



# WHY FUNCTIONAL ANALYSTS ARE THE SECRET SAUCE TO AI SOLUTIONS

ATX BADD:Awaken Imagination



## INTRODUCTION

# Gabriella Lio

- Director – AI Lead for Emerging Technology Practice at CGI
- 6+ years of experience working across various industries and clients
- Advise clients in the AI Space
- Hands on Data Scientist
- Masters in Business Analytics

# THE AGE OF AI IS HERE

*From automation to creation*

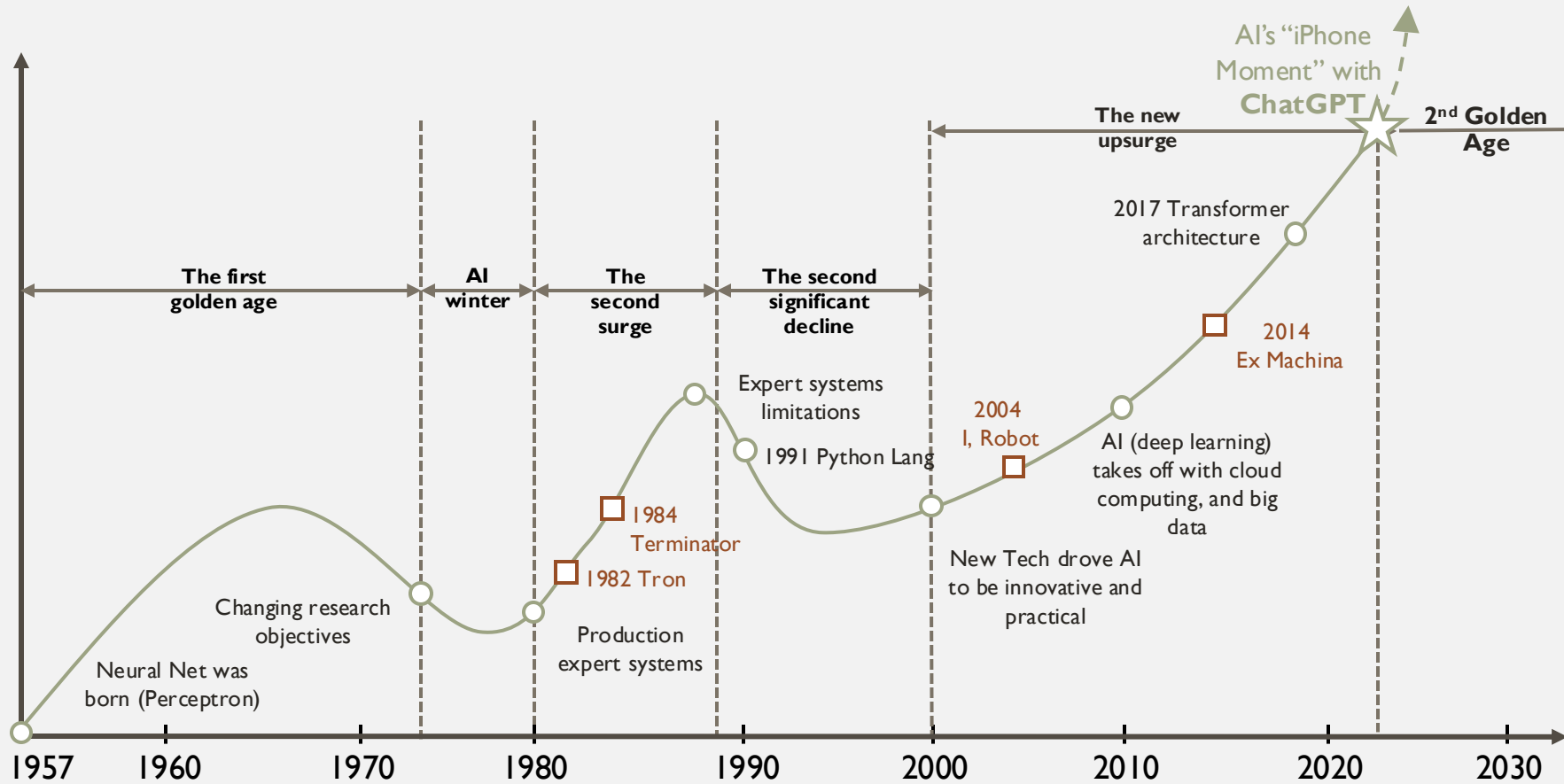


Figure adapted from the "[Reflection of the development history of AI](#)," published in the article "Artificial Intelligence in Product Lifecycle Management" by Wang et al. in 2021

