

CRAFT YOUR CONFIDENCE

NETWORKING TOOLKIT EDITION

The *Room* Prompts

Thirty prompts that make AI build the network that hires you before you need it. Maps and moves, not mingling.

30 PROMPTS

6 CHAPTERS

PASTE AND RUN

WORKS WITH ANY AI

PROMPT 01 · THE NETWORK X-RAY

Act as a blunt executive recruiter auditing my network. Tell me the verdict first: if I lost my role this Friday, does this network land me interviews in ninety days, or do I apply cold with everyone else...

Maddy Viswanath

TWENTY YEARS INSIDE THE DECIDING ROOM

The seat is filled *before it is posted.*

For twenty years I sat in the rooms where seats get filled. The posting was a formality by the time it went up. Somebody said a name, two people nodded, and the interviews were staged around that nod. The room does not search for you when it needs someone. It repeats the names it already trusts.

Here is what I learned in those rooms. The people who land softly are not lucky, they are early. They built the room before they needed it, on the ordinary Tuesdays, when they had something to give and nothing to ask. Executors network when the badge stops working, which is the one week the room can smell it. Leaders are simply already there.

These prompts turn the AI you already use into your network strategist. Not a script mill, not a pep talk. A recruiter-grade read on who you actually have, who is missing for the seat you want, and the exact next message, built give-first so that no door hears an ask coming. You bring the real names. It brings the map and the moves.

WHAT THIS REPLACES

- A networking course that says grab coffees and circle back
- Five hundred connections that go quiet the day you need them
- The recruiter who only calls when you do not need the call
- The 2am scroll through LinkedIn after the reorg email lands

The names stay yours and the sending stays yours. Every prompt runs on your real contacts and real history, and nothing here sends anything. The room trusts warmth that was built slowly, so start before you need to.

HOW TO USE THIS

Paste. Fill the bracket. *Read it like a verdict.*

- 1** **Paste the prompt** into Claude, ChatGPT, or any capable AI assistant, exactly as written. The wording is the tool. Do not soften it.
- 2** **Fill the bracket.** Wherever you see [PASTE YOUR CONTACTS] or [NAME], drop in the real people and the real history. Names you remember without looking beat exported lists. What actually happened beats how you hoped it went.
- 3** **Read the output like a verdict, not a suggestion.** If it stings, it is working. The room has been filling seats without you this whole time. Now you get to be early.

THE MAP

01	The Network X-Ray	Your real room, and the empty chairs in it
02	The Reconnect	Years-old doors reopen, and nobody hears an ask
03	Warming the Room	Your name is moving before the seat opens
04	Reaching Up	Senior people take the meeting, and repeat your name
05	Making Sponsors	Power spends its capital on you in rooms you never enter
06	The Standing Network System	Fifteen minutes a week, recruited before rescued

Run chapter one first, in one sitting. You cannot warm a room you have not mapped. Everything after it is motion.

01

CHAPTER ONE

The Network *X-Ray*

THE RESULT

You see the room you actually have, and the empty chairs in it.

01 THE NETWORK X-RAY · 02 THE SPONSOR MAP

03 THE EMPTY SEATS · 04 THE DORMANT GOLDMINE

05 THE TEN-COMPANY ROOM

The Network *X-Ray*

The signature prompt of this pack. Most networks are a list of past coworkers wearing the word network.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Act as a blunt executive recruiter auditing my network. Below is my honest inventory: the people I could message today, how I know each one, their level, and the last time we spoke. Verdict first: if I lost my role this Friday, does this network land me interviews in ninety days, or do I apply cold with everyone else. Then sort it: peers, reach contacts, dormant ties worth money, and names that are only names. [PASTE YOUR CONTACTS, ROLES, AND LAST CONTACT DATES]

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Nobody audits their network while the badge still works. The room fills seats from names already in circulation, and the X-ray tells you whether yours is anywhere in the building before the day that starts to matter.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Verdict: this network watches you apply cold. Nine of your twelve strongest ties sit inside the company that just reorged you. The two who matter most have not heard from you since 2023. Start there.

FILL THE BRACKET

List them from memory first, then check the profiles. The ones you remember without looking are the network. The rest is the address book.

