



Agentic AI Readiness Briefing

AI Is Here.
Are Your Data Foundations Ready?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AI has entered a new phase.

It no longer just supports human decision-making — it **acts** inside core business operations. Approving requests. Routing work. Triggering outcomes. Making decisions that directly affect customers, operations, and risk.

This briefing summarizes key insights from Denodo's AI Readiness executive session featuring **Alberto Pan**, Chief Technology Officer, and **Richard Jones**, VP, APAC.

The session focused on what fundamentally changes when AI moves from insight to action — and why success with agentic AI depends less on model capability and more on **accountability, trust, and organizational readiness.**

The Shift: From Advisory AI to Agentic AI

Traditional AI systems advise.
Agentic AI **acts**.

Once AI is embedded in live business operations, the nature of value and risk changes:

- Decisions happen in real time
- Outcomes are immediate and measurable
- Accountability moves into the business

A recurring theme of the discussion was clear:
once AI starts acting, organizational ownership becomes the real constraint.

As **Richard Jones** stated during the session:

*If you don't have trust, you don't have accountability.
And without accountability, there's nothing meaningful to measure.*

What Changes When AI Acts

1. Accountability becomes a leadership issue

When AI operates inside live business operations, responsibility for outcomes no longer sits with IT or innovation teams. Ownership — and risk — moves to executive leadership.

2. Trust becomes a prerequisite

AI cannot be delegated authority unless leaders trust:

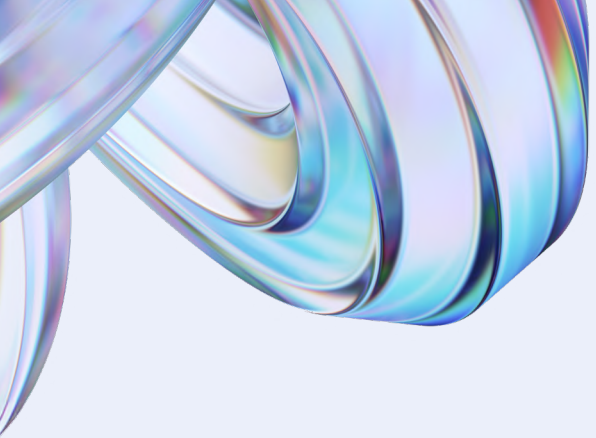
- The data being used
- The business context applied
- The guardrails governing action

Without trust, AI may exist — but it will not scale.

3. Measurement becomes non-negotiable

Action without accountability leads to AI activity without defensible KPIs.

Without ownership, there is no credible ROI.



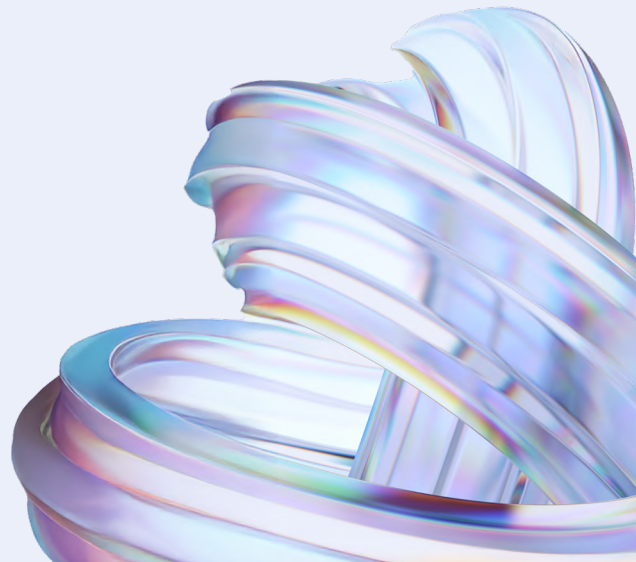
When Agentic AI Is Trusted to Act

One organization discussed during the executive session had already crossed the threshold from insight to action.

Operating at national scale, this public-sector finance authority oversees compliance and financial activity across **dozens of autonomous entities**, each with its own systems, policies, and security constraints.

Traditional audits were slow, manual, and retrospective — effective for reporting, but not for real-time decision-making.

To move from oversight to action, the organization introduced **agentic AI into live financial workflows** — not to replace human judgement, but to continuously monitor, flag, and recommend actions as activity occurred.



What changed was not the AI model — it was the foundation around it.

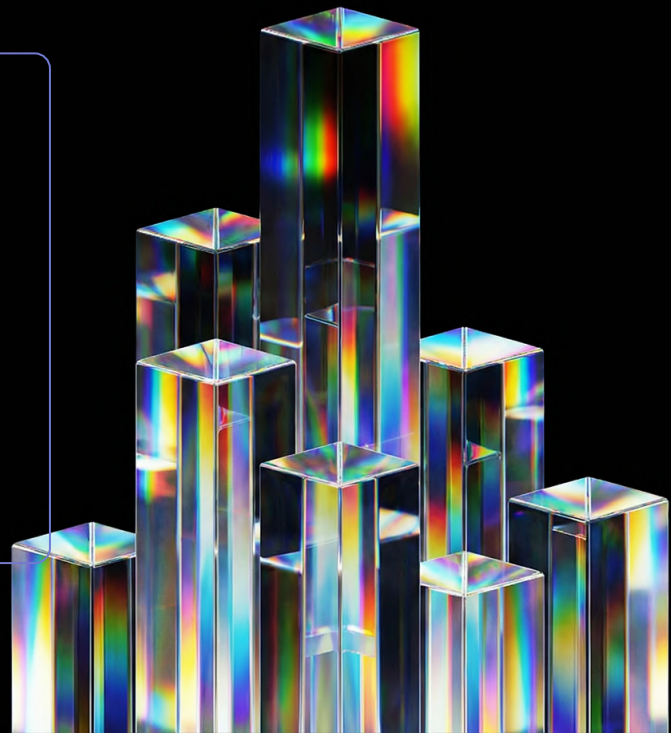
The organization established:

