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What Foundational AI Actually Looks Like in Production

By Paul J. Noble, Forbes Contributor

Not every AI story at the Symposium lived on the main stage. Some of the most interesting conversations happened at the booths, and one that generated significant attention was ketteQ, a supply chain planning platform that came to Orlando with a live demonstration that produced genuine jaw-dropping reactions from the practitioners who stopped to watch.

The centerpiece was Quintus™, ketteQ's AI agent, which writes Python code on the fly and executes it directly within the platform to answer natural-language questions and take directed actions. This was not a demo environment or a scripted walkthrough. It was a functional AI agent orchestration running on ketteQ's production architecture.

CEO Mike Landry was direct about what distinguishes this from what legacy planning systems can offer:



"For us it is all about AI that is working and foundational, not cosmetic. Because our system is cloud-native and built on a standard tech stack, the LLMs already speak ketteQ and have access to invoke our planning agents. The legacy planning systems, built on antiquated architectures and proprietary technologies, simply cannot do what we can do and are now deploying."

The distinction Landry is drawing maps directly onto the Gartner framework being presented inside the session halls. A modern, standard-stack architecture means that large language models can interact with the planning system natively, without the translation layers, proprietary APIs, and data lockdown that characterize older platforms. The AI agents are not bolted on. They are built into the foundation. Landry indicated that real-world customer stories from the Symposium conversations would be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.



Source: Forbes Magazine,
"AI Strategy Takes a Data Foundation That Cleansing Can't Provide,"
Paul J. Noble, June 2026.

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