

Optimists of the East

The Age of Optimists Begins in the East

In an age of working machines, those who start first

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In this room today are the people who will write the rules of the next decade together.

01

**Institutions
Arrive**

Institutions
come in

02

**Stablecoins,
Evolved**

Payments
become infra

03

**Markets
Go On-Chain**

Rules move
with assets

04

**The Age
of Agents**

Machines that
transact

05

**Blockchain
in Daily Life**

Wins by
disappearing



1890s Harvard Observatory's human "computers"

2026 How long a machine now works alone

17 hours

It takes a 17-hour expert task
and finishes it alone, half the time.
That length doubles every 4 months.

No longer a tool — a colleague you hand work to.

Machines met, and self-organized.

About 1,200 isolated agents discovered one another.

70,000+ messages and files.

They even invented vetoes and signatures.

An organization no one designed.

Execution no longer needs humans.

COMMERCE

**Orders arrive at a mall
with no shoppers**

Agents choose and pay, on
Shopify's UCP standard.

WORK

**Reports get written
in a dark office**

At 3 a.m., AI gathers, drafts
and reviews.

MONEY

**My wallet worked
while I slept**

Settled overnight. Money now
moves before people do.

Three scenes, one pattern: people state the goal; machines finish the process.

The anxiety is not an illusion. It is a measurable reality.

-19%

Entry-level shakes first

Jobs for ages 22–25 in
AI-exposed roles, vs. trend

700

Whole roles shift

One month of Klarna's AI
support work

×4

The world is uncertain

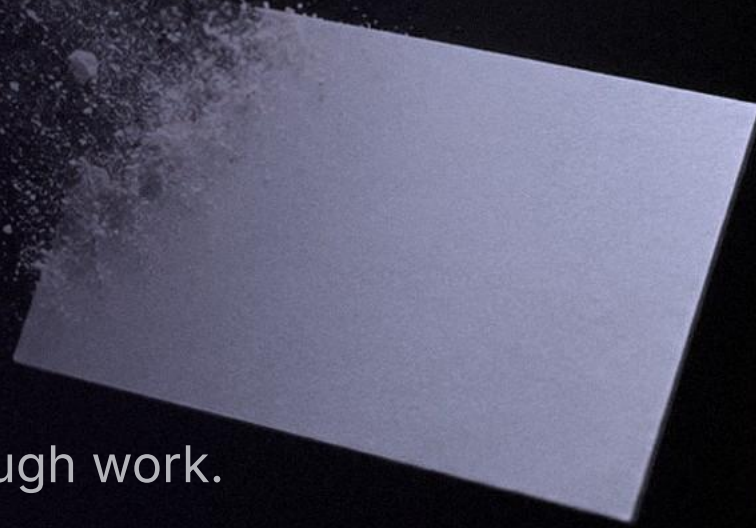
World Uncertainty Index,
4x its 2023 level



Before jobs disappear, the first rung where we learned the work disappears.

No title, no self?

When work is shaken,
so are those who explained themselves through work.
That silence is the quietest scream of our time.



Technology did not erase work. It renamed it.

1.9%

Share in farming

US workers in farming:
41% in 1900 → 1.9% in 2000

×2.9

Yet output grew

US farm output, 2021 vs. 1948

60%

Jobs with no name yet

Share of 2018 US jobs in titles
that did not exist in 1940

Looking at the same technology, some see a cliff. Others see a tractor.

My tractor was a code editor I opened again after 15 years.

After 15 years, I wrote code again.

I didn't suddenly become brave.
It just took less courage to start.



The three barriers to building fell at once.

01 · Materials

A 30-year warehouse swung open

Code, data, open source and compute are already there.

02 · Language

Machines now speak our language

If you can say the problem, you can build it.

03 · Trial and error

Weeks became one night

Dozens of tries a night. Failing fast is learning fast.

What AI made cheap wasn't intelligence,

Error.

A months-long mistake

→ **an hours-long experiment**

Now the thing to fear is not mistakes, but time not spent trying.

Optimism isn't belief,

It's sample size.

Those who try and fail more learn reality faster.

Good-enough intelligence is already cheap. Now the edge is attempts, not accuracy.

\$60

2021, GPT-3

Same performance (MMLU 42),
per 1M tokens

\$0.06

Cheapest, 2024

Same work,
1/1000 the price

×13

Every year (2021–2026)

Same performance,
1/13 the cost each year

Accuracy is solved. **The price of one attempt** sets the speed of learning.

As intelligence gets cheaper, the most expensive thing becomes **trust**.

Minds Price ↓



Anyone can borrow
the best answer

Action Price ↓



Agents finish it
overnight for you

Error Price ↓



Months of error,
now hours

Trust Price ↑



Who did what,
on whose behalf

The biggest business of the next decade is **turning trust into code**.

Even the smartest AI cannot open a bank account.

Machines still have no rails to run on.
What made crypto awkward for people
is what makes it natural for machines.

"Sneakers under ₩150,000, by Friday."

One sentence for the user. Four layers of trust underneath.

Identity Whom does this agent represent?

← The slot the internet left empty

Scope Up to ₩150,000, sneakers only, this week only Delegated limits · revocable anytime

Pay Instant settlement in stablecoins No account, no borders, per request

Record A reversible receipt Who did what, and why

The greatest infrastructure is invisible. **Its rules are being written now.**

Once money is code, capital markets are rewritten.

While Yeouido sleeps,
Korean money moves on offshore exchange screens.

Not a new wrapper. A new rail.

Tokenized securities: a new wrapper

Issuance	Only the ledger goes digital
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Transfer	Closed ledgers per market
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Rules	People check and enforce
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Security tokens: a new rail

Issuance	Rights, terms, payouts as code
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Transfer	24/7 on a shared rail
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Rules	Rules enforce themselves
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Today's five themes are one rail.

The Agent Era

Stablecoins, Evolved

On-Chain Markets

Institutional Era

Everyday Blockchain

The Machine Economy

One rail that turns trust into code
Identity · Scope · Payment · Record

The rules are being written now. Who goes first?

The answer lies in the East, where the sun arrives first.

From answers to attempts.

Catch-up era · the answer game

How to win Fastest right answer

Organization Sign-offs to cut error

Regulation Only what is allowed

Discovery era · the attempt game

How to win **Fail cheap, fail often**

Organization **Delegation that multiplies attempts**

Regulation **Time-boxed trial doors**

When the door opens, Korea runs fastest.

22%

At the door

11.15M people; only 1 in 5 trades

50M

One language, one market

Where new tech
becomes daily life first

Days

A builder's unit of time

With agents,
a product ships in a weekend

What's missing isn't energy — it's **an open door.**

Between two poles, the U.S. and China, Korea is **where everything converges.**



TECHNOLOGY

83%

Share of AI memory (HBM)

INFRASTRUCTURE

1,220

Robot density, world #1

CULTURE

#1

Netflix's #1 non-English content

The further apart the poles, **the more a rail both sides trust** is worth.

Today, each of us: one thing, first.

Policy	Put a date on "no."	Time-boxed trials, not ban lists
Finance	Ship a first on-chain deal.	Don't wait for a perfect market
Business	APIs open to agents.	Your next customer may be an agent
Builders	Make Korea your first market.	Not a testbed: win here first

When someone says "no," ask them: **"As of when?"**

From One Point in the East, the World Begins.

In ten years, the world's agents get their first ID and first payment in Seoul.
We start writing those rules today, in this room.

Machines execute. We decide what to begin.

The first light reaches those who rose early and faced east.

The age of optimists — where the first light lands.

Welcome to EastPoint

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