

# AI starter kit for lean teams

Your four-step guide  
from data to agents.



# Executive summary

During my conversations with leaders about the transformative power of AI, it's clear their excitement is real.

This excitement is backed up by data: 82% of small and medium-sized businesses planned to grow tech budgets in 2025,<sup>1</sup> and nearly 50% consider AI a top strategic priority.<sup>2</sup> But I also see the other side of the coin—only 12% of AI pilots ever make it to production.<sup>3</sup> For a lean team, that's a significant distraction. You don't have time for complex solutions or costly missteps. You need a strategic approach that delivers tangible value.

That's why we created this guide. Consider it your strategic playbook, designed to make AI not just accessible, but a powerful, hands-on tool for your business. It's time to turn today's potential into tomorrow's competitive edge.



**Sharon Prosser**

Vice President, Small and Medium Sized Businesses,  
Google Cloud

<sup>1</sup> IDC. (2025). [Worldwide SMB Technology Spending Outlook](#).

<sup>2</sup> IDC. (2025). [Worldwide SMB Market Profile Update](#).

<sup>3</sup> Lenovo. (2025). [CIO Playbook It's Time for AI-nomics](#).

## What is a lean team?

Lean teams can exist in every company—from a five-person business to a team of five developers within a 1,000-person enterprise. These lean teams often handle a wide array of responsibilities, requiring them to wear multiple hats—whether assessing AI tools, developing a marketing campaign, or managing a product launch.

# The future of AI is agentic

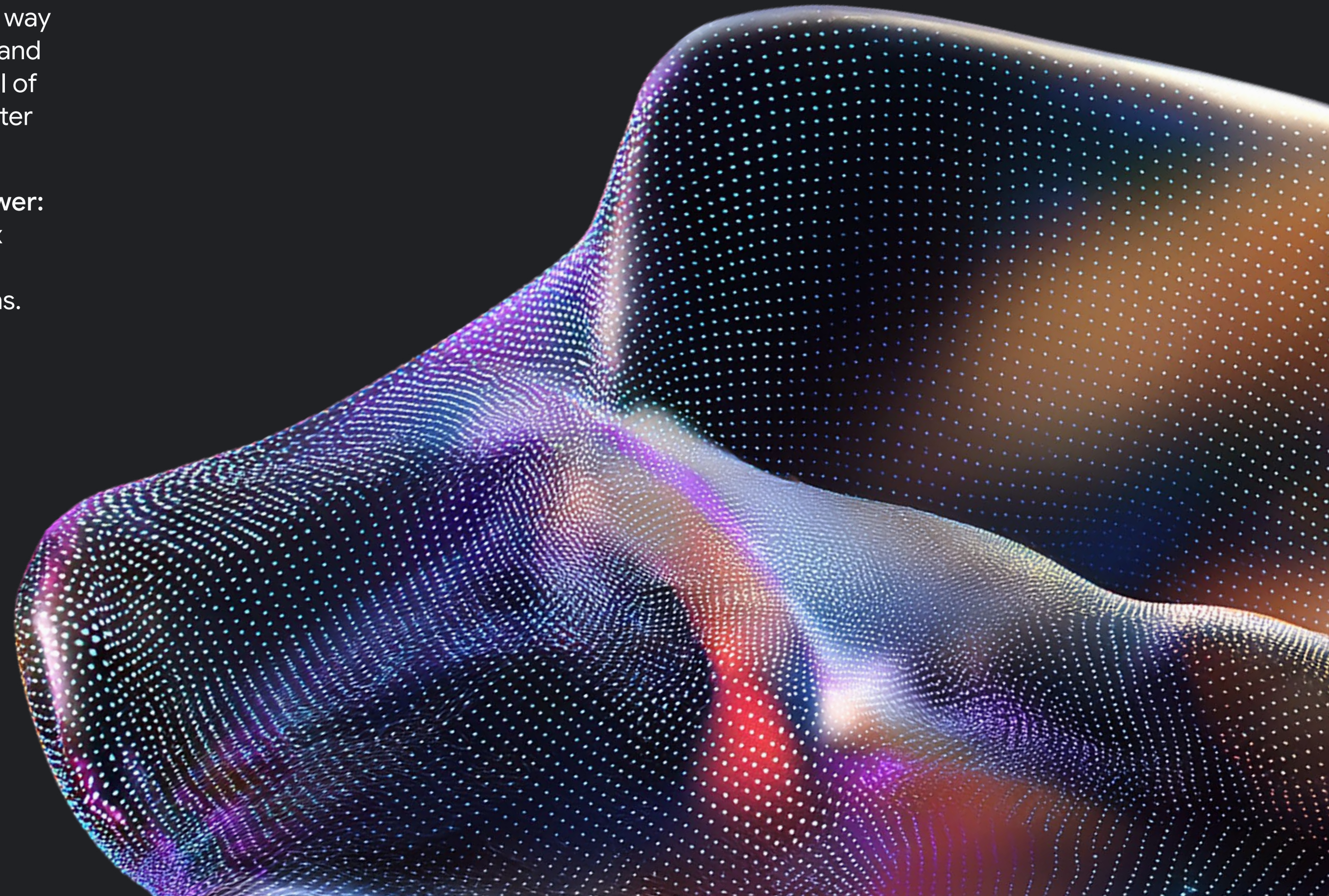
AI is already transforming the way employees are working, with 94% of mid-sized businesses already relying on cloud computing services to power their digital growth.<sup>4</sup>

Now, we're moving into the next phase: AI agents. This new generation of AI won't just sit around waiting for your instructions—it will proactively get things done. Essentially, it's the leap from using AI for small, repetitive tasks to having an intelligent, independent partner that tackles workflows, end-to-end.

