to help us improve that one and go deeper on it, though. I think that would be a really grand idea.

239

00:28:18.420 --> 00:28:31.690

Lowell Weisbord: It kind of gives you the building blocks you need to get better results from your prompting. We can link to a kind of taster lesson after the event. We have it pinned, I believe, in one of our community pages, so just...

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00:28:31.690 --> 00:28:47.909

Lowell Weisbord: Also, feel free to leave a comment telling us what you'd like to see next in this kind of rapid-fire 30-minute series. Maybe another one just going deeper on more of these very practical tips, of course. But I'll post that... my colleague will post that in the chat below here.

241

00:28:47.910 --> 00:28:57.429

Lowell Weisbord: I want to thank everyone again for joining in this kind of rapid-fire Tuesday afternoon, but before we all head off, James, I'm going to put you back on the spot for one.

242

00:28:57.430 --> 00:28:58.090

James Ancell: Yeah.

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00:28:58.090 --> 00:28:59.040

Lowell Weisbord: Quick tip.

244

00:28:59.410 --> 00:29:17.139

James Ancell: I mean, if you guys make something, like, add me on LinkedIn, I'm really happy for all of you to add me on LinkedIn, and if you... occasionally, I will post examples of stuff I've made. You're very welcome to... to add that, or if you make something, show me, because I'd love to see it, and I would steal all of your ideas.

245

00:29:17.260 --> 00:29:22.810

James Ancell: Yeah, but otherwise, yeah, go experiment responsibly. Go and,

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00:29:23.280 --> 00:29:25.650

James Ancell: Go and have a go, and show me what you do.

247

00:29:26.310 --> 00:29:26.850

James Ancell: Cool.

248

00:29:27.090 --> 00:29:44.340

Lowell Weisbord: Yeah, brilliant. I think that's a good call to action for everyone. Go experiment, experiment responsibly, make something new, be generative, and thank you all for attending this great session with James. We really appreciate you taking the time out of your day to do this with us.

249

00:29:45.030 --> 00:29:53.820

James Ancell: Right, thanks a lot. Cheers, everyone. Thanks for all your comments and engagement, and all the hearts, and all the lovely comments. Lowell, I might need you to send me all these lovely comments, so I can read them.

250

00:29:53.990 --> 00:29:55.250

James Ancell: Yeah, brilliant.

251

00:29:55.250 --> 00:30:05.260

Lowell Weisbord: One quick, on a scale of 1 to 10, rank your agreement with this statement. Was this valuable for your time? We just used this to make our events better and better.

252

00:30:05.380 --> 00:30:11.089

Lowell Weisbord: So, yeah, appreciate you guys again taking the time, and

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00:30:11.240 --> 00:30:20.520

Lowell Weisbord: Yeah, it's really, really brilliant. We'll have another event coming up in the very near future, AI for Time Management, in the next

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00:30:20.520 --> 00:30:31.790

Lowell Weisbord: on the 16th of December, actually, so we'll also link out to that one right here. That's something that people could spend many years learning about, but we're gonna do it in half an hour again.

255

00:30:31.880 --> 00:30:35.809

Lowell Weisbord: And, yeah, thank you to everyone again. Really appreciate the time.