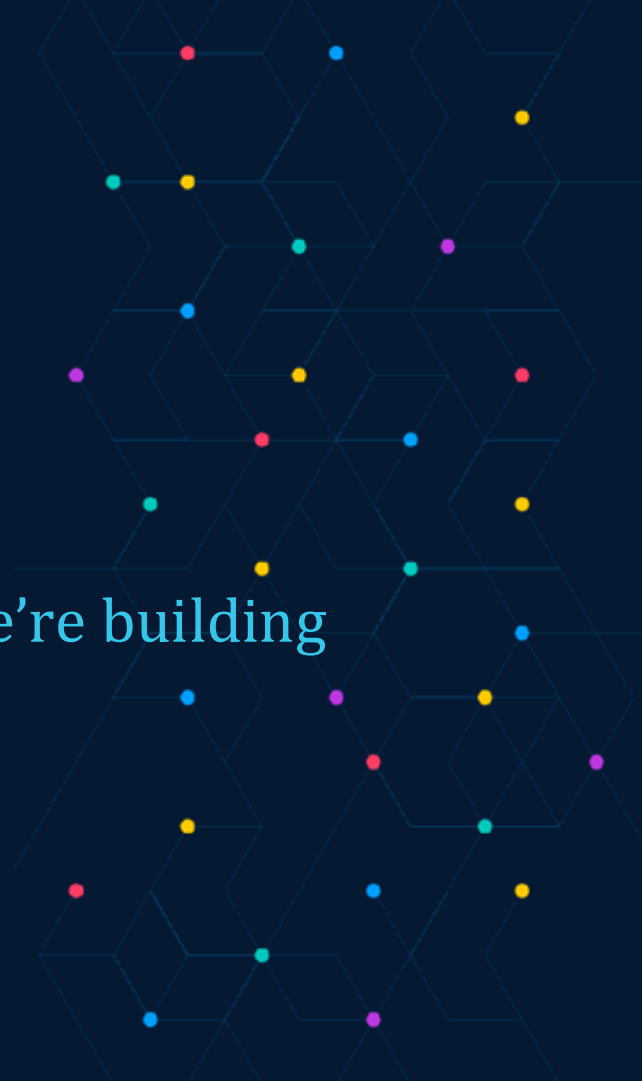


# Who Keeps It Open?

The story behind the AEIF, and the future we're building

**Manik Surtani**

CTO, Agentic AI Foundation



## We open-sourced a thing It found its people

- open code, a business-friendly licence (ASLv2)
- trademarks, the roadmap still belonged to one company

👤 People wouldn't bet their businesses on infra one vendor controlled 👤

# “who keeps it open?”

open source wasn't enough

goose needed a neutral home



# someone always tries to own the plumbing

if someone **captures the plumbing**,  
they **become landlords**  
and everyone else **pays rent**



# we've seen how this story ends

## social media

sat between you and the world and captured your attention



## AI

doesn't sit between you and the world - it replaces pieces of it

captures your function: what you do, make, and decide

**models will commoditise**  
**plumbing is where**  
**the hard problems lie**



**“open” - until it isn’t**  
**open at a**  
**sponsor’s pleasure**  
**isn’t structural**



# incentives, not villains



**android**

no neutral foundation, no referee

technically open - but one company holds  
the keys



**kubernetes**

donated to a neutral foundation - and now  
un-recapturable

even AWS contributes



same **company**

both **open source**

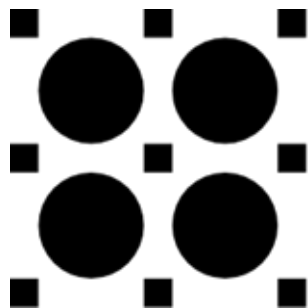
the only difference was **a referee**



# we built the referee

## The Agentic AI Foundation

- Co-founded by Block, Anthropic & OpenAI
- Launched Dec 2025 with Google, Microsoft, AWS, Cloudflare & Bloomberg
- 200+ member companies today
- Working groups of 50–70 competitors, collaborating together



# Agentic AI Foundation

# the next toll booth is being built now

~2-3%

- what card networks take on every sale
- over \$100B a year in the US alone

**who sets the rate when  
agents do the buying?**



**the window is open now**

**it won't stay open forever**



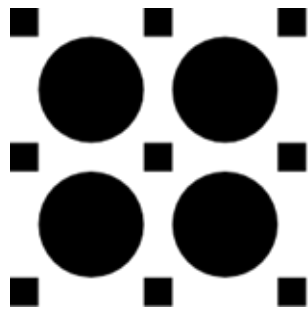
**MCP**  
Dev Summit  
Mumbai

# where you come in

**build it** the unglamorous plumbing - identity, protocols, observability, trust, agentic commerce.

**demand it** ask your vendors for open protocols and standards - and who can change the rules.

**keep it open** build on a foundation no single company, and no single government, can pull out from under you



# Agentive AI Foundation

# **owned by no one** **built to outlast all of us**

**the plumbing of the agentic era shouldn't belong to anyone**

**let's build it right - while we still can**

