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United States SEC asks whether AI can understand company filings: what its roundtable means for reporting teams

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On 9 November 2026 the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) held a roundtable on Machine-Understandable Data in the Age of Super Intelligence, the term United States agencies now use for AI. Panellists came from Meta, BlackRock, JPMorganChase, S&P, PwC, Google and Workiva. Meta's chief accounting officer said accounting staff who are not fluent in AI will not be able to detect its impacts.

Global reference

- Country: United States
- Authority: Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Event: Roundtable on Machine-Understandable Data in the Age of Super Intelligence (SI)
- Key date: 9 November 2026, Washington, D.C.
- Status: Discussion only. No rule proposal or comment period announced

What was said

- Uyeda: "Super intelligence, far from making XBRL irrelevant, may make this connection even stronger."
- Aaron Anderson, Meta's Chief Accounting Officer, as reported by Bloomberg Tax: "if you and your accounting staff are not fluent in AI, you will not be able to detect the impacts."
- A panel on risks and costs was moderated by Valerie Szczepanik, the SEC's Chief Super Intelligence Officer.
- Other panellists included Calcbench, Hudson Labs, Two Sigma and Better Markets.

Background

- SEC staff's June 2026 report to Congress under the Financial Data Transparency Act found that 43 of 55 relevant forms require some machine-readable data and 12 do not.
- The same report says studies have found that giving large language models structured data reduces error rates.
- The SEC has required XBRL tagging of financial statements since 2009.

What to do now

- Review XBRL tagging quality, not just compliance: custom tags, sign errors and mismatches with the human-readable filing.
- Ask a mainstream AI tool to summarise your last filing and check what it gets wrong.
- Build basic AI fluency in the reporting and disclosure team.

- Follow any SEC follow-up on structured data and XBRL.

Our take

Machines are now a main reader of financial statements. Data that is tagged well is read well. Reporting teams should treat tag quality as part of disclosure quality, not as a compliance afterthought.

Sources

- SEC: Machine-Understandable Data in the Age of Super Intelligence (SI), event page (9 November 2026)
- SEC: Remarks by Joshua White at the roundtable (9 November 2026)
- SEC: Opening Remarks by Commissioner Mark Uyeda (9 November 2026)
- SEC: Semi-Annual Report to Congress on Machine-Readable Data for Corporate Disclosures (June 2026)
- Bloomberg Tax: Meta Accountant Emphasizes AI Fluency in Financial Reporting (9 November 2026)

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