



Measuring Modern AI PCs: Picking up the Pace for Road Warriors

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How Mobile Professionals Benefit from AI PC Integration

The modern PC landscape is entering a new era driven by AI-enabled computing. As devices evolve beyond traditional performance metrics, they are becoming intelligent companions that help professionals interact, create, and make decisions in new ways. For mobile employees and road warriors working across airports, client sites, and remote offices, this shift represents more than a hardware upgrade, it redefines how work gets done on the move.

Building on our previous analysis of General Office Workers, this study expands the scope to professionals whose productivity depends on mobility and adaptability. The Road Warrior test methodology shows how AI PCs save time and improve quality in unpredictable conditions. AI summarization reduces fatigue when reviewing client materials, intelligent assistants streamline reporting and communications, and tools like Click-to-Do and Copilot enable content creation without constant application switching. Together, these advances create a smoother, more adaptive experience that matches how modern professionals actually work.

AI PCs now deliver measurable gains that translate directly to business value. Early adopters are already seeing tangible time savings and enhanced responsiveness, proof that AI integration is an operational advantage, not a future concept. Microsoft's Copilot+ PC initiative, launched in 2024, accelerated this change by defining hardware and software standards for AI acceleration. Systems with at least 40 TOPS of NPU performance now support consistent on-device AI capabilities that keep professionals productive wherever they work.

The industry stands at an inflection point. While AI-driven transformation continues, today's systems already provide the balance of innovation and practicality needed for real impact. For organizations with distributed or mobile teams, faster and more efficient workflows translate directly into competitive advantage, making AI PCs a foundation for the next generation of intelligent, adaptive computing.

Key Highlights:



AI-enabled devices could save road warriors **40% of their productivity time** in typical use cases



An employee that fits the 'Road Warrior' persona and utilizes AI-enabled PCs and software could **gain the equivalent of 7+ weeks** in productivity each year

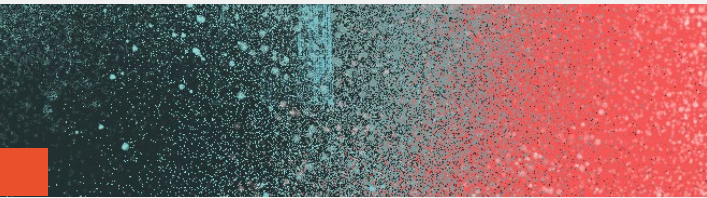
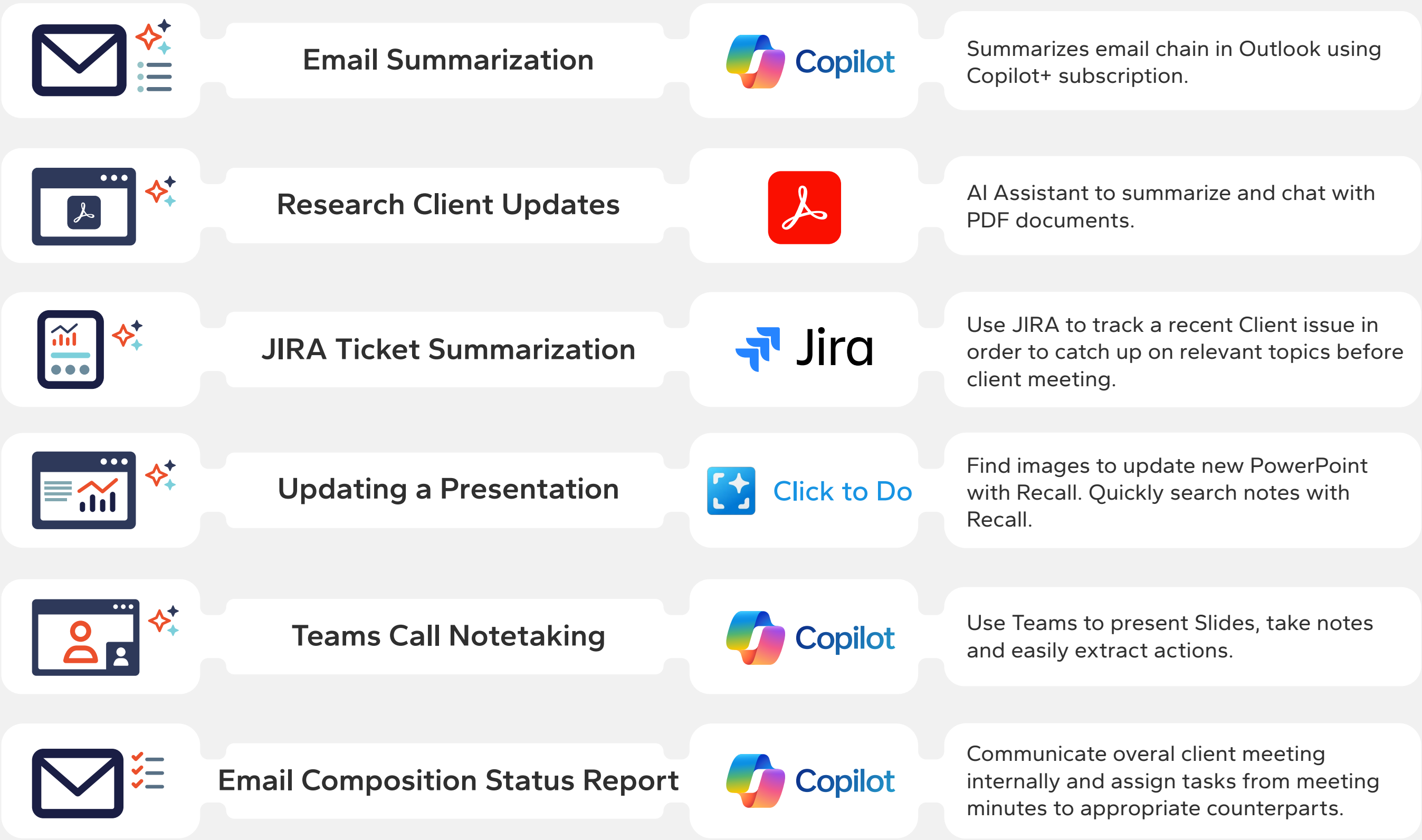


Individual workflow steps are **as much as 18x faster** using AI tools versus doing the same task manually

The Road Warrior Workflow

The Road Warrior persona is a critical component of a modern workforce and covers both fully remote and partially remote employees, including:

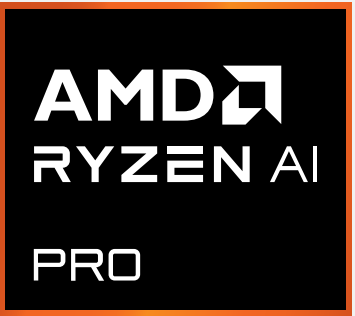
- Professionals working on the go and relying on devices that perform seamlessly in all environments
- Workers managing communications, meetings, and documents from airports, hotels, and client sites
- Testing structured to mirror natural task progression from email triage to content development



