
Back to the foundations of digital skills.

Why click-by-click training is aging out, and file literacy is the AI bottleneck.

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THE TRAINER'S REALITY

Release a course. Watch it age in a week.

I've had to go back and redo an entire book manuscript because a core workflow shifted underneath it.

That doesn't make training less valuable. It changes what it needs to focus on.



WHAT HOLDS UP

Basic digital literacy.

■ How data is structured

Rows, columns, keys, and the difference between a row of data and a row of a report.

■ Comfort with different file types

CSV vs Excel vs PDF. Delimited vs fixed-width. Numbers vs numbers-as-text.

■ Moving between tools

Getting a table out of one environment into another without types silently breaking.

THE UNCOMFORTABLE CHECKLIST

Can your team...

- OCR text out of a PDF into something usable?
- Convert a CSV to an Excel workbook and know what changed?
- Tell a delimited file from a fixed-width one?
- Spot numbers stored as text (and know why it matters)?
- Move a table between tools without types silently breaking?

If not, "adopt AI" is skipping a few steps.

THE HARD SELL

Budgets fund one column. AI needs the other.

What budgets fund

New tools and licenses

Feature-specific training

Pilots and proofs of concept

What AI adoption needs

Fluency with the data underneath

Skills that port across tools

Day-to-day working habits

The right column doesn't photograph well for a quarterly update. It's also what's actually working.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Three things. Nothing else.

- 1** Point-and-click training is aging out faster than it used to.
- 2** Digital fundamentals are aging in, because they're the layer AI sits on.
- 3** This feels unglamorous. It's also the investment that compounds.

Running a team on this path?

See how I approach it: stringfestanalytics.com/how-i-work

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