

The Engineering Leader

You fund it, justify it, and drive adoption. Every AI project you fund this year sits on a domain model, well built or not. These seven teams built them right, and can tell you what it cost, what it bought, and how long it took.



Design, Govern, Automate: PayPal's Playbook for Apps and Agents

Mike Hamrah & Sarath Siva

You can't push a rope, but you can seize the moment it's pulled. PayPal's graph got funded because a mobile app rewrite needed omnichannel and a new API. The graph was the answer, but the real risk was managing the growth: 60 subgraphs, 60 teams, six months.



No Mandate Required: How Coolblue Built a Graph That Sells Itself

Gijs Martens & Bart van Lakwijk

Get adoption without a mandate. Gijs and Bart routed all production traffic through the graph in week one, then won a "just do it" business over by treating the graph as a utility and never blocking a team.



Substrate First, Agents Second: How N-able's MCP Changed Everything

Dhanik Alkegama

Turn tech debt into the domain layer your partners build on. N-able's graph started as a fix for years of REST debt and became the substrate for agentic customer experiences - partners started building against it unprompted.



The Self-Pruning Graph: Federation Hygiene with AI Agents at Brex

Clarice Abreu

Put a number on graph waste. Clarice found 35% of the federated graph was dead code and let an agent remove over 100,000 lines, turning months of manual cleanup into a background process.



What Survives? Lessons Learned Building Durable Architectures

Sharon Gorla

Know which investments survive the next rewrite. Sharon's answer is business semantics and shared contracts, and she argues the real gap in the agent era is alignment, not tooling.



When One Graph Isn't the Answer: Marriott's Purpose-Built Graphs

Kenny Hammerlund

Know where your next architecture investment goes. Kenny runs a graph carrying \$100m a day and argues it is the right shape for today's apps and the wrong one for agents. Not bigger graphs. Smarter ones.



Rebuilt by AI Agents: A Case Study on Yahoo News and Agentic Guardrails

Ethan Adams

Back an all-in bet on agentic coding and find your governance already covers it. Yahoo News leadership told the team to lean fully in, and the app shipped because agents produce the schema - the same artifact reviewers were already checking.