

HMC-Memo-008-New-AI-Policy

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Community Members
FROM: Abner Coimbre
DATE: Tuesday June 30th, 2026
SUBJECT: New AI Policy

Dear Handmade folks,

Happy summer! We announced [our new AI policy](#) for Handmade Cities (HMC) and I want to use this month's memo to flesh out my thoughts further.

When the hype cycle reached fever pitch I allowed my inner Harold Bloom to take over. Not long after, however, I [realized](#) talking like Professor Broom wasn't strategically helpful. My new stance is to never ban AI usage outright, but to chuck out the hype profiteers and doom trolls: and to remind you we're in [a short-lived era of absurdly cheap tokens](#).

Whoever employs AI at HMC shall be encouraged to go for local open-weight models (you should at least pay for Kagi's Assistant) and it MUST be in the service of making quality software. Meanwhile, Handmade folks who never want to touch AI have a comfortable place with us. You're a natural fit for Handmade Cities. I only request we learn to coexist with any engineer who adopts this technology prudently, with a thorough understanding of the code, and without any hype.

Aside: Cory Doctorow

I stumbled on an AI interview from Cory Doctorow. He's the modern sci-fi writer who popularized [enshitification](#) and it seems like Cory just published a book "Life After AI." He is remarkably clear in his thinking and I find myself validated by [his explanation](#) (timestamped) of why most bosses lost their head after ChatGPT first came out. I hope the increasing discussion breaks more and more people out of the spell. There's literal billions spent in marketing, convincing us our profession will soon vanish. So don't feel too bad if you were duped.

What's Coming Next

Remember we have the Handmade Library [slated for August](#). There's also our Homelab & Modding Party coming up [a month after that!](#) You can volunteer with any of those two initiatives, or [message Mariano](#) to work on our public roadmap.

Until July,

Abner