A typical day in 2030: the 10X factor

By Pierre Pourquery, Oct 2030

Sarah Greenwood sat at her desk on the 42nd floor of the Heron Tower in the City of London; her coffee still steaming as she opened the urgent message from her boss, John Malko. John is a fair and very bright manager who leads the Equity business, but he tends to be impatient—Sarah knew that something needed to be done quickly.

The bank's top management wanted a comprehensive strategy for entering the equity derivatives market in Southeast Asia, and they wanted recommendations by Friday. It was Monday morning.

Sarah remembered the old days, when this would have triggered a familiar cascade of stress: weeks of proposal reviews, choosing between firms, endless kickoff meetings. But it was 2030, and things had changed dramatically.

Sarah opened her Consulting Hub and typed a simple prompt: "I need expertise on equity derivatives strategy, Southeast Asian regulatory frameworks, business margins, volumes, tax implications, competitive dynamics, and optimization options."

Within seconds, the platform suggested a dream team: Marcus, a subject matter expert and former McKinsey consultant who knew the equity derivatives business inside out, and Dr. Lin, an independent regulatory expert who'd advised the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Sarah selected both with a click. Contract signed. Teams notified. Project live. All within five minutes.

Within an hour, the platform had gathered all the relevant data and models needed for the project, then sent this information to Sarah, Marcus, and Dr. Lin. The beauty of federated AI meant that data sources didn't have to be physically aggregated in one place; confidentiality and security were maintained as information never left its local environment.

The next day, the platform automatically organized a meeting for the three of them.

"Good morning, Sarah," Marcus's avatar appeared on her screen. "I've reviewed the data and insights that the platform produced, your organization's recent strategic initiatives, your Q3 board minutes, and your competitive positioning. I see you attempted a similar project in Latin America last year. Let me show you how we can build on those learnings."

Sarah smiled. No lengthy discovery phase. No rehashing her bank's history. The AI had already synthesized years of her organization's data, previous consulting engagements, and industry context.

"I've reviewed specifically data from four banks that entered equity derivatives across four Southeast Asian markets over the past decade," Marcus continued, his screen filling with dynamic visualizations. "Cross-referencing with regulatory changes, client behavior patterns, and partnership success rates, I'm seeing three viable entry strategies given your risk profile."

Dr. Lin chimed in: "The regulatory landscape in Vietnam and Indonesia is shifting rapidly. I've mapped the next 18 months of expected policy changes based on current government signals and regional trends. This will impact your timeline significantly."

By Tuesday afternoon, Sarah had reviewed three comprehensive strategy options, each backed by unprecedented depth of analysis. The platform had even run simulations showing how each strategy would perform under different market scenarios, using her bank's actual risk parameters and capital constraints.

Wednesday morning, Sarah invited John and some members of his team to a 90-minute virtual session with the consultants. This wasn't to brainstorm or workshop, but to pressure-test the recommendations and make a final decision. The AI had already prepared responses to the 23 most likely questions John would ask, based on his past decision-making patterns.

By Thursday, the strategy was finalized. The final report was comprehensive yet crystal clear, tailored to the board's preferences for visual data and executive summaries.

As Sarah closed her laptop that evening, she smiled and suddenly remembered what the consulting platform had promised when she first signed up: 10 times less cost, 10 times faster, 10 times better insights, 10 times less of my time. She had been skeptical. It sounded like another marketing gimmick from salespeople trying to win business. But looking back at the week, it had actually proven to be real.

The project that would have taken three months and cost £500,000 five years ago had been completed in four days for less than £50,000. The insights were deeper, drawing from data sources she could never have accessed before. And her own time investment? Perhaps 12 hours total, instead of the weeks she would have spent in endless workshops and progress meetings.

Friday morning, Sarah presented to John and the top management with confidence. By Friday afternoon, they'd approved the strategy and authorized the next phase.

Next month, she'd tap into the platform again. The possibilities were endless, and for the first time in her career, consulting felt like a genuine competitive advantage rather than a necessary expense.

The dream had become reality. And her bank was growing faster because of it.

