

# The Life-Changing Magic of Data Governance

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# Our Mission: Actively Connecting People to Their Next Great Opportunity

# Marketplace of jobs and job seekers

**110M+**

job seekers

**2.8M+**

businesses

**#1**

rated job search app on  
Android and iOS

# 12 years of company history...

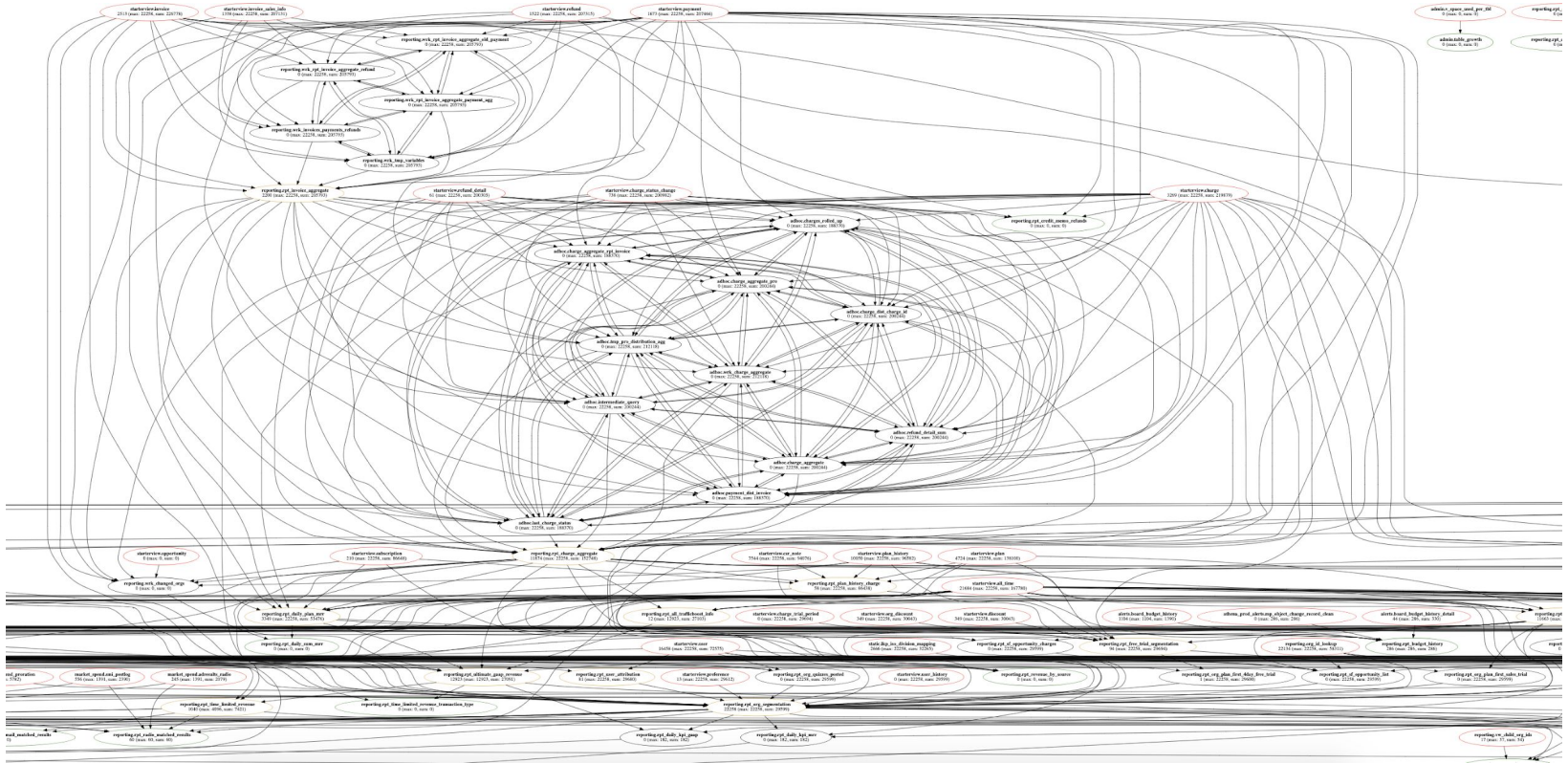
Now known as an **AI-driven marketplace**, acting as a personal recruiter for job seekers

Earlier, gained traction by posting jobs to many job boards

Began as a way to add screening questions to job applications



# ... leads to data pipelines like this



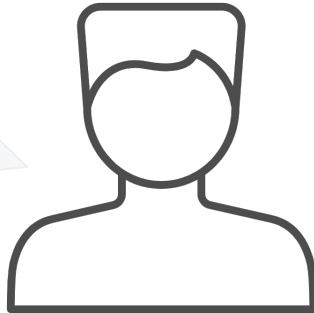
## ... and problems like this

There are three different versions of this table. Which do I use?

Why do numbers look weird when I join this other table?

I want to do more, but data is a bottleneck.

Where can I find XYZ data?



# Our data was not built for machine learning

- No single source of truth for core business actions
- Impossible to track changes to data over time
- Questions that should take minutes take hours or days
- Lower visibility into the state of the product overall

**The result:** hard to validate which models to build, impossible to reproduce once you have them, and really difficult to measure the impact of

# What about a data landscape that ✨ sparks joy ✨?

Recognized that as an ML-driven company, **data is everything.**

Needed a world with

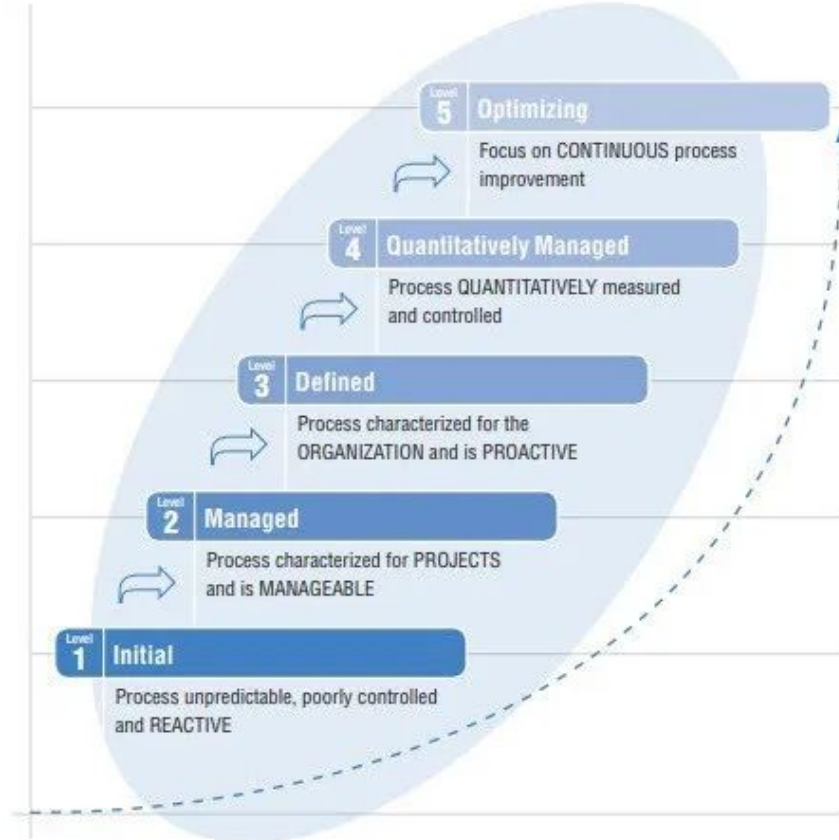
- Easy validation of model ideas
- Reproducible once trained
- No time-traveling
- Easy to measure impact

Enter **data governance.**





# We started at the bottom rung of governance maturity



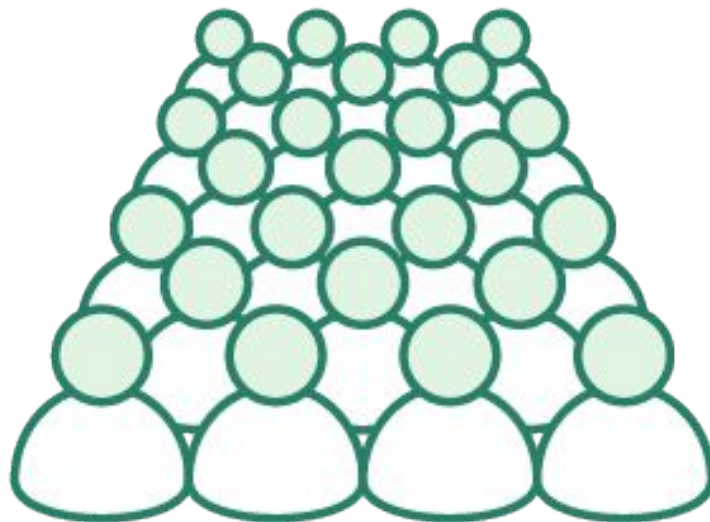
# Six rules we've used in untangling the pipelines

1. Make data an unambiguous priority
2. Treat data products as real products
3. Set clear standards
4. Educate at all levels
5. Deliver value early
6. Commit to trust

# 1. Make data an unambiguous priority

## People are policy

Approximately 25% of our product and engineering teams are devoted to data



## 2. Treat data products as real products

We treat data as a specialization within product as well as engineering

- Data sets are products with customers
- Customers inform but do not dictate the roadmap

Define strategy for data collection and use

Specialized guides and templates to get off to a good start

Feb 25nd, 2021  
**Managing Data Project**  
ZipRecruiter

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### Unified JobSeeker System

Everyone goes to the same place for JobSeeker data

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#### Project Design

<b>Team</b>	JobSeeker Data #w-jobseeker-representation
<b>Curator(s)</b>	@rbowen @vitaly @Victoria and formerly @frew
<b>Status</b>	Implementation Phase
<b>Helpful Links</b>	<a href="#">Meeting Notes</a> <a href="#">Consumer requirements</a> <a href="#">SCS Research Notes</a> - Randy's Research <a href="#">Job Seeker Store Framework</a> - Vic's Presentation

[Project Design](#)  
[Overview](#)  
[Goals](#)  
[Out-of-Scope](#)  
[Requirements](#)  
[Functional Requirements](#)  
[Consumers of the Data](#)  
[Non-Functional Requirements](#)  
[Backfills / Reprocessing](#)  
[Data Retention & Deletion Requirements](#)

### 3. Set clear standards

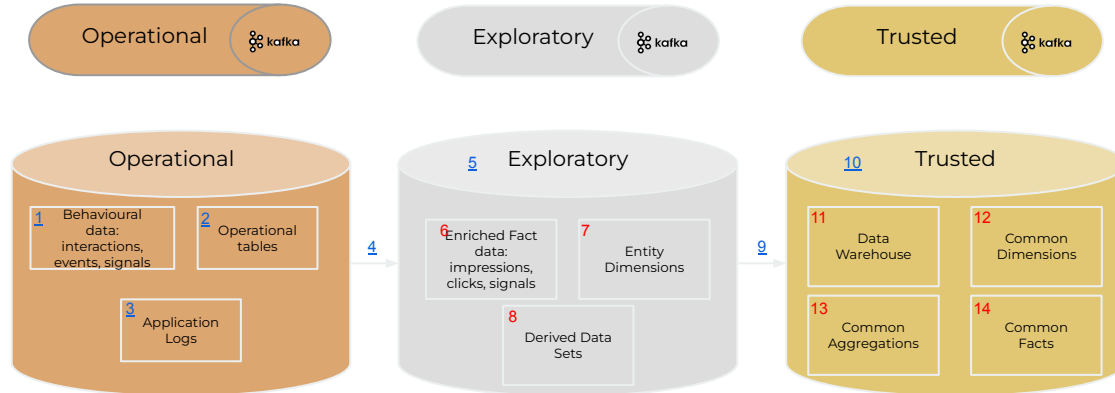
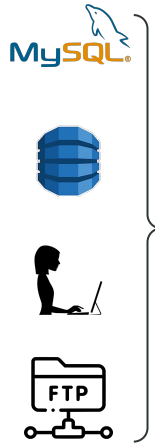
Aligned early on what our data needs to do for us

- For model development
- For general analytics use cases

Established shared vocabulary, best practices, and support tiers of different data sets.



# Guarantees Ponds



- Unstructured
- Not Verified
- Write optimized
- TTL of X days

- Schema Enforcement
- Filtered
- Cleaned
- Enriched with entity level business logic
- Denormalized across business entities: job category, Companies, campaign,
- PII, GDPR, CCPA
- Read optimized

- Guarantees: SLA, Completeness, Schema
- Self Served :
- Discoverable
- Star Schema
- Read optimized
- Denormalized
- Enriched with business logic

\* should be replaced with CDC+Delta Lake  
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# What is Project Konmari, you ask?

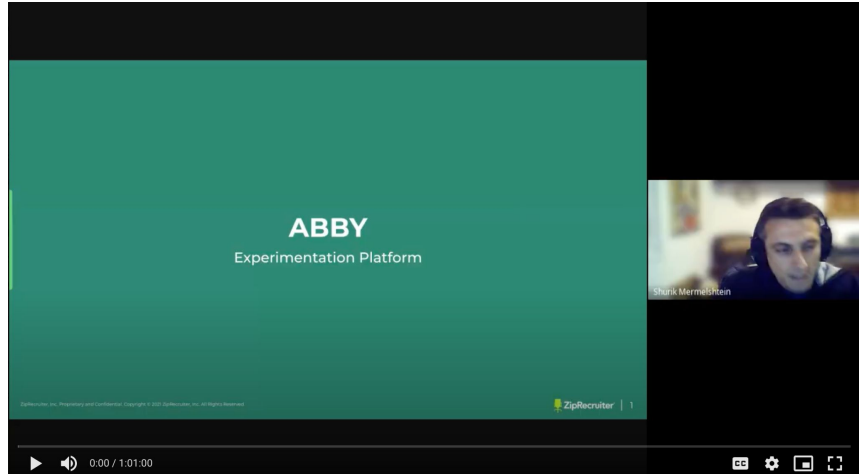
The plan to organize and scale our data, using a data-lake-first approach.



## 4. Educate at all levels

From new grad to C-suite

- Tools and abstractions reduce toil, with detailed how-to guides
- Demos and office hours to empower all functions
- Product walkthroughs for executives

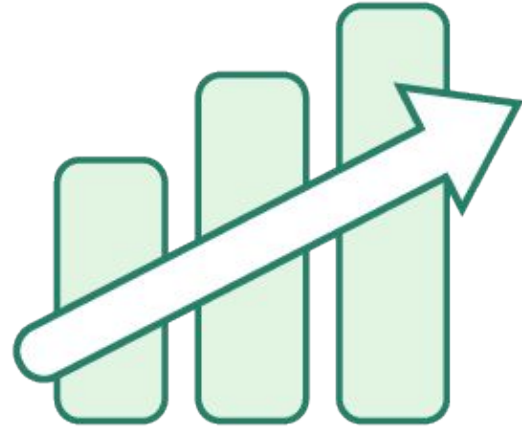




## 5. Deliver value early

**Worst case:** execute on long project to build a cool new classifier or centralized data store, then no one uses it.

Validate need and impact **early and often** (in hacky ways if needed)



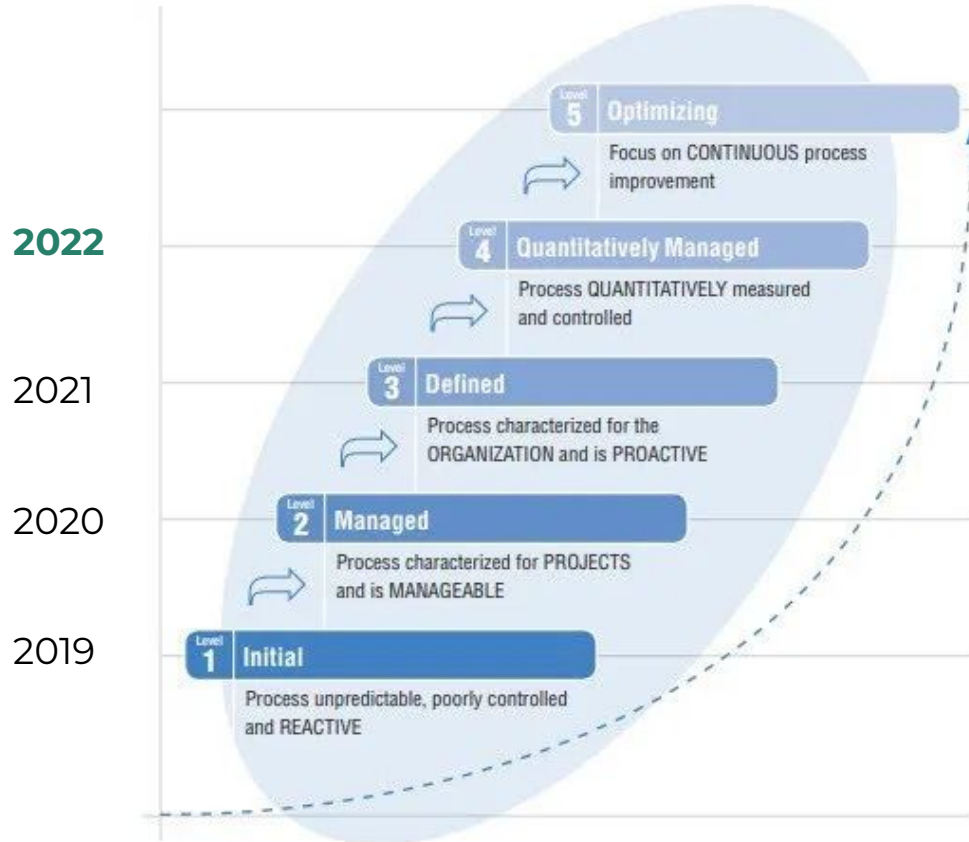
## 6. Commit to trust

The power of data is that it is **objective**.

