AI TOOLS

DATA GOVERNANCE

THE PERFECT STORM

Trusted • Secure • Effective AI

CYBER SECURITY

AI Tools, Data Governance and Cyber Security: “The Perfect Storm Interlock”

Getting the alignment right



- **Organisations are adopting AI faster than they are building the controls around it.**
- **AI, Data Governance, and Cyber Security form a tightly interdependent triad that determines whether organisations unlock safe, reliable and scalable value from their digital transformation journeys.**
- **AI accelerates data usage, Data Governance stabilises it, and Cyber Security protects it — and without alignment across all three, risk grows faster than capability.**
- **The risk is rarely any one discipline failing – it is that AI, data governance and cyber security are owned by different teams, run on different timelines and speak different languages, while depending on each other completely.**

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How the three fit together



- **Data governance sets the rules for the fuel.**
  It determines what data exists, who owns it, how it is classified, and what it may be used for. AI is only as trustworthy as the data behind it, so poor quality, unclear lineage or unmanaged privacy obligations flow straight into AI outputs.

- **Cyber security protects the whole system.**
  It safeguards the data, the models and the tools through access control, monitoring and resilience. AI introduces new exposures: sensitive data pasted into public tools, prompt injection, insecure integrations, and third-party model risk.

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How the three fit together

- **AI changes the demands on both.**
  It consumes data at scale, generates new data, and widens the attack surface. It can also help in return, by improving data discovery and classification and by speeding up threat detection.

- **The dependency runs in every direction.**
  Governance without security is policy on paper. Security without governance protects data nobody understands. AI without either is risk delivered at speed!

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THE DEPENDENCY RUNS IN EVERY DIRECTION

Governance without security...
is policy on paper.

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is risk delivered at speed.

Together, they create trusted, secure and effective AI.

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Why alignment matters

1. **Build Trust and Confidence in AI.**

   Alignment ensures AI operates on accurate, reliable and appropriately governed data, producing trustworthy outputs that support better decision-making and responsible innovation.

2. **Reduce Risk and Strengthen Security.**

   Integrating governance and cyber security into AI adoption minimises data leakage, unauthorised access, shadow AI and emerging AI-specific threats, protecting sensitive information and organisational assets.

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Why alignment matters



3. **Establish Clear Accountability and Compliance.**
   A coordinated approach creates shared ownership across technology, data, security, privacy and business leaders, ensuring consistent controls, regulatory compliance and transparent decision-making.

4. **Accelerate Safe Innovation and Organisational Resilience.**
   When AI, data governance and cyber security work together, organisations can adopt AI faster and with greater confidence, balancing innovation with appropriate safeguards while remaining adaptable to evolving technologies, risks and regulations.

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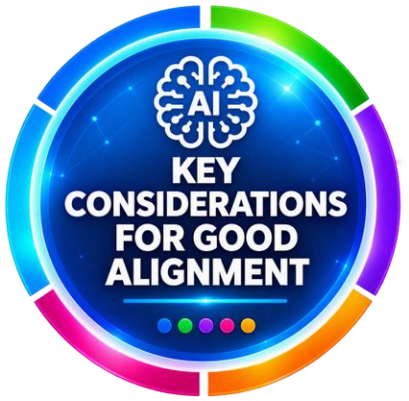
Key considerations for driving good alignment









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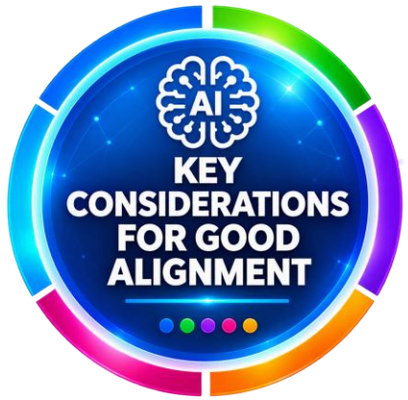







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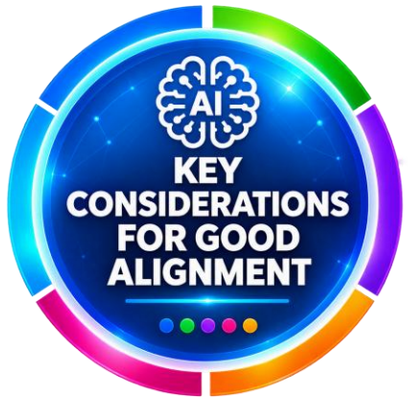





