

Stake Skills: A New Name for the Accountability Gap AI Created at Work

Hard Skills got you hired. Soft Skills got you promoted. Stake Skills keep you in the room.

SEATTLE, WA, UNITED STATES, August 12, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- AI can write the memo. It cannot answer for it. That gap now has a name.

Rich Carr, founder of [Brain-centric](#), has published a definition for [Stake Skills](#), a third category of professional skill alongside Hard Skills and Soft Skills. A Stake Skill is the ability to answer for work you did not personally produce. Someone asks how you know. You can show them.

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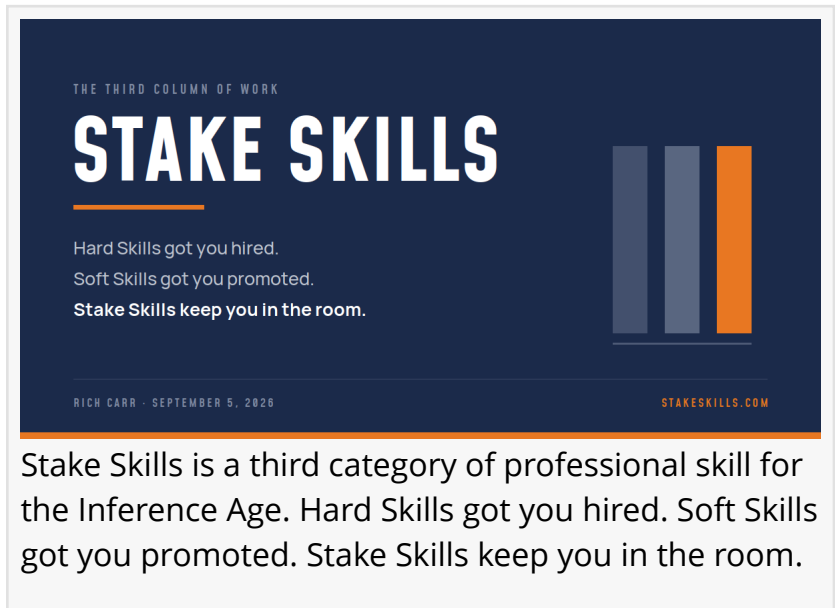
People keep asking me how to prove a human was involved. That is a skill. It can be practiced. Most of us were never taught it because we never needed it before.”

Rich Carr

Hard Skills are what you can do. Soft Skills are how you work with people. Both were built for a world where the person who made the work and the person who answered for it were the same person. That stopped being true. AI produces the work now, and it risks nothing, claims nothing, and vouches for nothing. The obligation did not disappear. It moved to whoever signs.

The definition arrives with a book. *Stake Skills: Owning the Work AI Does for You* releases September 5, 2026. It is Carr's fourth book and his shortest, a 116-page pocket handbook built to be read in one sitting and kept on a desk.

The book's final chapter is the one Carr expects skeptics to read first. Chapter 16, "How This Book Was Made," is a complete disclosure log of the AI-assisted production behind the manuscript. It lists what the tools did, what Carr checked, how he checked it, and where he was wrong. He signed it. A book arguing that people should answer for AI-assisted work that hid its



own AI-assisted work would not be worth the paper.

Two instruments from the book are free at stakeskills.com. The Stake Audit is a one-page weekly review of the work your name signed, built to run on records instead of memory. The Stake Ledger is the blank record it runs on. Neither requires the book.

"People keep asking me how to prove a human was involved," Carr said. "That is the wrong question. Nobody can prove that anymore. What you can do is keep a record of what you checked, and be the person who still stands behind it when someone asks. That is a skill. It can be practiced. Most of us were never taught it because we never needed it before."

Carr calls the current period the Inference Age, the era after the Information Age, when the scarce thing stopped being access to information and became the willingness to answer for what gets made from it.

BOOK DETAILS

Stake Skills: Owing the Work AI Does for You
Rich Carr Release date: September 5, 2026

Paperback, \$9.99, ISBN 979-8-9996841-3-4

Ebook, \$4.99, ISBN 979-8-9996841-4-1

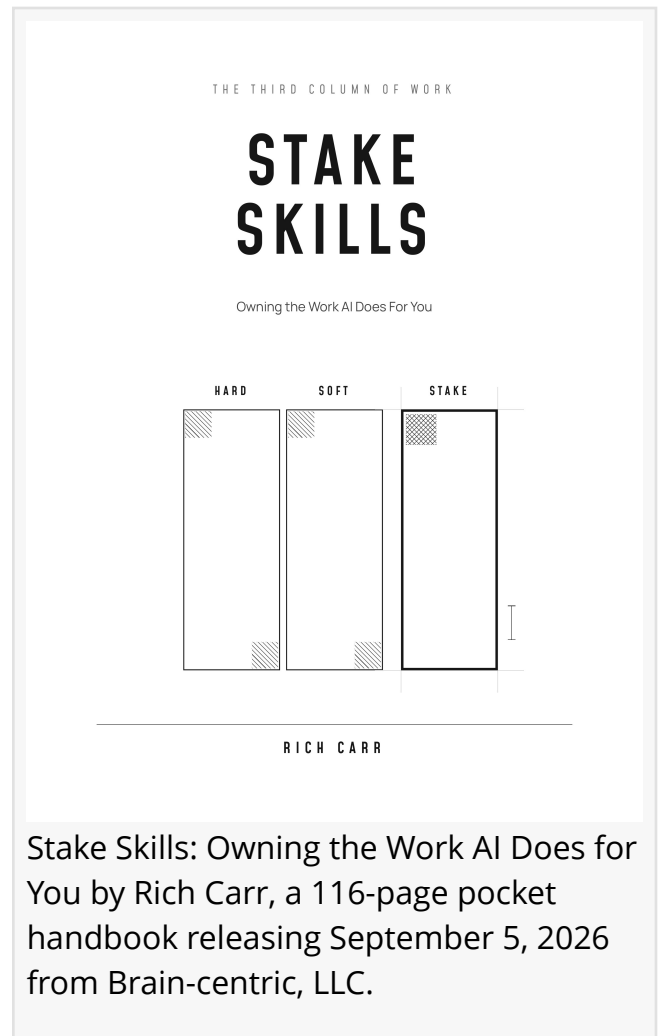
Audiobook, narrated by the author, \$9.99, ISBN 979-8-9996841-5-8

All formats hold a steady price. The book will not be discounted.

ABOUT RICH CARR

Rich Carr is the founder of Brain-centric Design, a speaker, a consultant, and the narrator of his own audiobooks. He works with organizations on how people learn and decide under pressure. Stake Skills: Owing the Work AI Does for You is his fourth book.

Subscribe to the Brain-centric Newsletter on [Substack](https://substack.com/@richcarr)



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Review copies, interviews, and the full text of Chapter 16 are available on request.

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