Testing Configuration

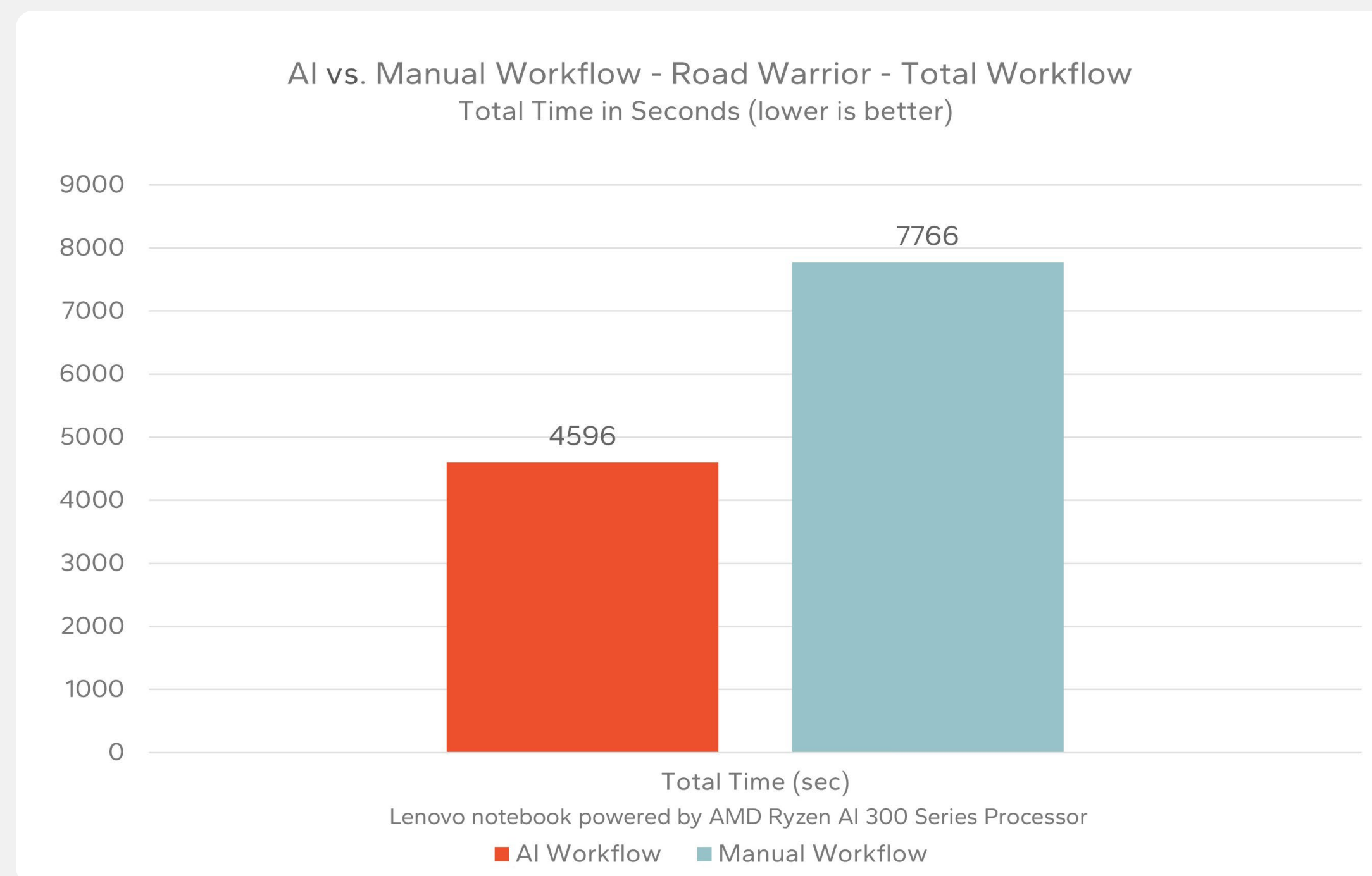
Our analysis employs a single hardware platform to isolate the impact of AI-enabled versus manual workflows. This methodological choice eliminates hardware variables, ensuring that measured differences stem from workflow methodology rather than processor variations or system capabilities. By maintaining hardware consistency, we provide cleaner insights into AI’s practical benefits without the confounding factors that would arise from comparing different systems. At a later point we may choose to dive into direct platform comparisons.

LENOVO THINKPAD T14S GEN 6	
CPU	AMD Ryzen AI 7 PRO 360
Graphics	AMD Radeon 880M
RAM	32GB LPDDR5X-7500
Storage	1TB Kioxia KXG8AZNV1T02
Display	14" 1920x1200
System BIOS	R2NET36W (1.10)
Operating System	Windows 11 Pro 26100.2894



Compiling the Real-World Measurements

Our testing shows that AI PCs can provide measurable and significant productivity gains for mobile professionals. Across the complete Road Warrior test suite, AI-enabled systems completed all tasks in about 77 minutes, compared to over 129 minutes for manual workflows, a reduction of just over 40%. This improvement translates directly to higher productivity, more effective client interactions, and measurable ROI for modern organizations. These gains are available now through current hardware and software platforms, not future concepts.



Projecting these benefits across a typical work year reveals some interesting findings. If road warriors can save 1-2 hours daily through AI enhancement, a reasonable estimate based on our findings, this translates to 300+ hours annually per employee. That's equivalent to 7 or more full work weeks of additional productive capacity without extending work hours or adding staff. From there you can extrapolate dollar savings, effective productivity increases without headcount increases, or any other CFO-friendly key points when building out new infrastructure investments.

Compiling the Real-World Measurements

Companies that delay next-generation PC adoption risk losing to competitors already equipping their mobile teams with AI-enhanced devices. While users may need brief adjustment periods to learn new tools and AI-generated results, the benefits quickly outweigh the transition effort. For IT decision makers, AI-capable hardware should now be considered a requirement, as upcoming software releases will increasingly depend on integrated NPUs and higher performance GPUs for local AI acceleration. Systems lacking these capabilities will limit both productivity and software compatibility

The case for deployment is clear. The shift to AI workflows represents a major advancement for mobile work, delivering benefits and value much like wireless connectivity did for road warriors over the years. As AI capabilities continue to accelerate, today's productivity improvements mark only the beginning of what's possible. Organizations that act now can gain both immediate efficiency and long-term strategic advantage. The question is no longer whether to enable AI PCs for mobile workers, but how quickly they can be rolled out to capture this transformative potential.

AI assistance decreases employee fatigue, enabling sustained productivity throughout the workday.

Beyond Time Savings

- ✓ Content quality improvement
- ✓ Cognitive load reduction, lower mental wear
- ✓ New worker capabilities and skills

