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EXECUTIVE ASSESSMENT SERIES

EA-006: Data Readiness & AI Enablement Assessment™

Is Your Enterprise Data Trusted, Governed, Accessible, and Ready to Power Responsible AI?

Purpose

A practical executive assessment for evaluating whether enterprise data is strategically aligned, governed, trusted, accessible, protected, traceable, and operationally ready to support analytics and responsible AI.

Educational Executive Self-Assessment | Version 1.0

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About This Assessment

Data readiness is the enterprise capability to provide trusted, governed, accessible, secure, and traceable data for operations, analytics, decisions, and responsible AI. This assessment helps leaders determine whether data can reliably support enterprise value or remains fragmented across isolated systems and teams.

How to Complete It

1. Rate each statement Use the 1-5 scale based on current, observable enterprise practice - not future intent, isolated pilots, or vendor assurances.

2. Score each domain Add the five ratings in each domain. Every domain score ranges from 5 to 25.

3. Calculate the total Add all eight domain scores. The overall data-readiness score ranges from 40 to 200.

4. Interpret the pattern Review the total and the distribution. Any domain below 15 represents a material readiness dependency that may limit scale, trust, or responsible AI use.

5. Select 90-day actions Choose a limited number of executive actions that improve data trust, remove enablement barriers, reduce risk, or accelerate responsible value.

Rating Scale

1 Strongly Disagree	Practice is absent or contradicted by current evidence.
2 Disagree	Practice is inconsistent, informal, or limited to isolated areas.
3 Partly Agree	Practice exists in several areas but is not yet enterprise-wide.
4 Agree	Practice is generally reliable, measured, and consistently applied.
5 Strongly Agree	Practice is integrated, evidence-driven, and continuously improved.

Recommended use: Complete individually first, then compare results as an executive team. Differences in ratings are evidence of data ownership, trust, or readiness misalignment and should be discussed before averaging scores.

Domain 1: Data Strategy & Executive Ownership

Rate each statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Base the rating on repeatable enterprise behavior and current evidence.

Assessment statement	1	2	3	4	5
The enterprise has a documented data strategy that directly supports business priorities, operating objectives, and responsible AI ambitions.	○	○	○	○	○
Executive accountability for data is clearly assigned across business ownership, technology enablement, governance, quality, privacy, security, and value realization.	○	○	○	○	○
Leaders understand which strategic outcomes depend on trusted, accessible, timely, and appropriately governed data.	○	○	○	○	○
Data investments are prioritized according to measurable enterprise value, risk reduction, operational need, and AI enablement rather than technology preference alone.	○	○	○	○	○
Decisions about data acquisition, sharing, modernization, retention, and retirement are made through a coordinated enterprise process.	○	○	○	○	○

Domain score: _____ / 25

Evidence or observations:

Domain 2: Data Governance & Accountability

Rate each statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Base the rating on repeatable enterprise behavior and current evidence.

Assessment statement	1	2	3	4	5
Critical data domains, products, sources, and datasets have named owners and stewards with documented decision rights and responsibilities.	○	○	○	○	○
Data policies and standards are translated into repeatable operating procedures, controls, measures, and evidence requirements.	○	○	○	○	○
Business and technical teams share a common vocabulary for key data elements, definitions, classifications, and approved uses.	○	○	○	○	○
Governance forums resolve cross-functional data conflicts, exceptions, access needs, ownership gaps, and competing priorities in a timely manner.	○	○	○	○	○
Third-party, vendor, partner, and externally sourced data is governed according to the same risk and accountability expectations as internally generated data.	○	○	○	○	○

Domain score: _____ / 25

Evidence or observations:

Domain 3: Data Quality & Fitness for Use

Rate each statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Base the rating on repeatable enterprise behavior and current evidence.

Assessment statement	1	2	3	4	5
Critical data elements have defined quality expectations for accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness, validity, uniqueness, and integrity.	○	○	○	○	○
Data quality is measured against the needs of specific processes, decisions, analytics, and AI use cases rather than through generic thresholds alone.	○	○	○	○	○
Quality issues are traced to root causes in source systems, requirements, workflows, interfaces, controls, or human practices.	○	○	○	○	○
Known data limitations, missing values, uncertainty, bias, and representativeness concerns are visible to the people and systems that use the data.	○	○	○	○	○
Corrective and preventive actions are prioritized according to business impact, downstream dependency, risk, and recurrence.	○	○	○	○	○

Domain score: _____ / 25

Evidence or observations:

Domain 4: Architecture, Integration & Accessibility

Rate each statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Base the rating on repeatable enterprise behavior and current evidence.

Assessment statement	1	2	3	4	5
Enterprise data architecture identifies authoritative sources, key flows, interfaces, dependencies, duplication, and transformation points.	○	○	○	○	○
Authorized users and systems can discover and access fit-for-purpose data without excessive manual intervention or informal workarounds.	○	○	○	○	○
Data integration patterns support consistent identifiers, lineage, metadata, synchronization, interoperability, and controlled reuse.	○	○	○	○	○
Legacy constraints, fragmented platforms, and duplicated datasets are managed through a documented modernization and rationalization roadmap.	○	○	○	○	○
Data services and pipelines are designed for reliability, scalability, observability, recoverability, and changing business demand.	○	○	○	○	○

Domain score: _____ / 25

Evidence or observations:

Domain 5: Metadata, Lineage & Traceability

Rate each statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Base the rating on repeatable enterprise behavior and current evidence.