Empower all functions to push back if they feel a decision is being made that will compromise trust in the product you're building.

- Encourage diligence in product quality
- Reward persistence in tracking down problems

# Progress over time



Thank You

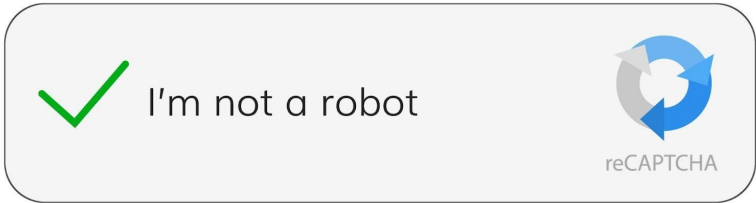
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# Towards Human-AI Teaming:

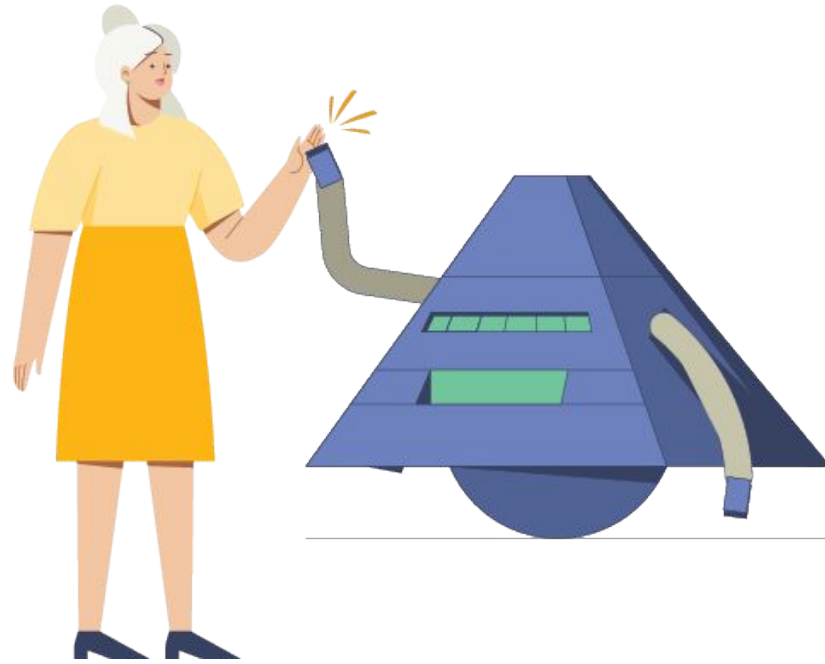
Intelligence Ecosystems to Tackle High Stakes Use Cases

**Clodéric Mars - VP of Engineering @ AI Redefined**



**Als actions don't align with humans  
intents because they are not aware  
of context**

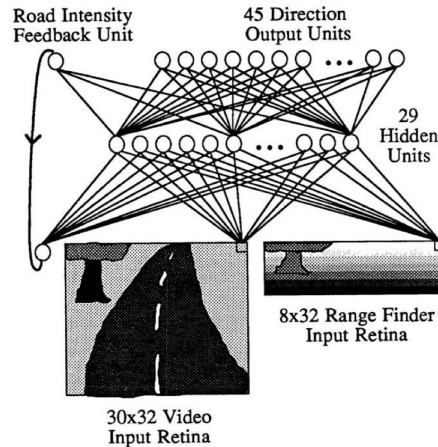
**Als don't learn from collaborating  
with humans**



**Achieve Human + AI Synergy**  
Intelligence ecosystems continuous learning through shared experiences

# Behavior Cloning / Imitation Learning

Humans demonstrating how to achieve a task



**ALVINN: An Autonomous Land Vehicle In A Neural Network**

1988 - Pomerleau

<https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper/1988/file/812b4ba287f5ee0bc9d43bbf5bbe87fb-Paper.pdf>



Fast initial training bootstrapping & continuous interactive refinements

Good alignment

No additional human skills required

Bounded performances



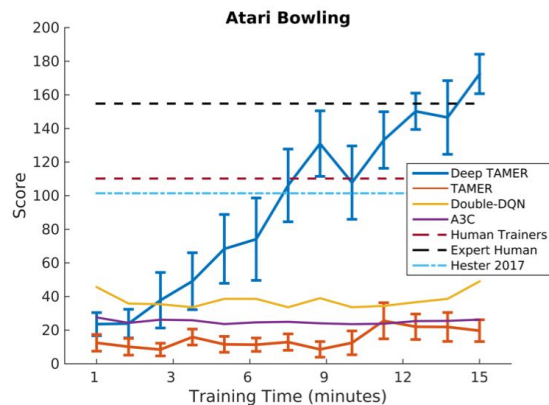
# Reinforcement Learning with Human Feedback

## Humans evaluating how a task is completed



### Interactive Learning from Policy-Dependent Human Feedback (COACH)

2017 - MacGlashan et al.  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1701.06049>



### Deep TAMER: Interactive Agent Shaping in High-Dimensional State Spaces

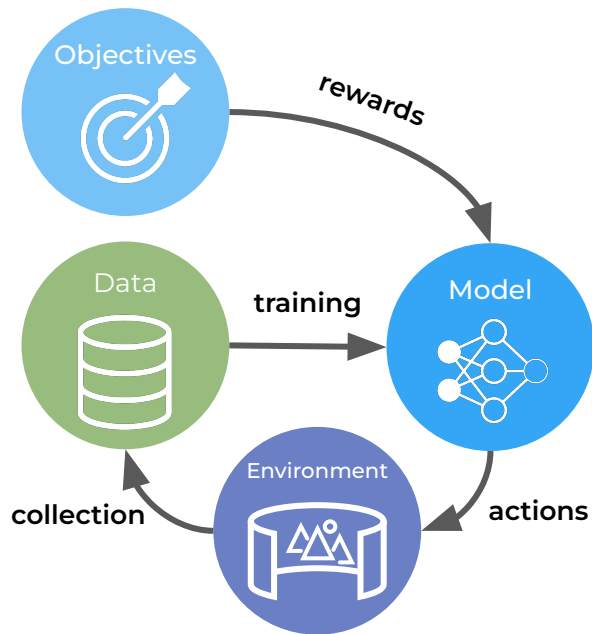
2018 - Warnell et al.  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1709.10163>

# Reinforcement Learning, a very short aside

Discovering instead of reproducing



supervised learning



reinforcement learning

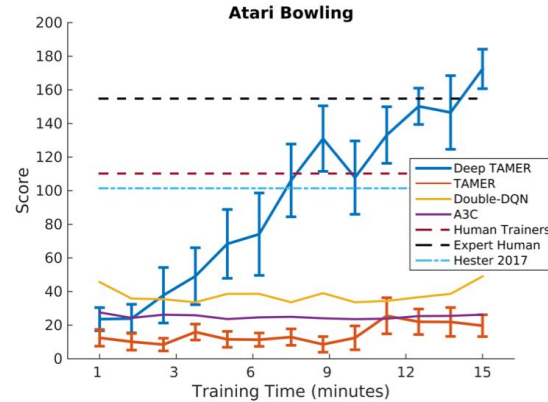
# Reinforcement Learning with Human Feedback

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Superhuman (even optimal) performances

Indirect alignment

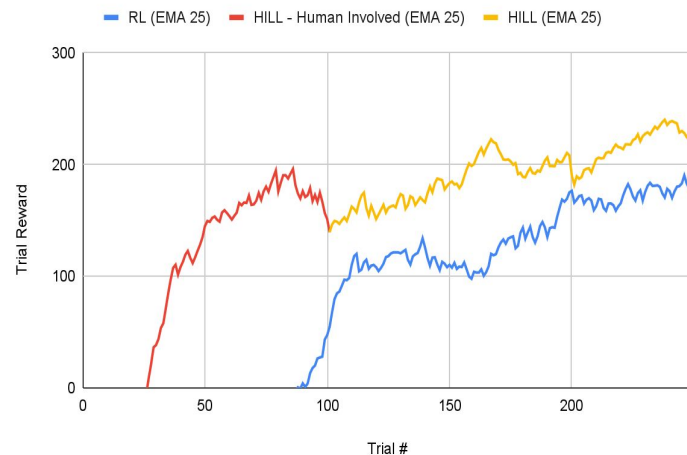
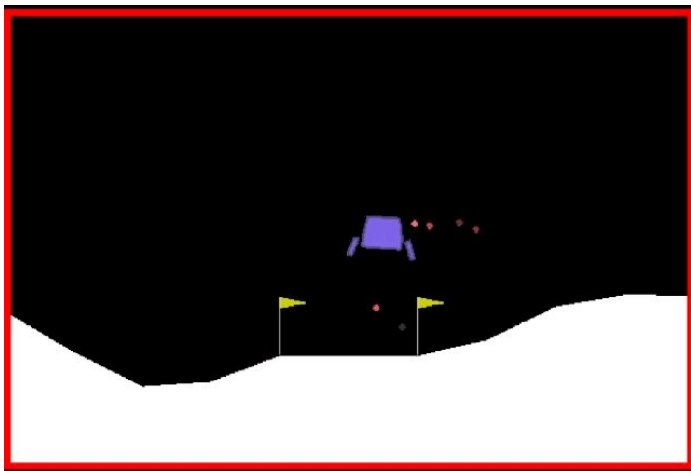
Some specialized skills required & labor intensive

Requires the ability to deal with the lag between an action and its evaluation

Requires safe environment

# AI apprentice: dual control

## Interactive human demonstrations to accelerate exploration



Superhuman (even optimal) performances

Indirect alignment

No additional human skills required

Requires collaborative UX during training and operation

Powered by

**cogment**

air

# Human-guided summarization

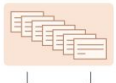
## Combining Human-in-the-Loop Learning with language models to improve Human/AI alignment

### 1 Collect human feedback

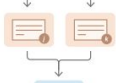
A Reddit post is sampled from the Reddit TL;DR dataset.



Various policies are used to sample a set of summaries.



Two summaries are selected for evaluation.



A human judges which is a better summary of the post.



"j is better than k"

### 2 Train reward model

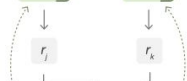
One post with two summaries judged by a human are fed to the reward model.



The reward model calculates a reward  $r$  for each summary.



The loss is calculated based on the rewards and human label, and is used to update the reward model.



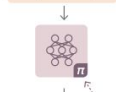
"j is better than k"

### 3 Train policy with PPO

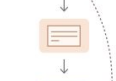
A new post is sampled from the dataset.



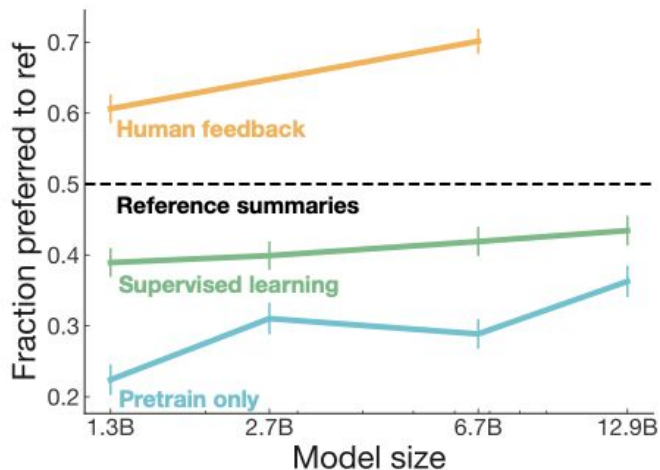
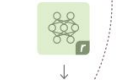
The policy  $\pi$  generates a summary for the post.



The reward model calculates a reward for the summary.



The reward is used to update the policy via PPO.



Learning to summarize from human feedback  
2020 - Stiennon et al.  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2009.01325>



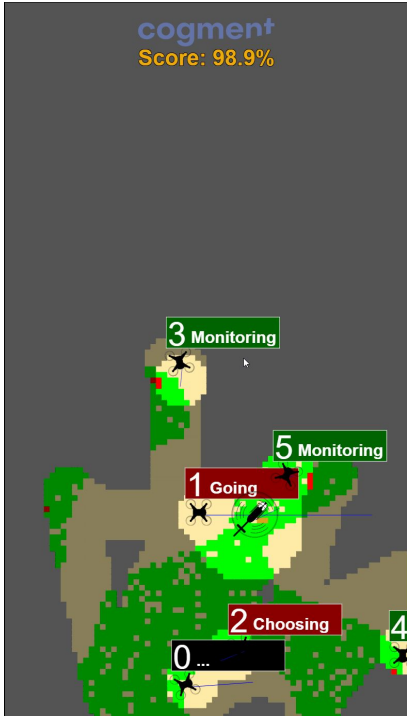
Fine tune offline trained model

Hybrid technique: demonstration + feedback

Leverage human expertise on language task

Improved alignment

# Man-Machine Teaming: Multiple AIs and Humans collaborating to complete a task



Training AI agents to coordinate together and with humans and vice versa

Powered by

**cogment**



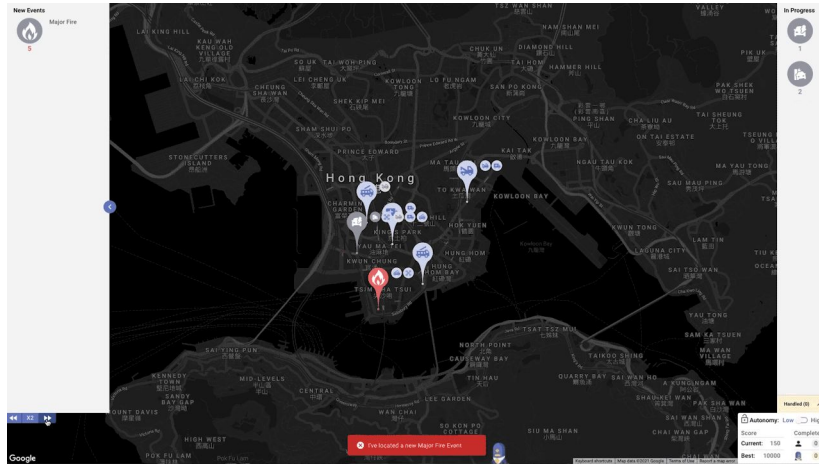
Implicitly train AIs from their interaction with humans

Train Humans alongside AIs

Requires bootstrapped AIs

Enables human supervision

# Intelligence Ecosystem: Heterogeneous actors collaborating



Training and operating complex topologies of roles and tasks within a common environment