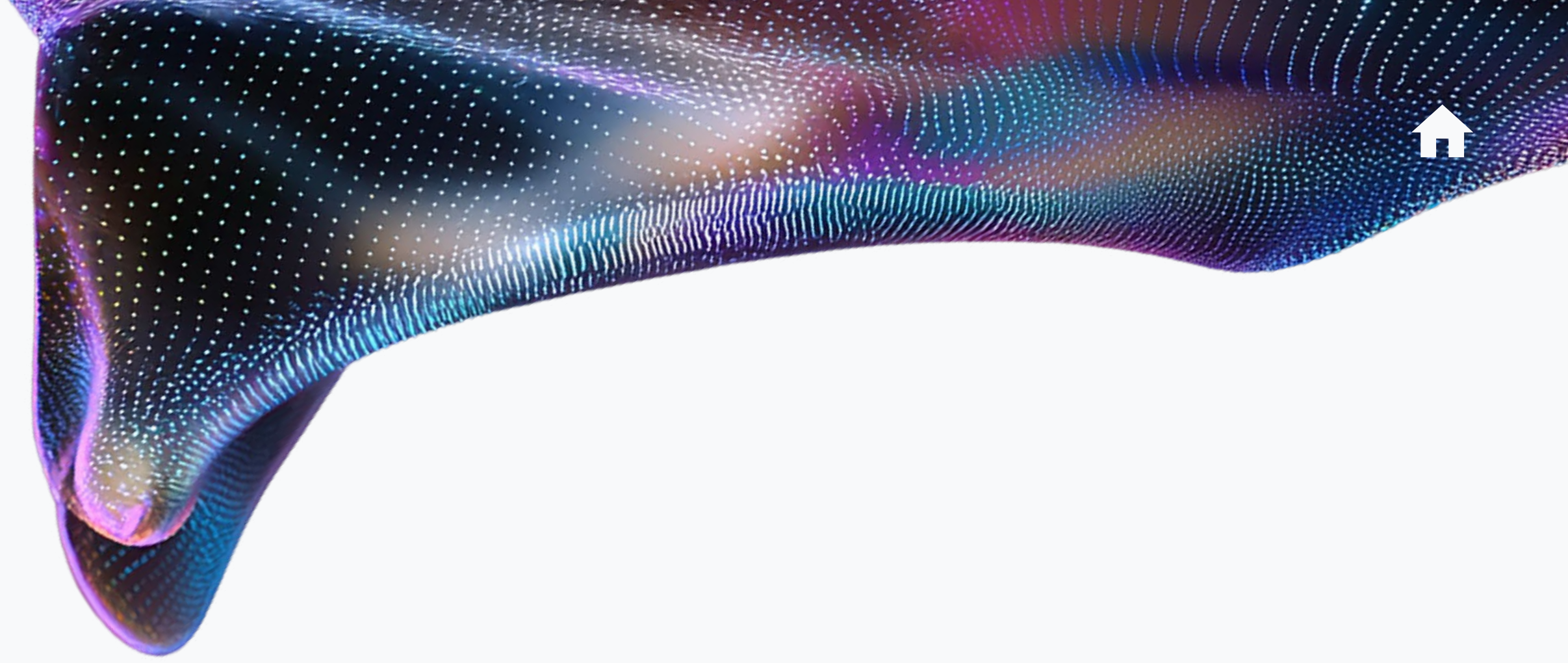
If you don't have a large engineering team, you may think that developing custom AI applications for your business is too complex and expensive. It doesn't have to be.

As this guide shows, there is a simple, easy way to achieve success in deploying custom AI and agents, so you can tap into the full potential of AI grounded in your business data—no matter the size of your team.

In fact, **lean teams have a secret superpower: agility.** You're not slowed down by complex legacy systems or the extensive change management required by large corporations. This agility allows you to explore and adopt AI much faster, so you can realize growth, maximize productivity, and see a positive ROI, sooner.



# Start small, scale smart



So, how can your business maximize the transformative potential of AI?

## Step 1



**Experiment and  
get hands-on**

Get your first no-code win

## Step 2



**Build your  
data foundation**

Create a single source  
of truth for AI

## Step 3



**Start small and  
prove value fast**

Automate a repetitive task

## Step 4



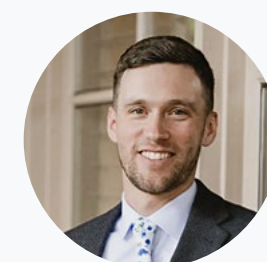
**Scale smart with a  
multi-step workflow**

Expand to an end-to-end  
agentic workflow

A large, abstract graphic on the left side of the page, composed of many thin, overlapping, wavy layers of blue and purple, creating a sense of depth and movement.

“

No matter how big, small, or complex your team is, there's a Google Cloud service ready to do some heavy lifting.”



**Joe Vargas**

Director of Business Intelligence,  
North American Blueberry Council, Nonprofit

Step 1

# Experiment and get hands-on



## For lean teams, the decision to invest in AI is often stalled by a single question: where do we even begin?

While 85% of SMBs recognize AI's potential to streamline operations, boost productivity, and unlock new efficiencies, a staggering 91% are frustrated by "AI overload"—too many tools, too much noise, and too little clarity.<sup>5</sup> This hesitancy creates a critical execution gap where potential value is lost. In this step, you'll learn how to achieve a quick win with minimal investment and build vital momentum within your team, proving that AI is accessible right where you are.

Our recommendation is to start with a **low-risk, no-code use case** that doesn't require extensive business data ingestion.

For context-aware automation that fits in with your business, we recommend choosing a solution like Gemini Enterprise, which provides **one-click data connectors to your existing business applications**, such as Google Workspace or Microsoft Office.



# 91%

of SMBs are frustrated by AI overload—too many tools, too much noise, and too little clarity<sup>5</sup>



<sup>5</sup> WSI, [The AI Paradox: Why SMBs Are Both Ready and Reluctant to Embrace AI](#), 2025



# How to get started

The goal of this step is to get hands-on with a simple AI enterprise solution which offers greater functionality than consumer chatbots—but with no coding required.

Pre-built AI agents come with simple data connectors to give them immediate context from third-party apps. Experimenting with these agents will allow you to **unlock immediate value** and secure a tangible result.

## 01

### Pick a low-risk task

Start the process by selecting a non-critical task for your experimentation, such as content ideation or brainstorming.

## 02

### Lean into prompts

Get into the practice of using powerful and effective prompts in Gemini Enterprise. This [prompt guide](#) can help you get started.

## 03

### Define your goals

Clearly define success—is it saving time, improving quality, or generating more ideas? Use these metrics to help you effectively track your progress.

## 04

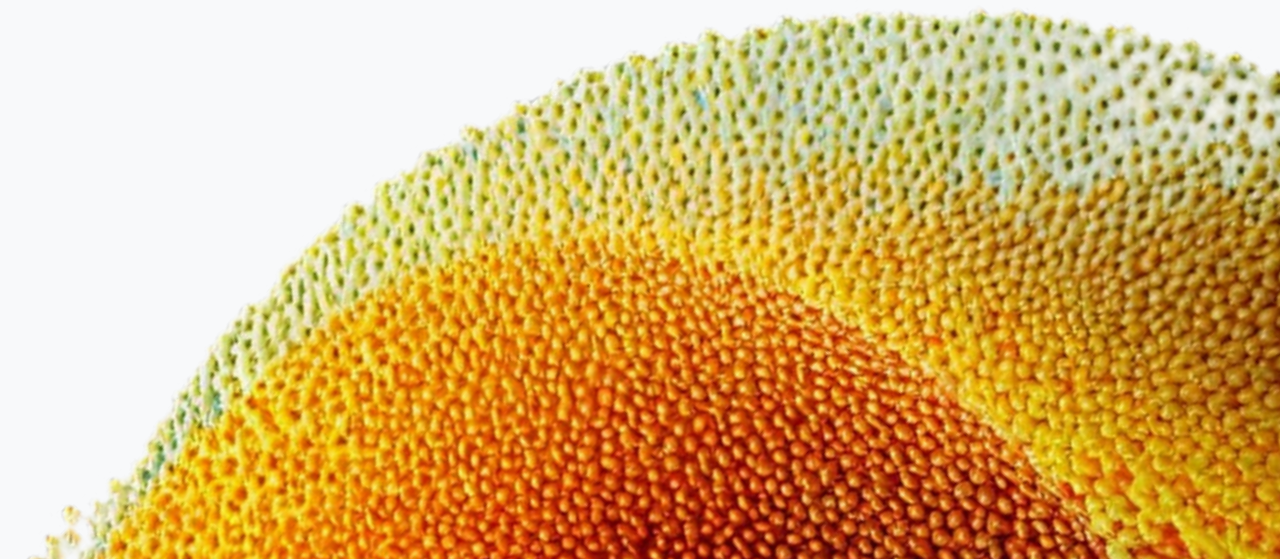
### Keep track of what you learn

Note where the AI added value (speed, clarity, creativity) and where it fell short to truly understand its contribution.

