

John DeRudder

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AI transformation executive with deep operational experience serving regulated pharmaceutical, medical device, healthcare, and clinical research organizations. Combines over two decades of enterprise leadership as President, COO, and CFO with advanced AI education from Stanford and UT Austin, supported by a master's degree in management and strategy from Harvard University. Proven ability to align AI strategy to business outcomes, govern deployment across regulatory frameworks, and bridge product, engineering, and operations with executive leadership to move AI from pilot to production. Recognized for thought leadership in enterprise AI deployment patterns, responsible scaling, and next-generation governance.

CORE LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES

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

AI Strategy & Governance: AI governance and risk mitigation, guardrail and evaluation design, RAG and LLM workflow integration, telemetry and adoption measurement, cloud and data modernization, cross-functional AI adoption 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.

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

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

AI Governance & Architecture: Evaluation frameworks, guardrails, model telemetry, LLM lifecycle management, RAG pipeline architecture, dual LLM orchestration (local+cloud), AI operating model design, responsible AI patterns.

Applied AI & Data Systems: Agentic architecture, local LLM deployment, privacy-first AI design, PII detection and tokenization, vector and hybrid storage patterns, embeddings, prompt engineering.

Data & Cloud Platforms: Python, FastAPI, SQL/SQLite, Sentence-Transformers, cloud environments (AWS, Azure), data pipelines, analytics platforms, data quality and governance.

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

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

ONE Department — AI & Digital Transformation Executive | Founder **Allen, TX | 2017–Present**

Partner to regulated and technology-enabled organizations on AI strategy, governance, cloud modernization, and data transformation across product, IT, and go-to-market functions.

- Designed evaluation and guardrail frameworks for LLM and RAG pilots using offline and shadow testing, accelerating decision velocity across client organizations.
- Led AI, cloud, and software modernization programs that reduced time-to-market by 50 percent; used telemetry insights to drive enablement programs that increased workflow adoption 25-40 percent.
- Partnered with product and marketing teams to codify value engineering and sales plays that improved PoV conversion by 22 percent and influenced \$5-10M in ARR.
- Applied AI portfolio including agentic architectures, RAG pipelines, and local LLM deployment at johnderudder.com.

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

Dermatological research and medical device organization serving global pharmaceutical companies, Fortune 100 consumer health brands, and independent research laboratories in an FDA and ISO regulated environment.

- Led corporate growth, digital modernization, and operational transformation across clinical studies, ensuring data integrity, regulatory compliance, and client satisfaction for global pharmaceutical and Fortune 100 consumer health clients.
- Modernized CRM, analytics, and reporting systems to improve cycle-time visibility and reduce delivery variability across high-volume studies; expanded service offerings contributing to 4x revenue growth.

- Strengthened ISO and FDA-aligned quality systems and established KPI/OKR governance cadences that elevated audit readiness, improved forecasting accuracy, and increased throughput.
- Introduced data and workflow modernization that enabled automation, digital engagement, and AI-enabled analysis across clinical and medical device operations.

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 systems integrations, automated reporting, and workflow redesign to enhance service delivery consistency and reduce project variability.

CUDERM CORPORATION — VP Operations → SVP/COO

Dallas, TX | 2000–2011

Regulated dermatological research and medical device organization serving global pharmaceutical and consumer health brands.

- 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.
- Introduced data capture and workflow digitization that improved analytics capabilities and established a foundation for automation.
- Managed supplier relationships with pharmaceutical and personal care research organizations, building deep familiarity with regulated buyer requirements, procurement processes, and compliance expectations.

EDUCATION & EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

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 Program Credential in Artificial Intelligence

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 – College of Business

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

MIT Professional Education

No-Code AI & Machine Learning (2024)

UT Austin

Decision Science and AI Immersion Program (2023)

Hugging Face

AI Agents Fundamentals (2024)

Boston University (BUx)

Driving Digital Innovation & Platform Strategy (2019)

Harvard Business School Online

CORE, Entrepreneurship Essentials (2019)

Financial Licensing

Formerly Brokerage Licensed - Series 7 & 63

Amazon AI Practitioner (In Progress)

BOARD & ADVISORY ROLES

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

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- Publisher of "Agent on the Edge," a Substack focused on enterprise AI deployment patterns, governance, and agentic systems for executives and operators.
- Portfolio of applied AI projects including agentic systems, RAG pipelines, computer vision, and reinforcement learning available at: johnderudder.com