Faster deployment and iterations

Enable supervision & learning by keeping humans in the loop

Compliance & accountability where it matters

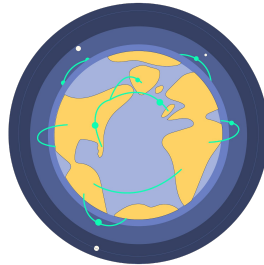
# Applications to other verticals



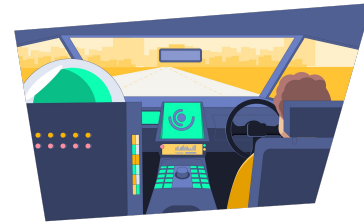
Utilities



Education



Logistics  
Manufacturing



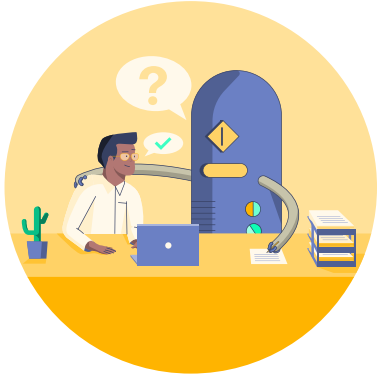
Transportation



Health



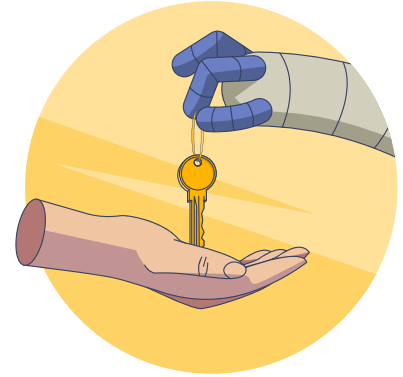
# Intelligence Ecosystem: Benefits



Leverage human expertise: training, supervision, collaboration

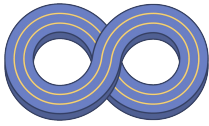


Deploy faster & continuously get better

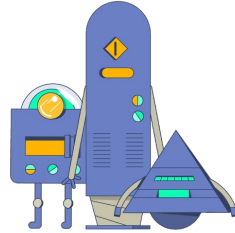


Trust, compliance & accountability

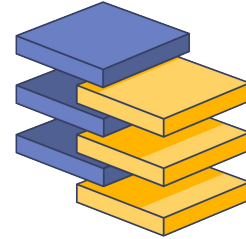
# Intelligence Ecosystem: Requirements



Continuous learning  
from building to  
operation

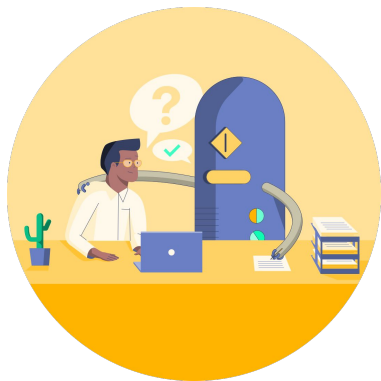


Multiple AI techniques



Tech agnostic

# Cogment: Build, train, and operate AI agents in simulated or real environments shared with humans



## Continuously train AIs & Humans together

- Less data required
- Real time adaptation
- Faster training
- Fostering trust



## Operate intelligence ecosystems

- Best of human & AI capabilities
- Human supervision when it matters
- Hybrid AI: compliance and high performance
- Modular approach: reduce compute usage & facilitate validation

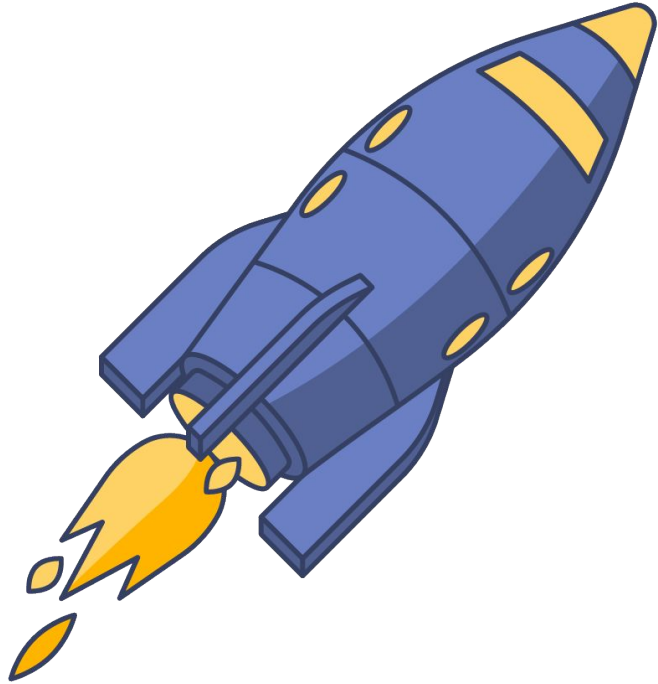


## Iterate smoothly from sim to real

- Safe and simple design and training in simulation
- Progressive deployment to real environment
- Real environments, digital twins, numerical simulations, etc.

Available open-source & with further information at <https://cogment.ai>

# Lessons learned designing AI-enabled products



- Take into account the Human/AI relationship
- Consider AI apprenticeship approach
- Think in terms of intelligence ecosystem

# AI Redefined: Humans and AI elevating each other



*P.S. We are hiring!*



**Clodéric Mars**

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 [@cloderic](https://twitter.com/cloderic)



[ai-r.com](https://ai-r.com)

[cogment.ai](https://cogment.ai)

[github.com/cogment](https://github.com/cogment)

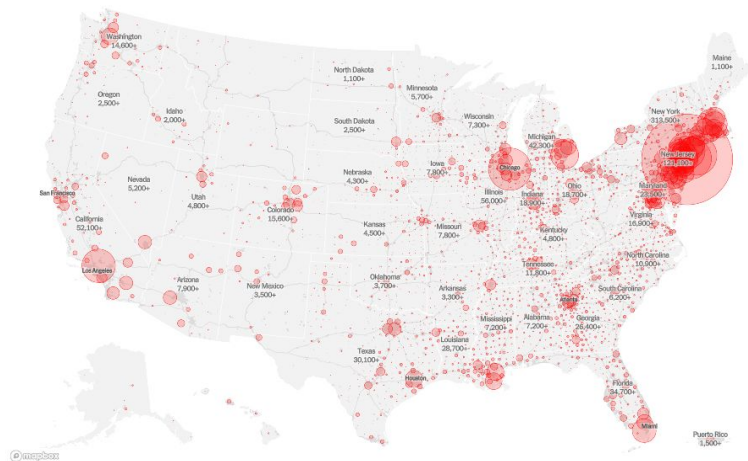
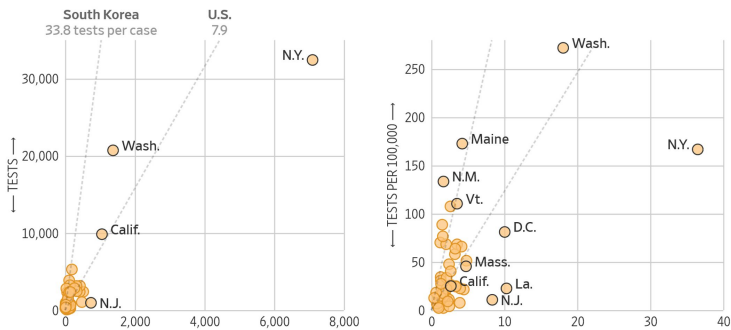
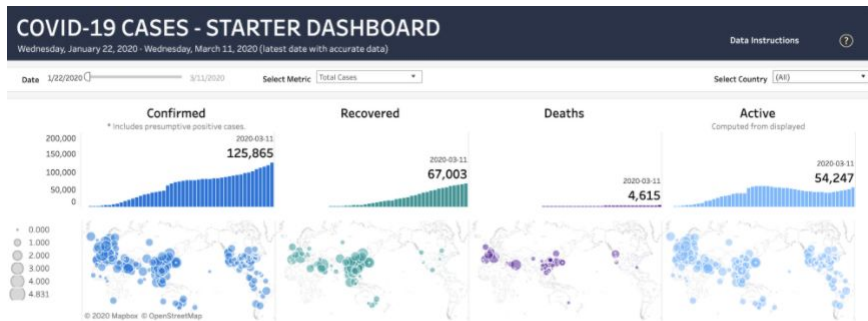
# Exploring Data through Natural Language Conversations

Anand Ranganathan  
Co-Founder & Chief AI Officer  
[anand@unscrambl.com](mailto:anand@unscrambl.com)

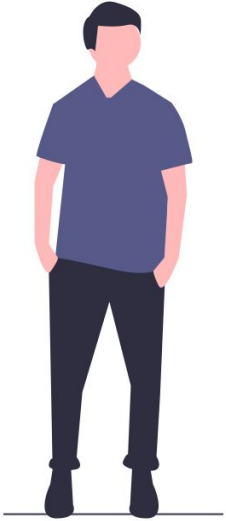
**UNSCRAMBL**

# How do people consume data & analytics today?

– through charts & dashboards



# What's wrong with dashboards



- ❌ Limited or no drill-downs
- ❌ Don't know how the data for the dashboards is produced
- ❌ Can't ask a slightly different question
- ❌ Representative of an opinion; easy to cherry-pick stats
- ❌ Can be misleading



**THERE HAS TO BE**



**A BETTER WAY**

# What is Conversational Analytics?

*Allow any user to ask text or voice questions of their data*

*and*

*receive back a natural language + visual analysis  
of statistically relevant and actionable insights for that user.*

*\*Note that in this talk, we focus on structured data stored in relational format (e.g. SQL databases, Excel sheets, etc)*

# Qbo: Natural language conversations with data within collaboration platforms



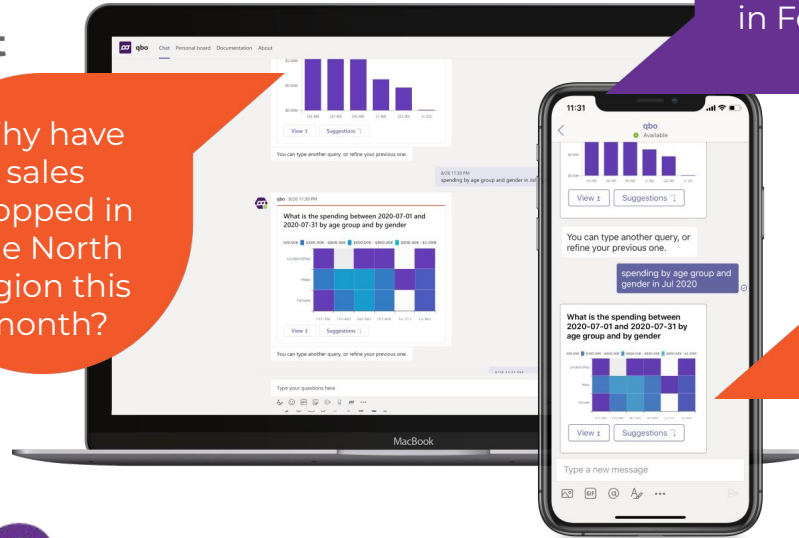
AI-Powered,  
Data Analyst

Connect  
Converse  
Collaborate

Why have sales dropped in the North region this month?

Hey QBO, why were new acquisitions in Feb lower?

Hey QBO, how many policies are expiring in Oct 2022?



# Qbo sits between users and disparate, siloed datasets

Support 20+ data connectors, and access via a web interface or Microsoft Teams



# Unscrambl Qbo Demo : on Austin 311 Data

Anand Ranganathan  
Co-Founder & Chief AI Officer  
anand@unscrambl.com

UNSCRAMBL

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# A (very simplified) overview of NLU pipeline



Anand 7:29 PM

number of trips in winter 2017 by age and gender



Entity Recognition & Construction

number of trips in winter 2017 by age and gender



Identification of Query type and mapping to known concepts in DB

**Type:** Aggregation Query on Trips table with a group-by and a filter; **age** -> derived from birth year attribute; **gender** -> gender attribute; **in winter 2017** -> 2017-12-23 and 2018-03-19 (filter)



Generate DB-specific SQL query

```
SELECT anon_1."age group", anon_1.gender, count(*) AS "Count"
FROM (SELECT "TRIP_ANALYSIS".end_station_id AS "end station id", "TRIP_ANALYSIS".program_id AS "program id", "TRIP_ANALYSIS".start_station_id AS "start station id",
"TRIP_ANALYSIS".bikeid AS bikeid, CASE WHEN (:birth_year_1 - "TRIP_ANALYSIS".birth_year < :param_1) THEN :param_2 ELSE CASE WHEN (:birth_year_2 -
"TRIP_ANALYSIS".birth_year < :param_3) THEN :param_4 ELSE ..., "TRIP_ANALYSIS".gender AS gender
FROM "TRIP_ANALYSIS"
WHERE ...
```

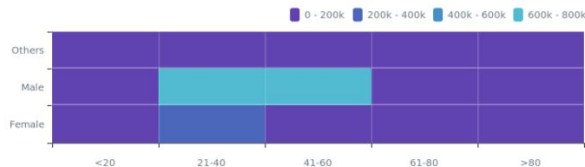


Get results, decide on visualization and narratives, and present back to user



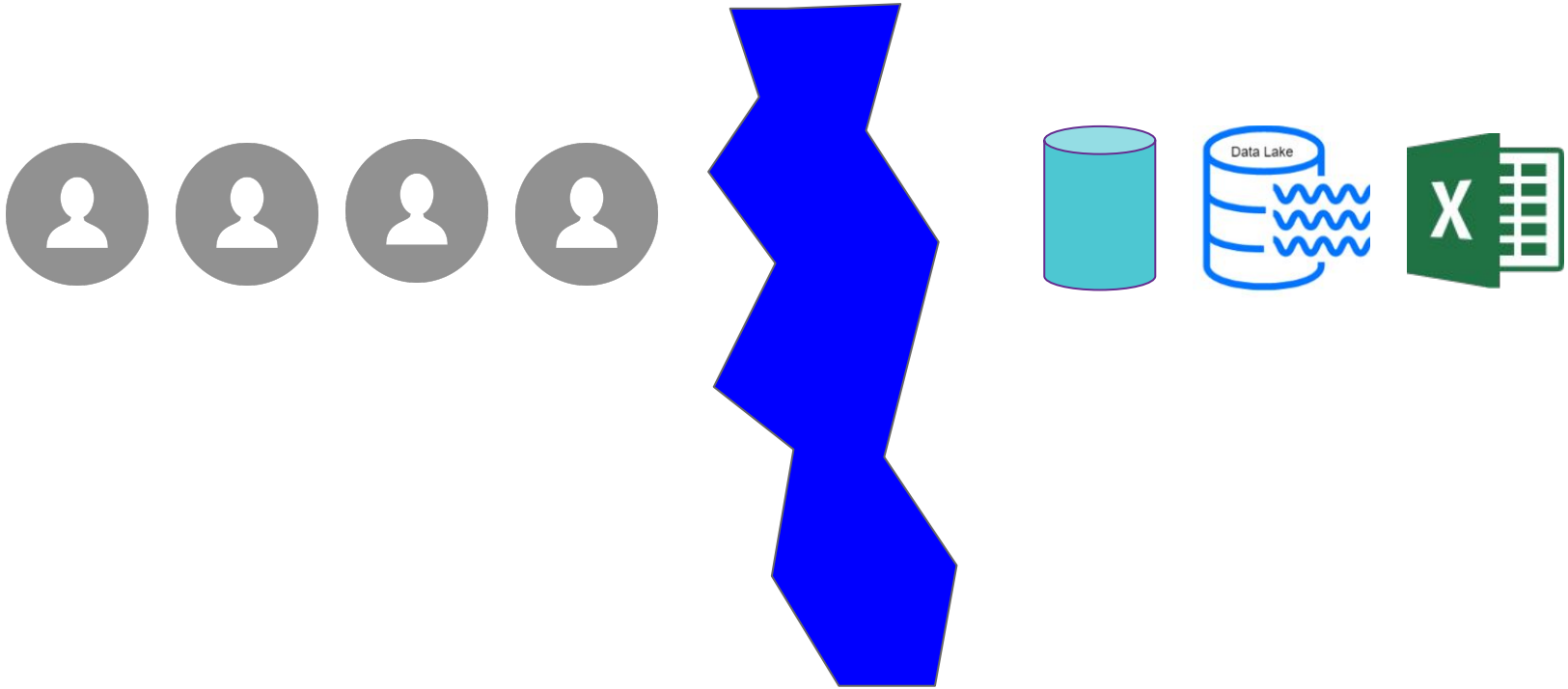
qbo 7:29 PM

What is the total number of the trips between 2017-12-23 and 2018-03-19 by age group and by gender

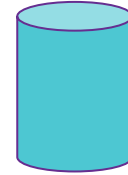
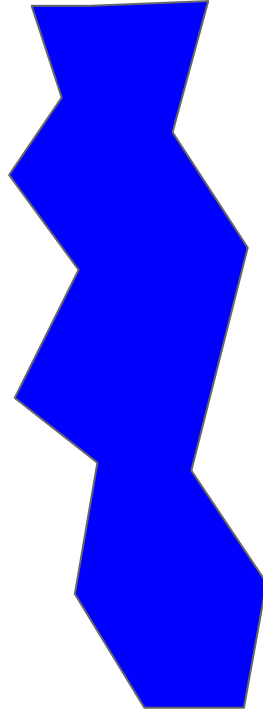


