



THE FUTURE OF ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE

AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID LEICHTNER



## Amit Patel Of *Mythos Group* On The Future Of Artificial Intelligence

An Interview with David Lechner

September 5, 2025

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As part of our series about the future of [Artificial Intelligence](#), I had the pleasure of interviewing Amit Patel.

*Amit Patel is the Founder and Managing Director of [Mythos Group](#), a management consulting firm specializing in business and AI strategy, digital transformation, organizational effectiveness, and executive coaching. Amit partners with senior leaders to tackle complex challenges, accelerate growth and drive meaningful change. His expertise delivers clear results, from improving operational efficiency to enhancing productivity. With a focus on sustainable success, Amit works with Fortune 500 companies, rapidly-growing start-ups, and public institutions, helping them to navigate transformation and thrive in a fast-paced, ever-changing world.*

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**Thank you so much for joining us in this interview series! Can you share with us the ‘backstory’ of how you decided to pursue this career path in AI?**

My path into AI wasn't linear. I was working on my second bachelor's degree in computer science when I took classes with Dr. Henry Emurian. He had this way of making you actually excited about complex stuff. So when he gave us this open-ended AI project, I could have done something straightforward, but instead I got totally hooked on this question: How do you figure out the right mix for a musical band? I mean, whether you're putting together a cover band, rock group, jazz ensemble with horn sections, or blues quartet, each one needs different people. Guitarists, bass players, drummers, vocalists, keyboardists. And it's not just about who can play what. You've got to think about personalities meshing, whether their styles actually work together, all that stuff that makes or breaks a group.

So I'm building this algorithm, and suddenly it hits me — this isn't about music at all. I'm basically figuring out how teams work. The AI wasn't just matching skills; it was picking up on these patterns about what makes people collaborate well versus what makes them crash and burn. That was my lightbulb moment. The really interesting AI work isn't about replacing people — it's about understanding how we tick. And once I saw that, it changed everything for me. Now, when I look at organizational problems or market challenges, I'm always thinking about the human dynamics underneath.

This was all happening during the dot-com craziness, when everyone was saying technology would change everything. I knew I wanted to be part of building that, not just watching it happen. Fast forward to now, and AI is everywhere in business conversations. But I realize I've been working on this human-centered stuff since way before most people even understood what AI could do. That early experience gave me this lens where I see AI as a way to help people work better together, not just automate things. And honestly, that's made all the difference in how I approach problems.



## **What lessons can others learn from your story?**

Looking at my story, I think the biggest lesson is this: follow your genuine curiosity, even when it seems unconventional. I could have built something safe for that AI project, but I was actually fascinated by this band formation question, so I went with it. That "weird" project ended up shaping my entire career perspective. The stuff that makes you think "hmm, that's interesting" is often exactly what you should lean into. Your authentic curiosity is usually pointing you toward something valuable that others might miss.

Second, always look for what's really happening underneath the surface problem. I thought I was working on music, but I was actually learning about human collaboration patterns.

And find people who make you genuinely excited about learning — Dr. Emurian didn't just teach concepts, he made me want to explore them. That kind of enthusiasm is contagious and shapes how you think long after the formal learning ends. The combination of looking deeper and learning from passionate people is incredibly powerful.

But here's what I think matters most: stay focused on the human element, no matter what field you're in. Technology is just a tool. The really interesting work is always about people — how we connect, collaborate, and solve problems together. I got into AI before it was trendy, which gave me the freedom to explore this human-centered approach. Don't wait for permission to pursue what interests you. The best time to start is when you're curious, not when everyone else is already doing it.

## **Can you tell our readers about the most interesting projects you are working on now?**

Right now, I'm working on some projects that build on that human-centered approach I mentioned. I'm creating podcasts in two ways — converting my articles into deeper podcast discussions, and having live conversations with industry leaders and subject matter experts about how AI is actually changing their work. You hear these real-world stories that never make headlines, like how a small manufacturing company uses AI to help workers make better decisions, or how healthcare professionals balance AI assistance with human judgment. The response has been incredible — people want these authentic perspectives from the ground level.

