

Rent the Capability

Sources and Notes

Book 3 of Rentable Expertise by Alex Tran

Use this companion to trace the toolkit to the book, check the limits of each exercise, and keep a record of the evidence behind your own decision.

Primary source and scope

Alex Tran, Rent the Capability, published edition. The chapter map on the following pages identifies the basis for each worksheet. Worksheet prompts and the fictional example are companion adaptations, not quotations or a chapter by chapter reproduction.

[Official book page](#)

This document is a chapter guide and a selection of further reading. It does not claim to reproduce the original book bibliography or to prove that a particular product, arrangement, or plan is suitable.

Selected further reading

[NIST Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework](#)

Further reading on organizing AI risk management and evaluating trustworthiness in context. It does not certify a provider or establish that a particular capability is ready to deploy.

[NIST Privacy Framework](#)

Further reading on identifying and managing privacy risk. Use it to deepen questions about data use and responsibility; it does not settle the rights or permission for an individual record.

Further reading links checked October 19, 2026. Check the current edition and context before relying on an external source. Separate what a source says from your interpretation and the action you choose.

Chapter references and application notes

01 Define the capability

Chapters 1 to 4 and 9. Describe the finished business job before comparing providers, people, or software.

Compare equivalent outcomes. Access to a model or tool is not automatically access to the complete capability.

02 Capability economics comparison

Chapters 5 to 9. Compare two realistic options using the seven economic lenses. Use a separate copy for each option.

The seven lenses are Money, Time, Delay, Utilization, Risk, Compounding, and Reversibility. Do not combine them into a weighted total that hides an unacceptable condition.

03 Work through the four gates

Chapters 10 to 13. Ask the Human, Ownership, Build, and Rent questions in sequence.

These are sequential questions, not four mutually exclusive boxes. Economic attractiveness does not approve a provider or authorize access.

04 Write the operating boundary

Chapters 14 and 15. Make one external capability legible and limit what it may access and do.

Authentication identifies the caller. Authorization limits what that caller may do. Avoid broad permissions such as access to all company data.

05 Qualify on the real job

Chapters 16. Design a bounded evaluation before relying on a capability in ongoing work.

A demonstration or reputation can justify looking closer. Qualification must match the particular job and environment, and evidence ages.

Chapter references and application notes

06 Monitor and respond

Chapters 17. Keep an operating record that connects observations to an accountable response.

A dashboard does not make the decision. Record what changed, who acted, and whether the live capability still matches what was qualified.

07 Promote learning deliberately

Chapters 18. Separate a local observation from a rule the company is prepared to trust.

Observation is not learning, and a candidate lesson is not company truth. Preserve the reason and the boundary when a change is approved.

08 Test the way out

Chapters 19. Find out whether the business can change providers without losing useful company state.

An export button is not proof of a usable exit. Check meaning, dependencies, replacement, and requalification as well as files.

09 Compare offers and authority

Chapters 20 to 23. Make the market offer and the right to choose or commit explicit.

Discovery, selection, invocation, and commitment are different permissions. A low quoted unit price does not establish the total cost of the job.

10 Review the capability portfolio

Chapters 24 and conclusion. Revisit the current posture of one consequential capability in the wider company.

The portfolio is a management view, not an instruction to rent everything. Keep the state whose value should accumulate for the business.

Decision evidence record

Use a copy for each consequential claim. Keep source material and personal information in a location you are authorized to use.

- 1. Decision and worksheet this evidence informs**
- 2. Claim and precise source location or link**
- 3. Source date and date checked**
- 4. What the source supports and under which conditions**
- 5. Uncertainty missing evidence or conflicting information**
- 6. Your interpretation and proposed action**
- 7. Reviewer and next review date or trigger**