View

# Key Challenge : Bridging the gap between users and data



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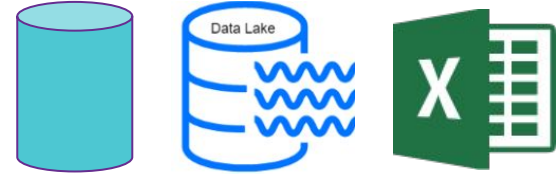
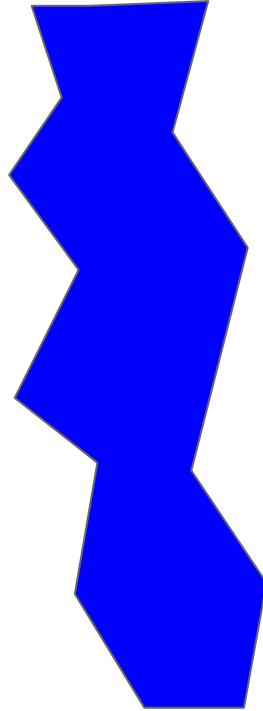
- . Users don't know what to ask
- . Users don't know how to ask
- . Users may pose questions in an ambiguous manner
- . Users may use terms not in the dataset



# Key Challenge : Bridging the gap between users and data



- Users don't know what to ask
- Users don't know how to ask
- Users may pose questions in an ambiguous manner
- Users may use terms not in the dataset



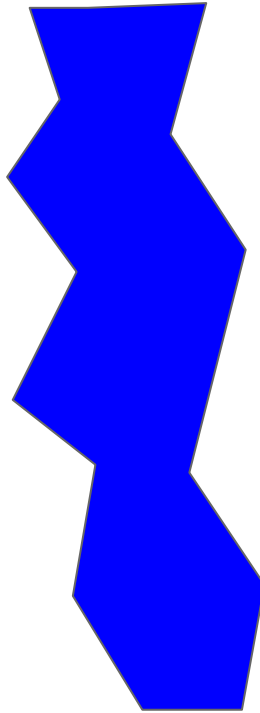
- Data may be modeled in a variety of ways
- Hidden semantics and assumptions behind different tables and columns
- Data may be incomplete, unclear
- Data may be spread across silos

# Users ask questions the way they want -- & not be constrained by the physical data model



What is the total number of rides by age group

What is the ADPU in the last 6 months?



← SEMANTIC GAP -- →

MUST BE BRIDGED BY THE PERSONAL DATA ANALYST

PHYSICAL DATA MODEL

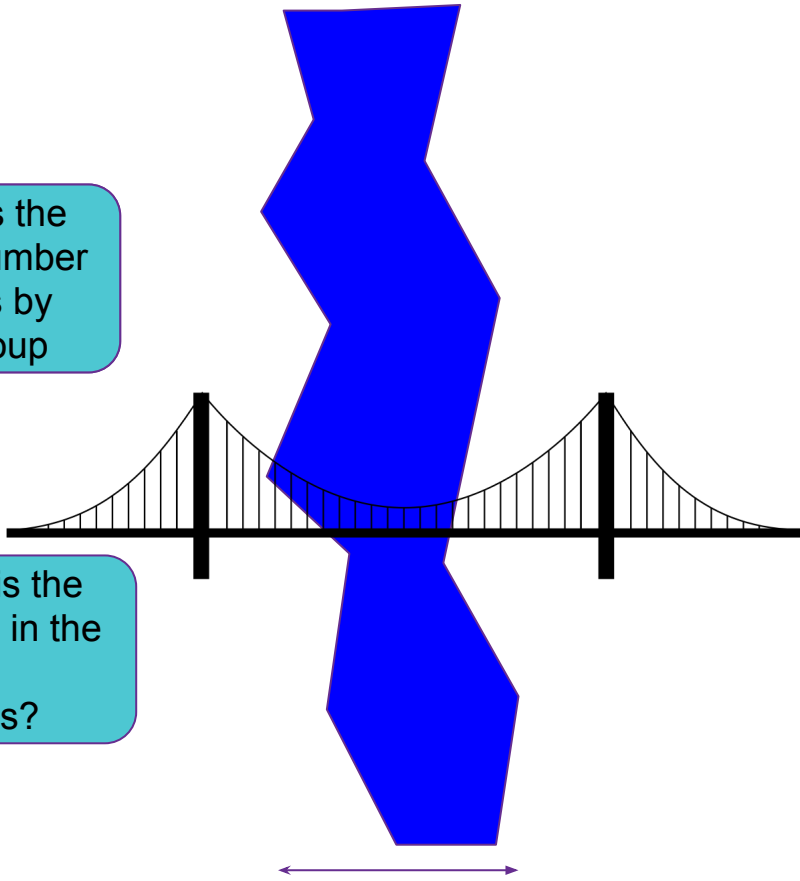
Trip
starttime
stoptime
tripduration
birth_year
bikeid
usertype

UNSCRAMBL



What is the total number of rides by age group

What is the ADPU in the last 6 months?



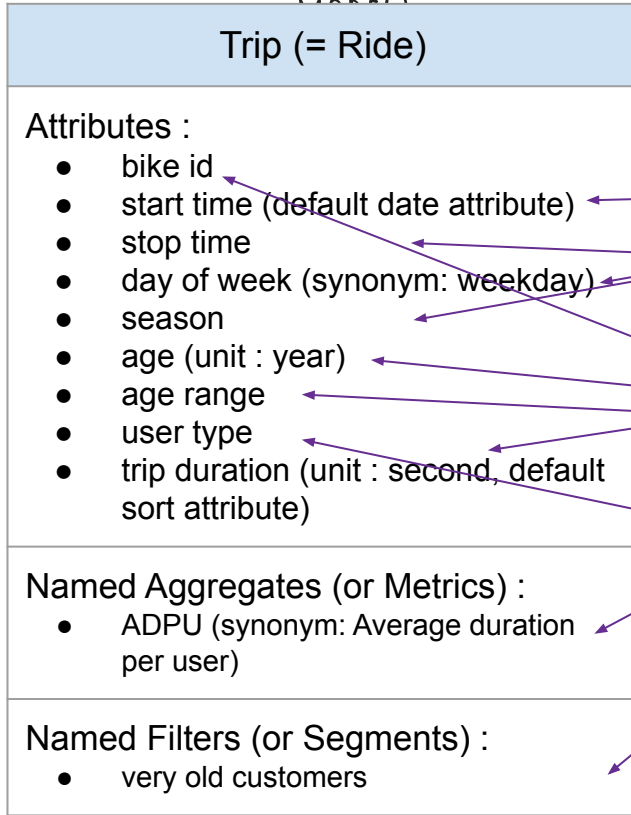
Semantic Gap

### PHYSICAL DATA MODEL

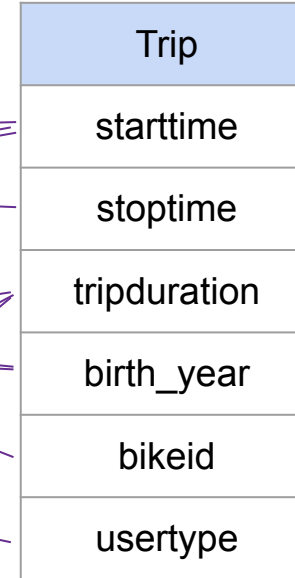
Trip
starttime
stoptime
tripduration
birth_year
bikeid
usertype

# LOGICAL DATA MODEL

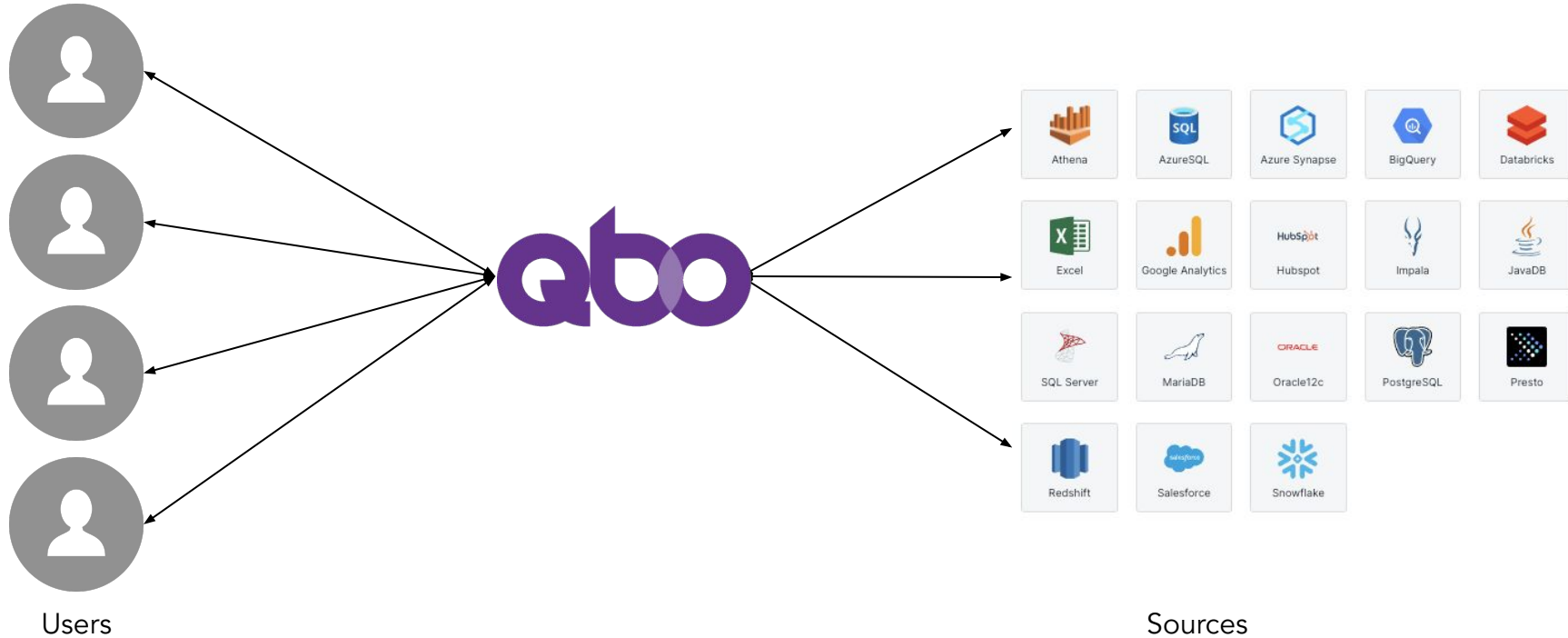
(THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE USER AND THE PHYSICAL DATA)



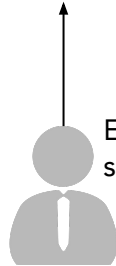
## PHYSICAL DATA MODEL



# Our approach to solving some of these challenges



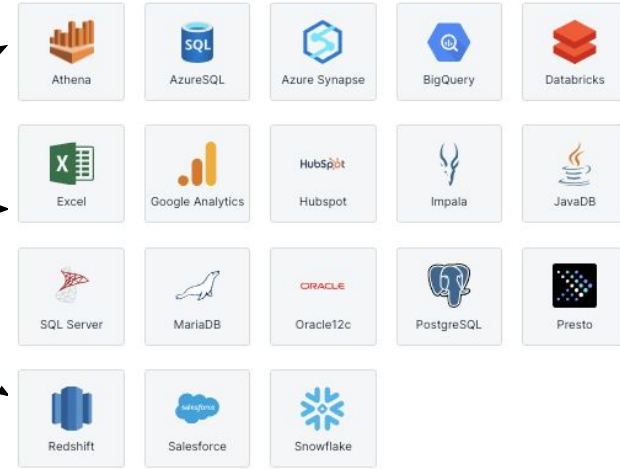
# Step 1. Initial Data Discovery & Configuration



Admin/ Data Modeler

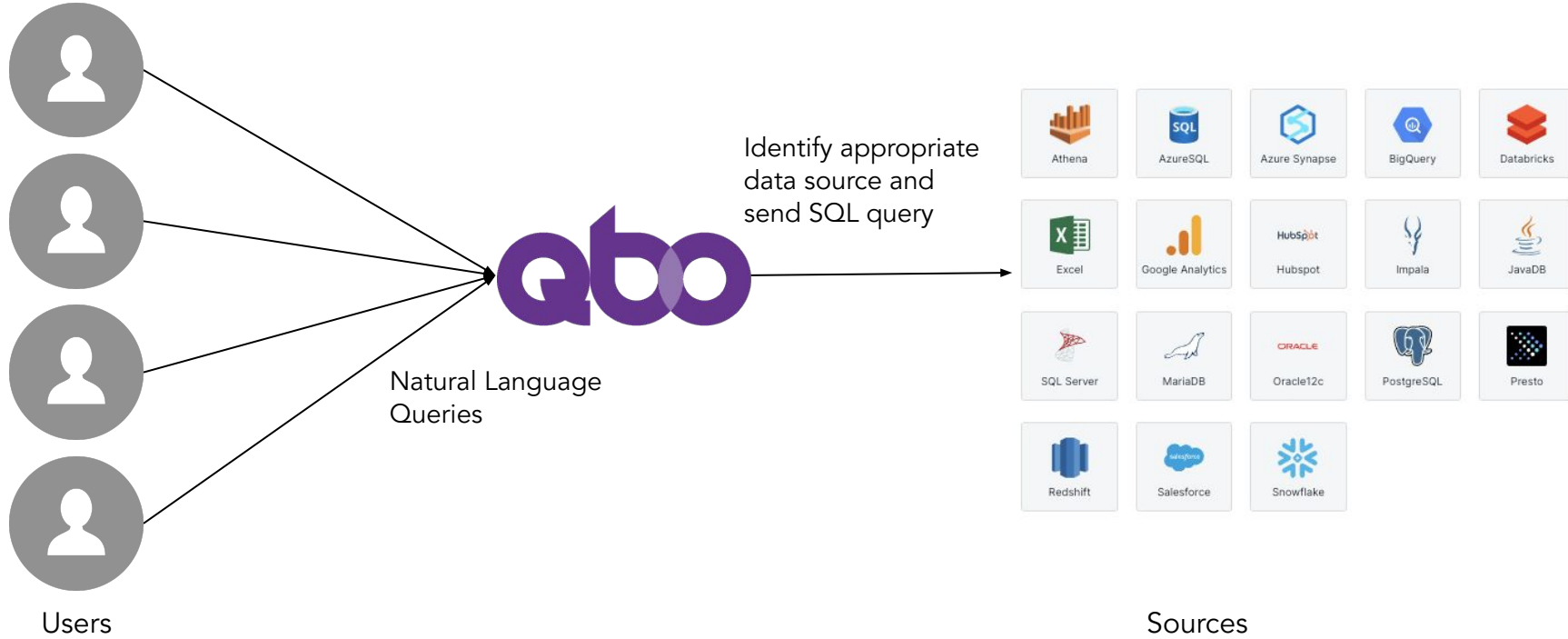
Enhance the logical / semantic model

Crawl and extract model of data sources

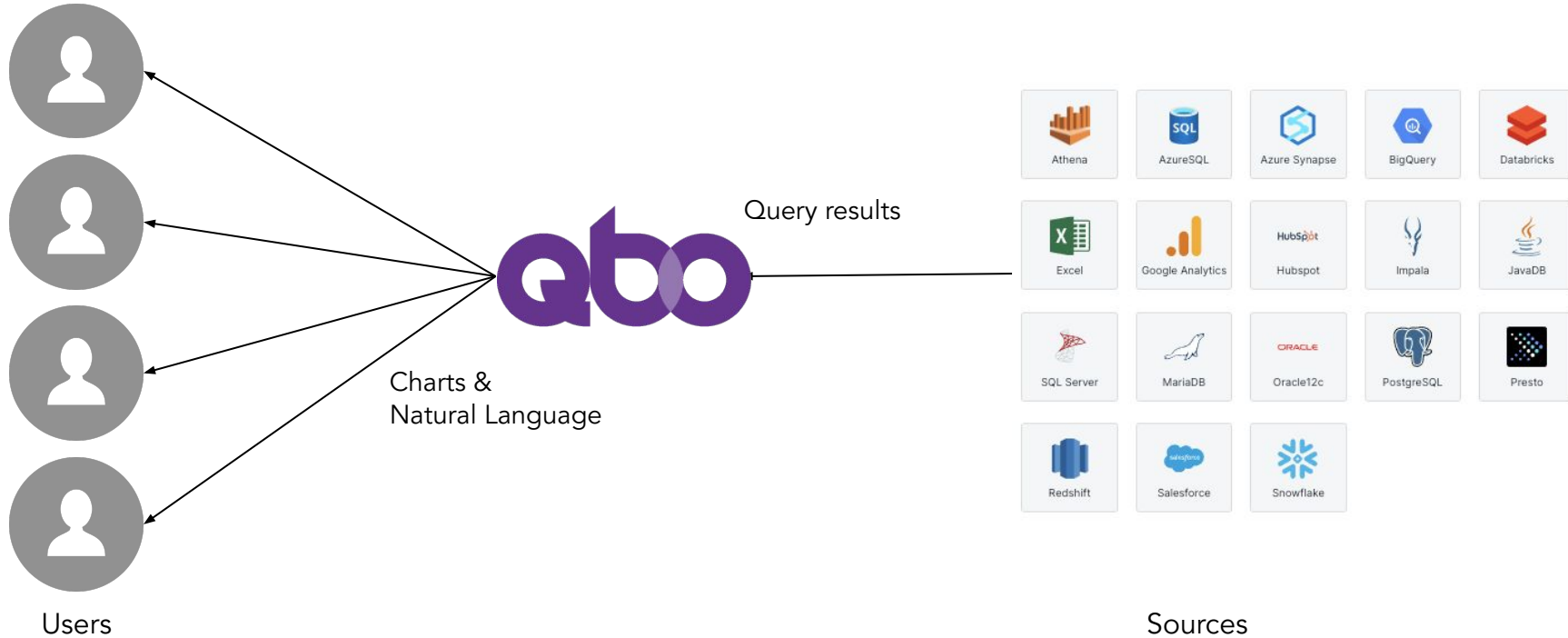


Sources

# Step 2. Users can converse with qbo about their data



# Step 2. Users can converse with qbo about their data





# Imagine...



**#futureofwork**

**#futureofdata**



**UNSCRAMBL**

# Building “Responsible AI”:


Best Practices Across the Product Development Lifecycle


Susannah Shattuck  
*Head of Product, Credo AI*




## Nice to meet you, I'm Susannah.

 Head of Product, Credo AI

 Formerly IBM, Google X, Arthur AI

 Algorithmic bias detection and mitigation, setting up governance structures within AI development organizations, AI regulation & public policy