## 05

### Share and iterate on your results

Present early wins to your team and relevant stakeholders to build AI credibility and gather diverse feedback, driving more effective iterations.

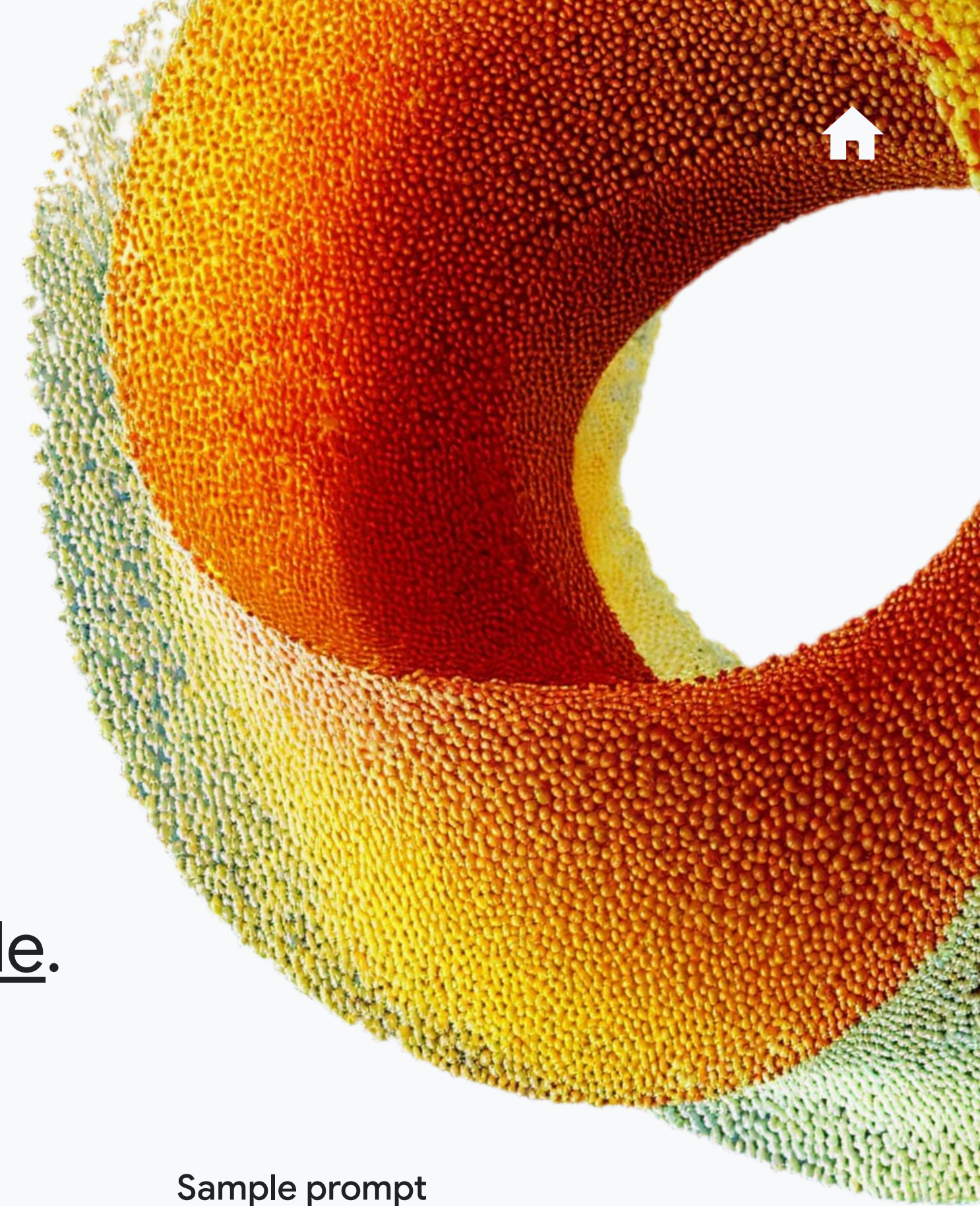




Use case spotlight

# High-value, low-lift wins with pre-built AI

Need some ideas to kick things off? These examples demonstrate how you can leverage no-code AI solutions to automate workflows and see quick results. For more ideas on prompting, [see this prompt guide](#).



Use case

**Producing instant email drafts**

Challenge

You've just come back from vacation, and need to deal with a big backlog of emails.

Solution

Connect your business email to Gemini Enterprise, and use it to draft a professional and friendly reply to all customers that are awaiting a response.

Sample prompt

[Email] Find all of the emails in the last two weeks that are awaiting my reply. Then, draft a reply apologizing for the delay and acknowledging their request.



Use case

## Analyzing customer feedback

Challenge

You want to automatically sort customer feedback in your inbox to see who's happy, who's not, and what products they're talking about. But hiring developers to build a custom analysis tool isn't in the budget.

Solution

Use AI Studio to turn your prompt into a functioning app. This 'vibe-coding' approach allows you to describe what you want and deploy it without writing complex code. This way, you can prove your idea works before committing to a big development project.

Sample prompt

Build an app that integrates with Gmail to sort through customer emails, group happy and unhappy customers, and summarize both their feedback and the products they are talking about and automatically populate a Google Sheet with their feedback and sentiment without you having to open the emails.

## Creating marketing content

You want to generate social buzz for a new product launch, but you're not a designer.

Ask Nano Banana in Gemini Enterprise to generate images of your product in professional settings and to provide social copy.

Create three images showing [product] in different holiday settings including beach, snow, city street. Keep [product] in the center of the frame, with the setting in the background. Use a photorealistic style and avoid too much color.

Write three social posts explaining why [product] is the best fit for your next vacation at the beach, in the snow, and in a bustling city. Use a fun, fresh tone of voice that would appeal to Gen Z. Include a call to action to visit [website].

## Conducting deep research

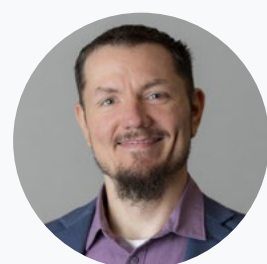
You need to get up to speed fast on a complex industry topic, but there are too many reports and datasheets circulating.

Ask Gemini Deep Research agent to provide a concise summary of all the information available on the topic, saving you hours of searching.

[URLs] Summarize these articles. Provide key insights and contextualize why these announcements are important.



At Thrive Restaurant Group, our philosophy and mission center on delivering the best experience for both our teammates and guests. Gemini Enterprise has been a great partner in helping us achieve this by enhancing our team's capabilities, streamlining administrative tasks, and unlocking new levels of productivity. This has allowed our teammates to focus on what they do best: delivering exceptional guest experiences.”



**Patrick Bobrukiewicz**

Vice President, Data Services,  
Thrive Restaurant Group, Hospitality



# Best practices



## Prioritize human oversight

Always adopt a “trust, but verify” approach by leveraging human expertise for final sign-off and strategic oversight. Critical decisions and quality control should be performed by your team.