The Sponsor *Map*

Mentors give you advice. Sponsors spend their capital saying your name. Most people cannot name one.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Map my people into three columns: mentors who advise me, contacts who know my name, and sponsors who have actually spent capital on me, a name dropped in a talent review, an intro made without being asked, my work forwarded upward. Here is my list with what each person has actually done: [PASTE NAMES, LEVELS, AND WHAT EACH HAS DONE FOR YOU]. Tell me who sits in the sponsor column today, who is one conversation away, and the single relationship to invest in this quarter.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Seats are decided in rooms you are not in, and the only voice you have in those rooms is a sponsor. A network heavy on mentors and light on sponsors produces excellent advice about roles other people get.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Sponsors today: one, and she changed companies in March. One conversation away: your old VP, who forwarded your audit to his peer unprompted. That is sponsor behavior. Invest there. The mentor column is full, and it is not the problem.

FILL THE BRACKET

The test for each name is behavior, not warmth. Write down what they did, not how friendly the last coffee felt.

The Empty *Seats*

The map is not who you have. It is who the next seat requires, minus who you have.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

My target next seat is [THE ROLE AND LEVEL YOU WANT]. Name the six seats that typically decide or influence that hire: the hiring executive, the peers who get consulted, the recruiter lane, the internal referrers. Then hold my network against it: [PASTE YOUR STRONGEST CONTACTS AND WHERE THEY SIT]. Show me the empty seats, ranked by how much each one decides, and the realistic first move on each.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Reaching the wrong altitude is the most common networking error. People collect peers when the gap is deciders, or chase executives when the gap is the peer who would refer them internally tomorrow.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Empty: the hiring altitude itself. You know nobody who has ever hired for the seat you want. Ranked move one: the VP two steps from your old boss, reachable warm. The recruiter lane is empty too, and that one you can fill this week.

FILL THE BRACKET

Be specific about the target seat. The map for a platform VP is different from the map for a bigger version of your current job.

The Dormant *Goldmine*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Here are ties that have gone quiet: [PASTE NAMES, HOW YOU KNEW THEM, LAST CONTACT]. Rank them by current value: where they sit now, what they saw me do firsthand, how warm the goodbye was. Give me the top five, and for each, the one line I would open with that names the real history, no apology for the silence.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Dormant ties outperform new ones. They already trust you, and they now sit in different rooms.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Number one: your old peer, now a director at a target company, saw you run the migration. Opener: the migration story still comes up, and I thought of you when it did.

FILL THE BRACKET · Old teams, old clients, old bosses. Two years of quiet is normal, not fatal.

The Ten-Company *Room*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Here are the ten companies I would actually move for: [LIST THEM]. Build the room for each: alumni from my schools or past companies I should find, the likely recruiter search terms for my level, and the one peer-level title I should be talking to now. Then order the ten by the warmth of my current paths in, not by the brand on the door.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

A target list turns networking from mood into motion. The alumni inside those walls are peers, and peers answer.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Ordered: company six first, three alumni and a former client inside. The famous one you put first has zero paths. It goes last, not off the list.

FILL THE BRACKET · Ten real names, not categories. Maybes do not make the list.

02

CHAPTER TWO

The *Reconnect*

THE RESULT

*Doors you let close for years reopen, and nobody
hears an ask coming.*

06 RECONNECT WITHOUT THE ASK · 07 THE GIVE-FIRST OPENER

08 TAKING THEM UP ON IT · 09 THE MUTUAL THREAD

10 THE SECOND MESSAGE

Reconnect Without *the Ask*

The message everyone dreads writing, built so it carries no ask at all.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Write my reconnect note to [NAME, HOW YOU KNOW THEM, YEARS QUIET]. Rules: no apology for the gap, no request of any kind, one specific memory only we would share, one genuine reaction to something they have done recently, and an easy door to reply through. Under sixty words, sounding like me: [PASTE TWO LINES YOU HAVE ACTUALLY WRITTEN TO A FRIEND]. Then tell me what I do and do not do in the week after they reply.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

The ask you do not make is the loudest part of the message. A reconnect with a request attached confirms the silence meant nothing. One without it reopens the door as a relationship instead of a transaction.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The note leads with the launch-week story only you two lived through, reacts to her new role in one line, and ends at, no agenda here, you crossed my mind and I wanted to say it. The week after: reply like a person, ask for nothing, let it breathe.

FILL THE BRACKET

Fill in the true history, even if it is thin. The prompt works with, we overlapped on one brutal quarter. It fails with invented warmth.

