

FRAMEWORK ON ONE PAGE · VERSION 1.0

The Governance Readiness Matrix

Readiness matrix · August 2026

TIME TO USE 20 min review / 60 min workshop	AUDIENCE Executives, risk, security, and compliance leaders	OUTPUT A current-state quadrant and next workstream
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For each AI system currently operating in your environment, can your organization produce a documented authorization record, a named accountable owner who knows they own it, and evidence of a compliance review conducted before deployment?

What it is

The governance gap in enterprise AI is not a technology problem. It is a velocity problem. Organizations are deploying AI systems faster than they are building the organizational structures to govern them.

The matrix has two axes. Understanding what each one measures is the prerequisite for placing your organization accurately on it.

The four quadrants

Governed at Scale	High deployment velocity and high governance maturity. Every new deployment goes through an established governance process.
Pre-Authorization Discipline	Low deployment velocity and high governance maturity. Few deployments, but each one is fully governed.
Agent Sprawl	High deployment velocity and low governance maturity. This is where most enterprises are in 2026. Deployment has outpaced governance.
Pilot Exposure	Low deployment velocity and low governance maturity. Few deployments, and governance is not yet in place. The organization is in an AI pilot phase.

A worked example

Situation	A generic enterprise is assessing an estate of internal knowledge assistants across business units.
Where it lands	High population, partial coverage
Evidence	The organization has a current count of active assistants, but only a portion have signed intent and owner records.
Gap found	Coverage must increase before the estate can move into an operating readiness quadrant.
Next action	Reconcile the remaining population and complete missing authorization records.
Output	A documented quadrant placement with two assigned workstreams.

The one action it produces

A current-state quadrant and next workstream

What good looks like

Your governance coverage rate is above 80 percent and is being actively maintained. Every new deployment goes through the intake process before it goes live. The organization can produce authorization records for deployed AI systems on demand, not in response to an incident, but as a routine operational capability.

What it cannot establish

This object can place a current state against two evidence axes. It cannot assess every qualitative governance capability or predict future readiness without repeated measurement.

CITE AS

Sougata Roy, "The Governance Readiness Matrix," Version 1.0, August 2026,
<https://sougataroy.com/frameworks/governance-readiness-matrix>

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