## Establish governance and security

Taking agents to production can bring security and data privacy risks. Choose a partner whose AI solutions are secure from the ground up. [Google Cloud](#) embeds governance and security at every layer, eliminating compliance complexity so you can scale without risk.

## How to prompt like a pro

Want better and more relevant results from your AI tools? Use the ABCD prompting technique, which consists of four key components:

### A = Act

Tell the AI what kind of persona or role you want it to adopt. For example, “You are an expert project management coach.”

### B = Blueprint

Specify the format for the output you want to receive. For example, “Give me a bulleted list.”

### C = Context

Provide the background information, specific documents, or meeting notes the AI needs to understand the request.

### D = Deep

Ask the AI to “think deeply” about the request to generate a more thoughtful response.

## Next steps

# You've secured your first quick win.

This win proves that AI is immediately accessible and effective, and builds vital momentum within your team. However, **AI agents built without business data are just a stepping stone**—they lack your unique business context and can only provide general results. To gain the biggest competitive advantage and put the full potential of AI to work, you need to ground your models in your unique business data.

In step 2, you'll learn how to get your data organized and create the single source of truth required to truly scale agentic adoption in your business.



Give pre-built AI agents a try with [Gemini Enterprise](#).



Step 2

# Build your AI-ready data foundation



You've seen the basics of what AI can do. Now, it's time to ground it with the context of your business data to unlock full, long-term value.

AI is only as good as the data it draws from. Small businesses generate between 1–10 terabytes of data every year,<sup>6</sup> yet 82% of businesses cite the quality of their data as one of the greatest risks to meeting AI goals.<sup>7</sup> To power ahead with AI, it's critical to organize your data, making sure it's consistent and easily accessible.

This step will show you how to **unify and manage your data**, and how AI-powered data agents can help automate the heavy lifting usually required for data preparation.



82%

of businesses cite the quality of their data as one of the greatest risks to meeting AI goals<sup>7</sup>



<sup>6</sup> SMB Group, 2025 Top 10 SMB Technology Trends, 2025  
<sup>7</sup> KPMG, AI Quarterly Pulse Survey: Q3 2025, 2025

# How to get started

Preparing data for AI can feel like a big task. The good news for lean teams? Data agents can now help you get the job done.

Turning fragmented, siloed information into a single, trustworthy source for AI focuses on unification, quality, and context—so the AI models can provide accurate, business-specific results instead of just general insights.

## 01

### Identify and connect your key data sources

Start the process of getting your data ready for AI by mapping where your most valuable information lives today. Use a scalable data platform to unify, manage, and govern data sources as you grow to fuel your AI innovation.

## 02

### Clean and organize your data

Use purpose-built data agents to automate the heavy lifting of data preparation—freeing your teams to gain insight by simply chatting with data in natural language.

## 03

### Translate data into reliable insights

Turn complex data into familiar business terms, like 'product,' 'revenue,' or 'customer.' This way, both human users and AI agents can access consistent and accurate insights.

## 04

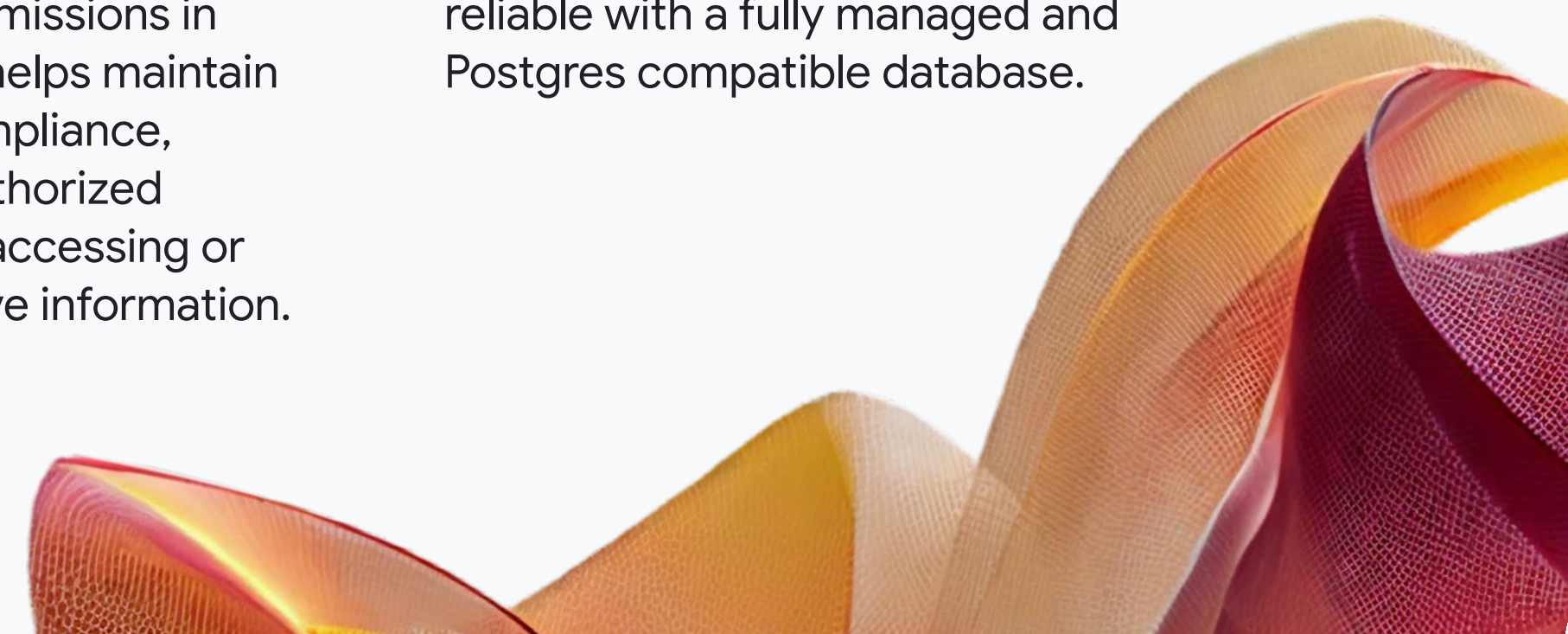
### Govern and manage access

Define clear data ownership and put the right access controls and permissions in place. This step helps maintain security and compliance, preventing unauthorized users or agents accessing or misusing sensitive information.

## 05

### Use a fully managed, AI-ready database

Easily build gen AI applications that are accurate, transparent, and reliable with a fully managed and Postgres compatible database.





## Use case spotlight

# Clean, connected data in action

Tired of dealing with dirty or disparate data? Here are some examples showing how data agents within your data platform can help connect and improve the quality of your data.

### Use case

## Calculating true marketing ROI

### Challenge

Your marketing team knows how much they spend on digital ad platforms, but that data is separate from your e-commerce sales data. You don't know which ads actually lead to sales.

### Solution

Use the [Data Engineering Agent](#) in BigQuery to create a data warehouse for your ad and sales systems. Then, use the [Conversational Analytics](#) feature in Looker to get instant insights by asking questions like, "What was our true ROAS (return on ads spend) for the 'Summer Sale' campaign?"