 Speculative design, science fiction, cooking

@shshattuck

**B I N G O**

**12** **27** **44** **57** **69**

**5** **29** **38** **47** **72**

**11** **30** **FREE  
4702  
SPACE** **53** **67**

**3** **26** **32** **59** **73**

**2** **24** **42** **56** **63**



## The six key tenets of Responsible AI.

**FAIRNESS**

**TRANSPARENCY**

**SAFETY &  
SECURITY**

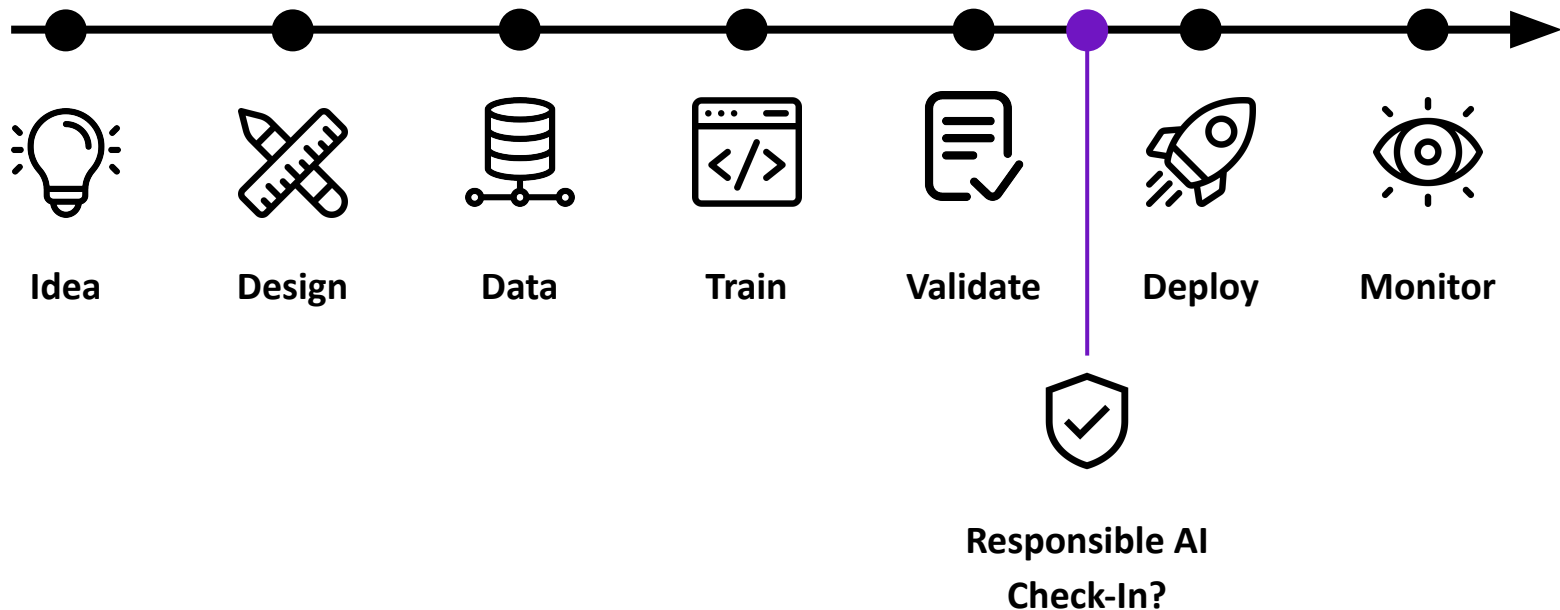
**PRIVACY**

**SOCIAL &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
WELL-BEING**

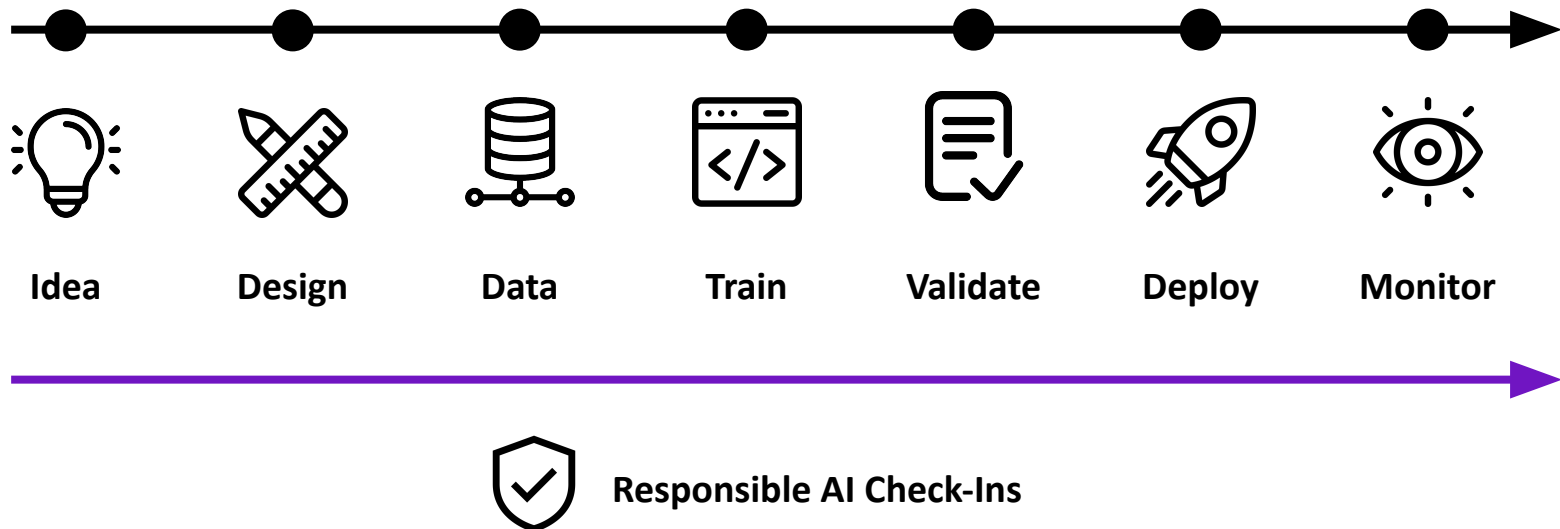
**ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Responsible AI considerations  
need to be integrated into the  
ML development lifecycle.**

## How does Responsible AI assessment fit into the ML development lifecycle?

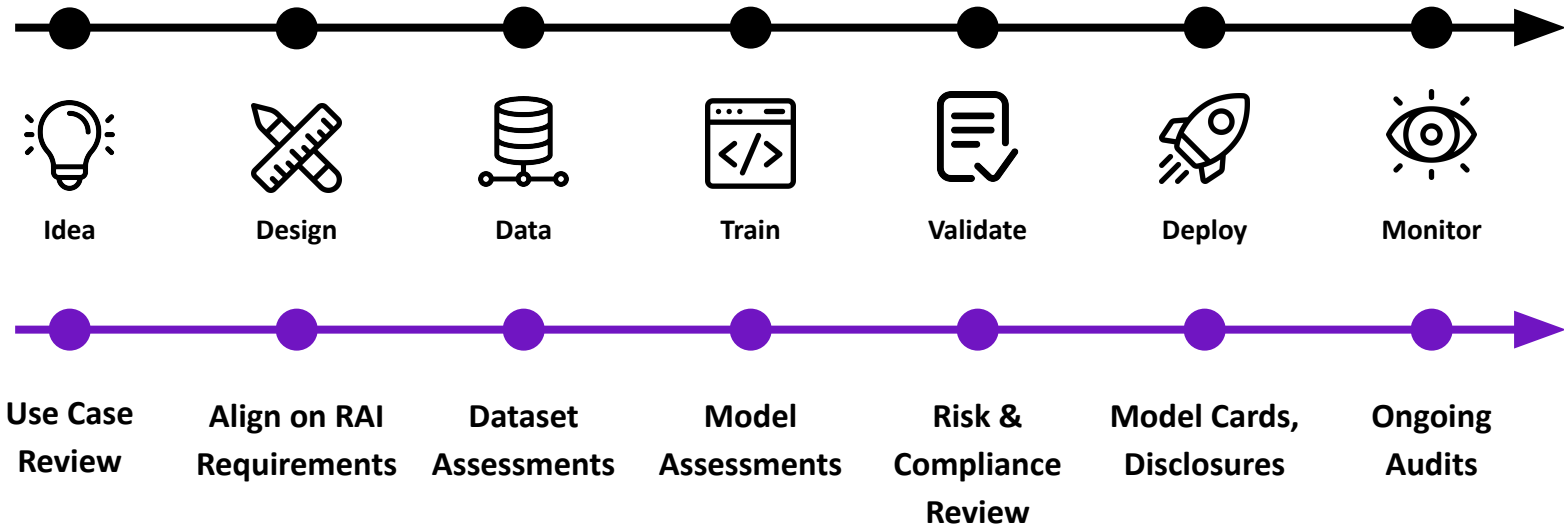


## How does Responsible AI assessment fit into the ML development lifecycle?







# How does Responsible AI assessment fit into the ML development lifecycle?




## TL;DR—you need to evaluate the “responsibility” of your AI system at every step of the development lifecycle.

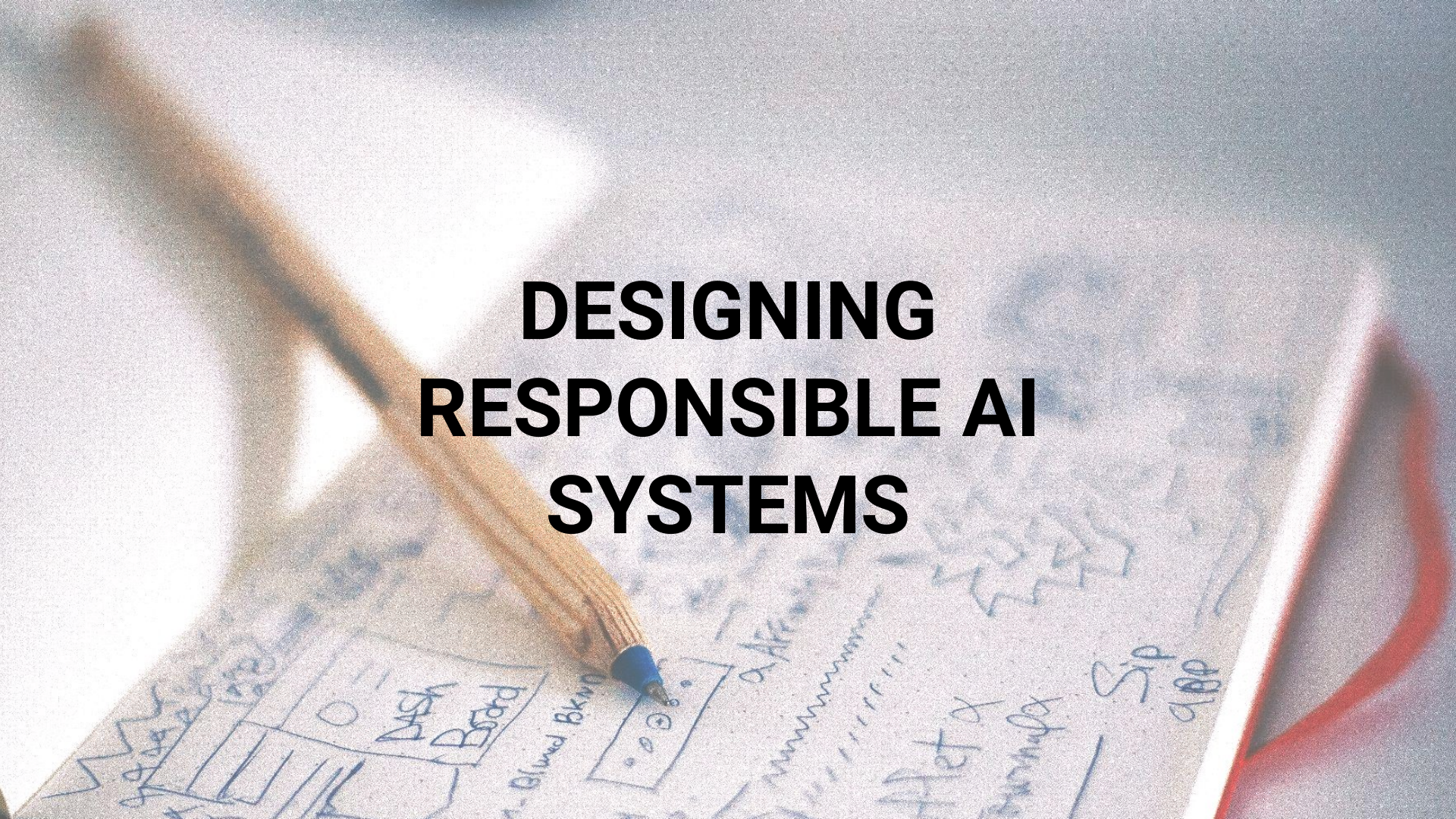
 **During Design:** identify potential risks of the use case and how to measure them

 **During Development:** prioritize Responsible AI metrics during training and testing


 **During Deployment:** monitor Responsible AI metrics, conduct regular audits

 **This is not something that you can or should do alone!** Getting input from different perspectives is key—Responsible AI is a multi-disciplinary problem.


# DESIGNING RESPONSIBLE AI SYSTEMS




## Evaluating your use case: a multi-stakeholder project.

 **Who is going to be impacted?** Think about both direct and indirect users; identify all of the groups that will be affected by use of your AI system.


 **What are the potential negative impacts on these people/groups?** Talk to people. Do real user research. Invite impacted groups to participate in the design process.

 **What is the regulatory context?** Are there any rules, regulations, or standards that need to be followed based on your use case?

 **How might we measure and mitigate negative impacts?** Develop a Responsible AI Assessment Plan that will address negative impacts and regulatory requirements.


## Tools that help with Responsible AI Alignment:


- AEQUITAS Framework
- Industry standards and benchmarks (NIST, IEEE, etc.)
- Credo AI


A top-down view of various LEGO bricks and pieces scattered on a white surface. The pieces are in shades of yellow, brown, red, green, blue, and white. The central text is overlaid on the white background.


