

Why your 10-year-old POS is costing you more than you think, and why "AI" hype won't save you.

October 17, 2024 | 3 min read



Your 10-year-old POS looks fine but hides theft, dead stock, and slow service. AI hype won't fix it. Sit down, face the data, cut the dead weight, and build a system that actually works.

The Honeymoon Is Over

Let's be honest. You have been hugging that Point of Sale (POS) system like you are still on your honeymoon. You bought it 10 years ago. It turns on, it prints receipts, and it totals the day's sales. You think, "It works. Why change it?"

But today, we need to do what we say in Kenya: "Kujiita Kamkutano" (Call a meeting with yourself). We need to sit down in the back office, lock the door, and look at the ugly truth.

Because if that system is so good, why does the story remain the same?

The 10-Year Headache

Despite your "reliable" system, despite the cameras you installed 19 years ago, and despite those walk-through sensors that beep at innocent grandmothers:

- Employees are still stealing from you.
- Customers are still complaining about the same slow service they complained about in 2015.
- Suppliers are still a pain, and you never seem to know when to reorder until the shelf is empty.
- You still cannot account for all your stock.

And here is the most painful statistic of all: 47% of your inventory is Dead Stock.

Think about that. 47% of your warehouse is a graveyard. 47% of your rent, 47% of your electricity bill, and 47% of your staff salaries are being spent guarding items that nobody buys. This is a massive real estate nightmare.

Your "faithful" POS isn't telling you this. It just gives you a dump of Excel data at the end of the day. It forces you to sit there with a calculator, trying to make sense of the noise, while your "Customer Loyalty Program" collects dust because it offers zero value to the people buying from you.

The "Sales Commission" Trap

You know you need to change. But you are skeptical. And you have every right to be.

The tech industry has caused a lot of pain in retail. You are submerged in the age of AI. You hear "Smart Shelves," "Intelligent Cameras," "Cloud Analytics," and "Python Data Science."

But who is bringing this to you? It is a salesperson on a commission.

They don't care about your dead stock. They care about their quota. They will sell you a "Smart Camera" and tell you it uses AI to catch thieves. Hahaha. They will sell you a new POS and promise it automates everything. Hahaha.

Four months later, the salesperson has pocketed their commission and walked away happy. Ni shauri yako. (It's your problem now). You are left with another expensive gadget that does nothing but beep, while your 47% dead stock continues to rot.

This is why you are cynical. You have been burned.

The Hard Truth About AI (Kissing Frogs)

Here is the reality check. We are in Kenya, not Silicon Valley.

You cannot ignore the AI wave, but you must understand what it actually is.

- AI is not magic.
- AI will not build your business for you.
- AI will not automate your judgment.

You cannot just subscribe to a \$30/month service and wait for a miracle. It won't come. Real technology—the kind that actually saves money or makes money—requires "Skin and Soul."

It requires patience. It requires deep introspection. It requires you to collaborate with engineers who are willing to get their hands dirty in your warehouse.

You need a system that doesn't just "record sales," but sees the hidden corners of your business. You need a partner who will help you clean up that 47% dead stock, not just sell you a scanner. You will likely kiss many frogs (scammers and hype-men) before you find the right prince.

Business Not Egos

This business is not an egos championship. It is about survival and growth.

If a system is just for display—if it looks high-tech but you are still losing stock—it is garbage. Throw it out. It is time to stop hugging archaic models. It is time to shake up the mountain and ask for True North.

The Call to Action

We are not here to sell you a "magic AI box." We are here to ask if you are ready to build.

Are you ready to stop listening to sales pitches and start evaluating your process? Are you ready to admit that the old way is bleeding money? Are you ready for the hard work of deep planning and intimacy with your data?

The sky is the limit, but only if you build the ladder yourself.

Let's sit down. Let's look at the data. Let's cut the dead weight.

Tags:

Artificial Intelligence

AI & Retail

This article was originally published at:

<https://lenhac.com/blog/why-your-10-year-old-pos-is-costing-you-more-than-you-think-and-why-ai-hype-wont-save-you>

Generated on February 23, 2026