## Use case

### Cleaning data for segmentation

## Challenge

You want to create customer segments (e.g., high-value customers), but your data is messy. Your CRM and e-commerce systems have duplicate records and missing fields

## Solution

Connect your systems to [BigQuery](#) and use the [Data Science Agent](#) to automatically clean and label your data. It can flag errors, fill in missing values, and align formats—so that the “menu for your data” is accurate before you use it in marketing campaigns.

### Searching for project information

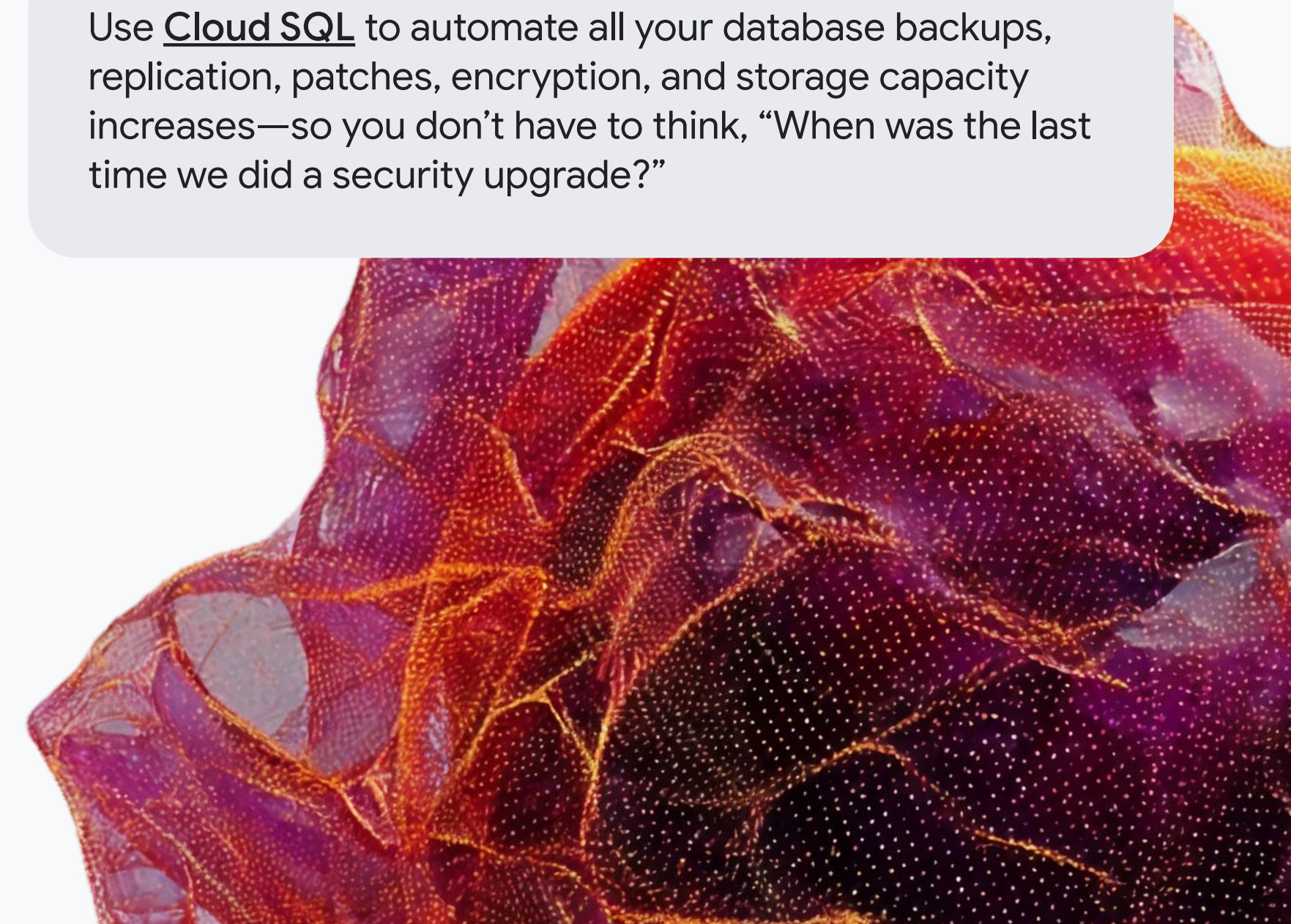
Your technical knowledge is scattered. Customer support data is in your CRM, while developer notes and bug fixes live in Jira. Your team wastes time searching multiple apps for a single answer.

Use the built-in Gemini Enterprise [Jira Cloud Connector](#) to securely unify all your data sources with [BigQuery](#). This grounded agent can instantly answer questions like, “What’s the final decision on the ‘Product X’ feature request?” by synthesizing information from the relevant Jira ticket, CRM customer history, and related documents.

### Automating your AI application

Database administration and management is harder than you’d like it to be—taking time away from value-adding tasks.

Use [Cloud SQL](#) to automate all your database backups, replication, patches, encryption, and storage capacity increases—so you don’t have to think, “When was the last time we did a security upgrade?”



## Customer story

# Publift processes datasets of unlimited size using BigQuery

Publift is a programmatic advertising platform that helps online publishers maximize revenue by optimizing automated marketplaces for advertisers to bid on ad space.

To keep pace with demand spikes, the platform needs unlimited scalability and global reach—along with world-class data analytics to crunch the vast amounts of bidding data coursing through the system.

Publift uses BigQuery as its core data analytics solution, which can process datasets of unlimited size and provide instant data-driven readouts of buyer-seller needs. Looker also provides easy-to-read dashboards of business performance.

[Read the case study](#) →



“

BigQuery makes life a lot easier for us. It not only allows us to work with massive amounts of data, it's also so intuitive to use that we can continue working with a bare-bones team without having to build a dedicated data engineering team.”



**Joe Wongchanglor**

Head of IT,  
Publift, AdTech



# Best practices



## Quality over quantity

More data doesn't mean better data. In fact, too much unstructured or duplicate information can confuse your AI agents. Focus on ensuring the consistency and accuracy of your existing data.



## Don't treat data as a one-off project

Data accuracy needs to be maintained over time. AI performance will decline if data quality slips. With new data available all the time, plan for ongoing checks, not a one-off cleanse.



## Automate your data cleaning

Don't rely on slow, manual processes for data preparation. Instead, use purpose-built data agents (like the Data Science and Data Engineering Agents in BigQuery) to automatically spot gaps, fix errors, and remove duplicates—freeing your team for more strategic work.



## Set smart access and guardrails

Put robust processes in place to ensure the right people can view and update the right data. This control protects accuracy and trust, preventing unauthorized access—and potential misuse—of your most important information.



Next steps

# Your data is now connected, cleaned, and structured.

You've built the crucial foundation—a single source of truth so your AI can perform with accuracy, reliability, and consistency. You're now ready to begin the process of automating previously manual tasks, ultimately freeing your lean team to work more strategically.