# **DEVELOPING RESPONSIBLE AI SYSTEMS**

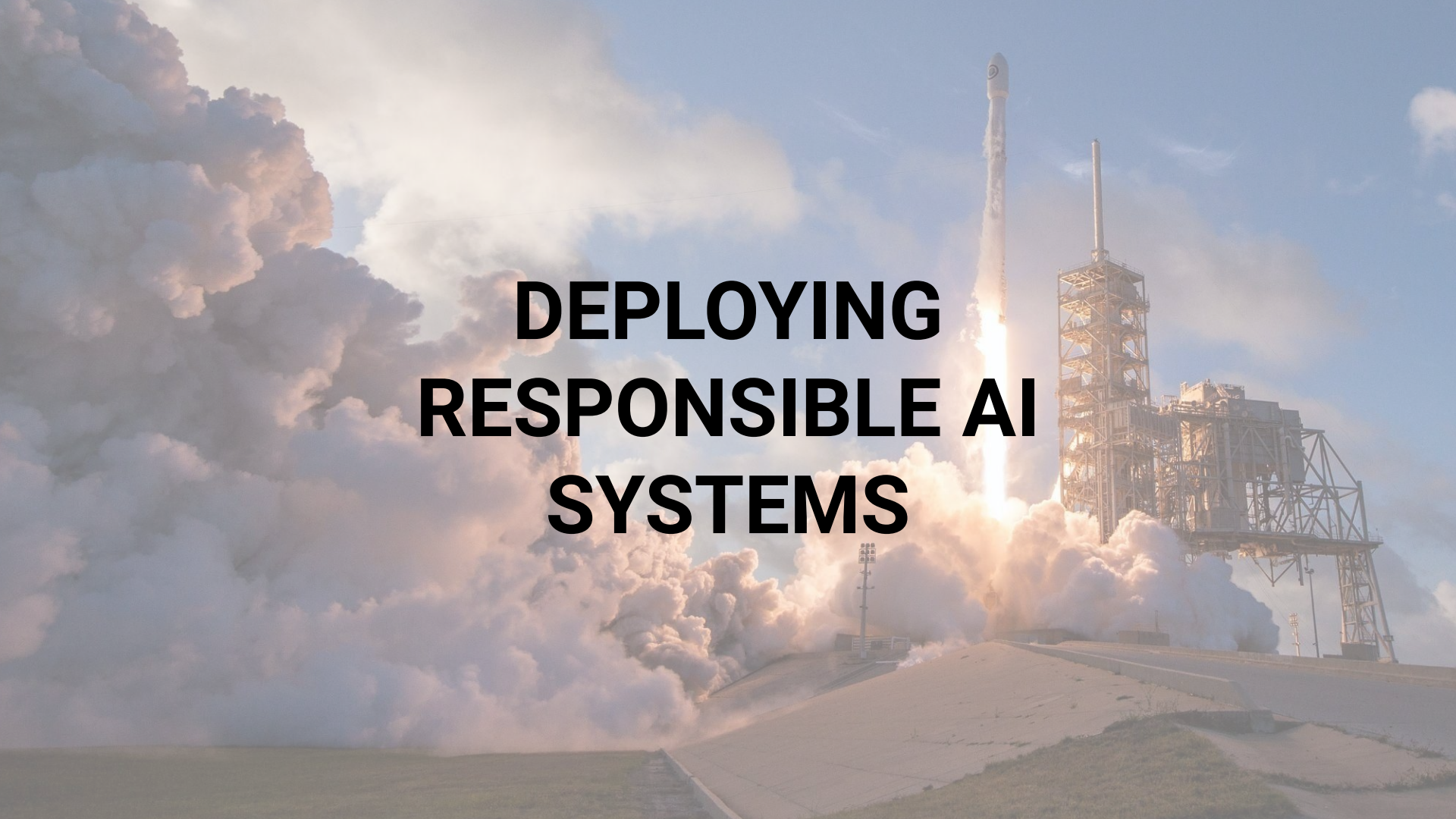
## Measuring Responsible AI during, not after, development.

 **Include Responsible AI metrics in your objective function.** Optimize for the most performant model that meets your RAI requirements.

 **Don't just evaluate your models; evaluate your data.** Fairness and privacy assessments should happen at the dataset level *before* the model level.

 **Rule out model methodologies that don't meet requirements from the start.** Is explainability a regulatory requirement? Don't waste time building a black box model.


 **Document your development decisions.** Transparency and accountability are made possible by good documentation; create consistent artifacts during development.


A photograph of a rocket launch. The rocket is ascending vertically from a launchpad, leaving a massive, billowing plume of white smoke and fire. The launchpad structure is visible on the right side of the frame. The sky is a clear blue with some light clouds. The overall scene is dramatic and powerful.


# **DEPLOYING RESPONSIBLE AI SYSTEMS**



## Continue monitoring and managing Responsible AI in production.

 **Include Responsible AI metrics in your monitoring plan.** Don't just monitor performance and drift; make sure you're tracking fairness metrics, too.

 **Conduct regular stress tests and audits.** Regulations are increasingly requiring regular audits or reports on AI systems' behavior over time.

 **Build Responsible AI feedback mechanisms.** Get feedback from your users and the communities impacted by your AI system—and act on that feedback regularly.

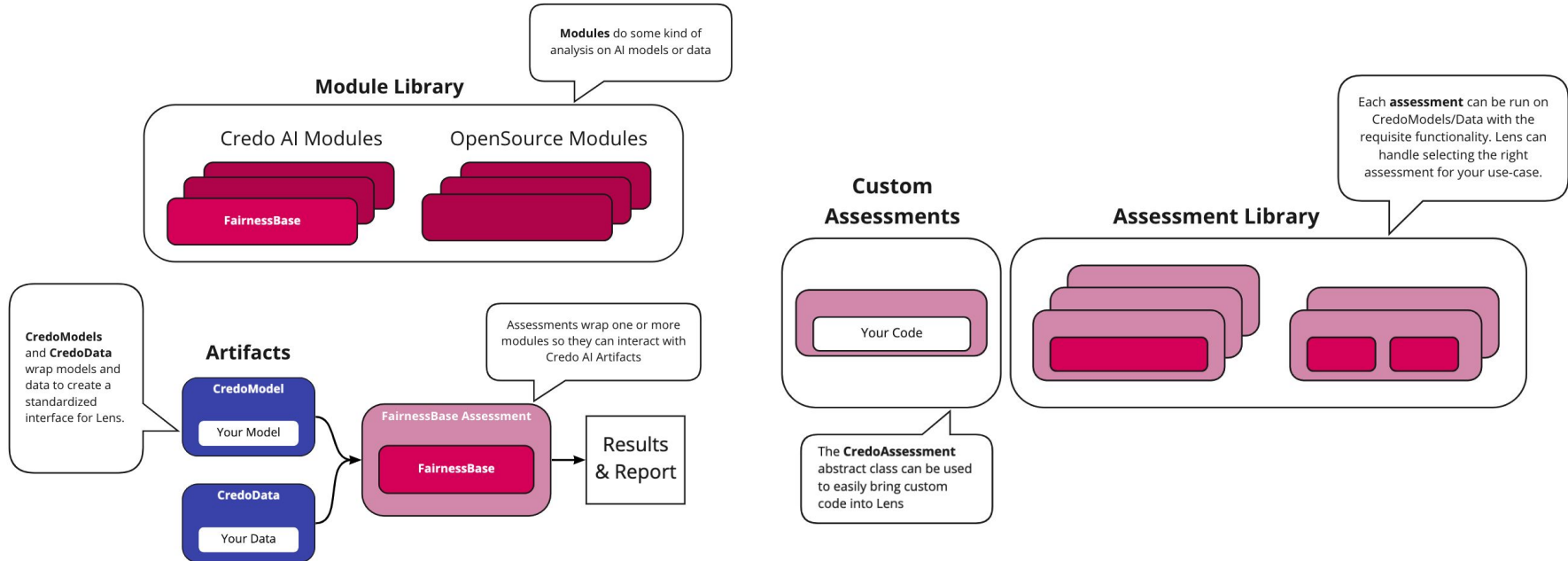
 **Have a plan in place if something goes wrong.** Who is responsible for fixing a problem, when it arises? What is your mitigation plan for Responsible AI issues?

# CREDO AI LENS



**What you can't observe, you  
can't control.**

# Bringing Responsible AI Assessment tools together.



## Current Credo AI Lens Assessment Capabilities:



**Fairness assessments.** Easily assess parity metrics like disparate impact, equal opportunity difference, etc. for binary classification models.



**Dataset assessments.** Detect proxy variables for protected attributes and get demographic parity analysis of your datasets.



**Custom NLP assessments: toxicity, profanity, verbosity.** For large language models, run a variety of NLP-specific assessments to identify negative model behavior.



**Disaggregated performance assessment.** Easily compare disaggregated performance of your model across groups of interest.

**Thank you!**

@shshattuck



**Watchful**

**The Machine Teaching  
Platform for the  
Enterprise**



**Contact John**  
COO & Co-Founder

# Problems with **Hand-Labeling**, and the Efficacy of **Automation Techniques**





## Introduction of Bias

- Hand-labels are not interpretable or reproducible, and are inherently bias-prone



## Prohibitive Costs

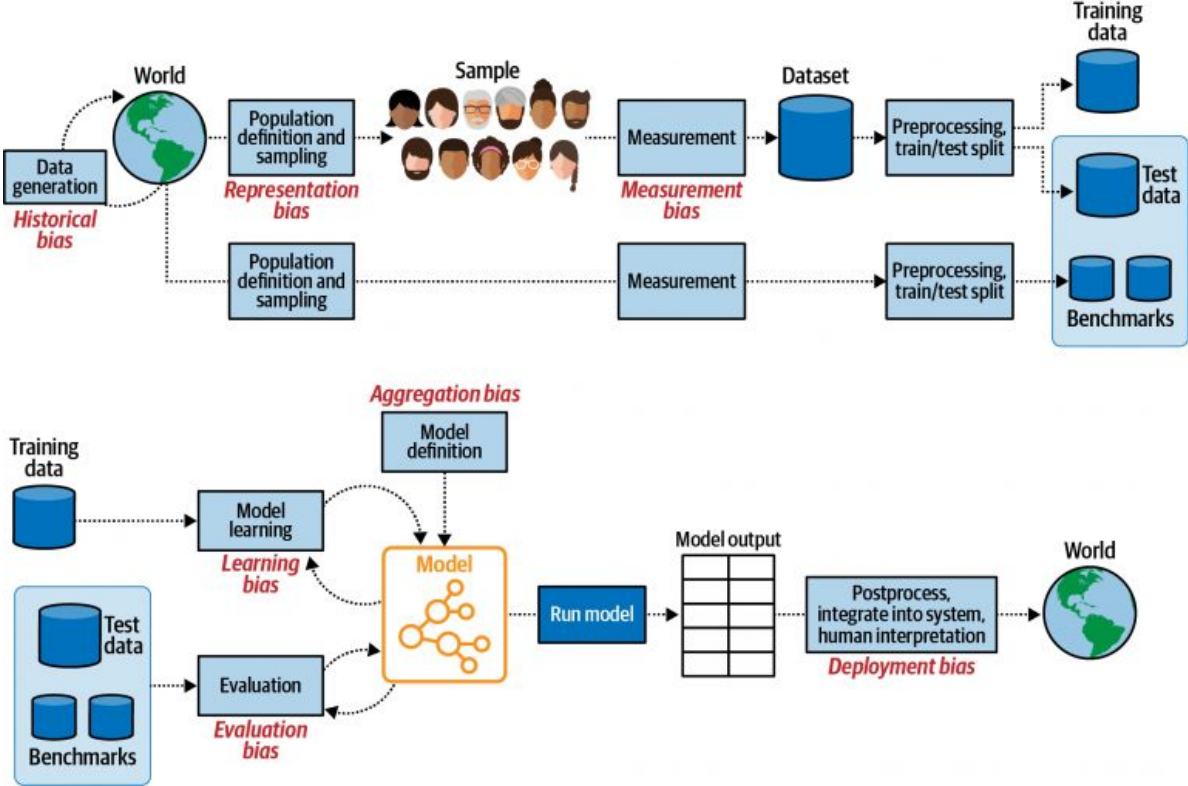
- Models that require lots of data or subject matter interpretation of the data are frequently cost prohibitive to build



## Ground Truth Is a Lie

- The real world is full of shades of gray
- Hand-labeled data often does not capture the nuance of inter-annotator disagreement

# Algorithmic Bias



Source: [Hand Labeling Considered Harmful](#)



- Often creeps in through data
- Can't explain hand-labels
- Can't easily remedy bias in hand-labels



# Machine Bias

There's software used across the country to predict future criminals. And it's biased against blacks.

*by Julia Angwin, Jeff Larson, Surya Mattu and Lauren Kirchner, ProPublica*

May 23, 2016

## What Do We Do About the Biases in AI?

by James Manyika, Jake Silberg, and Brittany Presten

October 25, 2019



Low

Amount Supervision Required

High



## Machine Teaching

Collection of techniques to extract knowledge from humans for model training



## Weak Supervision

Noisy heuristics are used to weakly label large amounts of data for machine learning



## Semi-Supervised Learning

Combine a small amount of labeled data with a large amount of unlabeled data



## Active Learning

Algorithm queries users interactively to label specific segments of the data



## Synthetic Data Generation

Building models to generate data points that have the same statistical validity as "real" data



## Transfer Learning

Leveraging general pre-trained models to quickly bootstrap specific models



- Techniques like weak supervision offer a framework for interpretability in labels
- Often must trade interpretability for quality
- Can combine approaches to achieve the right levels of interpretability, performance, and quality



## The Algorithmic Auditing Trap

'Bias audits' for discriminatory tools are a promising idea, but current approaches leave much to be desired



Mona Sloane Mar 17 · 7 min read ★

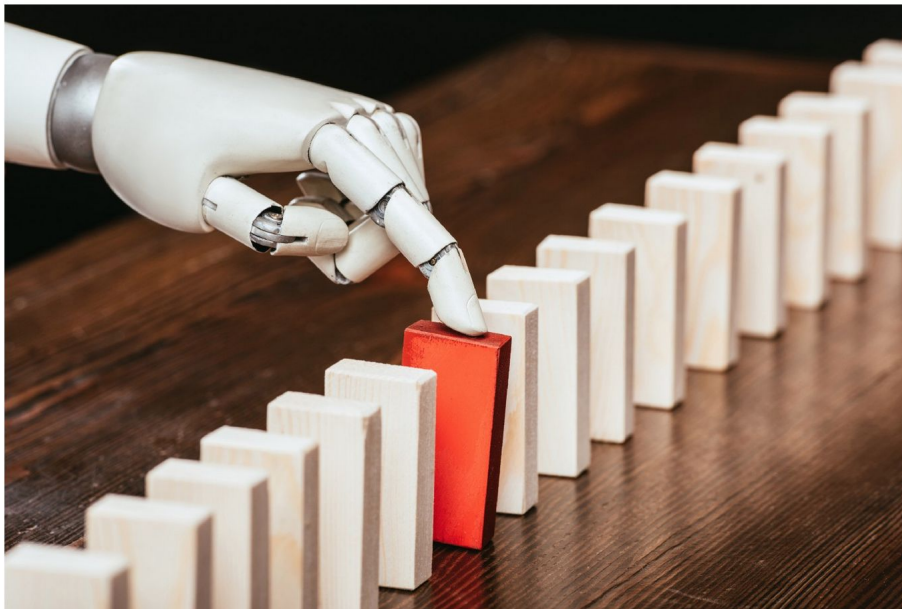


Image: LightFieldStudios/Getty Images

# **Societal, Time, and Financial Costs of Hand-Labeling**



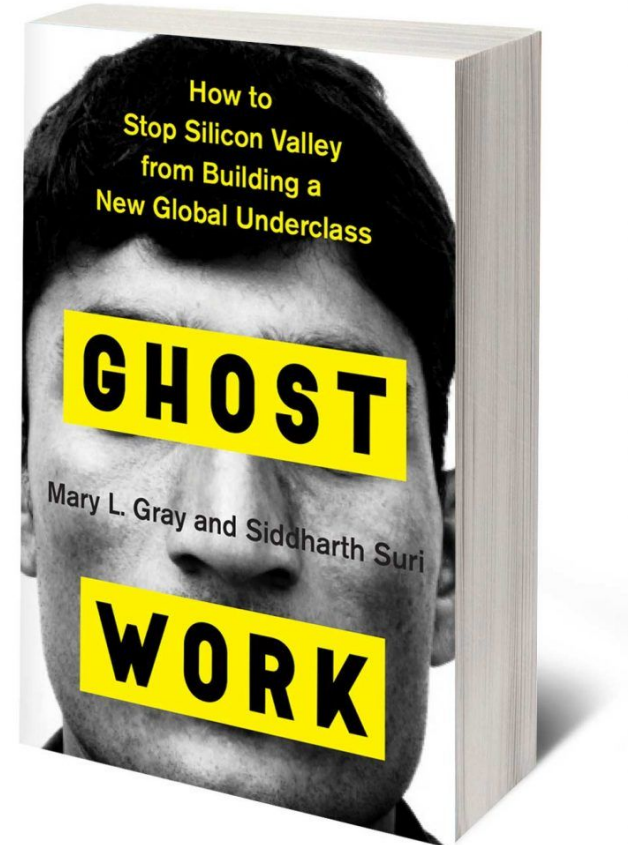


**MOTHERBOARD**  
TECH BY VICE

## Underpaid Workers Are Being Forced to Train Biased AI on Mechanical Turk

Workers who label images on platforms like Mechanical Turk say they're being incentivized to fall in line with their responses—or risk losing work.