I'm also writing about the practical challenges that keep executives awake at night globally — ethics, compliance, security, corporate culture, and organizational structure. I've been exploring how different industries handle these challenges, from financial services and healthcare to retail and travel, each with unique considerations across different markets. What I find fascinating is how corporate culture and organizational structure often determine whether AI initiatives succeed or fail, from New York to Singapore. You can have amazing technology, but without the right culture and structure for collaboration, you'll struggle. These questions about responsible deployment are universal, even as solutions vary by region and industry.



But quantum computing and its intersection with AI excite me the most. I'm working with researchers and industry leaders globally to understand what's coming. Quantum computing could change how we approach complex optimization problems central to AI. I'm exploring what this means for organizations worldwide — how do we prepare for computational capabilities that could dwarf today's? This work is already influencing how forward-thinking companies plan their AI strategies. It's that same pattern recognition challenge from my band project, just on a global scale — understanding how these powerful tools will reshape collaboration and decision-making across cultures and industries.

**None of us are able to achieve success without some help along the way. Is there a particular person who you are grateful towards who helped get you to where you are? Can you share a story about that?**

There have been quite a few people who've helped me along the way, but the most influential were my parents. My father was a professor who was relentless in his pursuit of excellence and always determined to leave a positive legacy. My mother taught me from a young age to have the courage to follow my dreams and instilled in me a deep sense of compassion and empathy that shapes how I approach my work.

What made them unique was how they encouraged intellectual curiosity while never losing sight of the human element. When I was deciding on that unconventional music band AI project, they didn't push me toward the safe choice. Instead, they reminded me that the most interesting problems often come from asking questions others haven't thought to ask. Between them, they gave me five lessons that have guided my career:

1. Have the courage to pursue your dreams
2. Realize the power of networking and nurturing relationships
3. Never compromise your character, integrity, or values
4. Be compassionate
5. Always ask "why?" and dig deeper

I see their influence in everything I do now. When I'm exploring AI ethics or having conversations with industry leaders, I'm drawing on both their lessons — the intellectual rigor to ask tough questions and the compassion to remember that there are real people behind every business decision. That combination of curiosity and care has been invaluable in navigating the complex challenges that come with AI implementation across different industries.



## What are the 5 things that most excite you about the AI industry? Why?

What excites me most about the AI industry isn't just the technology — it's the transformation it's triggering across every corner of business and society. I've worked with startups chasing agility, government agencies navigating legacy systems, and healthcare organizations trying to do more with less. Across all of them, AI is no longer a buzzword — it's a catalyst. It's reshaping how we work, how we make decisions, and how we think about human potential. And while the headlines often focus on flashy breakthroughs, the real magic is happening in the trenches: in HR departments, compliance teams, and community clinics. Here's what I find most thrilling about this moment in AI.

First, intelligent automation is finally delivering on its promise. After decades of digitization projects that moved inefficiency from paper to screens, AI is transforming how work actually gets done. Healthcare systems are redesigning patient flow, government agencies are streamlining compliance, and manufacturing companies are optimizing supply chains in ways that seemed impossible a few years ago. But it's not just about speed; it's about freeing up humans to do what we do best. And doing fulfilling work that makes the best use of one's real talents — not *busywork* that keeps team members happy.

Second, we're seeing the first personalized employee experiences. Today, AI is transforming the employee experience, which is a win for HR as well as new team members. We used to think digitizing forms was revolutionary. Now we're talking about adaptive learning paths, predictive retention models, and onboarding that feels like it was designed by someone who actually met a human once. It's like giving every employee their own career concierge, and that's a win for engagement and culture.

Third, executive decision-making is fundamentally changing. A startup founder allocating resources or a health system CEO planning capacity can now combine algorithmic precision with institutional knowledge. That combination is powerful. Whether it's resource planning in a startup or forecasting staffing needs in a medical system, AI brings clarity to decisions that used to rely on gut instinct and a whiteboard.

Fourth, capability is democratizing fast. Building sophisticated AI solutions used to require massive capital and technical teams. Now, small teams and nonprofits can prototype powerful solutions in days. I've seen local clinics build triage tools and small businesses use AI to optimize customer outreach. It's not just Silicon Valley anymore — it's Main Street, and small businesses. And that's a benefit to every community, on a global scale.