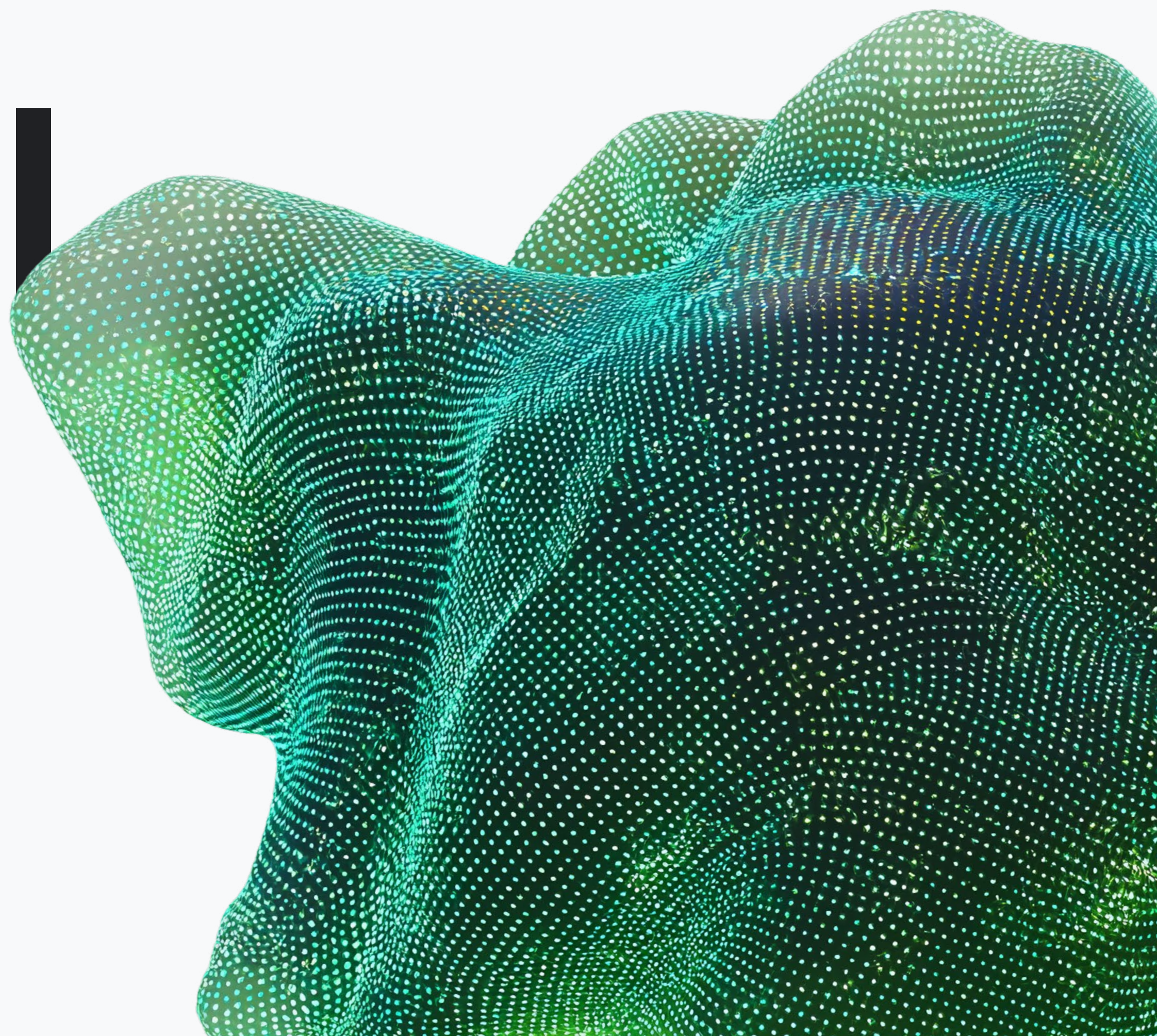
In step 3, you'll discover how creating an AI agent using your clean, connected data foundation can unveil the full potential of agentic AI.



Get started and build your AI-ready data foundation with [BigQuery](#).

## Step 3

**Start small  
and prove  
value fast**





## You've built a reliable data foundation. Now let's put it to work so you can start seeing tangible results.

As we discussed in Step 1, the challenge for lean teams isn't always building automation—it's knowing where to begin. Most successful AI journeys **start with a small, focused project** rather than trying to identify the "perfect" use case.

At this point, the best approach is to **identify a single repetitive task** that regularly takes up your team's valuable time. For lean teams,

automating just one task can make a significant difference—freeing up time for employees to focus on more rewarding, strategic initiatives. We recommend using a simple, no-code or low-code solution to help you easily build impactful AI agents with your business data for reliable, context-aware automation.

# How to get started

The goal of this step is to take advantage of your newly connected data so you can build your first context-aware AI agent.

An agent that can produce reliable, consistent, and trustworthy results. The question is, which process or task is ripe for agentic transformation?

## 01

### Identify a high-impact, repetitive task

Look for a simple, low-risk process that requires your centralized business data and routinely takes up valuable time—like creating weekly reports, responding to customers' FAQs, or summarizing project updates.

## 02

### Choose a solution fit for your coding skills

Use an intuitive platform like Gemini Enterprise for no-code. If you want a low-code option, use [AI Studio](#) to rapidly build and deploy AI-first applications using natural language, or [Vertex AI Agent Builder](#) with Code Assist to build your AI agent in minutes.

## 03

### Connect your trusted data

Integrate the agent with the clean, centralized data you built in Step 2. This integration is how the agent gets its context and provides reliable, accurate answers.

## 04

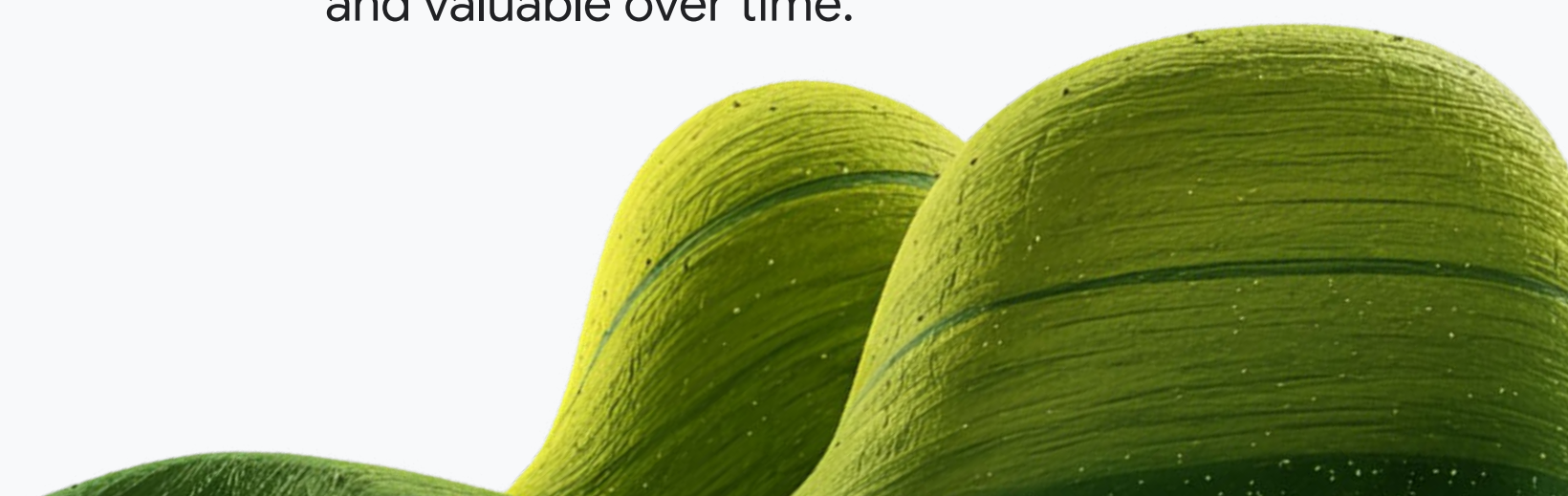
### Pilot and fine-tune for reliability

Pilot the automation with a few team members to gather feedback and get AI champions to fine-tune performance before rolling out more broadly.

