

AI-CURIOUS (BASELINE)

AI-ACTIVE (ADOPTIVE)

AI-NATIVE

SALES

What it looks like: Uses ChatGPT to polish emails; relies on CRM defaults; runs legacy playbooks with light AI add-ons.

Interview signals: Talks about trying tools but can't explain measurable outcomes; vague on workflows.

What it looks like: Experiments with Al

copy tools; runs campaigns manually;

Interview signals: Mentions tools

speed/volume ("it helps me write

shows no team-level adoption.

What it looks like: Keeps static

buzzwords without specifics.

optional, not core.

dashboards; low automation; AI is

faster"); uses basic automations but

without outcomes; focuses on

doesn't measure impact.

What it looks like: Automates prospect research; personalizes outreach at scale; uses call recordings to identify win/loss patterns.

Interview signals: Walks through a real Al-powered campaign, shares before/after metrics, explains iteration process.

What it looks like: Uses AI for content ops; runs Al-powered A/B tests; integrates AI into campaign analytics.

Interview signals: Explains a workflow automated or campaign optimized with AI; shares performance data; frames AI as a productivity multiplier tied to outcomes.

What it looks like: Uses AI for forecasting; builds lightweight automations (lead routing, deal alerts); introduces consistency across team adoption.

Interview signals: Walks through how they standardized or automated a workflow; shares efficiency or accuracy improvements.

(TRANSFORMATIVE)

What it looks like: Builds Al-first outbound engines; applies predictive lead scoring; drives adoption with scalable playbooks.

Interview signals: Describes building systems vs. hacks; frames impact as leverage and compounding value; cites metrics (win rates, time to value, sales cycles); shares learnings proactively.

What it looks like: Designs Al-first campaigns like dynamic personalization; builds playbooks; embeds AI agents for cross-functional impact.

Interview signals: Highlights cycle-time reduction, scaled reach, or higher conversion: translates workflows into business results; cites ROI with before/after examples.

What it looks like: Builds RevOps into "Al Ops" - predictive pipeline models, enrichment, triggered workflows; integrates Al into core GTM infrastructure.

Interview signals: Positions themselves as a system builder; explains how AI + data underpin GTM; shares examples of predictive models and tangible gains.

MARKETING

REV OPS

CUSTOMER SUCCESS

What it looks like: Uses ChatGPT for call summaries; tracks churn reactively; health scoring is manual.

Interview signals: Can't articulate how AI

improves forecasting or routing; offers

Interview signals: Al use is tactical: struggles to connect to retention or expansion outcomes.

What it looks like: Automates onboarding playbooks; uses churn alerts and health scoring; leverages AI insights to drive upsell opportunities.

Interview signals: Provides metrics (reduced churn, faster onboarding); shows comfort experimenting and iterating.

What it looks like: Builds predictive retention and expansion models; embeds Al in success playbooks; consults customers on Al adoption.

Interview signals: Speaks like a strategic advisor; shares examples of educating customers with AI; demonstrates revenue impact (NRR, GDR) from workflows.



WHO WE ARE

Captivate Talent specializes in GTM recruiting for early-to-growth stage startups. We help founders hire their first AE, Head of Marketing, VP of Sales, or RevOps leader and then scale the teams underneath them.

Your founders are busy building. We take hiring off their plate.

WHY PARTNER WITH US

- Strengthen your portfolio's outcomes with a proven recruiting partner
- Give founders access to comp data, market insights, and a community-first network
- Earn recognition, and revenue share on successful referrals

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