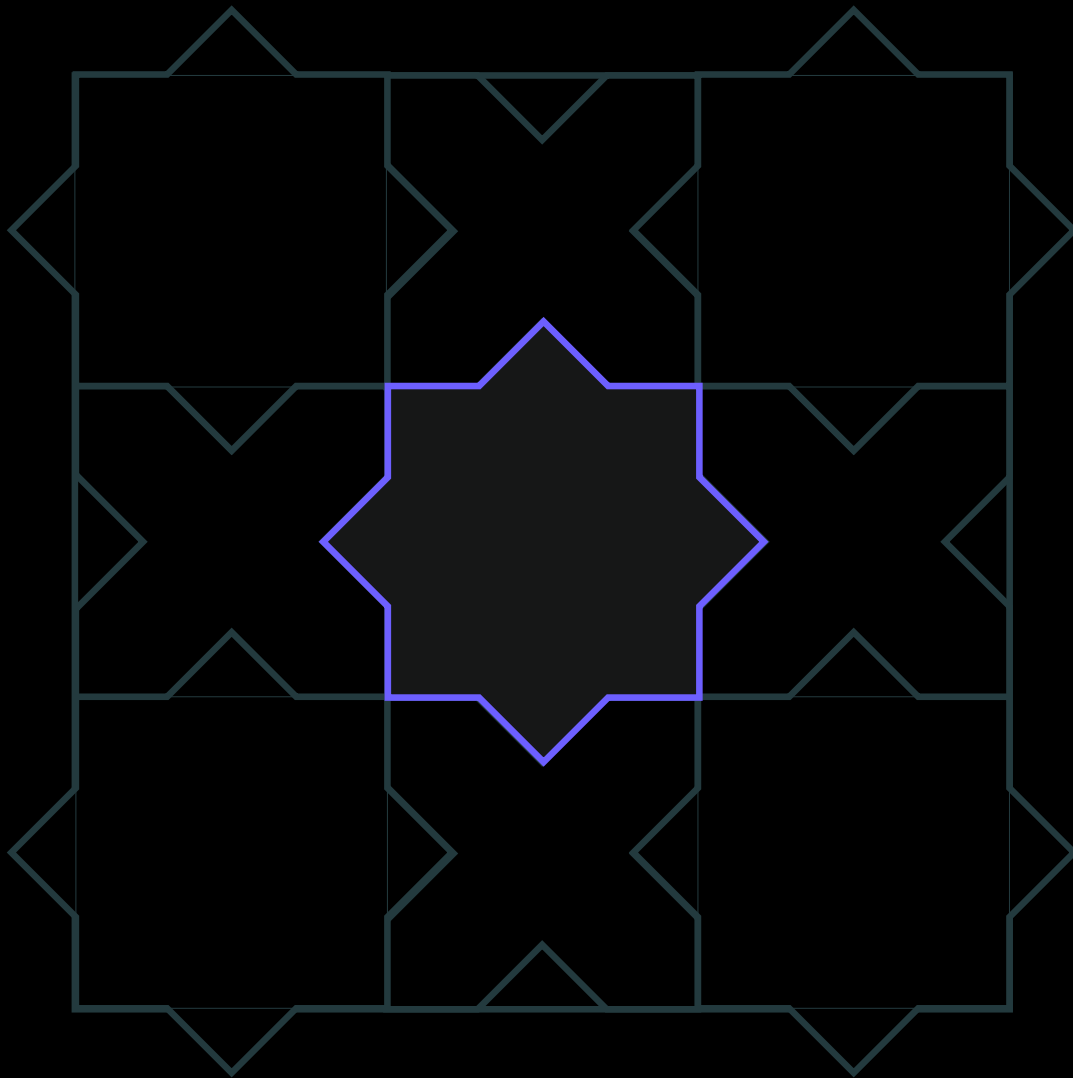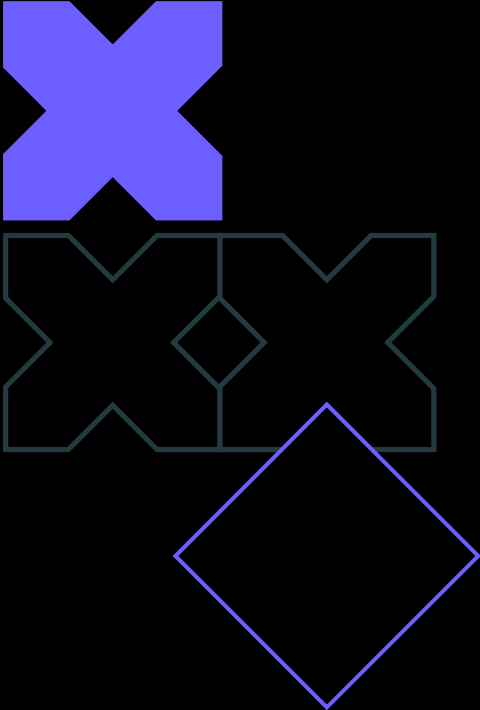augment code

The engineering leader AI imperative

TAKE AI-AUGMENTED ENGINEERING
FROM EXPERIMENT TO PRODUCTION

What's your role in the AI engineering revolution?

~10x

TASK SPEED-UPS EACH WEEK

30%

INCREASE IN PR VELOCITY

AI-augmented engineering has the power to help enterprise teams dramatically accelerate software delivery while improving quality. The right AI partner transforms complex, legacy codebases from bottlenecks into competitive advantages through context-aware automation that scales with organizational complexity.