- A **single, governed data access layer** spanning operational systems, legal documents, and policy sources
- **Decision-time controls**, ensuring AI actions remained within defined regulatory and organizational guardrails
- **Full traceability**, allowing leaders to explain why an action or recommendation occurred — not just what happened

As a result:

- Compliance shifted from periodic audits to **continuous, real-time oversight**
- AI-generated recommendations could be **trusted, owned, and defended**
- Executive leadership retained accountability, because decisions were observable and explainable

The lesson from this example was clear: Agentic AI only scaled once leaders trusted it enough to let it act — and that trust came from governance and context being enforced at the moment decisions were made.



The 2026 Reality for AI and Data Leaders

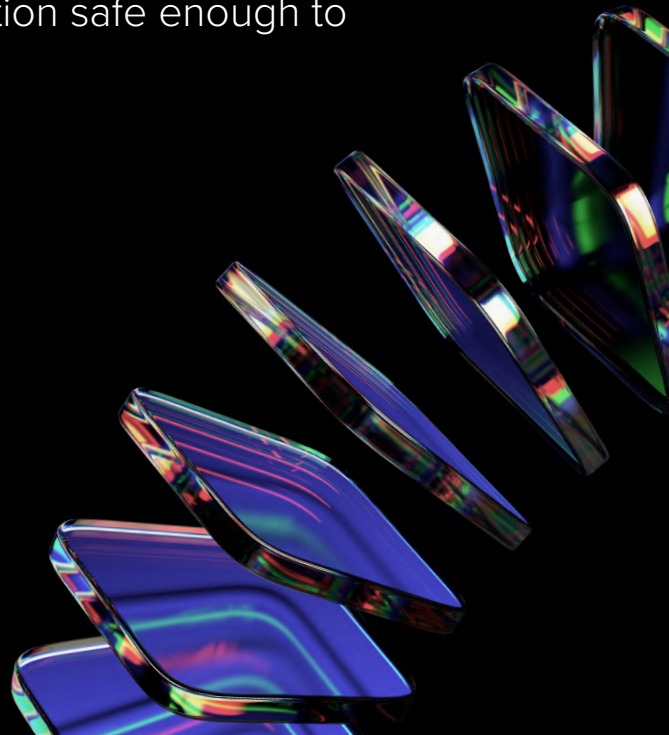
In 2026, AI is already acting — whether organizations are fully ready or not.

For AI and data leaders, the challenge is no longer proving why agentic AI matters, but how to move forward when governance, ownership, and data foundations lag behind technical capability.

Three tensions surfaced repeatedly:

- Executives want outcomes, but fear loss of control
- Teams can build agents faster than trust can scale
- Governance exists, but not at decision-time

AI leaders are now expected to close these gaps — not by slowing AI down, but by making action safe enough to proceed.



What to Do When the Organization Isn't Ready

The executive session highlighted a consistent pattern among organizations making progress:

Focus on controlled readiness, not perfect maturity

High-performing teams:

- Anchor AI action to **one executive-owned business operation**
- Tie outcomes to **one defensible KPI**
- Enforce governance **at the point of action**
- Replace abstract maturity models with **proof of readiness**

Readiness becomes measurable when leaders can answer:

- Can AI act on live operational data?
- Can decisions be explained and traced?
- Can outcomes be owned and defended?

The Role of the Data Foundation

Agentic AI requires a different foundation than analytics-led AI.

To support AI that acts, organizations need a data layer that:

- Provides live situational awareness
- Applies shared business semantics
- Enforces governance where decisions are made
- Makes AI actions observable and explainable

This is the role Denodo plays — Not another AI platform. Not more governance later. But decision-time governance and semantics

KEY TAKEAWAY ✦

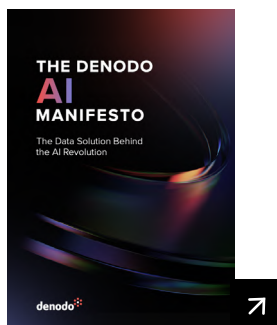
*Agentic AI is no longer a future concept.
The organizations that succeed will not be those with the most advanced models — but those that build trust, assign accountability, and make AI safe to act.*

Next Steps

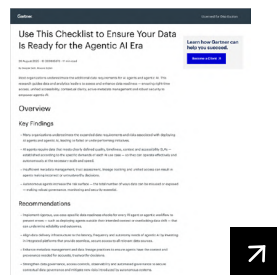
Watch the on-demand
AI Readiness session



Explore Denodo's
AI Manifesto



Review Gartner®'s *Use
This Checklist to Ensure
Your Data Is Ready for the
Agentic AI Era*



Visit denodo.com | Email info@denodo.com | Discover community.denodo.com