



Spencer Kelly

JOURNALIST • MEDIA PERSONALITY

Most boards now have an AI strategy on paper and very little shared understanding underneath it. The gap between what executives say about emerging technology and what they actually grasp about it is widening, and it shows up in every investment decision, vendor conversation and workforce question that follows. Closing that gap, in language a senior audience will trust, is the work.

Spencer Kelly is the BBC's longest-serving technology presenter and a keynote host who helps senior audiences make sense of AI, automation and the emerging technologies reshaping their industries.

Spencer Kelly's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with Spencer Kelly

- Two decades inside the BBC's flagship technology programme, Click, give him a working knowledge of frontier tech that very few keynote speakers can match, and a presenter's instinct for what a general audience can absorb.
- He is one of the few speakers who is equally credible as a keynote on AI and emerging tech and as the host or moderator who runs the rest of the day, which reduces the number of people a conference organiser has to brief.
- A Cambridge Computer Science background, with an undergraduate dissertation on AI, means his explanations sit on actual technical understanding rather than on borrowed framing.
- He has interviewed the people audiences are most curious about, from Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer to James Cameron, Edward Snowden and Julian Assange, which gives his sessions named primary material instead of recycled commentary.
- BBC Radio 4's Understand: Tech & AI and the technology segment on BBC Morning Live keep him in current weekly conversation with a non-specialist audience, which is the audience most leadership teams actually resemble.

Biography highlights

- Presenter of BBC Click from January 2006 to its final episode in March 2025, the BBC's longest-serving technology presenter.
- Host of BBC Radio 4's Understand: Tech & AI, a 10-part series first broadcast in July 2023.
- Presents the technology segment on BBC Morning Live.
- Computer Science double first from Churchill College, Cambridge, with an undergraduate dissertation on artificial intelligence.

AVAILABLE FOR

- Awards Hosting
- Event Hosting
- Moderating and Emcee
- TV and Media

SPENCER'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Artificial Intelligence & Generative AI
- Automation and Robotics
- Digital Transformation
- Future of Technology
- Innovation & Disruption
- Storytelling & Business Communication

LANGUAGES: English

- Honorary Doctor of Technology, Coventry University.
- Named T3 Magazine Tech Personality of the Year in 2015.

Biography

BBC Click ran for 25 years on BBC World News and the BBC News Channel. Spencer Kelly presented it for nearly 19 of them, from January 2006 to its final episode in March 2025. That single fact carries more weight in a leadership audience than any speaker bio summary, because it means the person at the front of the room has been tracking, testing and explaining frontier technology to a global audience continuously across an entire technology cycle.

The Cambridge Computer Science training matters here. His double first at Churchill College, with an undergraduate dissertation on artificial intelligence and genetic algorithms, is the reason his explanations of AI sit on actual technical foundations rather than on metaphors. He moves fluently between the engineering reality and the boardroom question, which is exactly what most senior audiences are trying to do when they sit down at a strategy day.

Beyond Click, he hosts BBC Radio 4's Understand: Tech & AI, the 10-part series launched in July 2023, and presents the technology segment on BBC Morning Live. He has interviewed Bill Gates, Steve Ballmer, James Cameron, Edward Snowden and Julian Assange. T3 Magazine named him Tech Personality of the Year in 2015. Coventry University awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Technology.

For an event with leadership stakes, he is unusually flexible. He delivers the keynote on AI, automation and emerging technology when that is the brief, and he hosts, moderates or runs the awards when the day needs a presenter who can carry the room and stay on the subject. The same person does both jobs to BBC standard, which is rarer than most conference programmes assume.

Key speaking topics

- Artificial intelligence in business
- Emerging technology and its commercial impact
- Automation and the future of work
- Quantum computing, blockchain and the metaverse
- Technology hosting, moderation and awards presenting

Ideal for

- Boards and executive teams running an AI literacy or emerging tech briefing
- Conference organisers who need a single host across keynote, panel and awards
- CIO, CTO and digital transformation leaders running annual offsites
- Industry awards and sector summits that want a recognisable, technically credible host

Audience outcomes

- A clearer picture of where AI and adjacent technologies are now, separated from the marketing layer.
- Specific named examples of how organisations are using emerging tech, drawn from his Click reporting.

- A working sense of which technologies sit in the next 18 months and which sit further out.
- The confidence to ask sharper questions of internal teams and external vendors.

Spencer Kelly's 2026 talks & topics

AI & U.

A keynote on what artificial intelligence actually is, what it can and cannot do today, and how leaders should think about deploying it inside their own organisations.

Key takeaways:

- A non-technical but accurate working model of how current AI systems behave.
 - Concrete examples from across industries, including ones that did not work and why.
 - A view on the questions leadership teams should be asking before they sign the next vendor contract.
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How to save the world

A talk on how emerging technology intersects with climate, sustainability and global problem-solving, drawing on his work mentoring climate-tech innovators.

Key takeaways:

- Where technology is genuinely moving the needle on climate, and where it is overstated.
 - Examples from start-ups and projects he has reported on or mentored.
 - A frame for evaluating sustainability-tech claims with less hype.
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Marketing the future

A talk for marketing and customer-facing teams on how AI, automation and emerging interfaces are changing the marketing function itself.

Key takeaways:

- The technology shifts marketers should be tracking now, not in two years.
 - How AI tooling is changing creative and analytical work in practice.
 - The behaviours and skills marketing teams will need to keep up.
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Things that have melted my mind

A keynote built around the most surprising technologies and demonstrations he has encountered across two decades of Click reporting.

Key takeaways:

- A tour of the technologies that genuinely surprised an experienced tech reporter.
- Why some technologies become mainstream and others quietly disappear.
- What pattern recognition across 20 years of frontier tech tells you about the next wave.

Spencer Kelly's Videos



Spencer Kelly's 2026 speaking fees

Specific fees fall within the ranges shown. These are presented as a guide only and are subject to change without notice.

	EUR	GBP	USD
Home Country	Under €12000	Under £10,000	Under \$15000
Asia Pacific	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
Europe	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000

Middle East & Africa	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
South America	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
United Kingdom	Under €12000	Under £10,000	Under \$15000
US East Coast	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
US West Coast	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
Virtual	Under €12000	Under £10,000	Under \$15000