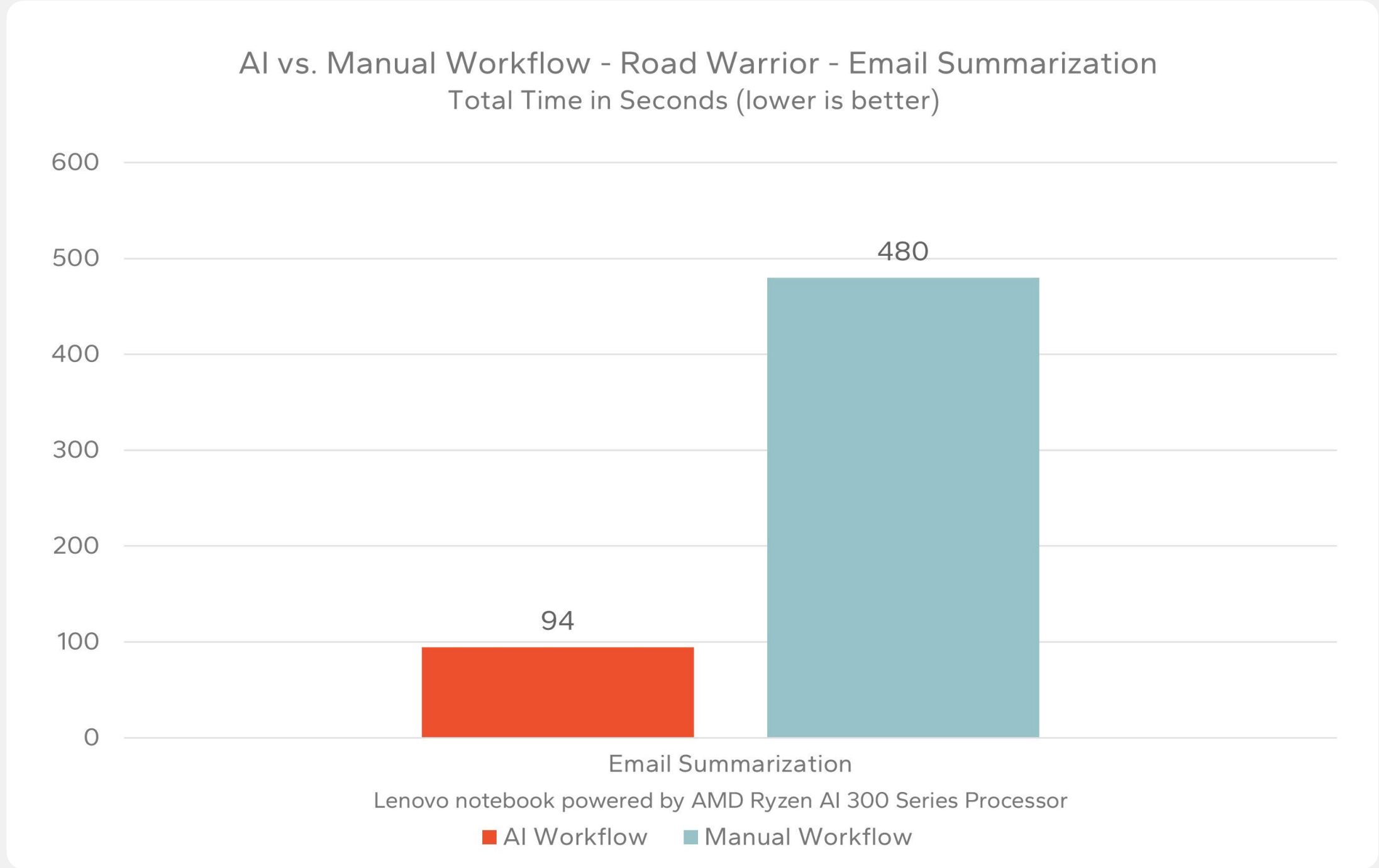


Email Summarization

Email management represents one of the most time-consuming aspects of modern knowledge work. Our email summarization test evaluates the productivity difference between AI-powered email summarization and traditional manual email review, using a realistic scenario that mirrors the complexity of actual business communications.

The test scenario involves a detailed email thread discussing a project update. This thread includes typical business communications elements: status updates, decision points, action items, and scheduling discussions. The complexity and length of the thread reflect real-world email exchanges that knowledge workers encounter multiple times daily. Both the AI-enabled and manual workflows must extract the same critical information from this thread: main decisions made, tasks assigned to specific individuals, and clearly defined next steps.

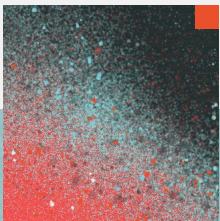
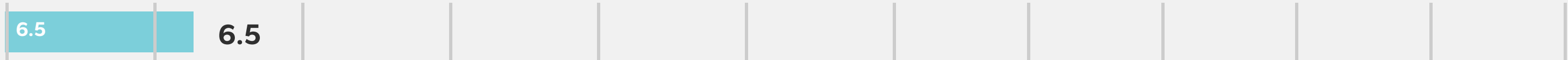
AI-Enabled Steps	Manual Steps
The AI version leverages Copilot to provide instant email thread summaries.	The manual version simulates reading each email without AI assistance.
Opens Outlook in browser environment	Opens Outlook web app
Authenticates with test email account	Navigate to email thread
Selects first email thread in inbox	Reads each message individually with realistic timing
Activates Copilot summarization feature	Simulates human reading speed
Displays comprehensive thread summary	Processes complete thread without summarization



The performance results starkly illustrate AI’s impact on email productivity. The AI-enabled workflow completes in an average of 94 seconds across three test runs, while the manual workflow requires 480 seconds, exactly 8 minutes. This represents a time savings of almost 6.5 minutes, for a single email thread. The AI-enabled approach proves 5x faster than manual reading. When we consider that knowledge workers typically process many threads daily, the time savings expand to more than an hour per day.

AI email summarization not only saves time but also improves work quality by highlighting key points from long email threads and reducing cognitive load. It helps users quickly identify important information, action items, and deadlines, minimizing missed commitments. The technology supports multi-language threads and presents summaries in the user’s language, streamlining communication for global teams. Additionally, AI makes searching historical emails easier by instantly summarizing past conversations for quick recall of decisions and project history.

Workflow Total Time Savings (minutes)





Research Client Updates

Client communications often arrive as lengthy reports or update packets that require careful review before action can be taken. Our Client Research Updates scenario demonstrates how AI-enabled PCs streamline this process by summarizing long PDF documents into concise, actionable insights. In this test, an AI assistant extracts key details such as project changes, deliverable adjustments, and next-step requests from a multi-page client update. Instead of manually reading dozens of pages, users receive a structured summary highlighting what needs attention, which deadlines have shifted, and what follow-up actions are required.