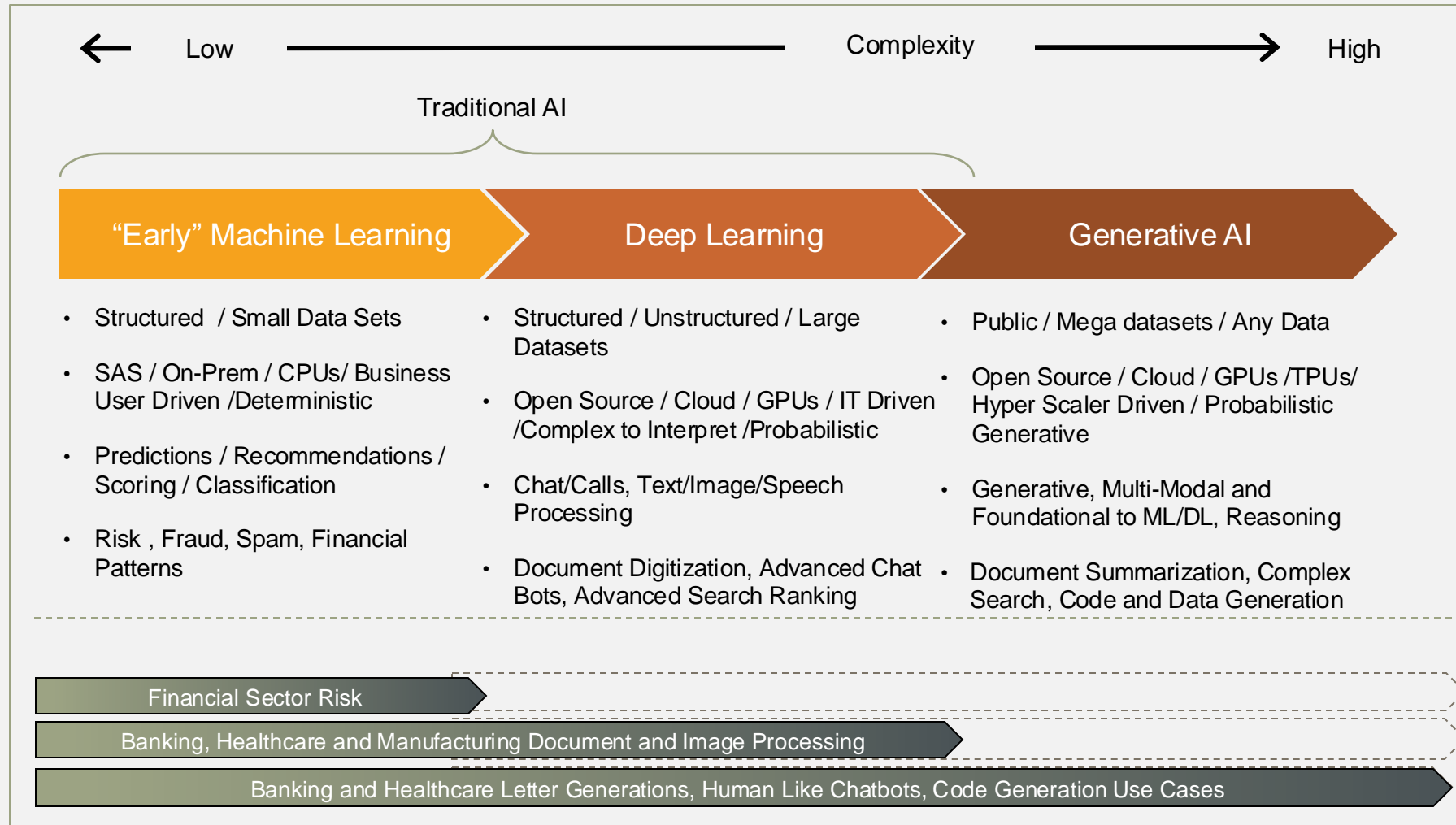
**"Google's DeepMind AI Predicts 3D Structure of Nearly Every Protein Known to Science"**  
CNET

