

AI Governance Playbook

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The First Five Priorities Every Organization Should Address Before
Scaling AI

BY

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***AI Governance isn't about controlling AI.
It's about enabling AI responsibly.***

The Governance Blueprint

A structured, repeatable approach to building AI governance from the ground up.

01

Discover

Map the AI landscape. Surface shadow AI, vendor tools, and internal systems.

02

Inventory

Build the enterprise AI register. Document every system, data flow, and owner.

03

Assign Ownership

Define business, technical, and governance owners for every AI system.

04

Assess Risk

Evaluate privacy, security, regulatory, and operational risk for each system.

05

Govern

Establish policies, controls, and accountability structures.

06

Monitor

Implement continuous oversight, incident tracking, and performance measurement.

07

Improve

Drive continuous improvement through audit findings, metrics, and board reporting.

CONTINUOUS CYCLE

The Governance Blueprint is Nabiha Herradi's structured methodology for building AI governance programs that are practical, scalable, and regulation-ready.

Build Enterprise AI Visibility

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT — YOU CANNOT GOVERN AI YOU HAVEN'T DISCOVERED

Most organizations underestimate their AI footprint because AI adoption happens organically across business functions — not through a central governance process. By the time governance is engaged, AI is already embedded in critical workflows.

WHAT TO INVENTORY

Internal AI	AI APIs
AI-enabled SaaS	AI Agents
Copilots & Assistants	Shadow AI
Foundation Models	Department-built Automation

KEY TAKEAWAY

Visibility is the foundation of every governance decision.

EXECUTIVE DELIVERABLE
Enterprise AI Inventory

Establish Accountability

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
Executive Sponsor	Sets mandate and enterprise accountability
Business Owner	Approves use case and owns the outcome
Technical Owner	Maintains, secures, and monitors the system
Privacy	Conducts data protection impact assessments
Security	Ensures cybersecurity posture and access controls
Legal	Manages regulatory exposure and liability
Risk	Identifies, assesses, and monitors ongoing risk

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT

Every AI system should have clearly assigned business, technical, and governance ownership. Accountability transforms AI from a technology initiative into a business capability.

Assess Risk Before Compliance

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT — COMPLIANCE FOLLOWS RISK MANAGEMENT, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND

Organizations that lead with 'which regulation applies?' often miss the risks that regulators haven't written rules for yet. A risk-first mindset builds governance that adapts as regulations evolve.

AI RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

ASSESSMENT AREA	RISK LENS
Personal Data Processing	Privacy & GDPR / CCPA exposure
Sensitive Data Handling	Data classification and access
Human Oversight	Degree of automation in decisions
Third-Party AI Dependencies	Vendor risk and supply chain
Cybersecurity Exposure	Attack surface and access controls
Business Criticality	Impact if system fails or errs
Regulatory Impact	Sector-specific obligations
Model Transparency	Explainability and audit trail

EXECUTIVE DELIVERABLE
AI Risk Register

Integrate AI into Existing Governance

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT

Organizations don't need another governance program. They need to extend the governance they already have.

EXTEND THESE CAPABILITIES TO AI

Enterprise Risk

Cybersecurity

Privacy

Vendor Risk

Data Governance

Internal Audit

AI Governance

KEY PRINCIPLE

Frameworks such as NIST AI RMF and ISO/IEC 42001 are designed to complement — not replace — your existing governance structures. Start with what you have. Extend it deliberately.

Enable Responsible AI

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT

AI governance isn't static. Neither is AI. Governance must evolve at the same pace as adoption — through monitoring, measurement, and continuous improvement.

THE AI GOVERNANCE CYCLE

Continuous Monitoring	Executive Reporting
AI Literacy & Training	Metrics & Measurement
Policy Governance	Continuous Improvement

KEY PRINCIPLE

Responsible AI is an operating rhythm, not a one-time project. Build feedback loops — monitoring, metrics, training, and reporting — so governance improves with every cycle instead of decaying after launch.

EXECUTIVE DELIVERABLE

AI Governance Operating Rhythm & Executive Dashboard

Executive Scorecard

Five questions every AI governance leader must be able to answer.



01 Visibility

We know every AI system in use across the organization.



02 Accountability

Every AI system has a clearly assigned owner.



03 Risk Management

High-risk AI systems have been identified and assessed.



04 Risk Assurance

AI risk assessments are performed and documented.



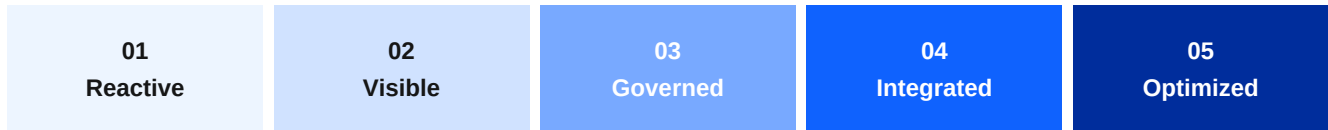
05 Integration

AI governance is integrated into existing business processes.

Three or more unchecked? Your AI governance journey starts today.

Start with visibility. Everything else follows.

AI Governance Maturity Model



STAGE DESCRIPTIONS

01	Reactive	AI use is largely unmanaged. No formal governance, inventory, or ownership exists.
02	Visible	AI inventory established. Organization understands what AI systems exist and where.
03	Governed	Ownership defined. Risk assessments underway. Policies and accountability in place.
04	Integrated	Governance embedded in enterprise processes — procurement, HR, audit, and risk.
05	Optimized	Continuous assurance, executive oversight, and measurable governance outcomes.

Ready to Build an AI Governance Program That Fits Your Organization?

Every organization has unique:

AI use cases	Regulatory obligations
Risk appetite	Governance maturity

That's why every roadmap should be tailored — not templated.

[Book an AI Governance Strategy Session »](#)

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Govern AI with confidence. Enable innovation with trust.