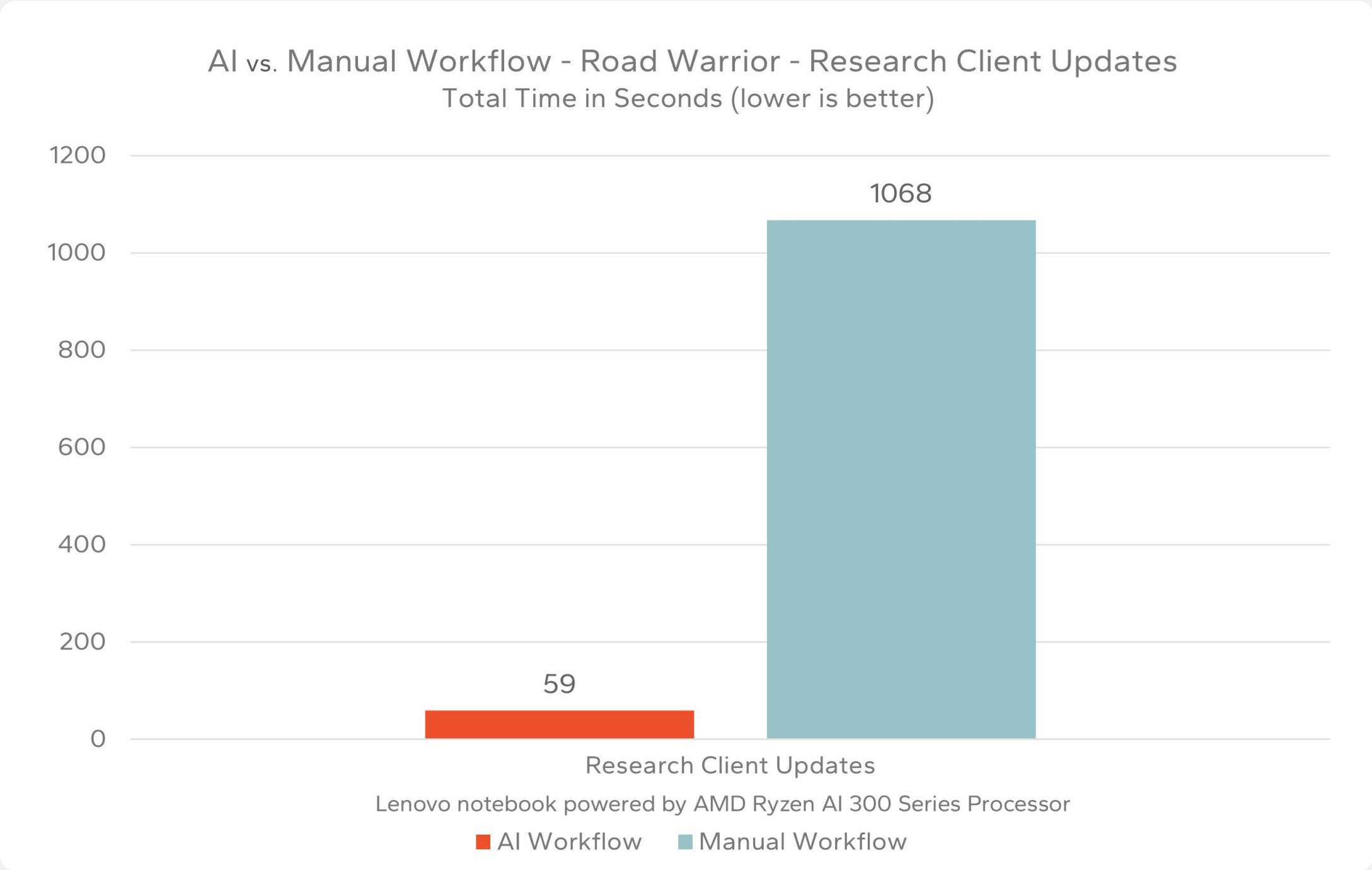
This step in the workflow illustrates how AI transforms a traditionally time-consuming review process into a rapid decision-making exercise. The AI-enabled approach reduces the time required for a very long document review to just minutes while improving accuracy and consistency in capturing important points. For professionals managing multiple clients, these time savings compound throughout the week, freeing hours for higher-value work, time that can be reinvested in better analysis, issue resolution, and more proactive responses to customer needs. Beyond efficiency, AI-generated summaries reduce errors from overlooked details, ensure alignment on client expectations, and make it easier to share relevant insights across internal teams.

AI-Enabled Steps	Manual Steps
The AI Assistant excels at processing large volumes of information, extracting facts, summarizing content.	The manual version requires a full read through of the client PDF document.
Launch Adobe Acrobat with AI Assistant add-on	Launch Adobe Acrobat
Load long PDF file	Load long PDF
Click on AI assistant and ask to summarize	Read through the long document, having to write a summary
Displays AI feedback through right panel	After summary, write key features that need to be highlighted
Ask AI assistant to point out key requests in the document	

ACCELERATING MOBILE PROFESSIONALS
THROUGH AI-ENHANCED WORKFLOWS



The productivity impact is substantial. The AI-enabled workflow completes in just one minute compared to nearly 18 minutes for the manual review, a 94% reduction in total time! For consultants, account managers, or field professionals managing multiple clients, these savings translate into faster responses and client satisfaction. Beyond speed, AI summarization improves consistency by capturing every key point without human oversight gaps, ensuring that critical updates are never missed. This workflow highlights how AI shifts knowledge workers from reading to acting, transforming document-heavy communication into rapid, informed decision making.



AI document summarization can improve this step of our Road Warrior workflow by more than 18x!

Workflow Total Time Savings (minutes)