**"AI to stop water pollution before it happens"**  
BBC

**"How ChatGPT is changing the job hiring process, from the HR department to coders"**  
CNBC

**"Surgeons successfully restore touch and movement in quadriplegic man using AI brain implants"**  
Euronews

# AI TECHNOLOGY CONTINUUM



# THEN (ALMOST 2 YEARS AGO), AND NOW... GENERATIVE AI IS CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Dec  
2022

Before

## Era of Foundational AI

- Narrower Enterprise impacts
- Automation/RPA for processes
- Conversations with Chief Data Officers and AI Enablement Teams
- Months to value
- Higher skilled labor needs (Data Scientists and AI researchers)
- Higher Start Up Costs (Data Preparations, Model Training)
- Specialized Models

After



## Age of Generative AI

- Full Enterprise impacts across all operations
- Scaling Human operations and automation
- Conversations with C-Suite and leadership teams
- From days to months to value
- Development & engineering skills needed (software developers, integration)
- Lower Costs of entry with every vendor planning for or releasing GenAI based functionality
- Multi-modality – Generate all digital data types

# 90% OF AI PROJECTS FAIL

Big difference between POC vs. Production

Transforming a model into a fully functioning component of a production system is complex

The leadership often has a view of what AI can and should achieve that is not grounded in reality

Lack of understanding between business leaders and the people on the ground = projects do not have the resources & time needed to accomplish their goals

An AI initiative that doesn't contribute to the bottom line is hard to justify

# OBJECTIVES

1

Understand the end-to-end  
lifecycle for AI development &  
deployment

2

Learn about strategies to  
implement to ensure  
success

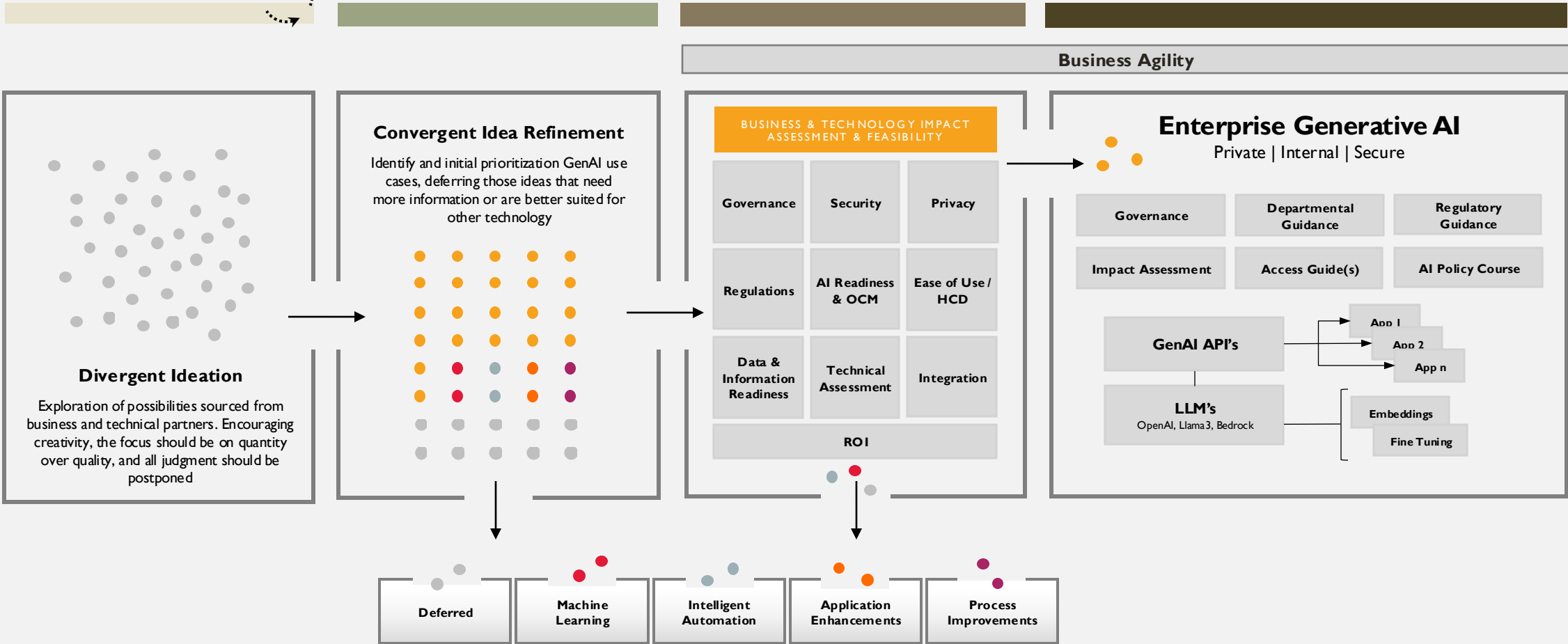
# ACCELERATING THE USE CASE TO VALUE OPERATING MODEL

