AI adoption: Stages overview

FluidOne
CSACyber

While every organisation's path to AI adoption is unique, most follow a common set of stages. This roadmap helps you understand what each stage entails and where you might be today.

STAGE 1: EXPLORATION

This is where curiosity meets strategy. Organisations in this stage are identifying cases or processes where AI could add value, whether by streamlining operations, enhancing decision-making, or unlocking new capabilities. At this point, you should also be considering the type of AI best suited for such use cases.

You might be here if… You're exploring ideas, but haven't yet committed to a specific AI use case or approach.

START HERE

STAGE 2: READINESS

Here, the focus shifts to building a solid foundation. This includes unifying data sources, establishing governance and security protocols, ensuring your infrastructure can support AI at scale. At this stage, your goal is to prepare your environment, and your organisation, for what's next.

You might be here if… You've chosen a use case, but are still working through data, security, or infrastructure challenges.

START HERE

STAGE 3: PILOT

Stage 3 consists of your first real test, where you run a pilot launch of your solution. This allows you to deploy AI in a controlled environment, using real business data to validate your assumptions. It's a chance to measure impact, uncover gaps, and refine your approach before scaling.

You might be here if… You've launched a small-scale AI initiative and are gathering insights to inform broader rollout.

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STAGE 4: PRODUCTION

This stage is where AI becomes part of business operations. You're using insights from your pilot to scale and embed your solution, continuously optimising for performance, cost, and security. Success here depends largely on onboarding, ensuring users can apply the solution as intended to deliver the desired outcomes.

You might be here if… AI is live in your organisation and you're thinking about how to scale, govern, and evolve it.

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Need support with tool selection and project scoping?
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