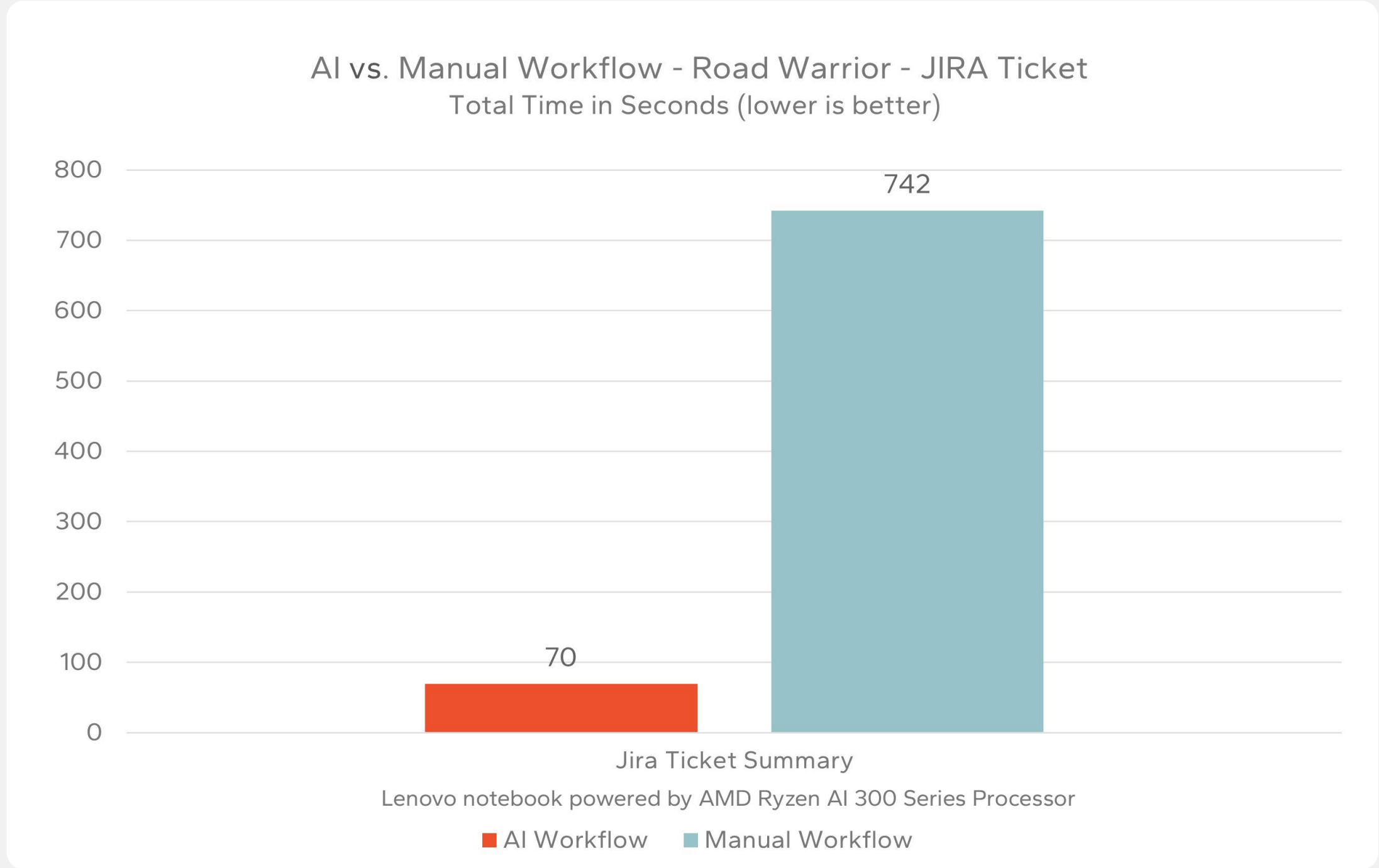




JIRA Ticket Summarization

Project and issue management tools often contain extensive comment threads that can slow response times and obscure key updates. Our JIRA Ticket Summarization scenario demonstrates how AI-enabled PCs streamline technical collaboration by condensing lengthy ticket discussions into clear summaries. In this test, the user logs into JIRA, opens a complex project ticket filled with multiple stakeholder comments, and invokes the integrated AI assistant to summarize the thread. Within seconds, the system highlights critical decisions, recent changes, and pending action items directly within the ticket interface, eliminating the need to scroll through dozens of comments.

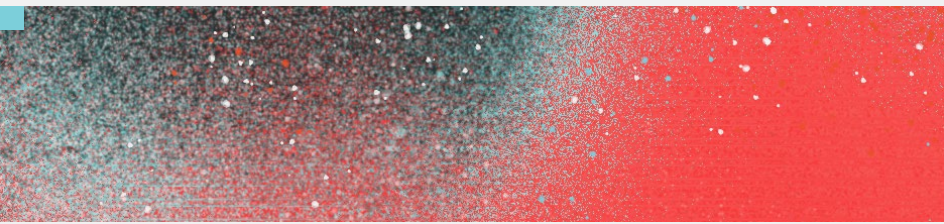
AI-Enabled Steps	Manual Steps
The AI-enhanced version leverages JIRA Atlassian Intelligence functionality to automatically summarize issues for prompt resolution	The manual version simulates the traditional workflow where users must manually scrub through and notate issues
Log into JIRA, go to project	Log into JIRA, go to project
Load JIRA ticket with lengthy comments	Load JIRA ticket with lengthy comments
Click on AI assistant and ask to summarize	Read through ticket, having to write a summary noting the changes needed for project plan timeline needed
Displays AI feedback in ticket	



The results show a dramatic improvement in efficiency. The AI-enabled methodology completes in just over one minute, compared to more than twelve minutes for a manual review, a 90% reduction in total time. For developers and project managers balancing multiple active tickets, this acceleration helps maintain momentum and reduces the lag between updates and action. Beyond speed, AI summarization can minimize context loss and ensures that key decisions are surfaced consistently, even in complex multi-contributor threads. It can also help ensure that key actions or questions from the user aren't lost in the noise of multiple tickets and threads. This capability turns a project review from a reactive task into an intelligent, time-saving part of the development cycle.

JIRA users could save as much as 90% of the time required for ticket understanding and summarization with an AI-enabled PC.

Workflow Total Time Savings (minutes)



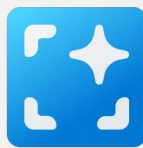


Updating a Presentation

Creating and updating presentations represents a common but complex workflow that requires coordinating information across multiple sources and applications. Our presentation update scenario tests AI's ability to streamline multi-application workflows through context understanding and content manipulation. The task involves extracting product information from a detailed Word document, editing imagery, and incorporating formatted content into a marketing presentation, all while maintaining professional standards suitable for executive review.

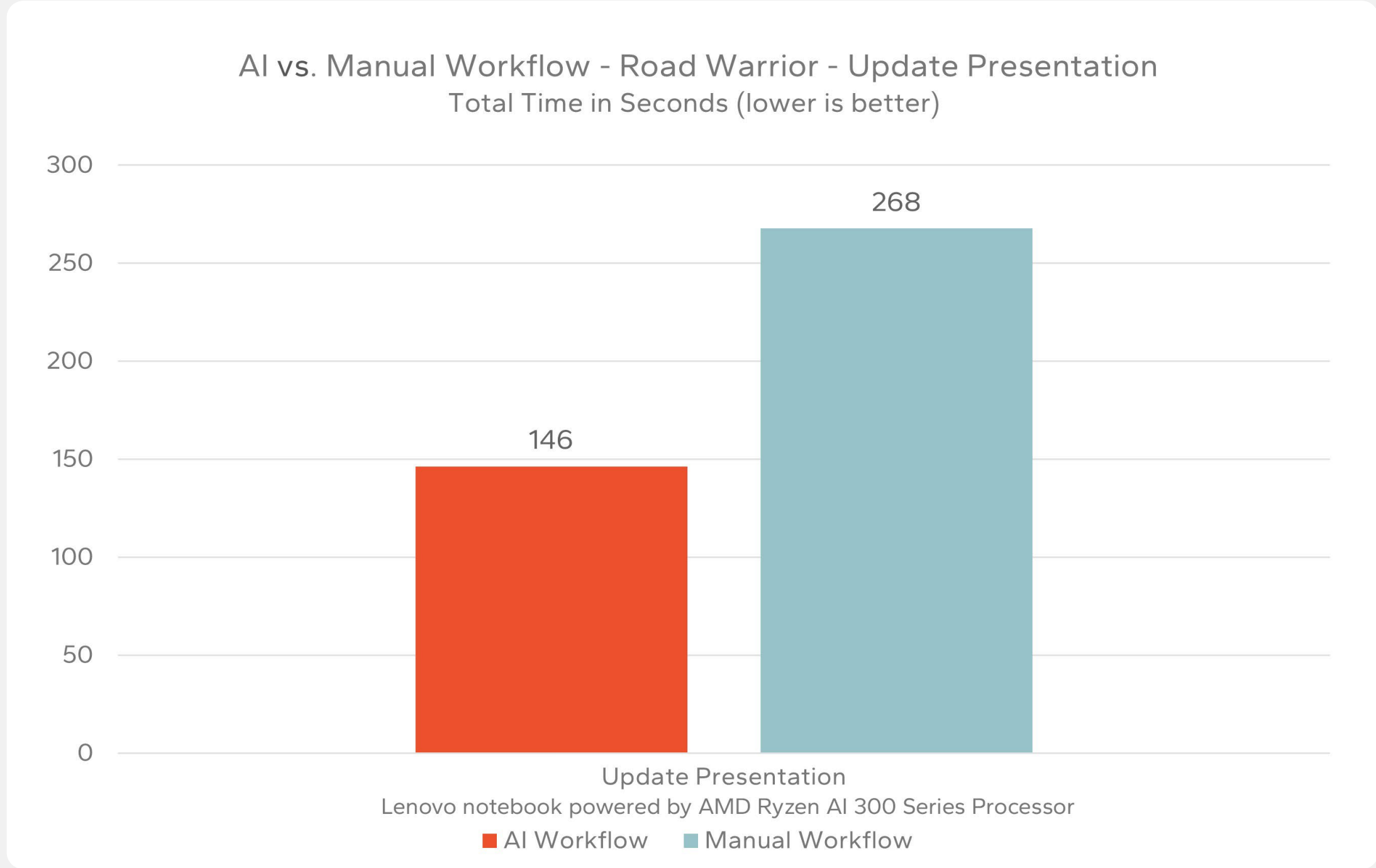
AI-Enabled Steps	Manual Steps
The AI-enhanced workflow leverages Copilot+ Click-to-do to interpret user commands and directly manipulate on-screen elements, streamlining the creation process.	The manual version simulates the traditional process of switching between applications, copying, pasting, and manually creating the slide content.
User has a target PowerPoint presentation and a source Word document open.	Manually navigate between open Word and PowerPoint application windows.
Uses Click-to-do to select an image within the PowerPoint Presentation	Highlight and copy the desired image from PowerPoint.
User selects background blur in Click-to-do dropdown – and replaces background of the image.	Switch to Paint to edit image.
Invokes Click-to-do to select the source text in the Word document.	Switch to PowerPoint and paste the image.
Instructs Click-to-do to summarize text into bullet points.	Switch back to Word, read and mentally summarize the content.
Paste Click-to-do's summarized bullet points into PowerPoint Presentation.	Switch back to PowerPoint, create a text box, and type the summary from memory.
	Adjust formatting manually

