

GOVERNANCE GUIDE

Why Autonomy Readiness Should Cap Your Agentic AI Score

Not just average into it. A project can score 9 everywhere else and 2 on autonomy readiness, and still win on a straight average.

What's in this guide

- 01** The problem with adding six numbers together
- 02** A worked example: the collections agent
- 03** Two fixes: a hard floor, or a multiplier
- 04** What the gate changes in practice
- 05** Showing leadership two numbers, not one

7.2

The average score of a project that scores 2 on autonomy readiness and 7–9 everywhere else

A straight average lets five strong scores cancel out one dangerous one. It still wins the ranking.

The collections agent

DIMENSION	SCORE
Strategic Fit	8
Data Readiness	9
Expected ROI	9
Autonomy Readiness	2

It emails customers and negotiates payment plans on its own. No logging. No approval step. No fast way to catch a bad message.

A floor, or a multiplier

A hard floor: below a threshold, the project cannot launch at its intended autonomy level, full stop. It gets capped to a lower tier instead.

A multiplier: autonomy readiness scales the whole score down, the same way the confidence discount already does.

	WITHOUT A GATE	WITH A GATE
Cleared to launch at	Full autonomy, as pitched	Draft, human approves each one
What ships week one	Agent acts alone	Agent drafts, officer approves

The project still ships. It ships at the level of independence its controls can actually support.



A gap in autonomy readiness does not get fixed by the project also having excellent data and an obvious ROI.

— Terence Kok

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Two numbers, not one

Business merit: every dimension except autonomy readiness. How good is this idea.

Autonomy clearance: checks and reports, drafts and waits, or acts alone. What it is safe to build first.

1

Set a floor before you rank anything

Decide the threshold before you see any actual scores.

2

Cap, don't disqualify

A low autonomy score moves a project to a lower tier, not off the roadmap.

3

Show two numbers, not one

Let leadership see business merit and autonomy clearance separately.

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AGENTIC AI SCORING

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A high score should never hide a governance gap.

Check your own autonomy readiness, and score your candidates against the gate, free at terencekok.com/resources.



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