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Z-PULSE

A bi-monthly newsletter from Zuci Systems

Inside This Issue

- Editorial note: The traditional SDLC, as we know it, was built around humans. AI changes that.
- Whitepaper: AI-Infused Engineering
- IgniteZ: Orchestrating AI across the entire SDLC
- Case study: Modernizing a lending platform with AI
- Hackfest '26: TruZt AI – Solving for the next horizon

What would the software development lifecycle look like if it had been designed with AI in the room?

It's a useful question, because the SDLC, as we know it, was built around humans, and shaped by one simple reality: only people could understand what the business needed, reason through a problem, write the software, and confirm it worked.

We built everything around people. Specialized roles, documents to carry understanding from one team to the next, handoffs, reviews. It worked remarkably well.

And then AI entered this model as an assistant. AI made individual tasks faster: code written sooner, test cases created faster, requirements summarized. Yet the structure around those tasks barely moved. The steps got quicker, but this was not translating to business intent. Costs were going up while actual feature releases were not getting faster.

This is a shift we have been thinking deeply about at Zuci. We believe that the bigger opportunity lies in using AI beyond individual tasks. We need to rethink how work, knowledge, and judgment move through the engineering lifecycle, so that people and AI can each do what they do best. The operating model needs to change at a fundamental level.

In The Spotlight

Recognized as
Major Contender
by Everest Group in (QE) Services for AI Applications and Systems PEAK Matrix® Assessment 2026

Recognized as
Seasoned Vendor
in AIM Research's PEMA Report on Top AI Service Providers in Financial Services 2026

Recognized by Avtar & Seramount
Top 10 Best Company for Women in India (BCWI) – Emerging Icons
3 years in a row

In this edition, we take a closer look at that shift: the reimagined operating model to bring the real power of AI to engineering, IgniteZ, our orchestration platform that brings the operating model to life, and a project where we put all this into practice with a leading US lender. We also look at Hackfest '26, our annual celebration of innovation, where our teams turned new ideas into working pilots.

Together, these stories point to a larger question: *if AI can change how engineering work gets done, should we still be designing the lifecycle around the way humans worked before AI?*

Perhaps the real opportunity isn't simply to write more code with AI, but to rethink how software gets built - how knowledge is captured, connected and carried across the enterprise, and where human judgment matters most.

Happy reading. We'd love to hear what you think - do share your thoughts and feedback with us.

Aarthi Srinath
CMO, Zuci Systems

Whitepaper

AI-Infused Engineering: A new operating model for software engineering

In our new whitepaper, Srinivasan Sundharam, who heads our AI CoE, lays out what it takes to redesign the SDLC for humans and AI working together.

It traces the four frictions built into today's SDLC, from intent getting lost between teams to the rounds of checking required before anyone trusts the result. It then sets out five capabilities an engineering organization needs to get the most from people and AI together:

- **A knowledge foundation** that persists and builds over time
- **Context engineering,** so every task starts with the right information
- **Governed execution,** with clear boundaries on how AI carries out work
- **Continuous validation** as work is created, not only at the end
- **An engineering control plane** for visibility and control, including AI cost

> *"The future of software engineering is not about replacing humans with AI. It is about redesigning engineering for a world in which intelligence is no longer exclusively human."*
>
> **Srinivasan Sundharam**
> AI CoE Head, Zuci Systems

Read the whitepaper

Proprietary Platform

IGNITEZ: Orchestrating AI across the entire SDLC

Scaling AI across a large engineering program is a different problem from speeding up the work of one developer. It means keeping hundreds of AI-assisted changes consistent, auditable, and predictable in cost.

IGNITEZ orchestrates AI across the whole engineering workflow, not just the coding step. It connects to what your teams already know, from the codebase to documentation and designs. It breaks each requirement into small pieces AI can build reliably, executes them against your architecture and standards, and pauses for human approval at every checkpoint. Cost, timeline, and quality are tracked on every run.

Learn more about IGNITEZ

IGNITEZ in Action

Modernizing a lending platform with AI

A leading US lender is modernizing its core lending platform across multiple applications and distributed teams. The case for modernization was clear. Getting there wasn't: critical knowledge sat with a handful of experts, and every major decision had to wait for them.

We introduced an AI-infused engineering model, running on IGNITEZ, that gives every step from analysis to build the same shared understanding of the business and the system.

72% less development effort than a manual build, enabling faster software delivery — with about half the effort of AI-assisted development.

Read the case study

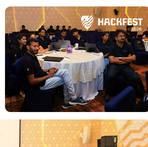
Inside ZUCI

Hackfest '26: TruZt AI – Solving for the next horizon

Hackfest is our annual celebration of innovation and collaboration, where people from every part of Zuci come together to explore what technology can do next. This year's theme, TruZt AI, asked teams to go beyond prototypes: understand a real enterprise problem in depth and design a solution with lasting value.

Six cross-functional teams of engineers, architects, data specialists, sales, and delivery leaders took on a wide range of ideas, including:

- AI that understands legacy applications before they're modernized
- Lending designed around AI from the start
- Banking analytics that moves from prediction to action



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