Why leading CEOs use AI to strengthen the fundamentals

*July 5, 2026*How do CEOs embrace AI without losing focus on the fundamentals? They use it to strengthen what matters most—from customer trust to operational resilience.

In conversations with McKinsey Senior Partners Martin Harrysson and Gautam Kumra, HackerOne CEO Kara Sprague and FairPrice Group's CEO Vipul Chawla arrive at a similar conclusion: AI creates the most value when it advances the capabilities that underpin long-term performance.

At HackerOne, that means pairing AI with human expertise to reduce cyber risk faster. "AI is taking over the discovery of common, high-volume vulnerabilities, while researchers are increasingly focused on building tools and systems that use AI to find deeper, more complex issues," Sprague says.

Reflecting on FairPrice's mission to build a "store of tomorrow," Chawla explains that Singapore's largest supermarket chain is using AI to enhance the customer experience and make sure the shelves are stocked. "We try to put ourselves in the shoes of the customer to understand their friction points as we design the technology behind the store."

Read on for more perspectives from CEOs who are using AI not to redefine their businesses, but to strengthen the capabilities that drive long-term value.

HackerOne CEO Kara Sprague on how AI is reshaping cybersecurity

Brilliant Moves: Coffee with FairPrice Group's CEO Vipul Chawla

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