## 05

### Continuously monitor and improve

Track the time saved or efficiency gained and use those performance metrics to drive iterative improvements, ensuring the solution remains accurate and valuable over time.



Use case spotlight

# Unlocking the value of your centralized data

Looking for some inspiration? These examples show how low-code, data-driven agents can help you automate previously repetitive and labor-intensive tasks. For more inspiration, check out these [1,001 real-world gen AI use cases](#) with Google Cloud customers.

## Use case

**Building an internal search experience**

## Challenge

Your employees spend hours searching shared drives and documents for answers to queries—which can be a slow, inconsistent process.

## Solution

Use [Gemini Enterprise](#) to build an internal agent that connects files, reports, and wikis for up-to-date, accurate answers. Team members can ask questions in plain language and get fast, accurate answers sourced from verified content.

[Learn how to create an agent](#)



## Use case

### Providing customer support triage

### Automating inventory forecasting

### Automated campaign performance reporting

## Challenge

Your support teams spend **too much of their time on repetitive queries** instead of more valuable strategic projects.

Your team still has to **track stock manually**, which can lead to unnecessary and **avoidable delays and errors**.

Your team manually pulls campaign spend data from various ad platforms and cross-references it with sales data—a repetitive task that **delays strategic decision-making**.

## Solution

Build a customer service agent with **Customer Experience Agent Studio** that integrates with your CRM and orders data. It can resolve most issues in real time via voice or chat, and escalate complex cases automatically.

Build an agent to automatically track real-time stock levels across connected systems. It flags low-stock items and predicts run-out dates using sales trends, generating a daily alert: “You’re running low on product X—estimating 4 days until out of stock.”

[🔗 Read more about building forecasting agents](#)

Use **Vertex AI Agent Builder** to create a custom reporting agent. Connect it to BigQuery and ad platform data to automatically run the report, summarize key trends, and send it to your leadership—turning a manual task into instant insight.

# Google Cloud's agent development ecosystem

## Everyone can build agents

Fully managed no-code / low-code agent builders

**Gemini Enterprise**  
(no-code)

**Conversational Agent/playbooks**  
(low-code)

## Developers have full control

Code-based agent builder

**Vertex AI Agent Builder**

**Build** Open-source toolkit for building, evaluating, and deploying AI agents

 Agent Development Kit

**Scale** Deploy and manage agents in production with managed services

 Agent Engine

**Govern** Govern agent sprawl; manage risk and compliance

 Agent Engine

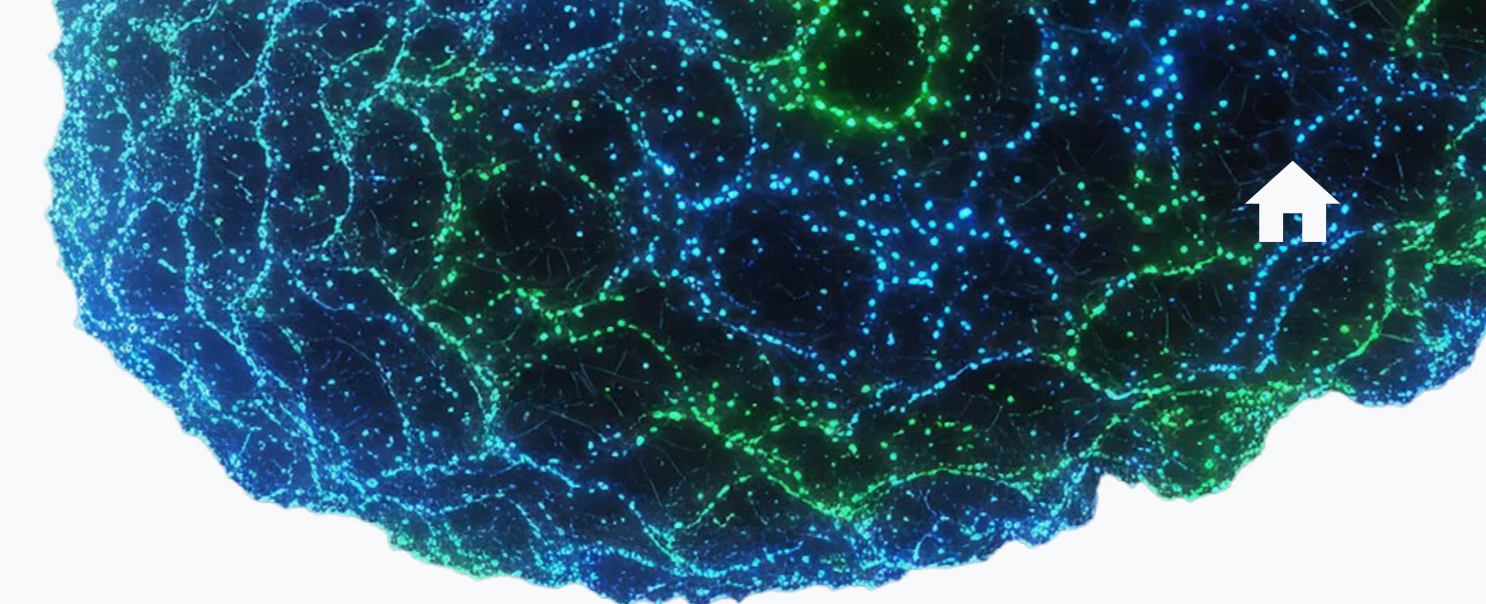
## Customer story

# Altumatim accelerates legal processes from months to minutes with Google Cloud

Altumatim is an AI-driven discovery and document review tool that navigates and analyzes vast datasets, empowering attorneys to uncover crucial evidence to support compelling legal arguments.

Using Vertex AI with Gemini, Altumatim gives customers a more efficient and accurate way to analyze unstructured data, which increasingly bogs down workflows. Unlike traditional AI tools that simply process information or answer questions, it autonomously conducts deep dives into massive datasets and provides a comprehensive analysis to help win legal arguments and anticipate counterarguments.

[Read the case study](#) →



“

Legal professionals deal with a lot of unstructured data, and making sense of all that information is a complex process. Vertex AI with Gemini allows us to put the data into a structured story-based framework, which makes it easier to understand and enables attorneys to refocus their efforts on how to best tell their clients’ stories instead of having to expend significant resources hoping to find the best evidence.”



**David Gaskey**

CEO,  
Altumatim, eDiscovery Platform



# Best practices



## Plan beyond AI pilots

Avoid pilot purgatory where small projects never scale. Start each pilot with a clear plan to integrate it into your core operations.