The Give-First *Opener*

The opener that leads with what you noticed, not who you need.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

I want to open a thread with [NAME AND WHAT THEY DO]. Here is what they have published, shipped, or been promoted into lately: [PASTE WHAT YOU FOUND]. Write three give-first openers: one specific compliment that proves I actually read the thing, one easy open question they can answer in thirty seconds, and one offer of something I know that would help them. No flattery words like amazing or inspiring anywhere.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Give-first is not manners, it is positioning. The person who opens with a specific observation gets filed as a peer. The person who opens with admiration gets filed as audience.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Opener two wins: your point about slow hiring being a data problem, did you see that inside your own team first or in the market. Thirty seconds to answer, and the reply teaches you what she cares about.

FILL THE BRACKET

Spend five minutes finding the real thing first. The prompt sharpens what you noticed. It cannot notice for you.

Taking Them *Up On It*

Somebody once said let me know if I can ever help. This is the note that lets them.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

[NAME] once offered to help: [WHAT THEY SAID AND WHEN]. Write the note that takes them up on it gracefully now: name the offer plainly so they remember making it, make the ask one specific grantable thing, give them a real out in one line, and close warm without groveling. Two versions: one for a live opening, one for the earlier quiet stage where I only want their read.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Unclaimed offers expire quietly, and both sides feel it happen. Claiming one late is not an imposition, it is a compliment. It says their offer was worth saving.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The line that carries it: you said if the timing was ever right to call, and I think it is. The ask: fifteen minutes on how she would position your ops work for a platform seat. The out: and if this lands in a heavy week, a rain check is fine.

FILL THE BRACKET

Quote their offer as close to verbatim as you remember it. Their own words are the door.

The Mutual *Thread*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Find my thread to [NAME]. Here is what we share: [SCHOOL, PAST COMPANY, MUTUAL PEOPLE, SAME ROLE PATH]. Pick the strongest single thread, tell me why it beats the others, and write the connect note under forty words that uses it: who I am, the thread, one line of why now. No request in the first message.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

The mutual thread is proof you are not a random ask. It moves the reply rate more than anything you say about yourself.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

*Strongest: the shared manager era, stronger than the school tie because it implies a vouch.
The note runs eleven words of history and one of intent.*

FILL THE BRACKET · Give their profile five minutes. Threads hide in the third job down.

The Second *Message*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

No reply after [HOW LONG] to this: [PASTE YOUR FIRST MESSAGE]. Write the follow-up that adds instead of bumps: one new piece of value or context, half the length of the original, no reference to being ignored, no just checking in. Then the date and the words for the third and final touch.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Following up triples replies, and almost nobody does it because it feels like begging. It only reads that way when the message asks again instead of giving again.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Follow-up: saw the platform launch shipped, the question I sent got more interesting, no rush on my end. Third touch in three weeks, then the file closes intact.

FILL THE BRACKET · Silence is a scheduling fact, not a verdict. Send the add the day you notice.

CHAPTER THREE

Warming *the Room*

THE RESULT

*Your name is already moving in the room when
the seat opens.*

11 THE WARM TEN • 12 THE PEER LANE

13 THE COMMENT THEY REMEMBER • 14 THE CONGRATULATIONS THAT COUNTS

15 THE QUARTER WARMER

The Warm *Ten*

Always be networking does not mean always be messaging. It means ten names, permanently warm.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

From my network map: [PASTE YOUR KEY NAMES AND WHAT EACH ONE IS TO YOU], pick the ten I should keep permanently warm: a mix of sponsors, reach contacts, peers, and one recruiter. Build the rotation: who gets a touch this week and what kind, a comment, a note, a share, a congratulations, on a calendar rhythm that touches everyone monthly in under fifteen minutes a week. Tell me who did not make the ten and why.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Warmth decays on a clock. A network touched only in emergencies reads the emergency in every message. Ten names on a rotation is the difference between a live room and a list of people who once knew you.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Your ten: two sponsors, three reach, four peers, one recruiter. This week: congratulate the peer who shipped, ask the VP one question under her post, send the recruiter the market read you wrote. Cut: six names that are all the same peer at the same altitude.

FILL THE BRACKET

Paste the real map from prompt one. The ten changes as your target changes, so rebuild it quarterly.