ACCELERATING MOBILE PROFESSIONALS
THROUGH AI-ENHANCED WORKFLOWS



Click to Do

Updating a Presentation



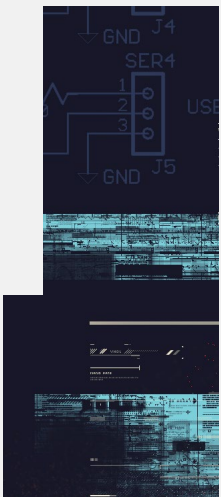
Workflow Total Time Savings (minutes)



Performance measurements reveal efficiency gains from AI enhancement. The AI-enabled workflow completes in just 2 minutes and 26 seconds, while the manual approach requires 4 minutes and 28 seconds, making the AI approach 80% faster. Beyond raw time savings, the AI workflow reduces context switches from seven to just two, minimizing the disruption that occurs when shifting between applications.

Office workers can update presentations up to 80% faster using AI tools like Click-to-do on a Copilot+ PC.

AI-enhanced presentation updates offer more than just faster results. Click-to-do's contextual understanding removes the need to learn multiple interfaces, making advanced features user-friendly. AI-powered summarization maintains professional bullet points and language, while background removal mimics graphic design tools without extra cost. Semantic search speeds up content discovery, even without exact file names. AI also enforces brand guidelines automatically for consistent materials.



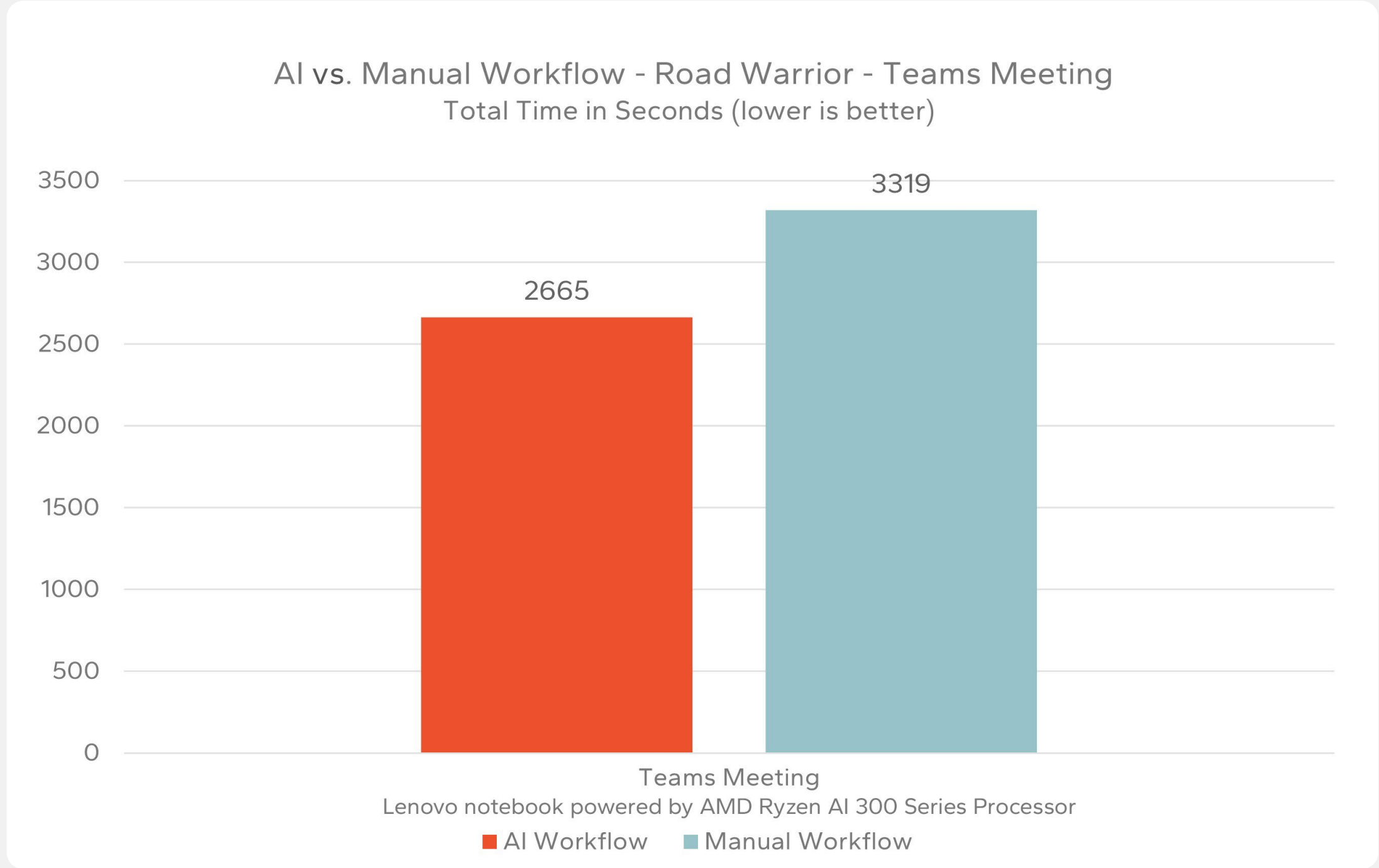


Teams Call Notetaking

Virtual meetings have become fundamental to modern business operations, with the average knowledge worker attending 8-10 meetings per week. Our Teams call notetaking test simulates a realistic 40+ minute project planning meeting with four participants discussing quarterly objectives, resource allocation, and project milestones. This scenario includes all typical meeting elements: agenda review, presentation of updates, discussion of challenges, decision making, and action item assignment. Both workflows must produce properly formatted meeting minutes suitable for distribution to stakeholders who didn't attend the meeting.

AI-Enabled Steps	Manual Steps
The AI-enhanced version focuses on streamlined meeting participation with post-meeting AI assistance.	The manual version simulates typical user behavior of taking notes during meetings.
Simulate participation in a Teams video call through pre-recording multi-user meeting, playback, file sharing, etc.	Join a Teams meeting
Allow AI to transcribe the meeting	Take active notes during the call
Use Copilot to generate formatted meeting notes after the call	After the call spend time formatting the notes into meeting minutes





The results reveal significant but nuanced benefits from AI enhancement. The AI-enabled workflow completes in 45 minutes, the base meeting time plus just 3-4 minutes for AI processing and review. The manual workflow extends to over 55 minutes, with the same 41-minute meeting followed by more than 10 minutes of note formatting and cleanup. While the overall time savings of 10 minutes might seem modest as a percentage, the impact on post-meeting productivity is dramatic, a 65% reduction in documentation time. For professionals attending 3-4 meetings daily, this represents 45-60 minutes of recovered productive time that can be redirected to actual work rather than administrative tasks.

