CHUCK GOETSCHEL · ACTION GUIDE

The AI Decision Simulator

A one-sitting way to make AI interrogate your decision, then show you the two futures you're actually choosing between — before you commit money, time, or your reputation.

Most people ask AI what to do. That's the wrong question. Ask it what to ask.

Step 1 — Write the decision in one ugly paragraph

No polish. Include the number, the date, and the person who gets nervous about it. Those three things carry most of the signal.

> **Example:** “I want to quit my $180k job in March to consult full time. Six months of runway, two interested clients, and a spouse who is nervous.”

Step 2 — Make it ask, not answer

Give it one job first: find the questions that change the outcome. Good ones almost always land in five places.

Area	The question that actually moves the forecast
Money	What can I truly spend, and what monthly burn starts the day I commit?
Time	What's the real deadline, and is it a business date or an escape date?
Reversibility	If this goes badly in 90 days, what does undoing it cost me?
Permission	Who else has to say yes, and have they actually said it?
Honesty	What am I hoping nobody asks me about?

Step 3 — Let it argue with your answers

This is the step everyone skips, and it's where the value lives. Tell it to push back when an answer is vague, wishful, or contradicts an earlier one. “Two interested clients” becomes “two verbal yeses with no payment date,” and the forecast changes completely.

- Interest is not revenue. A signature with a payment date is revenue.

- Runway is not a bank balance. It's the balance minus taxes, insurance, and the money your household refuses to risk.
- A plan with no cash floor isn't a plan. It's a hope with a calendar.

Step 4 — Ask for exactly two futures

Two, with probabilities that add to 100. Ten scenarios feel thorough and decide nothing. Two forces a comparison you can actually act on.

For each future, demand four things

1. **The story** — the next 6–12 months with numbers and moments, not adjectives.
2. **Early signals** — what you'll see in the first few weeks that proves this is the one you're living.
3. **The cost** — what it takes from you even when it works.
4. **The deciding factor** — the single variable that shifts the odds, and which way.

Step 5 — Turn the forecast into this week

A forecast you don't act on is entertainment. Pull three moves out of it, put them on a calendar, and pick your early signals now so you can't argue with them later.

> **The 90-day tripwire:** write down the one number that, if you see it, means you switch plans. Sign it. Future you will try to negotiate.

The prompt

Paste this into ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini. Fill in the brackets and answer honestly — it can only be as sharp as your worst answer.

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You are my decision simulator. Do not give me advice yet.

MY SITUATION: [one ugly paragraph: the number, the date, the person who's nervous]

Step 1: Tell me, in two sentences, what decision I'm actually making underneath what I
wrote.

Step 2: Ask me the 3 questions that would most change your forecast. Cover money, time,
reversibility, who has to say yes, and what I'm avoiding. Wait for my answers.

Step 3: Push back. If an answer is vague, wishful, or contradicts another one, say so and
make
me sharpen it. Ask up to 2 more rounds of questions this way.

Step 4: Now commit. Give me exactly TWO likely futures for the next 6-12 months, with
probabilities that add to 100. For each one: a specific story with numbers, the early
signals
I'd see in the first few weeks, and what it costs me even if it works.

Step 5: Tell me the single variable that moves the odds most and which way, my biggest
blind
spot, what people who made this same call learned the hard way, and 3 things to do this
week.

Be direct. Short sentences. No hedging, no consultant language.
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Run it live

The working simulator is embedded on the article page — it asks the questions, argues with your answers, and draws the two futures for you.

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