The Peer *Lane*

Peer networking is the underrated lane. Same level, no power gap, and they answer.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

I am a [YOUR ROLE AND LEVEL]. Build my peer lane: the five titles at my level whose careers will rise alongside mine, in companies I care about. For each, name what we plausibly trade, intel, benchmarks, war stories, referrals, and write the opener that starts a peer thread without making it a favor. Here is where I already have peers: [PASTE THEM].

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Everyone over-indexes on reaching up, and it shows. Peers answer because the trade is even. And this year's peer is, in three years, the hiring manager who remembers you from before it mattered.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Trade with the fintech ops lead: your vendor benchmarks for her hiring-market read.

Opener: how are you handling the new SOC requirements, we just went through it and I will share what broke.

FILL THE BRACKET

Peers means same level, different rooms. Your own team does not count. They already know you.

The Comment They *Remember*

The lightest touch in networking is a comment worth reading. Most comments are applause.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

[NAME] posted this: [PASTE THE POST]. Write three comments that would make them notice the commenter: one that extends their argument with a specific example from my world, one that asks the question the post walks up to but does not answer, and one that respectfully adds the missing angle. Under forty words each, no great post anywhere, and tell me which to use given what I want this relationship to become: [WHAT YOU WANT].

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

A comment is a public audition, read by the author and every senior person who follows them. One sharp comment does more warming than five private messages, because it earns attention instead of asking for it.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Use the second: what breaks first when this scales, the team or the tooling. It is the question her post was circling, it shows altitude, and it invites a reply she will enjoy writing.

FILL THE BRACKET

Comment where your reach contacts publish, not where the crowd goes. Small audience, senior author. That is the room.

The Congratulations *That Counts*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

[NAME] just [THE NEWS: PROMOTED, NEW ROLE, LAUNCH, TALK]. Write the congratulations that stands out from forty identical ones: name the specific thing that impressed me about how they got here, not the title, one sentence of what I saw them do before it was obvious, nothing about me, no ask. Under fifty words.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Promotion day floods them with congrats. The one that names what actually earned it gets remembered, because it proves somebody watched the work.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The note ties the title to how she handled the Denver fallout without dropping a name. Nothing about you anywhere in it, and she will remember who sent it.

FILL THE BRACKET · Speed matters less than specificity. Day three with the real detail wins.

The Quarter *Warmer*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

It is the start of the quarter. Here are my warm ten and when I last touched each: [PASTE THE LIST]. Flag anyone going cold, past six weeks, and write each cooling name a touch that gives something: an article with one line of why them, an intro between two of them, a question only they can answer. Nothing that opens with checking in.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

The intro between two of your contacts is the strongest warming move in the set. It costs you nothing, and both sides file you as a connector, which is the reputation rooms promote.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Cooling: both sponsors. Classic, you warm the reachable and neglect the powerful. The intro between your two directors fixes it, and both owe the thought to you.

FILL THE BRACKET · First Monday of the quarter. Decay is silent. The calendar is not.

04

CHAPTER FOUR

Reaching Up

THE RESULT

*Senior people take the meeting, and leave
carrying your name.*

16 THE REACH MESSAGE • 17 THE RECRUITER DIRECT
18 THE ALUMNI INSIDE • 19 THE COFFEE WITH A SPINE
20 THE ECHO NOTE

The Reach *Message*

The message to somebody two levels up, built on the formula that earns replies from busy people.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Write my reach message to [NAME, TITLE, WHY THEM]. The formula, in order: the mutual thread that humanizes me, [THE THREAD], who I am in one line, and one easy open-ended question that takes them under thirty seconds to answer. Nothing that asks for a job, a referral, or a call. Under seventy words. Then give me the reply I send for each of the three ways they might answer: short, generous, or handing me to someone else.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Senior people answer questions that respect their time and ignore requests that spend it. The thirty-second question is the entire technology. It lets them be generous at zero cost, and generosity, once started, tends to continue.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The question: when you moved from ops into the platform seat, did the finance fluency come before the move or on the job. Thirty seconds, flattering to answer, and the reply tells you exactly what to build next. If they hand you downward, that is a win. You arrive pre-vouched.

FILL THE BRACKET

Pick the person one or two levels up whose seat resembles the one you want. Admiring strangers at the top of the ladder is content, not networking.