In "AI-powered engineering at scale: the adoption playbook," we explored results like:

- 5-10x task speed ups at Drata, a fast-growing AI-native Trust Management platform with 200+ engineers across three regions

- Engineer onboarding that went from months to days at Webflow, a leading visual development platform with specialized frontend and backend engineering teams

- 30% increase in PR velocity with 40% reduction in merge times at Tilt, a fintech company with a monolithic codebase and 100 developers distributed globally

To achieve this transformation though, engineering leaders must act now to implement structured AI adoption frameworks or risk falling behind competitors and inheriting unmanaged shadow-AI usage that compromises both velocity and quality.

Every organization's AI journey is different, but the progression is consistent: you start by optimizing existing workflows, then build the processes, skills, and infrastructure that enable transformation. Whether you're just beginning with individual adoption or ready to systematize across teams, the key is taking the right next step forward for your organization.

Where does your team stand?

PHASE 01

The champion foundation

Some developers use AI coding assistants independently

No formal AI policies or guidelines exist

AI usage varies dramatically across teams

Leadership awareness of AI tools is limited

No systematic measurement of AI impact

PHASE 02

Scaling & proving

Multiple teams have adopted AI tools systematically

Basic usage guidelines and best practices are documented

You measure AI impact using business metrics (deployment frequency, lead time) not just lines of code

Leadership actively supports AI tool procurement and training

AI usage is becoming standard across development workflows

PHASE 03

Integration & systemization

AI tools are integrated into your pipeline for automated code review, testing, and deployment

You have dedicated engineers responsible for AI tooling infrastructure and can quantify AI's ROI through specific business metrics

AI productivity gains are tracked and reported in quarterly business reviews with measurable impact on hiring and capacity planning

New engineering hires are onboarded with AI tools as standard practice

Your architecture decisions factor in AI capabilities

PHASE 04

Continuous innovation

Your AI innovations influence vendor roadmaps and industry standards

Your measurement approaches are industry benchmarks that others adopt

You publish thought leadership and research that shapes how others approach AI

You contribute to open source AI development tools and frameworks

The 4 phases of AI-augmented engineering adoption

01

# The champion foundation

Key activities for the Phase 1 leader

→ Recruit influential, technically strong champions (including a constructively skeptical voice or two)

→ Define your AI test use cases (boilerplate generation, complex unit tests, cross-service refactors) and establish daily use commitment

→ Create a dedicated #wins-ai channel for ongoing sharing; document wins with before/after comparisons

→ Begin tracking quantitative metrics (time to complete specific tasks, code quality metrics, developer satisfaction scores) and qualitative champion feedback

02

Scaling & proving

Key activities for the Phase 2 leader

→ Scale champion practices across teams and complex codebases using real use cases (refactoring code, fixing small bugs, writing documentation)

→ Measure against existing metrics (deployment frequency, lead time) and AI-specific ones (time savings per task, code quality improvements)

→ Demonstrate that AI can handle real enterprise complexity beyond simple completions to areas like sophisticated IDE integration and team-wide adoption

→ Bring AI-powered development out of individual work and into the spotlight as champions regularly share their wins and discoveries company wide

03
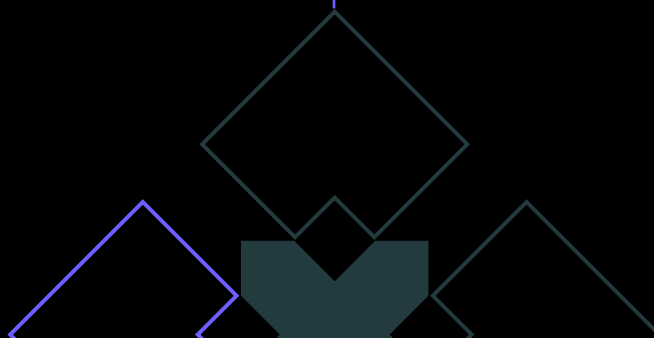
Integration & systematization

Key activities for the Phase 3 leader

→ Integrate context-aware AI across the entire SDLC, from planning and requirements gathering through deployment and monitoring

→ Automate routine workflows and processes, so engineers can focus on high-value architectural decisions and complex problem-solving rather than repetitive tasks

→ Demonstrate measurable ROI and business impact through metrics that tie AI gains to revenue, time-to-market, and operational efficiency

→ Transform AI from productivity tool to strategic infrastructure that fundamentally changes how your engineering organization innovates, scales, and competes in the market

04

Continuous Innovation

Key activities for the Phase 4 leader

→ Contribute to vendor roadmaps through advanced use cases and feedback that shapes product development

→ Develop proprietary AI workflows and tooling that create measurable competitive advantages

→ Publish case studies and best practices that establish your organization as an industry thought leader

→ Mentor other organizations through speaking, consulting, or open source contributions

Resources to support your journey

Now that you know your current phase, it's all about accelerating your path forward. Whether you're just beginning to explore AI-powered engineering or ready to scale across your entire organization, having the right resources at each phase is critical for success.

The tools and guidance below are designed to support engineering leaders through every stage of adoption, from initial evaluation and champion recruitment to full-scale integration and industry leadership.

AI-powered engineering at scale: the adoption playbook
Comprehensive guide with metrics, management strategies, and rollout frameworks

→

How Drata rolled out AI coding assistants across 200+ engineers
Learn from a structured vendor evaluation and security-first adoption plan

→

How Tilt's Review Bot transformed its code reviews
How an AI-powered PR review bot drove a 30% increase in PR velocity

→

Accelerate your AI journey with Augment Code
Experience what context-aware AI can do for your most complex codebases

→