Finally, and maybe most surprisingly, I'm excited about the ethical reckoning AI is forcing us into. Discussions about bias in hiring algorithms, transparency, and accountability have moved from academic conferences to boardrooms. They're driving real changes in team composition, product design, and governance. It's complicated, but we're becoming more intentional about what we're building.



AI is shifting from being about technology to unlocking human potential. That's what gets me excited.

### **What are the 5 things that concern you about the AI industry? Why?**

Having worked with organizations across sectors on AI implementation, I've seen both the great upside *and* the real risks. Here are the five issues that concern me most today.

First, embedded bias at scale. AI learns from data, and if that data reflects historical inequalities, the system just repeats those biases with remarkable efficiency. I've seen recruitment platforms favor male candidates simply because the training data was skewed. So, unfortunately, in this scenario, systematic discrimination just got a technology upgrade.

Second, algorithmic opacity. Many AI systems operate as black boxes. You get results, but no explanation of the reasoning, no record of the process, in most cases. In high-stakes decisions like medical diagnosis or loan approval, that level of opacity creates serious accountability gaps. If an AI denies someone a loan or misdiagnoses a condition, we need to know why. Otherwise, we're just trusting the algorithm's gut — and algorithms don't have guts. AI systems are now being upgraded with "explainability" to show each step of their processes for greater transparency and understanding.

Third, workforce displacement without transition planning. AI transforms industries rapidly, but organizations often automate first and consider human impact later. I've watched this create unnecessary disruption when companies don't invest in reskilling proactively. This is where the "human" element of HR is *essential*.

Fourth, we still have security vulnerabilities and the potential for massive misuse. AI enables deepfakes, information manipulation, and now even autonomous weapons systems. The technology advances faster than our frameworks for responsible deployment.

Finally, expectation management failures. AI gets positioned as transformational, but it always requires robust data infrastructure, governance, and change management. When executives expect instant results, the gap between promise and reality can be disappointing and even *expensive*.

Let's keep in mind that these aren't reasons to avoid AI. They're reasons to implement it *thoughtfully*. The organizations succeeding long-term are addressing these challenges upfront.

So yes, AI is thrilling — but it's also complex, messy, and deeply human in its consequences. The challenge isn't just building smarter systems — it's building systems that are fair, transparent, secure, and ready for the real world. And maybe, just maybe, we stop pretending that AI can fix everything except the office printer. That thing is beyond saving.



**As you know, there is an ongoing debate between prominent scientists, (personified as a debate between [Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg](#)) about whether advanced AI poses an existential danger to humanity. What is your position about this?**

Ah, the New York Times' provocative article on Musk and Zuckerberg's infamous "Feud Over Killer Robots"... that's a fun read!

First, let's take a look at their respective ideas on AI.

Elon Musk believes that unchecked development of advanced AI, especially what's known as "Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)," could pose a catastrophic risk to we humans, comparing its development to "summoning the demon" (MIT Technology Review).

Though Musk continues to invest billions of dollars into his own AI venture, xAI, he estimates a 10–20% chance of AI going terribly wrong. To prevent such a catastrophe, he is an advocate for global regulation, urging governments to step in before AI systems are uncontrollable, as in an event like the Sci-fi-favored "Singularity." As all sci-fi fans know, when the Singularity occurs, AI becomes self-aware. In this scenario, faithful to classics like Isaac Asimov's "iRobot" and James Cameron's "The Terminator," AI will not just become aware of itself, but consequently, protective and assertive of itself, as self-preservation follows self-awareness.

Again, despite multi-billion-dollar defense contracts with the Military Industrial Complex of the US, Musk is uneasy regarding military AI applications. The idea of autonomous weapons powered by algorithms does bring back memories of the great sci-fi movie "Blade Runner," and not in a nostalgic way.

So what does Musk recommend? Build smart, regulate smarter — and maybe don't let your adorable drone take the place of your spouse ...

On the other hand (or claw, if you're a robot), Mark Zuckerberg's take on AI is the tech-world equivalent of "Don't panic; we got this." He's criticized Elon Musk's apocalyptic warnings, saying that building AI can actually make the world a better place for us all — like upgrading humanity's operating system, not unleashing Skynet.