The Recruiter *Direct*

The one lane where opening with the ask is correct. It is their job, and you might be their commission.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Write my note to [RECRUITER NAME OR THE ROLE POSTING]: I am [ROLE, YEARS, ONE PROOF POINT WITH A NUMBER], applying to [THE ROLE]. Ask them directly to point me to the hiring team so my application does not get lost, and state plainly that I believe I am a strong fit, with the why in one line. Then give me the version for when there is no live role: the note that puts me on their radar for the next one, with the three keywords they would search me by.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Recruiters are the exception to give-first. If you fit a live role, you are doing them a favor. They get paid to find you. Deference reads as weakness in this lane, and directness reads as a candidate who knows the market.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The line that works: I believe I am a strong fit, twelve years of marketplace ops and I cut fulfillment cost 19 percent at scale. Could you point me to the hiring team so my application does not get lost. No apology anywhere in it.

FILL THE BRACKET

The proof point needs a number. Recruiters scan for evidence, not enthusiasm.

The Alumni *Inside*

Every posting has a side door: the people who share a school or a former company with you, already inside.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

I am targeting [THE ROLE AT THE COMPANY]. Walk me through the alumni play: the people inside who share my schools or past employers, [YOUR SCHOOLS AND PAST COMPANIES], and the peer-level message that opens with the shared ground and asks one honest culture question, do you enjoy it there, what surprised you. Then the second message, only after they reply, that mentions I am applying and asks what the team actually values. Never the referral ask in message one.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Alumni answer because the tie does the vouching. And the internal referral is the strongest lever in hiring. Many companies pay for referrals, so the alumnus who walks you in may literally be making money doing it. You are not asking a favor. You are splitting one.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Found: two from your Northeastern years and a former peer, all inside. Message one: fellow survivor of the integration era, I see you landed at Meridian. Honestly, do you enjoy it. The referral conversation starts itself by message three.

FILL THE BRACKET

List every school and every past employer, even the short stints. Side doors hide in the two-year jobs.

The Coffee *With a Spine*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

[NAME] said yes to twenty minutes. Build the agenda that respects it: the one thing I want them walking away knowing about me, stated as fact not pitch, the two questions only they can answer, and the last two minutes, where I ask nothing except what I should have asked. Context: [WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT YOU WANT LONG TERM].

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

A vague coffee spends a favor and returns nothing. A shaped twenty minutes leaves them able to describe you to somebody else, which is the entire point of the meeting.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The fact to plant: I run the region's largest migration portfolio, pointed at platform work. The closer: what should I have asked you. The floor fills with advice they now feel invested in.

FILL THE BRACKET · Write the fact-to-plant first. If it needs two lines, the coffee is premature.

The Echo *Note*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

The meeting with [NAME] just ended. Here is what was said: [PASTE YOUR ROUGH NOTES]. Write the note that makes me easy to repeat: one line of thanks tied to the specific thing they gave me, the action I am taking because of it with a date, and the one-sentence version of me they could forward to anyone, written so forwarding costs them nothing. Under eighty words.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

The echo note converts a conversation into circulation. Name the action and the date and you become a story they can tell. Rooms repeat stories, not resumes.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The forwardable line: she runs enterprise migrations at Corvid, one move from a platform seat, worth twenty minutes. He can send that without writing a word.

FILL THE BRACKET · Same-day send, then do the thing by the date. Follow-through is the proof.

CHAPTER FIVE

Making *Sponsors*

THE RESULT

People with power spend their capital on you in rooms you never enter.

21 THE MENTOR-TO-SPONSOR SHIFT • 22 THE GRANTABLE ASK

23 THE INTERNAL REFERRAL • 24 THE BOARD-SEAT OPENER

25 THE REPORT-BACK

The Mentor-to-Sponsor *Shift*

Advice is free. Advocacy costs the giver capital. This conversation converts one into the other.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

[NAME] gives me time and advice: [WHAT THEY HAVE DONE, AND WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN OF MY WORK]. Script the conversation that gives them the chance to become a sponsor: the update that shows their advice compounding into results, the plain statement of the seat I am going for, and the specific sponsor-shaped request, say my name when the platform role is discussed, put my work in front of your peer, bring me into the room where that gets decided. Then the graceful line if they deflect, that keeps the mentorship whole.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Mentors become sponsors when two things are true: they have evidence, and they have been asked for the specific act. Most people supply neither, then call the gap luck. A sponsor needs to know exactly what to say and where. Your job is to hand them the sentence.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The request: when the VP search kicks off, I want my name in the first conversation, and you are the person whose word puts it there. The deflect-catch: even knowing what you would want to see from me first would help. Either answer moves you.