AI-enhanced meeting documentation offers more than time savings. It keeps participants focused on discussions instead of note-taking, resulting in better outcomes. AI-generated transcripts provide verbatim quotes for compliance or technical needs, while automatic speaker attribution clarifies responsibilities and reduces confusion. The AI highlights themes across meetings, aiding in issue tracking and project continuity. Searchable transcripts make it easy to reference past decisions without reviewing full recordings.

Workflow Total Time Savings (minutes)

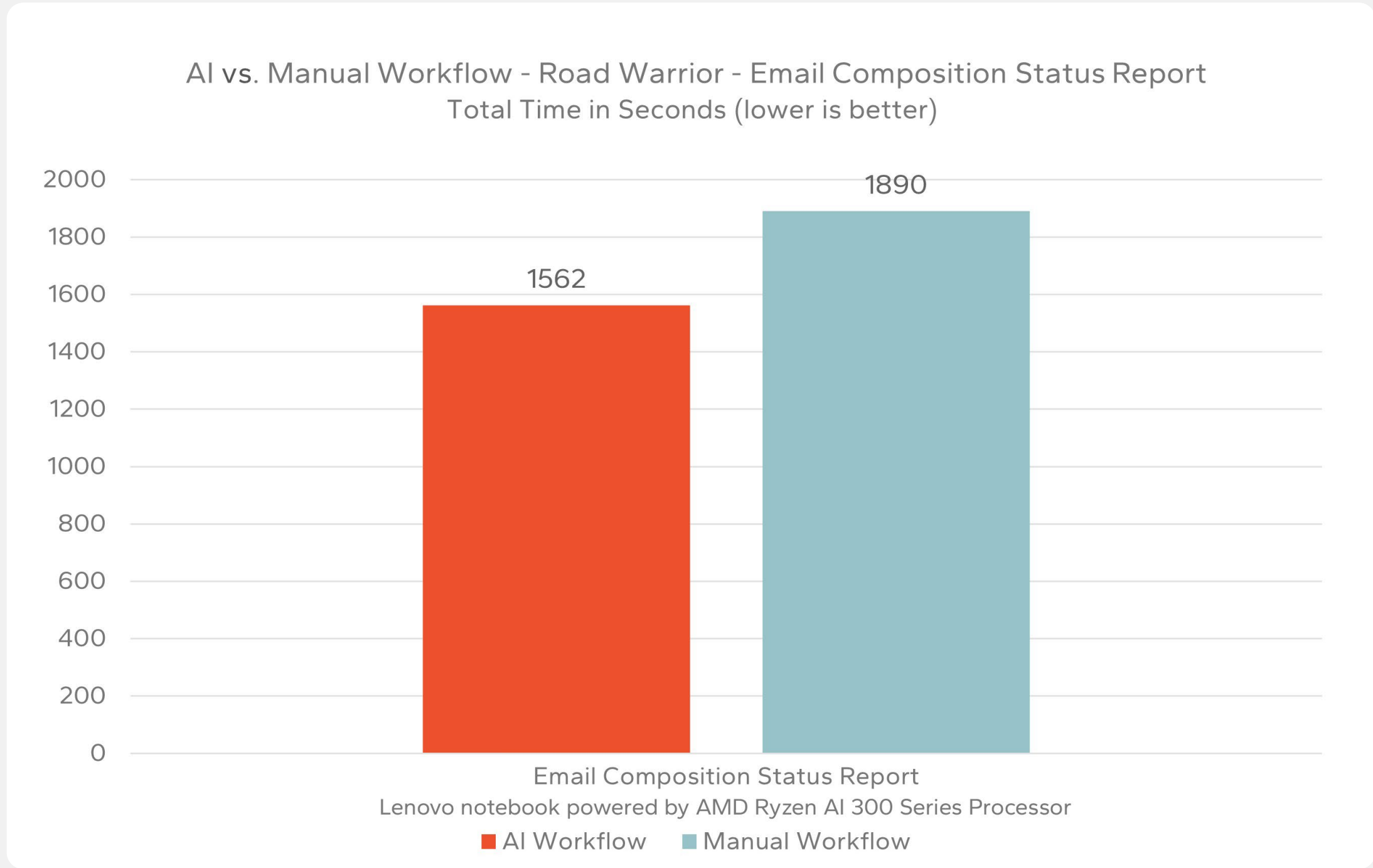




Email Composition Status Report

Written communication remains fundamental, yet crafting appropriate, professional emails consumes time and mental energy. Our email composition test measures the productivity impact of AI-assisted writing, tone adjustment, and formatting, addressing a common scenario where initial casual drafts must be refined for different audiences. The test involves composing a project status report email initially written in an informal style, then transforming it into polished correspondence suitable for review.

AI-Enabled Steps	Manual Steps
The AI-enhanced version leverages Microsoft Outlook’s integrated Copilot functionality to automatically transform casual email drafts into professionally toned communications.	The manual version simulates the traditional workflow where users must manually identify tone issues and rewrite emails through personal effort and editing skills.
Compose a long but informal, loosely formatted email	Compose a casual, informal email
Use Outlook’s Copilot to change tone to More Formal, fixing formatting	Compose the same long but informal, loosely formatted email
Send Email	Send Email



Workflow Total Time Savings (minutes)



Implications for Road Warriors with AI PCs

Waiting for “perfect” solutions risks missing current benefits while competitors advance and capture market advantages.

Our testing shows that AI PCs deliver clear and measurable productivity advantages for mobile professionals. Across real-world workflows such as client research, ticket summarization, presentation creation, and meeting documentation, AI-enabled systems completed tasks in about 77 minutes versus more than 129 minutes for manual methods, a 40% reduction in total time. For Road Warriors balancing travel, connectivity, and client responsiveness, that difference represents meaningful time regained for higher-value interactions and work. These findings build on our previous analysis of general office workers, expanding the scope to professionals whose productivity depends on mobility and adaptability.

The Road Warrior test methodology illustrates that AI PCs save time and improve quality and consistency under mobile working conditions. AI summarization reduces fatigue and the need for oversight when reviewing client materials, intelligent assistants streamline reporting and communications, and integrated tools like Click-to-Do and

Copilot enable professional content creation without constant application switching. Together, these advances create a smoother, more adaptive mobile experience that aligns with how modern professionals actually work.

For IT and business decision makers, this transition demands planning but offers near-term payoff. Hardware refresh cycles should prioritize devices with integrated NPUs and modern GPUs capable of sustaining on-device AI acceleration. These capabilities are becoming essential as enterprise and productivity software increasingly rely on AI for summarization, automation, and security tasks. Organizations that wait risk deploying outdated systems that cannot fully leverage these tools. At the same time, AI features require updated policies around data security, privacy, and model use, particularly for employees handling sensitive information in travel or client-facing environments.