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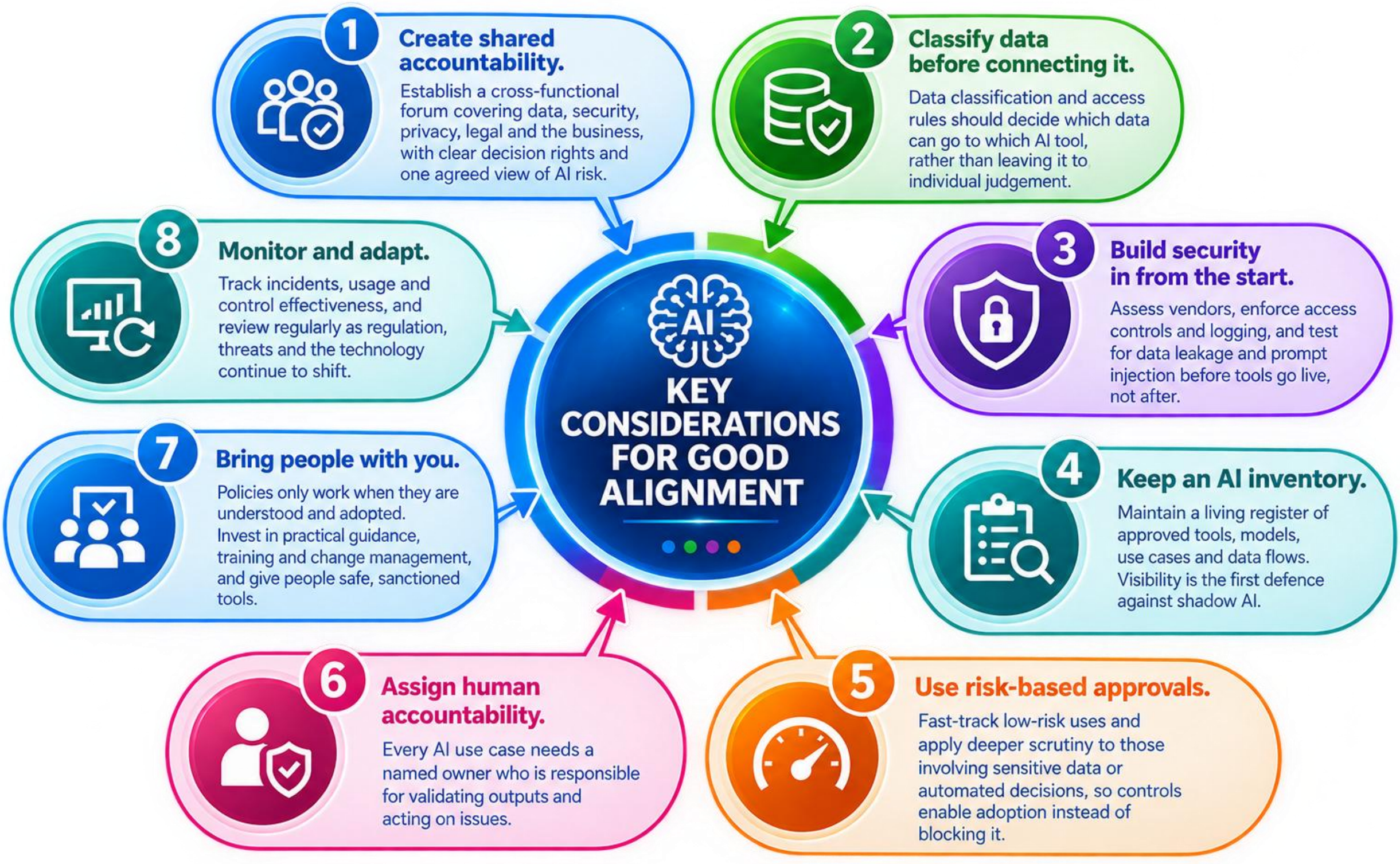