Zuckerberg's vision is personal superintelligence: AI that helps people create more freely. It's less about replacing humans and more about giving everyone a PhD-smart digital sidekick. Zuckerberg also sees risks. He acknowledges that superintelligent systems raise new safety concerns, and his company, Meta, may restrict open-source access to its most powerful models if/when things go awry.

Their Frontier AI Framework even includes a "kill-switch" clause: if AI starts dabbling in cybersecurity breaches or bioweapon design, development could be slowed down or terminated.





Something else to keep in mind is Meta's track record. Its AI systems have, at times, let misinformation and inappropriate content through. So while Zuckerberg's approach blends optimism with caution, the debate continues over whether his guardrails are enough.

The way I see these two icons of industry and their takes on AI from a business consultant's standpoint is that Musk is the risk manager; Zuckerberg, the product visionary. The ideal strategy blends both: innovate boldly, but regulate wisely.

**What can be done to prevent such concerns from materializing? And what can be done to assure the public that there is nothing to be concerned about?**

Yes, the AI debate between Elon Musk's "We're summoning the demon" and Mark Zuckerberg's "Relax, it's just a smarter spreadsheet" requires more than popcorn. This demands practical action. So what can we actually do to prevent AI from turning into either a dystopian overlord or a glorified autocorrect?

First, prevention. Regulation is key, but not the kind that strangles innovation with red tape. We now know that under-regulated AI can lead to biased systems, privacy breaches, and even unsafe medical decisions. That's not just bad PR — it's bad for humanity. So, governments and companies need to collaborate on clear standards for *transparency*, *accountability*, and *ethical design*. This includes requiring independent audits of AI systems, documenting known limitations, and ensuring that vendors, when involved, do not introduce their own cultural biases.

Second, we need public-facing transparency. If AI is going to help us book flights, diagnose illnesses, and maybe flirt on dating apps (no judgment), people need to *trust* it. That means labeling AI-generated content, using digital watermarks to prevent deepfakes, and making sure the public knows when AI is used in important content. AI safety means aligning systems with human values, not just making them smarter.

And finally, let's not forget the *human* side of reassurance. The public doesn't want to hear "Don't worry, we've got it under control" from the same folks who once thought chatbots wouldn't swear. Instead, we need open dialogue, education, and a bit of humility. Show people how AI helps — whether it's predicting floods, improving healthcare, or making cities safer through smarter infrastructure. And maybe throw in a friendly explainer video that doesn't sound like it was written by HAL 9000.

In short: regulate like a grown-up, communicate like a friend, and build like the future depends on it — because it just *might*. And if Elon and Zuck ever agree on something, let's hope it's that AI should never be allowed to write breakup texts. That's a human mess we still need to own.



**As you know, there are not that many women in your industry. Can you advise what is needed to engage more women into the AI industry?**

You're absolutely right. AI has a gender gap, and it's not just a numbers problem; it's a missed opportunity. To bring more women into the industry, we need to start early by making STEM education accessible, engaging, and free from the old stereotypes that still linger in classrooms. Girls should be encouraged to explore coding and data science, not just as niche interests, but as useful tools for shaping the future.

Role models play a huge part here, too. Ada Lovelace, the world's first computer programmer, is a legend, but we also need more *contemporary* faces in AI leadership to show what's possible now. Mentorship programs can help bridge that gap, offering guidance and support from women who've already paved a path in tech.

Workplaces also need to step up. Creating inclusive environments isn't just about hiring more women — it's about making sure they're heard, respected, and given equal opportunities to lead. That means addressing bias in hiring and promotion, offering flexible work policies, and ensuring pay equity. On the academic side, AI curricula should go beyond technical skills and include ethics, bias awareness, and social impact. These are areas where women often bring valuable perspectives.

And let's be honest: AI isn't just about algorithms, it's about solving real-world problems. Highlighting how AI can improve healthcare, education, and climate solutions can attract women who want to make a difference, not just write code.

Finally, we need to talk openly about bias in AI systems themselves. From facial recognition to hiring algorithms, these tools have shown gender bias that could've been caught with more diverse teams at the table. If we want AI to reflect the world, we need the world building it. That means more women, more voices, and fewer panels that look like a tech bro reunion. Let's make AI not just intelligent, but inclusive — and maybe even a little inspired by Ada herself.