## Opportunity Ideation

## Use Cases Identification

## AI LaunchPad Assessment

## Engineer & Operate






# LAUNCHPAD ASSESSMENT: ACCELERATING AI VALUE

**Start: Identified Opportunities** → Use Case Definition: List of time saving, quality improving or efficiency improvement ideas

## ASSESSMENT & FEASIBILITY


**Governance**  
Adherence to standards & guidelines for governance such as Usage, Ethical, Privacy, Explainability Policies




**Security**  
Assess data security, access rights and implications on use case




**Privacy**  
Privacy considerations such as PII, Protection Health Information, Financial Information




**Regulations**  
Assess compliance obligations and outline initial approach to meet requirements



**AI Readiness & OCM**  
Identify areas of change impact to enable organizational change management support for adoption




**Ease of Use / HCD**  
Ensure the implemented AI solutions are human centered and have intuitive interfaces and transparency for users



**Data & Information Readiness**  
Assesses data and provide recommendations to prepare it for the use case



**Technical Assessment**  
Determine AI technical approach or if alternatives like heuristics, process changes or RPA are more appropriate

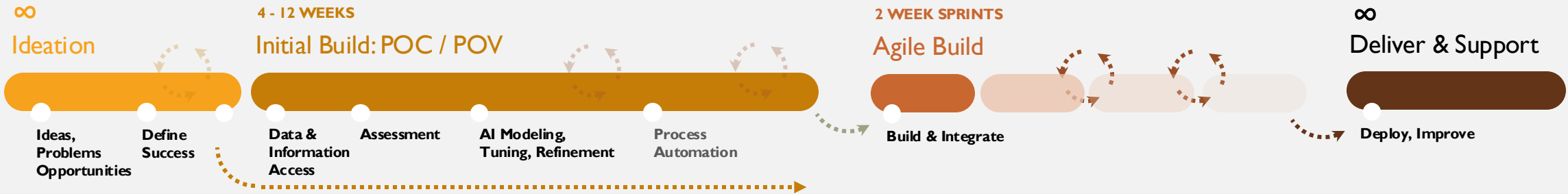


**Integration**  
Outline integration approaches with existing business processes and applications



**Return on Investment**  
ROI calculations, determine implementation costs and total cost of ownership based on usage / consumption models.

# AI FACTORY FRAMEWORK



## Identify Opportunities

Identify ideas, problems, challenges and key outcomes

- Engage Stakeholders
- Define current challenge or opportunity
- Define quantifiable success metrics
- Document known details & risks
- Prioritize opportunity

## Assessment & Modeling

Team review, define possible solution approaches, experiment, build & test

- Access systems, data
- Conduct data and process assessments
- Identify constraints
- Data engineering / wrangling
- Model performance / progress checkpoints
- POC/POV iteration and refinement
- Time boxing
- Frugal experimentation (fail fast)

## Build & Integrate

Team integrates ML models into application and/or existing processes

- Confirm integration strategy
- Develop APIs as needed
- Test new features
- Conduct regression tests
- Create analytical dashboards
- Define deployment strategy

## Deploy

Monitor and assess ML model performance

- Deploy to production
- Address concept drift
- Monitor inference performance
- Identify model improvements
- Change management
- Training

### Enabling Applications & Services

Data Lakes | Data Lakehouses | Data Warehouses | Data Virtualization  
AI Platform (Azure ML Studio, AWS SageMaker, on-premise)

### Team Roles

Domain SMEs  
Scrum Master  
Data Engineer(s)

AI Engineer(s)  
Data Scientist(s)  
Backend Developer(s)