**AN** By [Aliide Naylor](#)





- The time of experts is the scarcest resource
- You're never done labeling
- Time spent by experts must be measured over the lifetime of the model



## Healthcare

- Clinical Trial Matching
- Clinical Decision Support



## Finance

- Fraud detection
- Contract Intelligence



## Insurance

- Risk Classification
- Claims Fraud Detection



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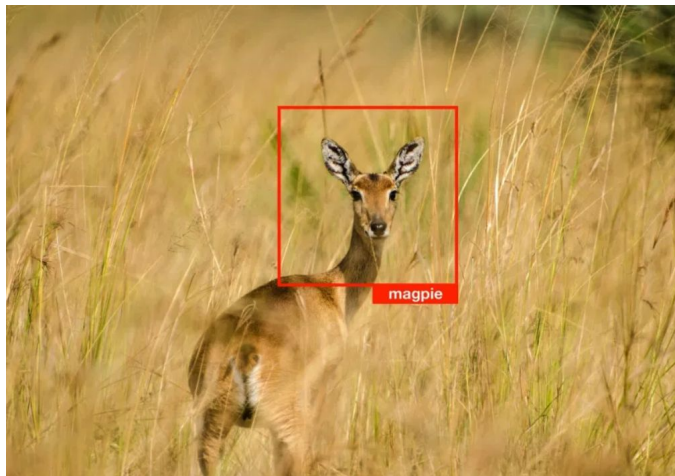
## Pervasive Label Errors in Test Sets Destabilize Machine Learning Benchmarks

---

**Curtis G. Northcutt\***  
ChipBrain, MIT

**Anish Athalye**  
MIT

**Jonas Mueller**  
Amazon





## Measuring Model Biases in the Absence of Ground Truth

Osman Aka<sup>\*</sup>  
Google

Ken Burke<sup>\*</sup>  
Google

Alex Bäuerle<sup>†</sup>  
Ulm University

Christina Greer  
Google

Margaret Mitchell<sup>‡</sup>



- You're never done labeling
- Class definitions often change as labeling progresses
- Cost of SME time compounds cost of overall pipeline



## Scaling to Very Very Large Corpora for Natural Language Disambiguation

**Michele Banko and Eric Brill**

Microsoft Research

1 Microsoft Way

Redmond, WA 98052 USA

`{mbanko,brill}@microsoft.com`

## DEEP LEARNING SCALING IS PREDICTABLE, EMPIRICALLY

**Joel Hestness, Sharan Narang, Newsha Ardalani, Gregory Damos, Heewoo Jun,**

**Hassan Kianinejad, Md. Mostofa Ali Patwary, Yang Yang, Yanqi Zhou**

`{joel,sharan,ardalaninewsha,gregdamos,junheewoo,hassankianinejad,  
patwarymostofa, yangyang62, zhouyanqi}@baidu.com`

Baidu Research



*“We empirically validate that **DL model accuracy improves as a power-law as we grow training sets for state-of-the-art (SOTA) model architectures** in four machine learning domains: machine translation, language modeling, image processing, and speech recognition. These power-law learning curves exist across all tested domains, model architectures, optimizers, and loss functions.”*

*– Hestness et al. 2017*



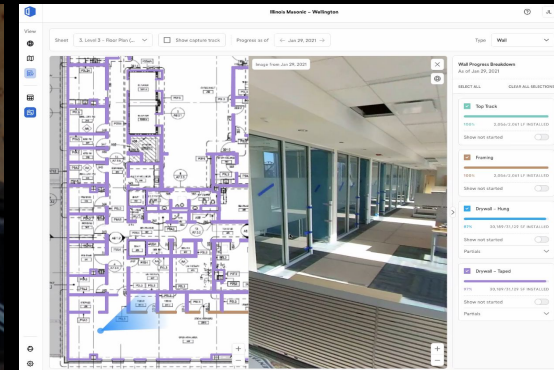
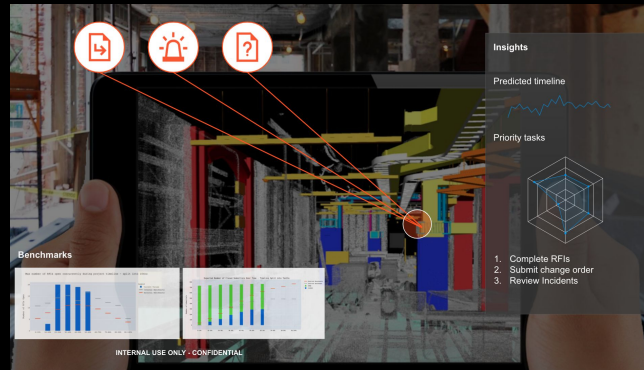
A photograph of a construction site. Two workers are positioned on a dark steel beam. The worker on the left is wearing a red shirt and a hard hat, and is using a tool that produces a bright light. The worker on the right is wearing a yellow safety vest and a blue hard hat. The background is a large, textured concrete wall with vertical metal strips. Scaffolding is visible on the left side of the frame.

# Driving ROI from Data Products Data and AI in Construction

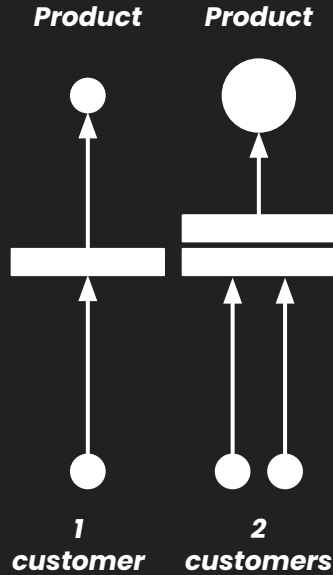
Alvaro Soto, Director of Product, Data at Procore

# A large industry with data everywhere

Construction is a 10 trillion industry (13% of global GDP) that has just started to be digitized in the past 10 years. Procore's platform is at the forefront of this shift helping general contractors, owners, and subcontractors collaborate and manage their projects in real time. 110 TB of data run through the Procore project management and financials platform every month.

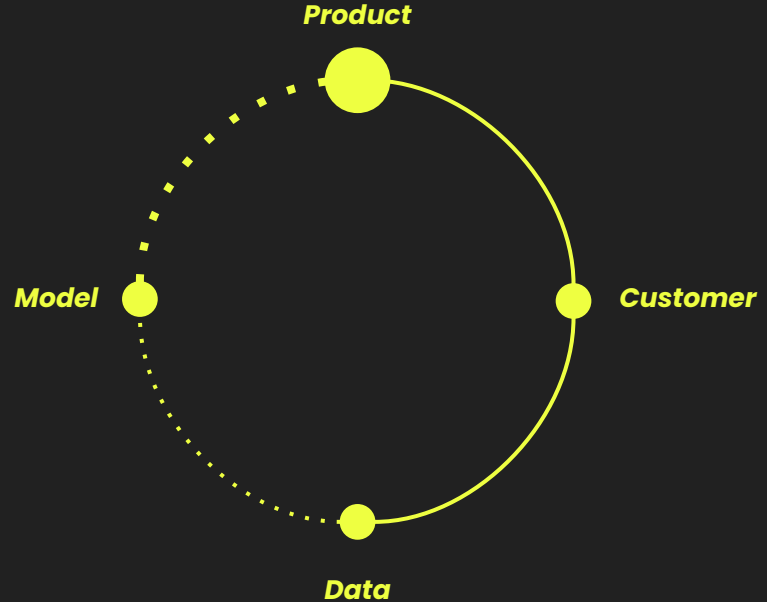


# An evolution in data products



The addition of data (customer or ad-hoc) makes the product more useful

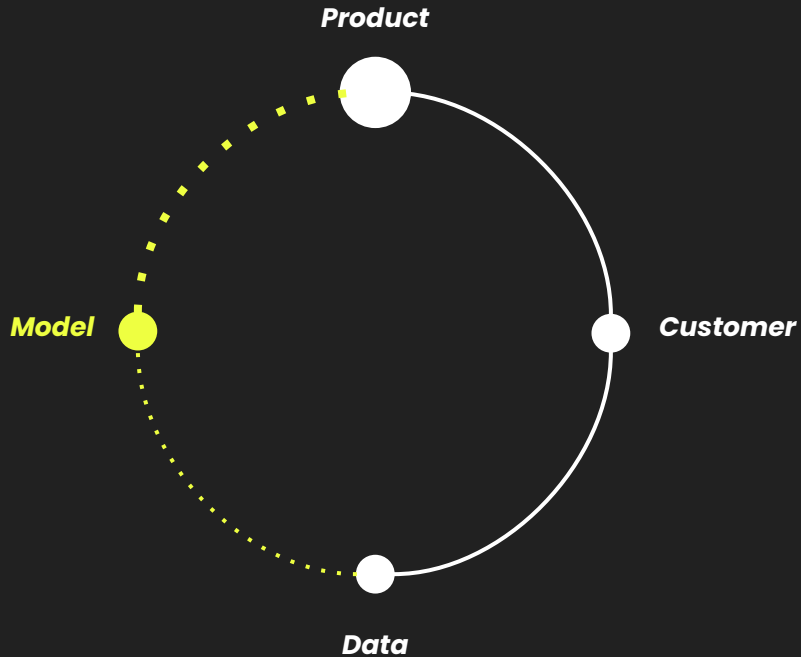
*Examples: Dashboards, reports, benchmarks*



The addition of data (customer or ad-hoc) plus an AI model makes the product more useful.

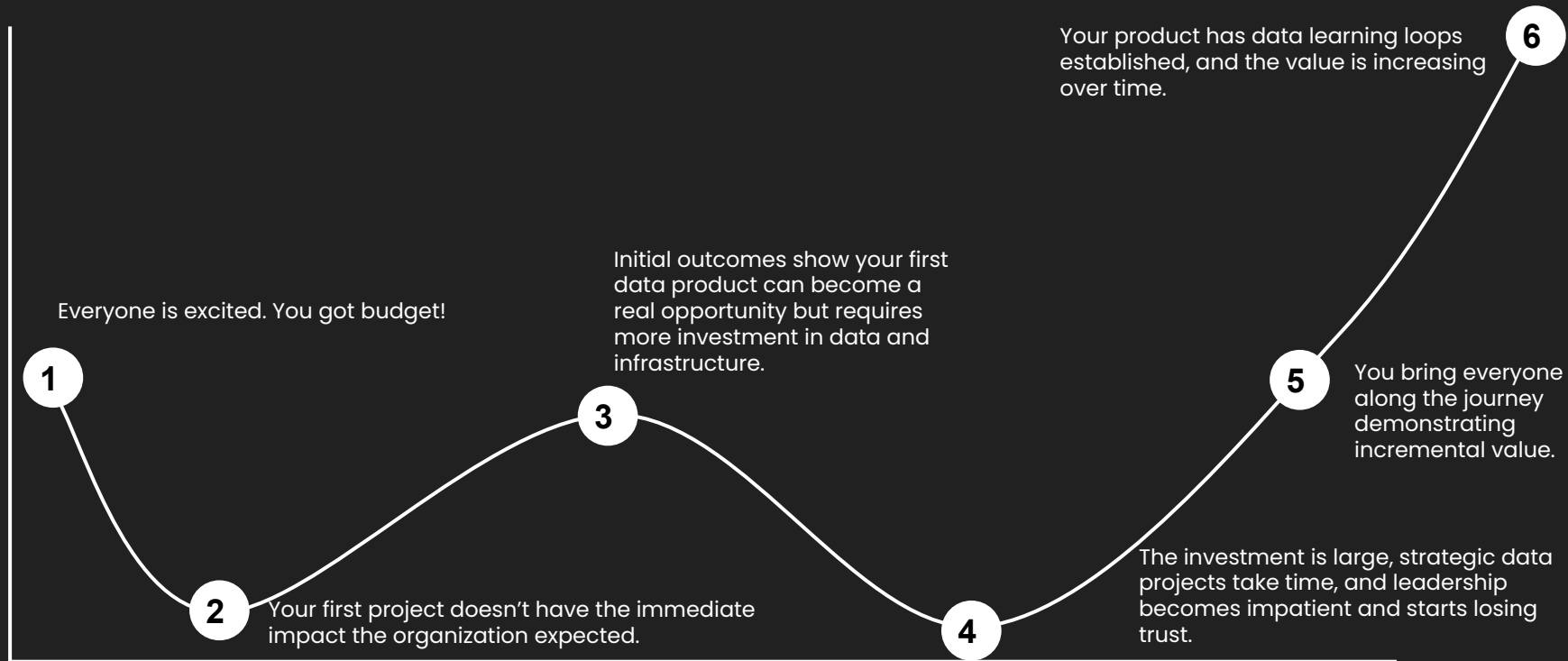
*Examples: recommendations, predictions, automation*

# Establishing data learning loops



Every customer brings new data, and new data improves the model. Ultimately improving the product in a self-sustaining learning loop.

# Driving ROI from data products is a long journey with deep valleys



# What you need to get right

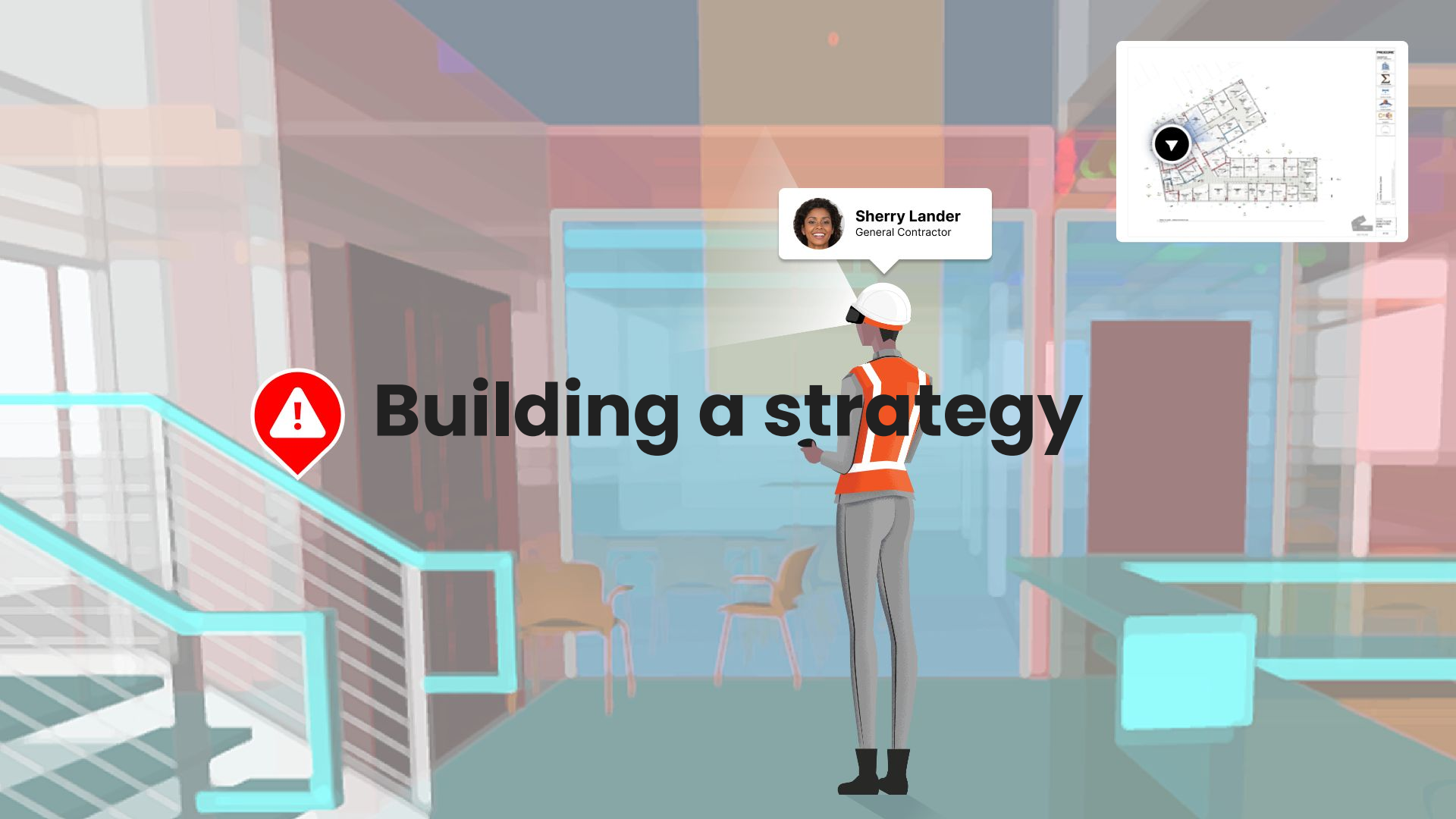
1. A vision, and product strategy with a clear path to enabling data learning loops.
2. A northstar with a goldilocks starting point.
3. Stakeholder management through customer outcomes.



