

# John DeRudder

AI & Digital Transformation Executive | Strategy, Modernization, and Enterprise AI Adoption

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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AI transformation executive who operates at the intersection of enterprise strategy, data modernization, and emerging AI systems. Combines strategic and operational leadership with advanced AI training from Stanford and UT Austin, supported by master's degree in management and strategy from Harvard University. Skilled at guiding advanced AI initiatives, including LLM based systems, toward measurable business outcomes by improving decision velocity, strengthening governance, and enabling responsible scale across product, engineering, and operations. Recognized for thought leadership in agentic systems, adaptive AI, and next generation enterprise deployment patterns.

## CORE LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES

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**AI and Technical Transformation Leadership:** AI governance and risk mitigation, guardrail and evaluation design, RAG and LLM workflow integration, telemetry and adoption measurement, cloud and data modernization, KPI and OKR alignment.

**Digital Strategy and Enterprise Modernization:** ERP and CRM modernization, digital roadmap development, API and platform integration patterns, analytics and insights modernization, lifecycle and portfolio management.

**Operational Leadership and Regulatory Excellence:** ISO and FDA aligned quality systems, manufacturing and clinical operations leadership, KPI driven operating cadence, forecasting and financial governance, compliance and documentation controls, M&A integration, global client and partner management.

**Executive Communication and Influence:** C-suite collaboration, executive storytelling, board level reporting, investor and stakeholder communication, public speaking and thought leadership.

## EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

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### ONE Department — Fractional AI & Digital Transformation Leader Allen, TX | 2017–Present

Partner to technology enabled organizations on AI, cloud, and data transformation across product, IT, and GTM functions.

- Turn RAG/LLM initiatives into measurable business outcomes through governance, telemetry, and executive alignment.
- Designed evaluation and guardrail frameworks for LLM and RAG pilots using offline and shadow testing, accelerating decision velocity, and informing broader digital transformation initiatives.
- Used telemetry insights to shape in-product guidance and enablement programs that increased workflow adoption by 25 to 40 percent.
- Led AI, cloud, and software modernization programs that reduced time-to-market for new capabilities by 50 percent.
- Built cross-functional delivery pods and KPI/OKR governance models that improved execution ownership and enabled responsible scaling.
- Partnered with product and marketing teams to codify value engineering and sales plays that improved PoV conversion by 22 percent and influenced 5 to 10 million dollars in ARR.

### CLINICAL & DERM (formerly CuDerm) — President Dallas, TX | 2016–2025

Small to mid-market dermatological research and medical device organization serving global enterprise consumer packaged goods brands in a regulated environment.

- Led corporate growth, digital modernization, and operational transformation for a clinical research and dermatological testing organization serving Fortune 100 CPG and beauty clients.
- Directed enterprise programs for major brands and ensured consistent quality, data integrity, and client satisfaction.
- Modernized CRM, analytics, and reporting systems to improve cycle-time visibility and reduce delivery variability across high-volume studies.
- Expanded service offerings and strengthened operations, contributing to fourfold revenue growth.
- Established KPI and OKR governance and operating cadences that improved forecasting accuracy, resource planning, and throughput.
- Strengthened ISO and FDA aligned quality systems, elevating audit readiness, documentation controls, and regulatory compliance.
- Introduced data and workflow modernization that enabled automation, digital engagement, and AI-enabled analysis.

## LEVELTEN INTERACTIVE — CFO/COO → President (Interim)

Dallas, TX | 2012–2016

Digital agency specializing in SaaS platforms, enterprise systems, and marketing automation for regulated and enterprise clients.

- Stabilized and modernized a digital agency during ownership transition, strengthening operational foundations, platform capabilities, and analytics visibility required for scalable digital service delivery.
- Upgraded ERP, CRM, and analytics platforms and implemented governance models that improved forecasting accuracy, project visibility, and operational stability.
- Oversaw SQL based integrations, automated reporting, and workflow redesign to enhance service delivery consistency and reduce project variability.
- Rebuilt staffing, financial, and delivery models to enable expanded digital modernization and analytics programs.

## CUDERM CORPORATION — VP Operations → SVP/COO

Dallas, TX | 2000–2011

Privately held dermatological research and medical device organization serving global enterprise consumer brands in a regulated environment.

- Led manufacturing and quality systems modernization for a regulated dermatological products organization, improving throughput, reducing defects, creating documentation controls, and a scalable foundation for digital transformation.
- Led ISO implementation and governance, improving audit readiness, documentation accuracy, and regulatory compliance.
- Designed operational, financial, and forecasting models that improved planning and decision-making.
- Directed supply chain, vendor management, and risk practices across manufacturing and clinical testing operations.
- Introduced data capture and workflow digitization that improved analytics capabilities and established a foundation for automation.

## EDUCATION & EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

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### Harvard University (HES)

Master's Degree of Liberal Arts (ALM), Management

Graduate Credential in Strategic Management

*Focus: Strategy, Operations, Digital Transformation*

### Stanford University – School of Engineering

Graduate Credential in Artificial Intelligence (2024, In Progress)

*Coursework: Reinforcement Learning (CS234), Deep Learning for Computer Vision (CS231N), Generative Models (CS236)*

### University of Texas – McCombs School of Business

Postgraduate Program in AI & Machine Learning

*Focus: ML, Deep Learning, Neural Networks, NLP, LLM's*

### University of North Texas – G. Ryan College of Business

Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.), Finance

### MIT Professional Education

No-Code AI & Machine Learning (2024)

### MIT Media Lab

Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Program (2022)

### Boston University (BUx)

Driving Digital Innovation & Platform Strategy (2019)

### Harvard Business School Online

CORE, Entrepreneurship Essentials (2019)

### Great Learning

Programming in Python Foundations (2023)

Amazon AI Practitioner (In Progress)

## BOARD & ADVISORY ROLES

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Texas Blockchain Council | Harvard Alumni Association | Harvard Innovation Labs | Allen Leadership Steering Committee  
Allen Economic Development Leadership

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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Publisher of "Agent on the Edge," a Substack focused on explaining emerging AI systems, RAG architectures, and enterprise deployment patterns for executives and operators. Author of strategy pieces including Adaptive AI and Agentic Architectures.

## TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

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**AI and Machine Learning:** RAG systems, LLM lifecycle literacy, embeddings, evaluation frameworks, guardrails, model telemetry, and vector search.

**Data and Cloud Platforms:** SQL, Python, cloud environments (AWS, Azure), data pipelines, analytics platforms, data quality, and governance patterns.

**Enterprise Systems:** CRM and ERP modernization, workflow automation, systems integration, digital operations, and architecture patterns supporting AI adoption.