**What is your favorite “Life Lesson Quote”? Can you share a story of how that had relevance to your own life?**

One of my favorite quotes is from Walt Disney: *“If you can dream it, you can achieve it.”* It speaks to the power of vision and the discipline required to bring that vision to life.

This quote became real for me when I made the decision to launch my own management consulting firm. At the time, I was in a secure role with a well-defined path ahead. But I had a persistent sense that I wanted to build something of my own. I had a clear vision for a consulting practice rooted in partnership, integrity, and long-term impact.

Leaving the comfort of a stable position came with uncertainty. I did not have every detail mapped out, but I had a strong belief in what I wanted to create. I focused on the



fundamentals: building strong relationships, delivering meaningful results, and staying aligned with my core values.

The early days were challenging, as most new ventures are. I managed every aspect of the business, from client work to operations. Progress was steady, and over time, the firm began to grow. What started as an idea became a trusted practice, shaped by experience and guided by purpose.

This quote continues to resonate with me. It is not about wishful thinking. It is about having the courage to act on a vision, even when the outcome is uncertain. That mindset has shaped how I lead, how I serve clients, and how I continue to grow the business with intention.

### **How have you used your success to bring goodness to the world? Can you share a story?**

Having been fortunate in my career, I feel obligated to help others who might not have had the same chances I had. Too many smart entrepreneurs struggle not because they lack talent, but because they don't know the right people or haven't learned how certain processes work. This bothers me, so I spend time supporting founders who might otherwise get overlooked.

I serve as an advisor to two stealth AI startups, helping remove obstacles that keep good ideas from succeeding. Many entrepreneurs are brilliant at building products but need guidance on everything else: understanding customers, hiring the right people, or meeting investors who get what they're trying to do. I simply connect them with people and share what I've learned over the years.

What makes this worthwhile is seeing the ripple effects. These founders are solving real problems, hiring people, and teaching other entrepreneurs what they've learned. The companies I help are *already* helping others, which shows that when you clear a path for one person, you often help many more. I've learned that the best part of achieving something isn't what you gain for yourself, but watching others succeed because you shared what you knew.

### **You are a person of great influence. If you could start a movement that would bring the most amount of good to the most amount of people, what would that be? You never know what your idea can trigger. :-)**

My father, a professor, understood something that took me years to grasp: the most powerful weapon against inequality isn't protest; it's investment. He would quietly identify brilliant students trapped by poverty and circumstance, then do something revolutionary. He taught them to see themselves differently. These weren't charity cases; they were diamonds buried under layers of systemic neglect. He opened doors they didn't know existed and, more importantly, convinced them they belonged on the other side. Watching those transformations revealed an uncomfortable truth: exceptional talent exists everywhere, but opportunity



doesn't. For every success story that breaks through, countless others never get the chance, and society loses their unrealized contributions.

If I could start one movement, it would make mentorship the defining characteristic of success. We would train accomplished professionals to become transformational mentors, then systematically connect them with overlooked talent.

And here's the revolutionary part: every person elevated would pay it forward, mentoring others once they found their footing. One becomes three. Three becomes nine. Within a generation, millions of success stories would exist because someone chose to see their potential when the world couldn't. This creates multipliers, not dependency. It generates new value by unlocking dormant human potential rather than redistributing existing resources.

This movement would fundamentally redefine leadership from climbing higher to lifting others. Instead of measuring legacy by personal achievements, we'd measure it by the potential we unlock in others. My father proved that changing one life can change everything. Imagine that philosophy, scaled and systematic, becoming the heartbeat of how we define professional responsibility. When mentorship becomes as natural as ambition, we don't just transform individual lives. We transform the very fabric of opportunity itself.

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**This was very inspiring. Thank you so much for joining us!**

This has been a pleasure. Thank *you* for inviting me!



# About Mythos Group

Mythos Group is a management consulting firm. We partner with senior executives to solve complex issues across all industries and business functions.

From Fortune 500 companies to start-ups we collaborate with clients in formulating innovative strategies to design and implement impactful transformative business solutions.

Our home page is [www.mythosgroupinc.com](http://www.mythosgroupinc.com).

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