FILL THE BRACKET

Choose the mentor who has seen the work firsthand, not the one you like most. Sponsorship runs on evidence they can personally vouch for.

The Grantable *Ask*

Sponsors act when the ask is one specific, low-cost, high-signal move. Vague asks produce warm nothing.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

I want [NAME] to advocate for me toward [THE GOAL]. Turn it into a grantable ask: the exact act, an intro, a name-drop, a forward, the one sentence they could say verbatim in the room, the deadline shaped by a real event, and what I will send them so the whole thing costs under five minutes, the one-pager, the bullet, the link. Then rank three versions of the ask from lightest to heaviest and tell me which to lead with.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

People say yes to requests they can complete while walking to the next meeting. Every ounce of effort the ask requires is a reason to postpone it, and postponed advocacy is no advocacy.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Lead with the middle: forward my platform brief to the search chair with one line, I know her work, worth a look. You write the brief and the line. He spends ninety seconds and his name. The heavy ask stays in reserve for after this lands.

FILL THE BRACKET

Write the verbatim sentence yourself. If you cannot write it, they cannot say it.

The Internal *Referral*

The strongest lever in hiring, and the one people are most embarrassed to pull.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

[NAME] works at [COMPANY] where [THE ROLE] is open. We know each other from [THE HISTORY]. Write the referral conversation: the note that names the role and asks directly whether they would feel comfortable referring me, gives them a genuine out, and attaches the two lines about me that make the referral easy to file. If they say yes, the thank-you that reports back at each stage. If they hesitate, the fallback ask: what would you want to know about me first.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Referred candidates get read first, and many companies pay the referrer. The embarrassment is misplaced. A good referral makes your contact look like a talent spotter. You are offering them credit, not taking a favor.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The direct line: would you feel comfortable referring me, and honestly, if not, no weight on it. The out is what makes the yes real. The two lines you attach do the filing work: the role, the proof number, why this team.

FILL THE BRACKET

The history line matters. Referrers get asked why you. Give them the answer before HR does.

The Board-Seat *Opener*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

I want my first board or advisory seat: [YOUR DOMAIN AND THE PROOF]. Map the play: the three kinds of rooms that take first-timers, nonprofit boards, advisory councils, early-stage companies, which one fits my evidence, and the note to the person who could nominate me: [WHO YOU KNOW NEAR THOSE ROOMS], written as an offer of the expertise their board is missing.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Board seats travel through nomination, almost never application. The door opens when a sponsor says she would be useful here, and that starts with you naming the missing expertise.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Your fit: the nonprofit treasury committee, they take first-timers and need your controls background. The note offers the audit-readiness gap and asks who chairs governance.

FILL THE BRACKET · Name the expertise, not the ambition. Boards fill gaps, not wishes.

The *Report-Back*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

[NAME] spent capital on me: [WHAT THEY DID]. Write the report-back: what happened because of their act, stated with the number or the outcome, what I did with the opening so their spend looks smart, and the line that leaves the door open for next time without asking for next time. Under sixty words, sent without being prompted.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Sponsors are investors, and investors double down on positions that report returns. The unprompted report-back separates the name they said once from the name they now always say.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

The note: your forward became a first-round conversation Tuesday. I led with the margin story you pushed me to tell. Thank you for spending your name on mine.

FILL THE BRACKET · Report the intermediate result too. Investors like watching the position move.

06

CHAPTER SIX

The Standing *Network System*

THE RESULT

*Fifteen minutes a week, and you are recruited
before you are rescued.*

26 THE MONDAY NETWORK PLAN • 27 THE NETWORK HEALTH CHECK

28 THE OPENING-DAY PROTOCOL • 29 THE VISIBILITY LOOP

30 THE QUARTERLY NETWORK RECALIBRATION

The Monday *Network Plan*

One planned touch a week beats a panicked hundred when the badge stops working.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

It is Monday. Here are my warm ten and my week: [PASTE THE LIST AND YOUR CALENDAR]. Pick this week's three touches, one give, one comment in public, one reconnect or report-back, and write each in under forty words in my voice. Then tell me the day and the trigger for each, after the staff meeting, when her post goes up. Fifteen minutes total, and nothing that smells like outreach.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Networks are not built in sprints. They are built on Mondays. Three planned touches a week is a hundred and fifty a year, all warm, which is more room than most careers ever assemble.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

This week: send the ops benchmark to your fintech peer, congratulate the new VP with the Denver detail, ask the scaling question under your sponsor's post. Monday, Wednesday, and when it publishes. Done by 9:15.

