

Summary of the Training Video: “Moving Beyond Tools to Strategy”

Key Points

1. Introduction

- Presenter: Tom Sextro, Tech Director at Holton USD 336 (28 years).
- QR code provided for access to related resources.
- Focus: Moving beyond using AI as a tool and incorporating it into a strategic organizational framework.
- Goal: Inspire participants to rethink AI’s role within their institutions.

2. Background

- AI Adoption Milestones:
- OpenAI launched ChatGPT in November 2022.
- 1 million users within five days; 300 million weekly active users by February 2025.
- AI supports 100 languages, with English, Spanish, and Chinese being most common.
- Early AI adoption at Holton USD 336, led by collaboration with colleagues like Dillon.

3. Three Levels of AI Integration

• Level 1: Getting Comfortable with AI

- Encourage employees (certified and classified) to use AI personally, starting with apps on their smartphones.
- Examples: Using AI for recipes, personal projects, or replacing traditional searches (e.g., “AI it” instead of “Google it”).
- Build comfort through frequent use and discussions.

• Level 2: Using AI as a Thought Partner

- AI as a collaborator for tasks like writing emails, creating documents, summarizing texts, and brainstorming.
- Examples:
- Summarizing large documents to save time.
- Assisting with innovative tasks and generating new ideas.
- Experimenting with AI as an analyst for data analysis (e.g., budgets or log files).
- Creating PowerPoint presentations and refining content.
- Focus on habitually using AI to improve efficiency and creativity.

• Level 3: Institutional AI Strategy

- Move beyond individual use to systemic integration of AI.

- Example: Chatbots to streamline communication (e.g., website assistance or personalized learning).
- Utilize tools like:
- **SchoolAI.com**: Personalizes learning for teachers and students.
- **Notebook LM by Google**: Free tool for Google districts to enhance organizational workflows (can also be used with personal Gmail accounts).
- Emphasis on evaluating district needs and deploying AI solutions that align with strategic goals.

4. AI Tools and Recommendations

- **SchoolAI.com**:
- Demonstrated by Trevor, a former educator, during an in-service.
- Helps with personalized learning and practical applications in schools.
- **Notebook LM by Google**:
- Recommended for Google districts as a no-cost AI-powered solution.
- Encouraged even for non-Google districts to consider its adoption due to unique capabilities.

5. Takeaways

- Organizations need to adopt a step-by-step approach:
 1. Build comfort with AI at a personal level.
 2. Leverage AI as a thought partner to enhance workflows.
 3. Develop an AI strategy for systemic, institutional impact.
- Focus on implementing solutions that meet organizational needs while encouraging innovation and efficiency.

By following these three levels, institutions can maximize AI's potential to transform their operations and achieve strategic goals.