

AI READINESS ASSESSMENT

Five-Dimension AI Readiness Assessment

Derived from the Eight-Dimension AI Readiness Assessment. Applied in workshops, government capability assessments, and enterprise AI audits.

85% of AI deployment failures trace back to a gap in one of five operational dimensions, not the AI technology itself. This assessment identifies which dimension is the deployment blocker before any budget is committed. A single low-scoring dimension blocks an otherwise capable initiative at the same rate as scoring 1 across all five.

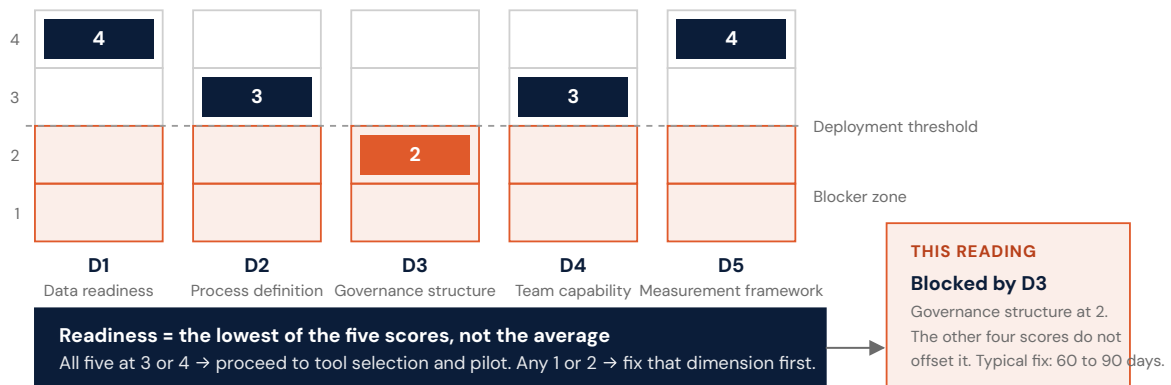
The five-dimension version used across this site is adapted from the eight-dimension enterprise assessment in my book [AI at Scale: From Pilot to Production](#); the three dimensions dropped here matter for organisations with dedicated AI teams, and the five that remain are the ones that most reliably predict deployment failure everywhere else.

REFERENCE DIAGRAM

Five dimensions scored 1 to 4. The verdict is the lowest score, not the average: one dimension in the blocker zone blocks deployment on its own.

SCORE EACH DIMENSION 1 TO 4

4 = ready · 3 = adequate · 2 and 1 = deployment blocker



Adapted from the Eight-Dimension AI Readiness Assessment in AI at Scale: From Pilot to Production.

The five dimensions retained are the strongest predictors of deployment failure outside dedicated AI teams. terencekok.com/frameworks/readiness/

D1

Data Readiness

Is your data clean, accessible, and structured in a way that AI can consume? Covers data quality, labelling, lineage, and access controls. It's the most common deployment blocker, and the one teams most frequently underestimate.

Score 1–2: AI cannot produce reliable outputs from your current data state. Data infrastructure work is a prerequisite.

D2

Process Definition

Is the target task consistent, documented, and executable by a new hire without tribal knowledge? AI cannot improve a process that is not defined.

Inconsistency in the input process produces inconsistency in AI output regardless of model quality.

Score 1-2: Process standardisation must precede AI deployment. Automating an undefined process accelerates inconsistency.

D3

Governance Structure

Who approves AI decisions? Who handles errors? What is the escalation path when output is wrong? Governance gaps surface as legal and reputational incidents, not technical failures. Absence of a governance structure is a deployment blocker for any consequential task.

Score 1-2: AI deployment in this area creates unmanaged liability. Define decision authority and error handling before proceeding.

D4

Team Capability

Can your team review AI outputs critically, without specialist support? AI requires human oversight to be effective: a team that cannot evaluate whether outputs are correct cannot catch errors before they cause harm. Capability gaps create false confidence in AI output quality.

Score 1-2: Upskilling is a prerequisite. AI deployment without review capability produces unchecked errors.

D5

Measurement Framework

Do you have pre-AI baselines and defined success criteria? AI value is unmeasurable without a baseline to compare against. Organisations that

skip measurement cannot determine whether AI is producing benefit, breaking even, or creating hidden costs.

Score 1–2: Establish baselines before deployment. Without them, you cannot validate outcomes or justify continued investment.

Scoring logic: Each dimension scores 1–4. A score of 1–2 on any single dimension is a deployment blocker: address it before committing budget. Scores of 3–4 across all five indicate readiness to proceed to tool selection and piloting. Most organisations can move a dimension from 1 to 3 within 60–90 days with focused effort.

CITE THIS FRAMEWORK

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