RPA Developer(s)  
AI Tester(s)  
AI Architect

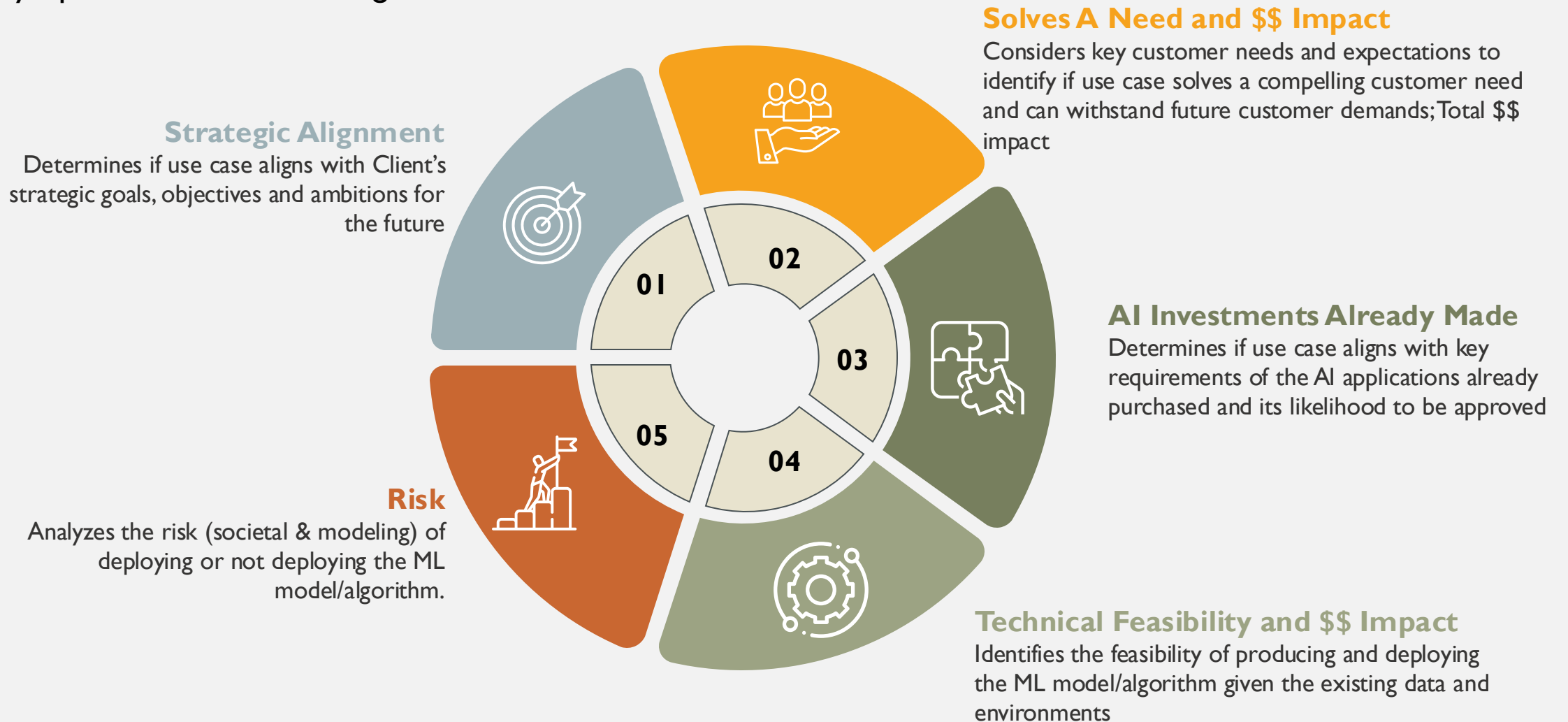
# IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITES

Define Current Challenges or Opportunities

Define Quantifiable Success Metrics

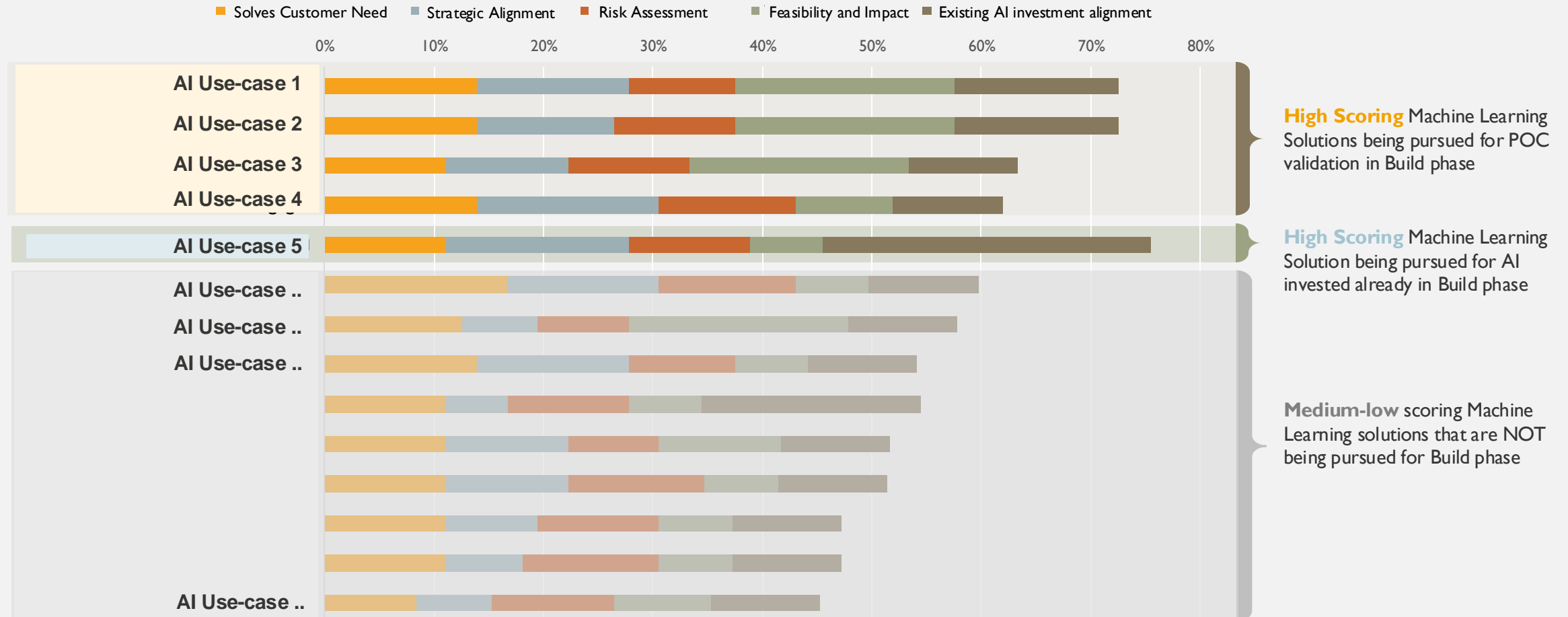
# Evaluation Criteria

Using industry best practices and CGI's Machine Learning expertise the team identifies five key dimensions that helped identify optimal Machine Learning use case candidates.



# Results from Evaluation

Our team holds collaborative and iterative evaluation sessions with Client Technology Leads, Product Owners and Business Leadership. Evaluation results are then synthesized and further evaluated based on a technical lens to determine the optimal Machine Learning solutions to pursue in Build phase.



# QUANTIFIABLE SUCCESS METRICS

Business & Functional Analysts must set clear, measurable objectives for the AI project, ensuring alignment with business goals.

## Personalized Marketing

- Objective: **Increase click-through rates** on marketing emails by **25%** over the **next three months**

## Healthcare Diagnosis

- Objective: **Improve diagnostic accuracy** for a specific condition by **15%** within a **year**

## Customer Churn Prediction

- Objective: **Decrease customer churn rate** by **10%** within the **next quarter**