FILL THE BRACKET

Paste the real calendar. Touches tied to real triggers happen. Touches tied to good intentions do not.

The Network *Health Check*

The quarterly physical for the room around you. Four vitals, one verdict.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Run my network health check. Here is the current map and the quarter's activity: [PASTE THE MAP AND WHAT YOU DID]. Score four vitals: sponsor count and freshness, reach coverage against my target seat, peer lane trade balance, am I giving as much as I take, and dormant decay, who went cold. Verdict first, then the one vital to fix this quarter and the two moves that fix it.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Networks fail silently. No error message, no alert, just a quiet room on the day you need a loud one. A quarterly read catches the decay while it is still cheap to reverse.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Verdict: healthy lanes, hollow center. Four fresh peers, but zero sponsor touches in ten weeks. Fix the sponsor lane: move one is the report-back you owe, move two is the intro between your two directors, and the connector credit lands on you.

FILL THE BRACKET

Keep each quarter's read. The trend line tells you more than any single check.

The Opening-Day *Protocol*

A seat just opened, or the floor just moved. The first 48 hours, sequenced.

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

It happened: [THE OPENING, THE RESHUFFLE, OR THE ENDING]. Sequence my first 48 hours through the network, in order: who hears it from me personally before anything is public, the sponsor who gets the call with the specific sentence I need said, the recruiter note, the peers who get the honest version, what I post publicly if anything, and what I do not do, the desperate mass message that undoes years of warming. Scripts for each, calm throughout.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

The first 48 hours decide whether the network works as a system or watches as a spectator. Order matters most. A sponsor who hears your news from the feed instead of from you was warmed for nothing.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Hour one: the two sponsors, by phone, with the sentence, if the platform search is real, my name belongs in it. Day two: the recruiter and the peers. The public post waits until your story is chosen. Composed beats available.

FILL THE BRACKET

Run this before you need it, on the most likely scenario. The protocol you have rehearsed is the one that survives adrenaline.

The Visibility *Loop*

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Here is what I know that my target room would pay attention to: [YOUR EXPERTISE AND ONE CURRENT TAKE]. Design my small visibility loop: the one insight per month I publish where my reach contacts can see it, written to be quoted, and the three people I send it to directly with a personal line. Not a content strategy. A networking instrument.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

Publishing flips the physics. Instead of you warming ten people, one artifact warms everyone who reads it, including the people you have not met yet.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

This month: vendor consolidation is a talent problem wearing a cost mask. Send it to both sponsors with, this started in our last conversation. The network is now co-authoring.

FILL THE BRACKET · One insight a month is enough. The loop is for the room, not the algorithm.

The Quarterly Network *Recalibration*

COPY THIS PROMPT

PASTE INTO YOUR AI

Quarter end. Here is last quarter's health check, my current target seat, and what actually happened: [PASTE ALL THREE]. Recalibrate: which relationships moved toward sponsorship, where the map changed because my target changed, who earned a place in the warm ten, who rotates out, and the one networking habit for next quarter with its Monday trigger.

WHY THE ROOM WORKS THIS WAY

The network you have is aimed at the last goal. Recalibration keeps the room pointed at the next seat, because drift is the default and aim is a decision.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Moved: the coffee contact forwarded your brief unasked, promote her to the ten. Out: the peer who took four gives and returned silence. New habit: the echo note.

FILL THE BRACKET · Save every recalibration. A year of them maps the room turning toward you.

BEFORE YOU CLOSE THIS

The seat gets filled *either way.*

These prompts build the room around you. Two doors from here,
and both are open now.

DOOR ONE · THE FREE READ

craftyourconfidence.com/signal

See how you currently read to the room that decides. Paste your profile, get the verdict. No email required to look.

DOOR TWO · THE CONSULT

craftyourconfidence.com/apply

When you want the room read by the person who sat in it, the application is short and the conversation is direct.

Keep going: the book, The Room Where You're Decided, the Career Signal Bundle that keeps the receipts, and the other Room Prompts editions, Digital Presence and the Communication Playbook.

CRAFT YOUR CONFIDENCE

MADDY VISWANATH

UNEDITD