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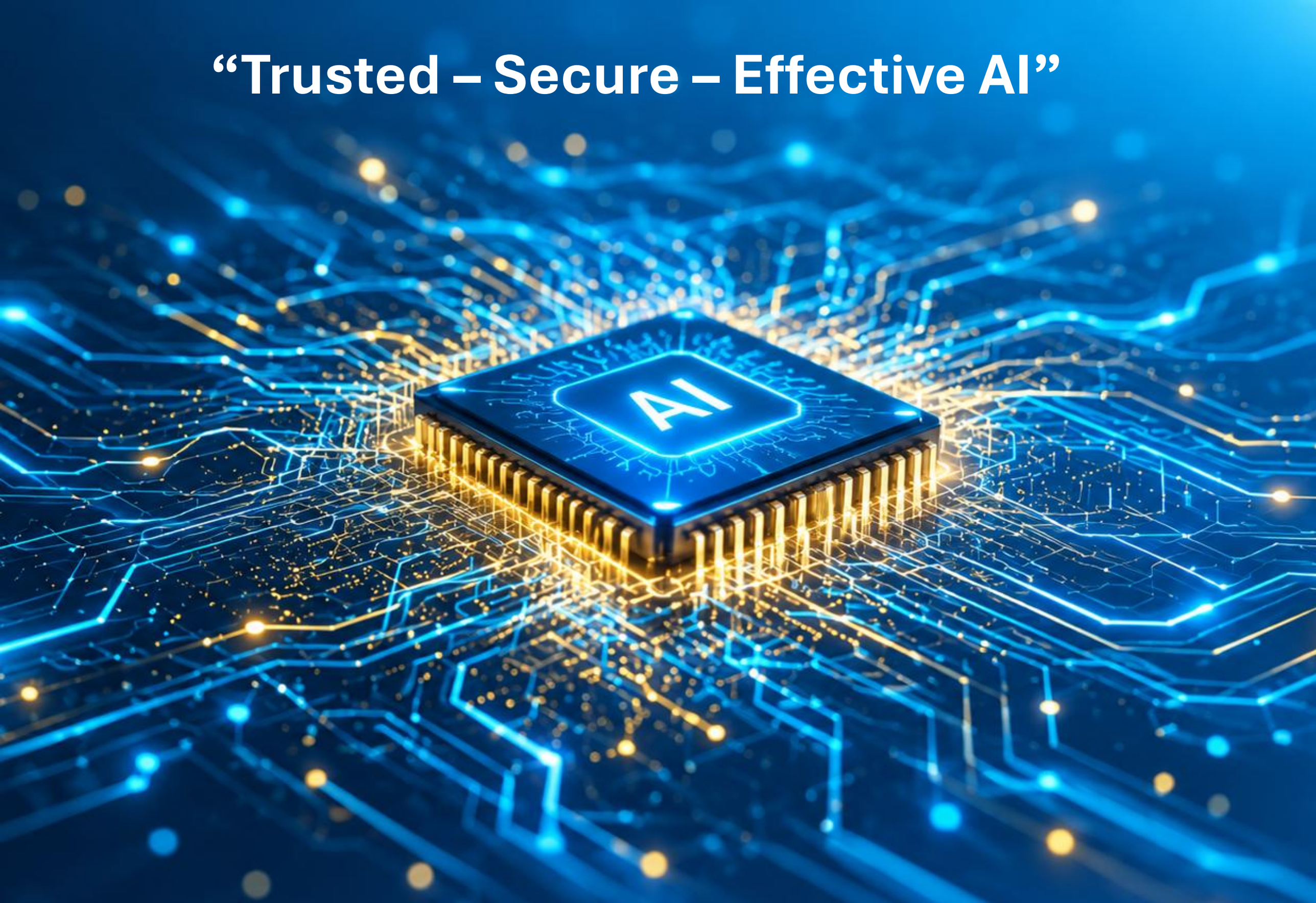
The bottom line

- **AI accelerates opportunity. Data Governance stabilises it. Cyber Security protects it. Together, they form the perfect storm of modern enterprise transformation — one that can either create organisational resilience or expose critical vulnerabilities.**



- **The goal is not to slow AI down. It is to make AI trusted, secure and effective, so the organisation can scale it with confidence. That happens when data governance and cyber security are designed alongside AI from day one, not bolted on afterwards!**

“Trusted – Secure – Effective AI”



"This presentation was created with the assistance of AI tools, with all content reviewed and adapted by the author.“
David Mernagh – Foundations Consulting