

# AI & ML at QCon London 2026

## Sessions

### Evolution of Booking.com's Ranking Platform

**Monday Mar 16**

Details coming soon.

---

### From Copilots to Orchestrators: A Three-Month Playbook for Training AI-Native Engineering Teams

**Tuesday Mar 17**

Most engineering teams are stuck treating AI as autocomplete. Engineers have GitHub Copilot installed (or Claude or Cursor or whatever), they're generating snippets faster, but leaders can't connect usage to business outcomes—and developers are shipping code they don't fully understand.

#### **Krystal Flores**

Staff Software Engineer @Crunchyroll, Previously @Carta, @Lob, @Simple Habit, and @Nordstromrack.com|HauteLook

---

### Team Topologies as the 'Infrastructure for Agency' with AI

**Tuesday Mar 17**

Details coming soon.

#### **Matthew Skelton**

CEO & Principal @Conflux, Co-Author of "Team Topologies", Leader in Modern Organizational Dynamics for Fast Flow

---

## **AI is an Amplifier: Scale High Performance, Not Dysfunction**

**Wednesday Mar 18**

AI adoption in software development is nearly universal, yet the outcomes for teams are highly variable. Why do some organizations see massive productivity gains while others see their delivery stability crash? DORA's latest research provides a key insight: AI acts as an amplifier.

**Nathen Harvey**

Lead of DORA and Product Manager @Google Cloud

---

## **Building an AI Ready Global Scale Data Platform**

**Wednesday Mar 18**

As organizations move from single-cloud setups to hybrid and multi-cloud strategies, they are under pressure to build data platforms that are both globally available and AI-ready.

**George Peter Hantzaras**

Engineering Director, Core Platforms @MongoDB, Open Source Ambassador, Published Author

---

## **Explicit Semantics for AI Applications: Ontologies in Practice**

**Wednesday Mar 18**

Modern AI applications struggle not because of a lack of models, but because meaning is implicit, fragmented, and brittle. In this talk, we'll explore how making semantics explicit (using ontologies and knowledge graphs) changes how we design, build, and operate AI systems.

**Jesus Barrasa**

Field CTO for AI @Neo4j

---

## **From S3 to GPU in One Copy: Rethinking Data Loading for ML Training**

**Tuesday Mar 17**

ML training pipelines treat data as static. Teams spend weeks preprocessing datasets into WebDataset or TFRecords, and when they want to experiment with curriculum learning or data mixing, they reprocess everything from scratch.

**Onur Satici**

Staff Engineer @SpiralDB & Core Maintainer of Vortex (LF AI & Data), Previously Building Distributed Systems @Palantir

---

## **The Ladder Is Missing Rungs: Engineering Progression When AI Ate the Middle**

**Tuesday Mar 17**

Career progression in engineering has traditionally followed a predictable path: junior tasks teach fundamentals, mid-level work builds judgment, senior roles require synthesis across systems.

**Alasdair Allan**

Scientist, Author, Hacker, Maker, Journalist, and Head of Documentation, CTO @Negroni Venture Studios, Interim CTO @Evaro

---

## **Building an AI Gateway Without Frameworks: One Platform, Many Agents**

**Tuesday Mar 17**

Early AI integrations often start small: wrap an inference API, add a prompt, ship a feature. At Zoox, that approach grew into Cortex, a production AI gateway supporting multiple model providers, multiple modalities, and agentic workflows with dozens of tools, serving over 100 internal clients.

**Amit Navindgi**

Staff Software Engineer @Zoox

---

## **Rewriting All of Spotify's Code Base, All the Time**

**Tuesday Mar 17**

We don't need LLMs to write new code. We need them to clean up the mess we already made.

In mature organizations, we have to maintain and migrate the existing codebase. Engineers are constantly balancing new feature development with endless software upkeep.

**Jo Kelly-Fenton**

Engineer @Spotify

**Aleksandar Mitic**

Software Engineer @Spotify

---

## The Right 300 Tokens Beat 100k Noisy Ones: The Architecture of Context Engineering

**Wednesday Mar 18**

*Your agent has 100k tokens of context. It still forgets what you told it two messages ago.*

**Patrick Debois**

AI Product Engineer @Tessl, Co-Author of the "DevOps Handbook", Content Curator at AI Native Developer Community

---

## Refreshing Stale Code Intelligence

**Tuesday Mar 17**

Coding models are helping software developers move even faster than ever before, but weirdly, they're not keeping up with our fast progress. The models that power code generation are often based on months to years old snapshots of open source code.

**Jeff Smith**

CEO & Co-Founder @ 2nd Set AI, AI Engineer, Researcher, Author, Ex-Meta/FAIR

---

## Beyond Context Windows: Building Cognitive Memory for AI Agents

**Tuesday Mar 17**

AI agents are rapidly changing how users interact with software, yet most agentic systems today operate with little to no intelligent memory, relying instead on brittle context-window heuristics or short-term state.

**Karthik Ramgopal**

Distinguished Engineer & Tech Lead of the Product Engineering Team @LinkedIn, 15+ Years of Experience in Full-Stack Software Development

---

## **Reliable Retrieval for Production AI Systems**

**Tuesday Mar 17**

Search is central to many AI systems. Everyone is building RAG and agents right now, but few are building reliable retrieval systems.

**Lan Chu**

AI Tech Lead and Senior Data Scientist

---