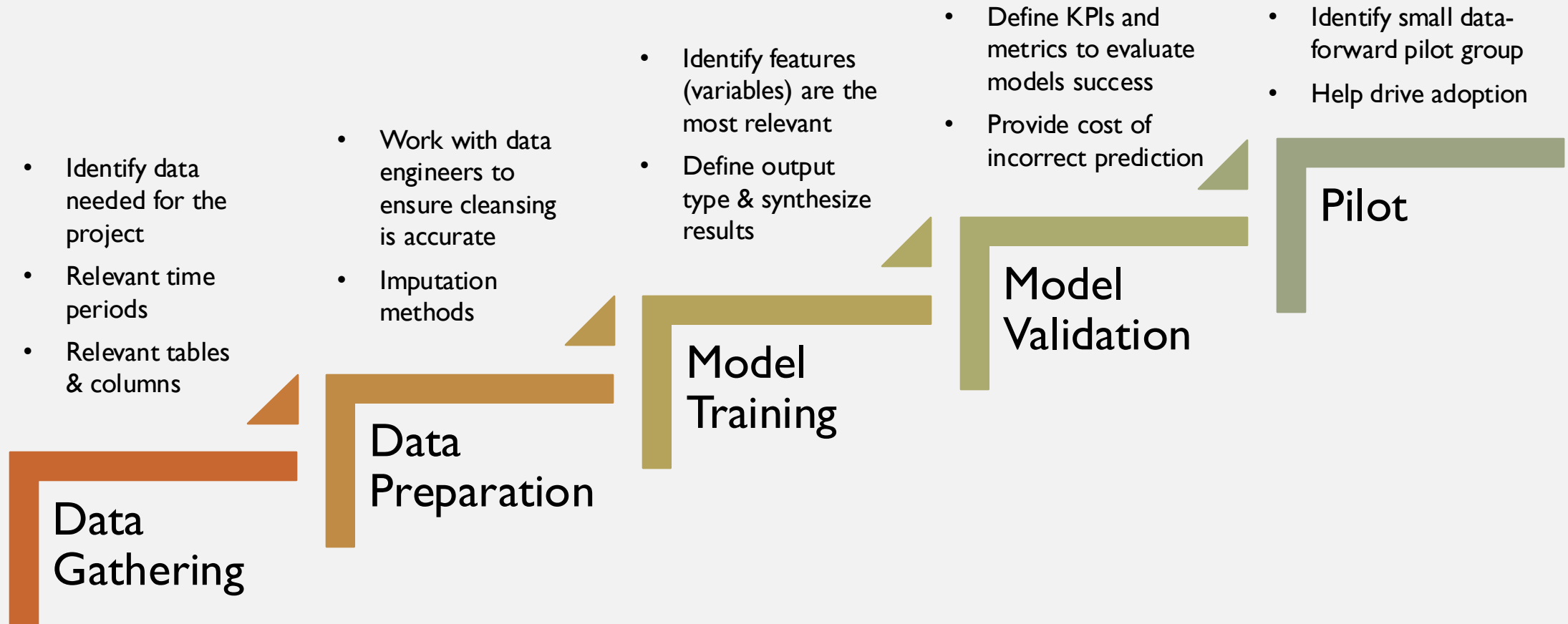
Measurable, Time Bound Goals, Achievable, & Focused on Improvement