Ultimately, the case for AI PCs for mobile professionals is both practical and strategic. The productivity gains shown

here already justify the investment, and the rate of improvement across software and hardware ecosystems suggests that future benefits will be even greater. Companies that enable AI-enhanced mobility now are not just optimizing efficiency, they’re building the foundation for a workforce that can act faster, communicate clearly, and adapt from anywhere.

Key Highlights:



AI-enabled devices could save road warriors **40% of their productivity time** in typical use cases



An employee that fits the ‘Road Warrior’ persona and utilizes AI-enabled PCs and software could **gain the equivalent of 7+ weeks** in productivity each year



Individual workflow steps are **as much as 18x faster** using AI tools versus doing the same task manually

Appendix

Developing a fair and comprehensive comparison between AI-enabled and traditional workflows requires careful consideration of methodology, metrics, and real-world applicability. Our approach centers on creating reproducible, realistic workflows that mirror actual user behavior across different personas. Rather than constructing artificial benchmarks that might favor one approach over another, we've developed complete task sequences that try to encompass the full complexity of modern work.

For each scenario we test, we create two distinct implementations: one that leverages currently available AI capabilities and another that follows traditional processes. Both

workflows target identical outcomes and deliverables, ensuring that we're measuring different paths to the same or similar destination rather than comparing fundamentally different tasks. This approach acknowledges that AI-enabled workflows may use entirely different applications or involve novel steps that have no traditional equivalent, such as automated content generation followed by human refinement.

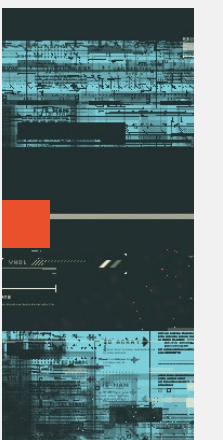
It's important to note that these workflows don't always use the same applications or follow the same procedural steps. AI might fundamentally change how we approach certain problems, enabling solutions that were previously impractical or impossible. For instance, where a traditional workflow might require manual

data entry and analysis, an AI-enabled approach might use natural language processing to extract and interpret information automatically. Despite these differences, both workflow types have identical business objectives: delivering required outputs with acceptable quality standards in a timeframe that meets business needs.

Our testing philosophy embraces the current reality of hybrid AI deployment. Despite the rapid evolution of AI PCs and the trajectory toward local, on-device processing, today's optimal solutions often combine cloud-based and local compute resources. We haven't artificially constrained our workflows to use only local processing, as this would misrepresent the tools and techniques

available to users today. Instead, we've documented where cloud processing is currently required, providing readers with the information they need to make informed decisions about security, privacy, and infrastructure requirements.

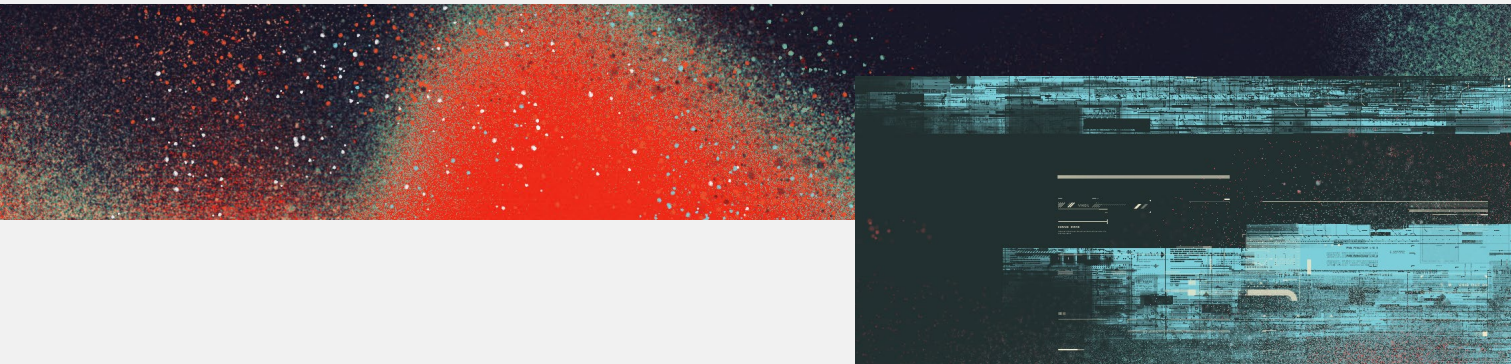
This pragmatic approach to cloud versus local processing reflects our belief that the market is clearly moving toward increased on-device capabilities. Each new generation of AI PC hardware enables more local model execution, gradually reducing dependencies on the cloud. By documenting which workflow elements currently require cloud processing, we're providing a roadmap to understand how infrastructure needs may evolve as technology advances.



Appendix

The metrics we capture extend well beyond time measurements, though efficiency does form the quantitative basis of our analysis. These granular measurements allow us to differentiate between active work time, where user engagement is required, and passive processing time, where users can potentially multitask. This distinction proves crucial for understanding the true productivity impact of AI enhancement.

Our testing infrastructure combines automated scripts with manual execution to ensure both reproducibility and realism. We employ AutoHotKey scripts to standardize user interactions, eliminating variability from factors like typing speed or navigation patterns. Python automation handles data collection, timing measurements, and result aggregation, while specialized tools like Camo Studio for screen recording/playback, LM Studio for local large language model deployment, and VB Cable for audio routing ensure comprehensive workflow capture. Each workflow undergoes a minimum of three iterations, with results averaged to account for system variability and ensure statistical validity.



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Contact us if you would like to discuss this report and Signal65 will respond promptly.

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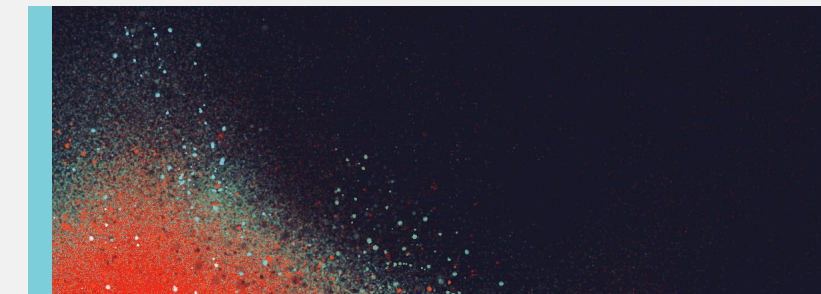
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About Signal65

Signal65 exists to be a source of data in a world where technology markets and product landscapes create complex and distorted views of product truth. We strive to provide honest and comprehensive feedback and analysis for our clients in order for them to better understand their own competitive positioning and create optimal opportunities to market and message their devices and services.



System Configurations

LENOVO THINKPAD T14S GEN 6	
CPU	AMD Ryzen AI 7 PRO 360
Graphics	AMD Radeon 880M
RAM	32GB LPDDR5X-7500
Storage	1TB Kioxia KXG8AZNV1T02
Display	14" 1920x1200
System BIOS	R2NET36W (1.10)
Operating System	Windows 11 Pro 26100.2894
Windows Power Mode (Performance Testing)	Best Performance
OEM Power Application Settings (Performance Testing)	Intelligent Cooling
Windows Power Mode (Battery Life Testing)	Best Power Efficiency
OEM Power Application Settings (Battery Life Testing)	Intelligent Cooling
Virtualization Based Security	Enabled



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