Assessment statement	1	2	3	4	5
Critical datasets include usable business and technical metadata describing meaning, origin, ownership, sensitivity, quality, and approved use.	○	○	○	○	○
End-to-end lineage can trace important data from source through transformation, model input, output, decision, report, or customer-facing use.	○	○	○	○	○
Changes to schemas, definitions, mappings, transformations, and reference data are versioned, reviewed, tested, and communicated.	○	○	○	○	○
Teams can determine which processes, reports, models, decisions, and stakeholders are affected when a critical data element changes.	○	○	○	○	○
Metadata and lineage are maintained as operational capabilities rather than one-time documentation exercises.	○	○	○	○	○

Domain score: _____ / 25

Evidence or observations:

Domain 6: Privacy, Security & Responsible Use

Rate each statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Base the rating on repeatable enterprise behavior and current evidence.

Assessment statement	1	2	3	4	5
Data is classified and protected according to sensitivity, confidentiality, privacy, contractual, regulatory, and intellectual-property requirements.	○	○	○	○	○
Access is based on legitimate purpose, least privilege, segregation of duties, and periodic review of continued need.	○	○	○	○	○
Consent, notice, retention, minimization, localization, sharing, and deletion obligations are incorporated into data lifecycle practices.	○	○	○	○	○
De-identification, masking, encryption, monitoring, and loss-prevention controls are applied proportionately to risk and intended use.	○	○	○	○	○
Potentially harmful, discriminatory, intrusive, or unauthorized uses of data are identified and prevented before analytics or AI deployment.	○	○	○	○	○

Domain score: _____ / 25

Evidence or observations:

Domain 7: AI Data Preparation & Operationalization

Rate each statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Base the rating on repeatable enterprise behavior and current evidence.

Assessment statement	1	2	3	4	5
AI use cases define explicit data requirements, including population, scope, history, granularity, labels, context, freshness, and acceptable limitations.	○	○	○	○	○
Training, validation, testing, retrieval, prompt, and production data are separated and controlled in ways appropriate to the use case.	○	○	○	○	○
Datasets used for AI are evaluated for representativeness, imbalance, leakage, contamination, bias, provenance, licensing, and permission.	○	○	○	○	○
Data pipelines supporting AI are reproducible, versioned, monitored, and traceable to approved requirements and model releases.	○	○	○	○	○
Human review, exception handling, fallback procedures, and revalidation are established when data conditions fall outside approved boundaries.	○	○	○	○	○

Domain score: _____ / 25

Evidence or observations:

Domain 8: Monitoring, Value & Continuous Improvement

Rate each statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Base the rating on repeatable enterprise behavior and current evidence.

Assessment statement	1	2	3	4	5
Executives receive reporting that connects data health, accessibility, risk, cost, service performance, AI outcomes, and realized business value.	○	○	○	○	○
Monitoring detects quality deterioration, drift, broken pipelines, unauthorized use, stale data, lineage gaps, and control failures.	○	○	○	○	○
Data incidents and near misses are captured, escalated, analyzed, corrected, and used to improve preventive controls.	○	○	○	○	○
Enterprise data capabilities are reassessed as business models, regulations, technologies, AI methods, threats, and stakeholder expectations change.	○	○	○	○	○
Lessons from users, audits, analytics, AI performance, operational metrics, and incidents are converted into funded improvement priorities.	○	○	○	○	○

Domain score: _____ / 25

Evidence or observations:

Scoring & Data-Readiness Interpretation

Record each domain score. Treat any domain below 15 as a priority dependency even when the overall score is higher.

Domain	Score
1. Data Strategy & Executive Ownership	____ / 25
2. Data Governance & Accountability	____ / 25
3. Data Quality & Fitness for Use	____ / 25
4. Architecture, Integration & Accessibility	____ / 25
5. Metadata, Lineage & Traceability	____ / 25
6. Privacy, Security & Responsible Use	____ / 25
7. AI Data Preparation & Operationalization	____ / 25
8. Monitoring, Value & Continuous Improvement	____ / 25
Total data-readiness score	**____ / 200**

Overall Data-Readiness Levels

180-200	**AI-Ready Data Enterprise**	Data strategy, governance, quality, architecture, protection, lineage, and AI operations function as an integrated enterprise capability.
150-179	**Well Enabled**	Strong data foundations support most priorities, with targeted gaps that should be resolved before broader AI scaling.
110-149	**Developing**	Important capabilities exist, but quality, access, ownership, traceability, or operational consistency remains uneven.
70-109	**Fragmented**	Data is difficult to trust, access, govern, or reuse consistently, creating material constraints on analytics and AI.
40-69	**Not Ready**	Foundational ownership, quality, architecture, protection, and operational controls are insufficient for reliable enterprise AI use.

Important: This assessment is a discussion and prioritization tool, not a certification. Data readiness should be validated using current evidence, stakeholder input, technical analysis, privacy and security review, and use-case-specific fitness-for-purpose evaluation.

Executive Reflection & 90-Day Action Plan

Use the readiness pattern to identify the few leadership actions that will most improve data trust, remove enterprise constraints, and enable sustainable AI value.

Readiness strengths

Which data capabilities already provide trusted, accessible, secure, and reusable information at enterprise scale?

Critical constraints

Which weaknesses in ownership, quality, architecture, access, lineage, privacy, or operations most limit enterprise and AI outcomes?

Decisions required from leadership

What ownership, investment, policy, modernization, risk-tolerance, or cross-functional decisions cannot be delegated?

90-Day Priority Actions

Priority action	Executive owner	Success measure	Target date

Executive commitment: We will review progress by _____ and reassess affected domains using current evidence.

Continue Your Data & AI Enablement Journey

Data becomes an enterprise asset when strategy, Process Intelligence, requirements, architecture, quality, governance, security, analytics, AI, and continuous improvement operate as one connected system.

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