

When Intelligence Became Cheap: method map

Practicum for Denis Ermilov's book · cheap-intelligence.vercel.app · version 2026-08

Main idea: AI makes output, the work product, cheap. Value moves to owning the outcome: framing the task, checking the work, and taking responsibility for the result.

Every tool follows one cycle: question → diagnosis → artifact → action → later check

Beginner
Start without jargon: which AI tool is available where you live and how to use it safely. → /en/start

Professional
12 professions: what gets cheaper, what becomes more valuable, and what to automate. → /en/applications

Manager
Build a team with agents: maturity, contracts, checks, and gates. → Volume 2 workbook

SMB owner
Build an agent-based staff and find the function with the fastest financial return. → SMB staff map

Volume 1: the person (axis: profession) · 10 steps; final artifact: a 90-day plan

Question for yourself	Tool	Artifact
Which lever creates my value?	Three value levers	the lever + what gets cheaper
What is really in my week?	Week inventory	share of    work + exposure
At what usefulness level do I work?	Usefulness level + a +1 move	level 0 to 5 + candidate task
How does my system work around AI?	Personal harness builder	the weakest layer in the system
Am I losing my own thinking?	Cognitive debt tracker	working mode + a protective rule
What does all this mean together?	Integrated profession audit	diagnosis + durable value
What will I do for 90 days?	90-day plan	a one-task plan + check-ins

Volume 2: Business in the Age of AI Agents (axis: company functions) · final artifacts: a compass and seven gates

Business question	Tool	Artifact
Did we rebuild the process or just bolt on AI?	Process maturity check	level + where the change is cosmetic
What should an agent do, and what stays with a person?	Human Review Matrix + evaluation set	task map + 20 test cases
Under what terms does an agent join the team?	Agent Contract	boundaries, escalation, owner, stop threshold
Where can an agent pay off?	Process scoring (5 questions)	ranked list + reasons to say no
Can a customer-facing agent find me?	Can an agent see me? checklist	discoverability gaps
In what order should we move?	Order of moves gate sheet	a route through gates, not dates

Principles

The check is built in. The check always sits outside the model: a	"No" is also a result. AI is not needed for half of today's tasks.	Everything ages. Living pages show a review date. The method can outlast a
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checklist, sample, or number.	The tools say so plainly.	change of models.
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