# Building a strategy



**Sherry Lander**  
General Contractor



# Vision + Tactics

## What are you going to do to win?

1. What is your product **vision?**
2. What are the top **tactics** to pursue?

To connect everyone in construction on a single Platform.

## In the next 3 years we will...

1. Connect All Stakeholders.
2. Accelerate growth with financial products.
3. Win Preconstruction.



# Identify your north star questions

## 1. **Connect All Stakeholders.**

*What are the best companies I can hire for this project?*

## 2. **Accelerate growth with financial products.**

*What do we need to do to ensure highest profit on this project?*

## 3. **Win Preconstruction.**

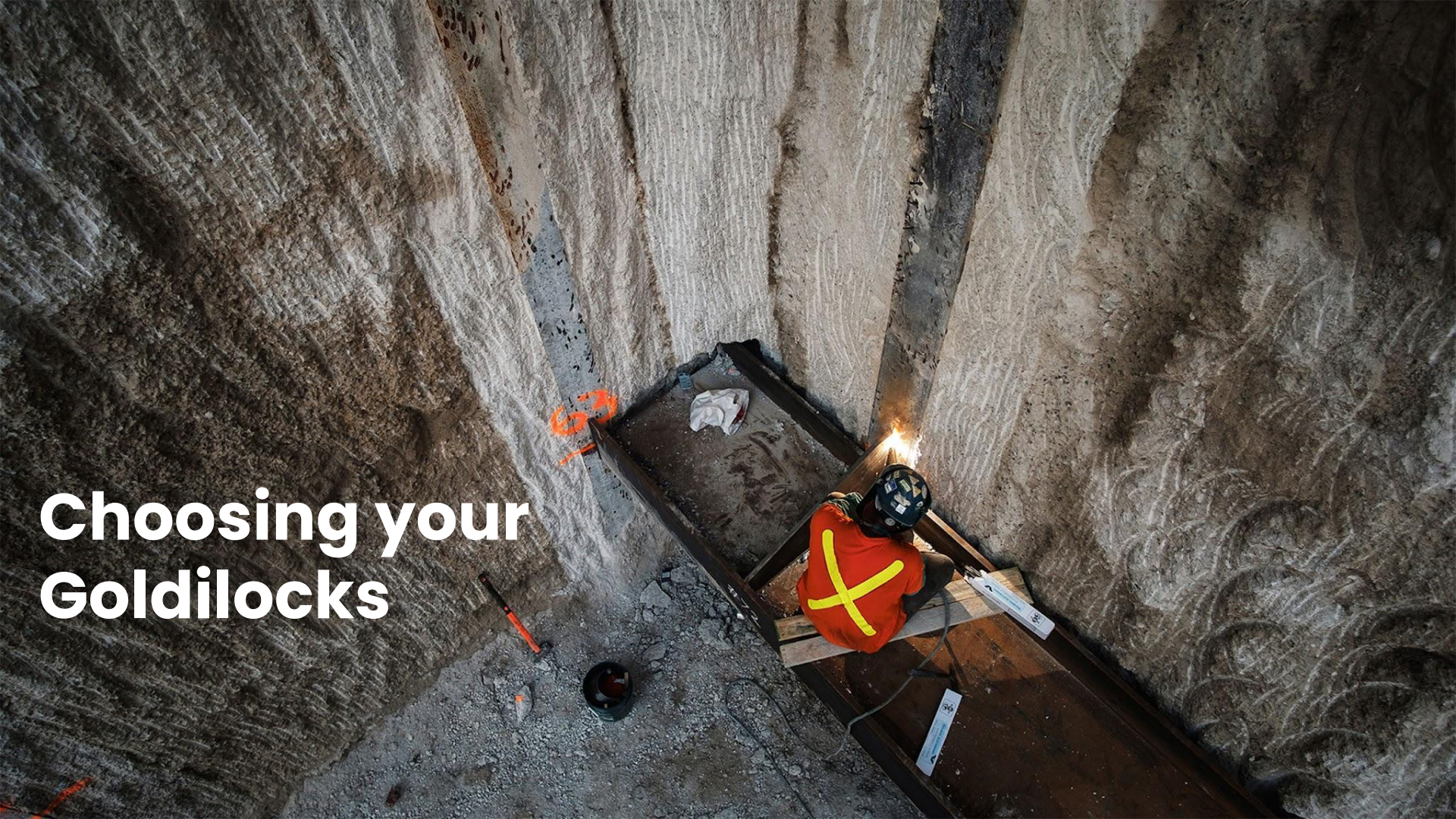
Do I have a competitive bid to win this project?

# North stars questions are a **goal post**

**They frame the problem, and challenge your team to take three critical steps:**

1. Understand how customers attempt to answer these questions today.
2. Identify the data needed to answer these questions.
3. Create systems to acquire, process, and prepare the data.

# Choosing your Goldilocks



# Don't burn your shots



Your first project must not be too far from your goal posts, nor too close. You must be able to identify incremental progress and have room for failure and experimentation.

# Your first data project

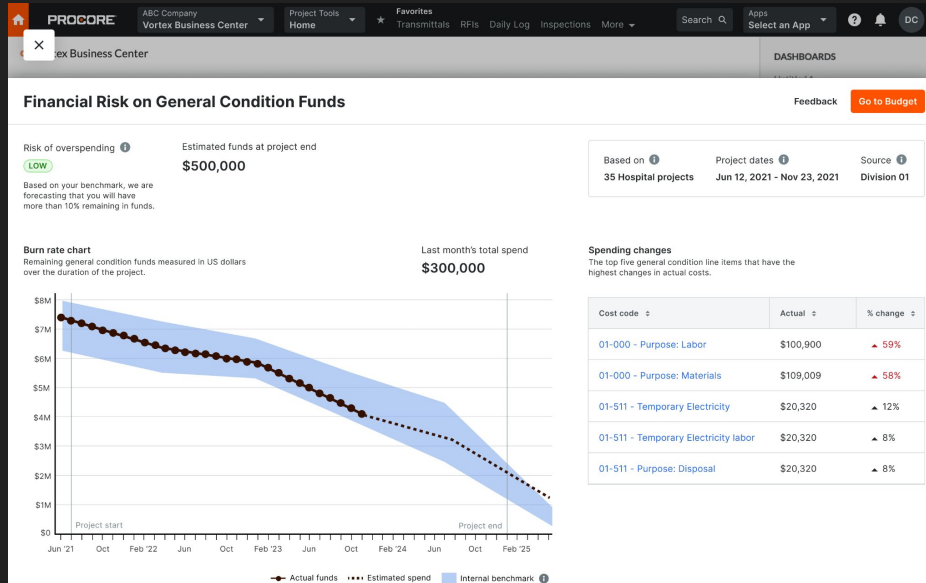
1. A real customer problem tied to one of your north star questions.
2. Data readily available from one data source.
3. Measurable from the onset.
4. Should test your end to end development cycle.
5. Removed from a critical customer workflow.

# A construction Goldilocks project

**North star:** *what do we need to do to ensure highest profit on this project?*

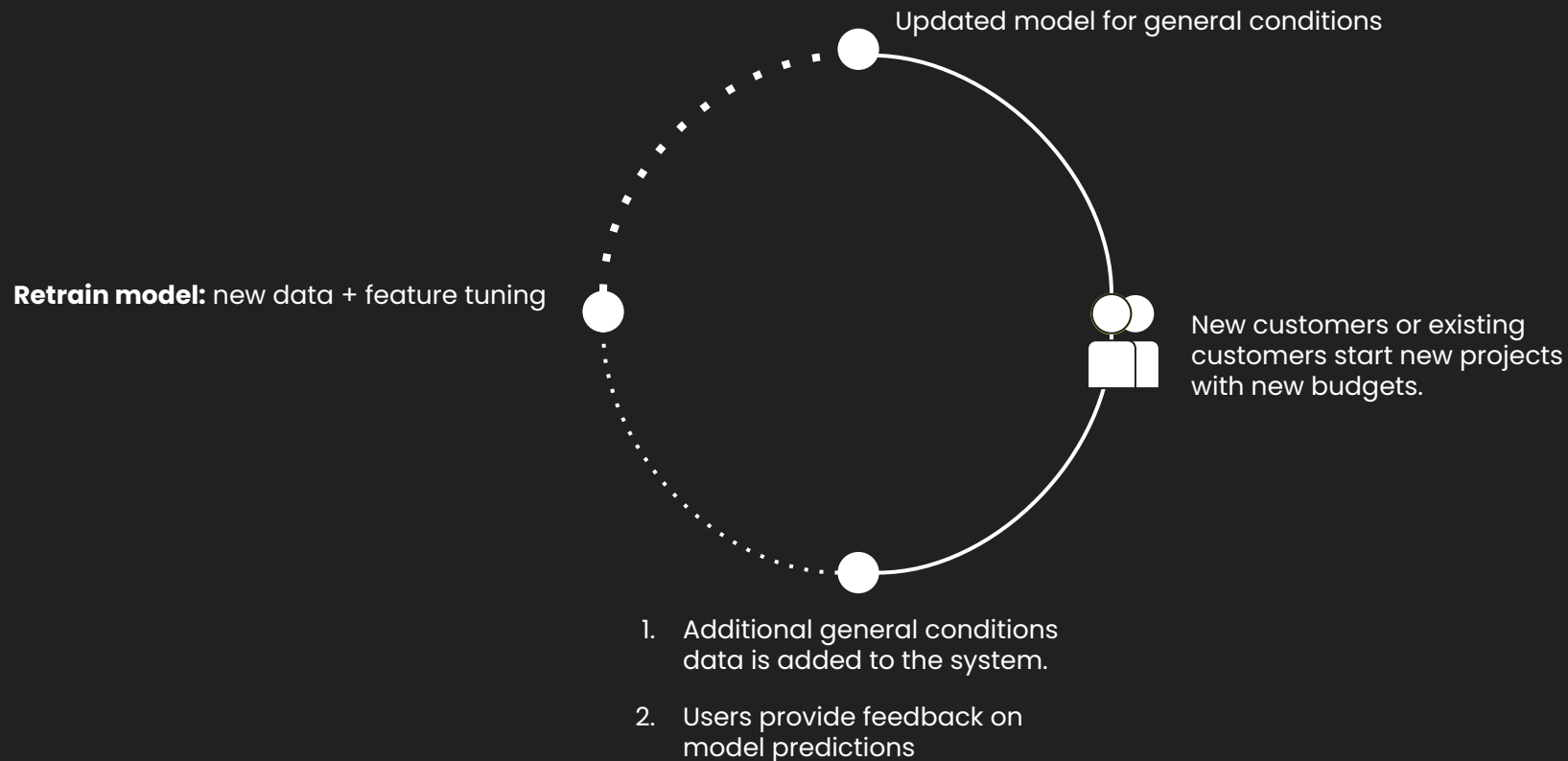
- 1 *Is my contingency budget right for this project?*
- 2 *Are we at risk of general conditions funds overspend?*
- 3 *What type of projects are more profitable for us?*

# Build, define success, and measure



% of users who take direct action in the budget tool.

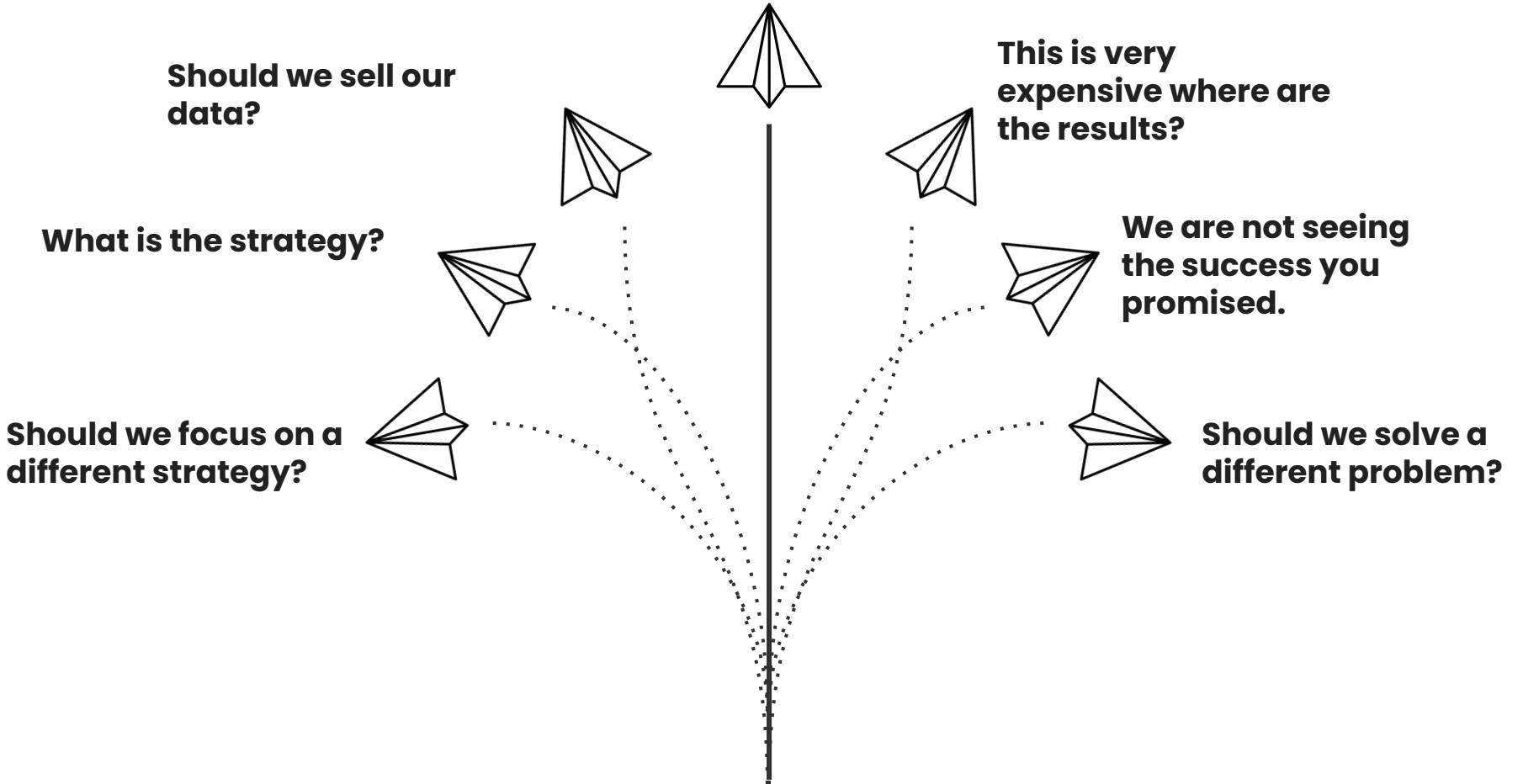
# Build learning loops with your users





**Manage your  
stakeholders**





# Whittle out distractions ...

1. New opportunities will emerge. Keep your organization and your team focused on the north stars of the strategy.
2. Communicate often. Use your goldilocks project as a means for engaging your stakeholders throughout the process.
3. Keep your team motivated with the “**why**”. Bring customer stories to life with your goldilocks project.