# ASSESSMENT & MODELING

Model Performance & Checkpoints

POC/POV Iteration & Refinement

# AI & ML MODELING PROCESS

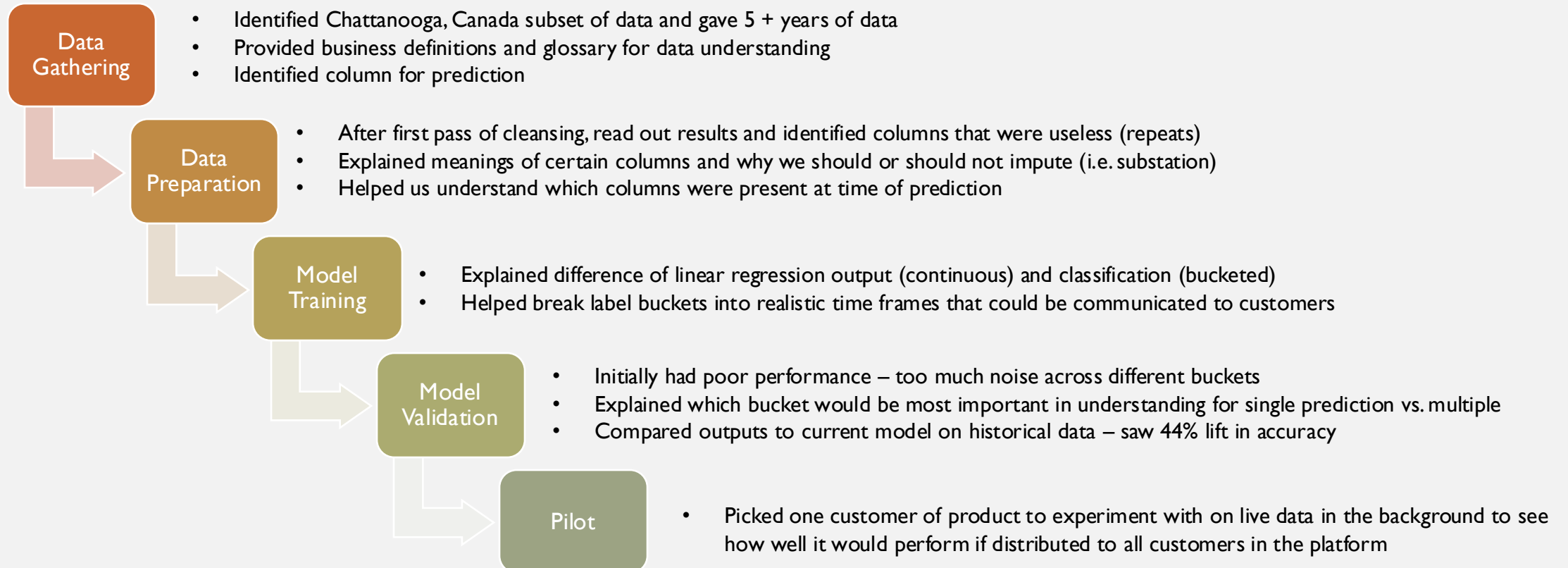




# CASE STUDY: PREDICTING ELECTRICAL OUTAGE TIMES

**Objective:** Increase accuracy of predicted electrical outage times compared to current model by **15% on historical data**

**Main Business Stakeholder:** Peter – Energy SME & Product Owner



# DEPLOYMENT

Change Management

Training

# BUSINESS & FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Establish clear timeline and set milestones for deployment process across entire organization

Design & facilitate training programs for end-users and stakeholders

Help create comprehensive documentation, including user manuals and FAQs to support users in navigating the new system

Develop strategies to encourage user adoption and minimize resistance to change

Track value and KPIs in production; meet regularly to discuss

Gather feedback from users and stakeholders (i.e. surveys, focus groups)

Recommend iterative enhancements

# CASE IN POINT: OIL & GAS CLIENT

Partnered with an Oil & Gas client for over 5+ years on their digital transformation journey to outfit their compressors with IOT devices and utilizing predictive maintenance models to help decrease downtime events, save costs, and increase revenue.

## CHALLENGES

- IT driven use case identification
- No prioritization process
- Field Service Technicians & Service Managers (End Users) not involved in model development
- Inundated with model outputs = information overload = no adoption
- No metric tracking or KPIs

## SOLUTIONS

- Created Analytics Team with Analytics Program Owner
- Idea submission & workshops with end users
- Use Case Champions per Use Case
- Change Management Practice – Communications, Videos, Guides, Training
- Monthly Value Read Out

# AI GOVERNANCE ROLES

Oversees strategy and impact to organization (i.e., ethical AI); prioritizes use cases

## Strategy & Responsibility

CIO, CTO, CSO, CDO, VP of Analytics, Director of Analytics

Defines business requirements and KPI metrics prior to model creation and provides SME expertise during model development

## Model Consumers

Business Owner(s)

Product Owner(s)

Application End Users

Business Analysts

Key Decision Makers

Creates data pipelines models, & infrastructure needed to deploy a model across an organization; ensures model adheres to existing environment protocols and is thoroughly tested

## Building & Deploying ML Models

Data Analyst

MLOps Engineer

ML Architect

Data Scientist

Infrastructure Engineer

Software Developer

Network Engineer

Security Engineer

Data Engineer

Test Analyst

Ensure clean quality data is available for model training and deployment

## Ensuring Data Quality

Data Stewards

Data Custodians

Data Admin

## IN SUMMARY

An AI or ML model can **ONLY DRIVE VALUE** if it has been **ADOPTED** and is **ACTIVELY** being used across the organization....which requires:

Realistic KPIs  
are set by the  
business &  
tracked to

Business input  
is given  
throughout  
the modeling  
process

End-Users are  
trained and  
incentivized  
to use the  
model

WHICH MEANS...**FUNCTIONAL ANALYSTS ARE  
THE SECRET SAUCE TO AI SOLUTIONS!**

**THANK YOU!**

Any questions?