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AI Ready Data Checklist

From AI-ready baseline to decision-ready data products

Use this checklist to audit your data and identify the gap between readable and decision-ready.

1. AI Ready Data Baseline

Technical readiness — data AI can read

- [ ] Data is cleaned and formatted consistently
  No malformed values, consistent types, standard encoding.
- [ ] Structure is documented and stable
  Schemas, dictionaries, and change processes are known.
- [ ] Data is catalogued and discoverable
  Teams can find relevant datasets without tribal knowledge.
- [ ] Accessible via API, warehouse, or vector store
  Models and applications can reach it programmatically.
- [ ] Quality checks run at pipeline time
  Validation, profiling, and anomaly detection are automated.
- [ ] Security basics are in place
  Encryption, access lists, and credential management covered.

2. Decision-Ready Upgrade

Business trust — data AI can act on

- [ ] Every dataset has a named business owner
  Accountability sits with the domain that understands it.
- [ ] Business semantics are explicit
  Terms like 'active customer' are defined and versioned.
- [ ] Freshness, quality, and access policies are bound to the data
  Not just documented — enforced at the point of use.
- [ ] Lineage is traceable end to end
  From source system to the AI decision and back.
- [ ] Governance is active, not manual
  Policy is applied automatically when data is consumed.
- [ ] Data is packaged as a reusable product
  One product serves multiple AI systems and use cases.

3. Readiness Questions

Ask these before launching an AI initiative

- [ ] **Can a non-engineer explain what this data means?**
- [ ] **Can we trace any AI output back to its source data?**
- [ ] **Do we know who is accountable for freshness and quality?**
- [ ] **Is access policy enforced automatically at consumption?**
- [ ] **Can this data product be reused for the next AI use case?**
- [ ] **Would we bet a business decision on output from this data today?**

4. 30-Day Action Plan

Close the gap from baseline to decision-ready

- [ ] **Pick one decision AI must support**
  Start with the business outcome, not the dataset.
- [ ] **Map the data products it needs**
  Identify owners, sources, consumers, and contracts.
- [ ] **Document semantics and policies**
  Turn implicit knowledge into explicit, versioned rules.
- [ ] **Enforce policy at the point of use**
  Bind rules to the product so AI cannot bypass them.
- [ ] **Ship one reusable product**
  Validate it with a copilot, agent, or analytic before scaling.

latttice.com/resources/ai-ready-data

Download the full AI Readiness Framework -> latttice.com/ai-readiness