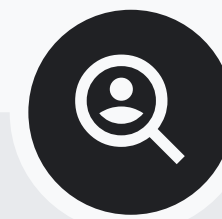
## Test before you're in production

Rigorously test your new solution to verify the accuracy of data output and fine-tune performance—preventing costly failures during a broad rollout.



## Choose the right models

Use high-reasoning models (like Gemini 3 Pro) for orchestration, planning, and complex multi-modal analysis. Use low-latency, cost-effective models (like Gemini 2.5 Flash) for repetitive tasks, summarization, or simple tool execution. Consider Gemini 3 Deep Think to solve even more complex problems; and third-party models to train or distill with your own data.



## Human oversight is non-negotiable

Even the most advanced agents aren't meant to run on autopilot. Critical decisions require human judgment and oversight.



Next steps

# Your team is impressed with the agent you've built.

You found a repetitive, high-impact task—one that took your team away from more strategic work—and built a user-friendly agent that connects with your trusted data and automates the task. Your team now has the time to work on more valuable and rewarding work. They can see the **tangible benefits of AI agents** and, having been included throughout the process, are keen to see what else is possible.

Step 4 builds on your success, showing you how to scale your AI agent to automate multi-step workflows.



Build customer-facing agents fast using [Customer Experience Agent Studio](#).

Step 4

Scale smart  
with a multi-  
step workflow



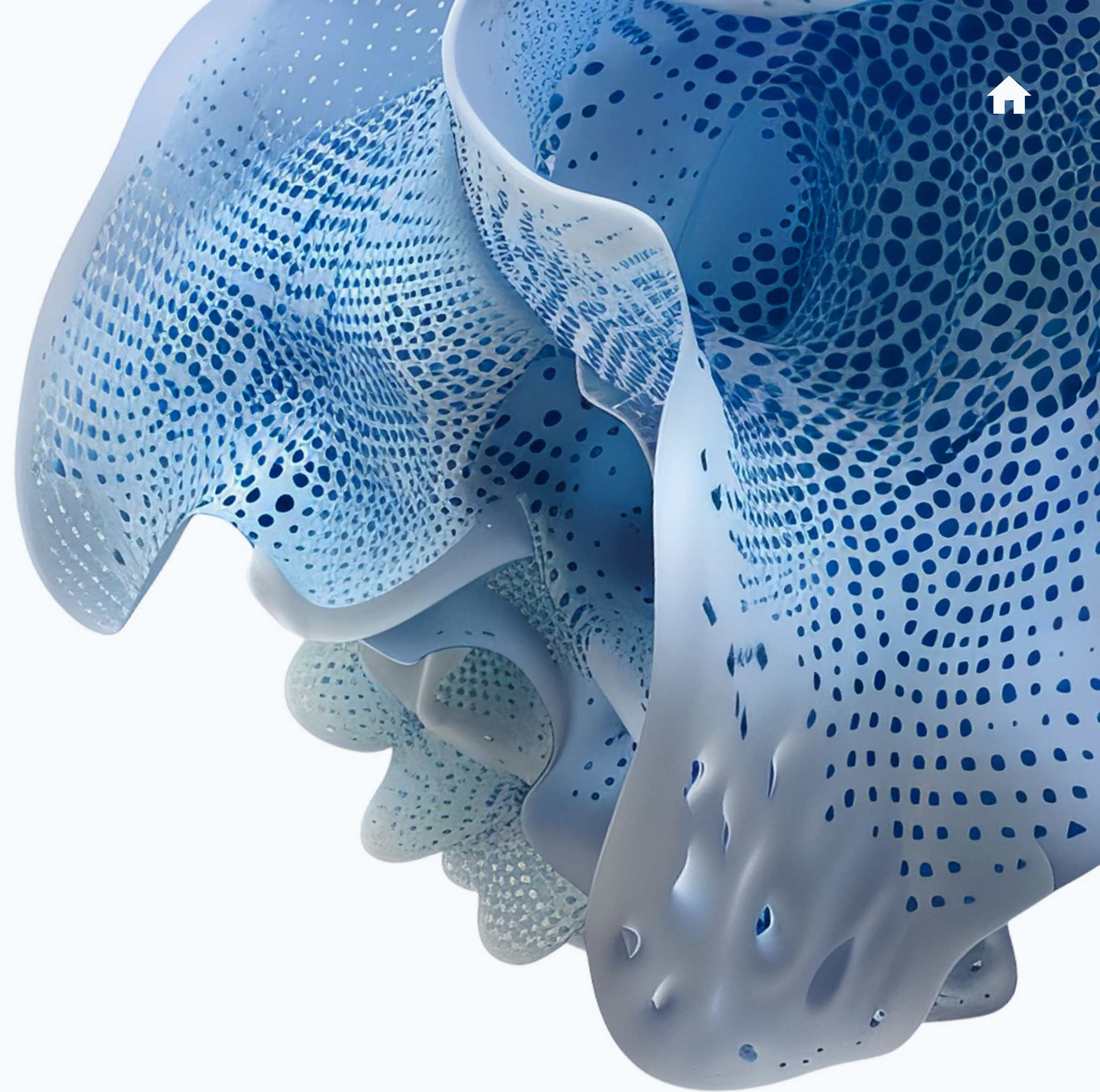
You've proven AI's value by automating a low-risk task. Now, it's time to level up with a multi-step workflow, so your agent can achieve custom outcomes for your business.

Building a multi-step workflow can be intimidating. How do you make the move from a single automated task to a connected, end-to-end workflow?

We're going to show you how to easily scale your AI agent to take additional steps.

It's not about building something complex from scratch—it's about **building upon what already works.**

A single agent with a multi-step workflow leverages the powerful reasoning capabilities of the underlying LLM (like Gemini 3.0 in Vertex AI) to autonomously chain its own tools or functions.





# How to get started

The goal of this step is to give your AI agent additional capabilities and steps to execute on. It won't be long before you've turned a single task automation into an efficient, multi-step agentic workflow.

## 01

### Build upon proven success

Identify additional capabilities for your existing AI agent, such as managing customer returns or automating lead nurturing. Determine the logical next steps, applications, or tasks the automation should connect and include to ensure the workflow is complete.

## 02

### Map out the workflow

Define what you want to achieve. For example, reducing the load on warehouse teams or increasing customer inquiries by X%. Don't worry about individual steps—the agent can use autonomous reasoning to work out the best path.

## 03

### Give your agent the right tools and access

Grant your agent access to essential tools that enable system interaction, such as API calls to your CRM or database queries, so it can take action across your business.

## 04

### Evaluate your agent to ensure quality

To ensure reliable, consistent operation, continuous assessment is essential. You must evaluate whether your agents select the correct tools and generate accurate responses. Use [ADK Evaluation](#) for rapid iteration in local environments, and [Gen AI Evaluation Service](#) for remote environments (e.g., on Vertex AI Agent Engine).

## 05

### Implement and monitor governance

Governance is critical as agents gain autonomy. Use built-in logging and monitoring (available across Google Cloud's AI solutions) to create audit trails, ensuring secure operation within defined permissions.

Use case spotlight

# Connect the dots for an end-to-end workflow

Unsure of where to go next? These examples show how you can scale from single tasks to an automation powerhouse.

Use case

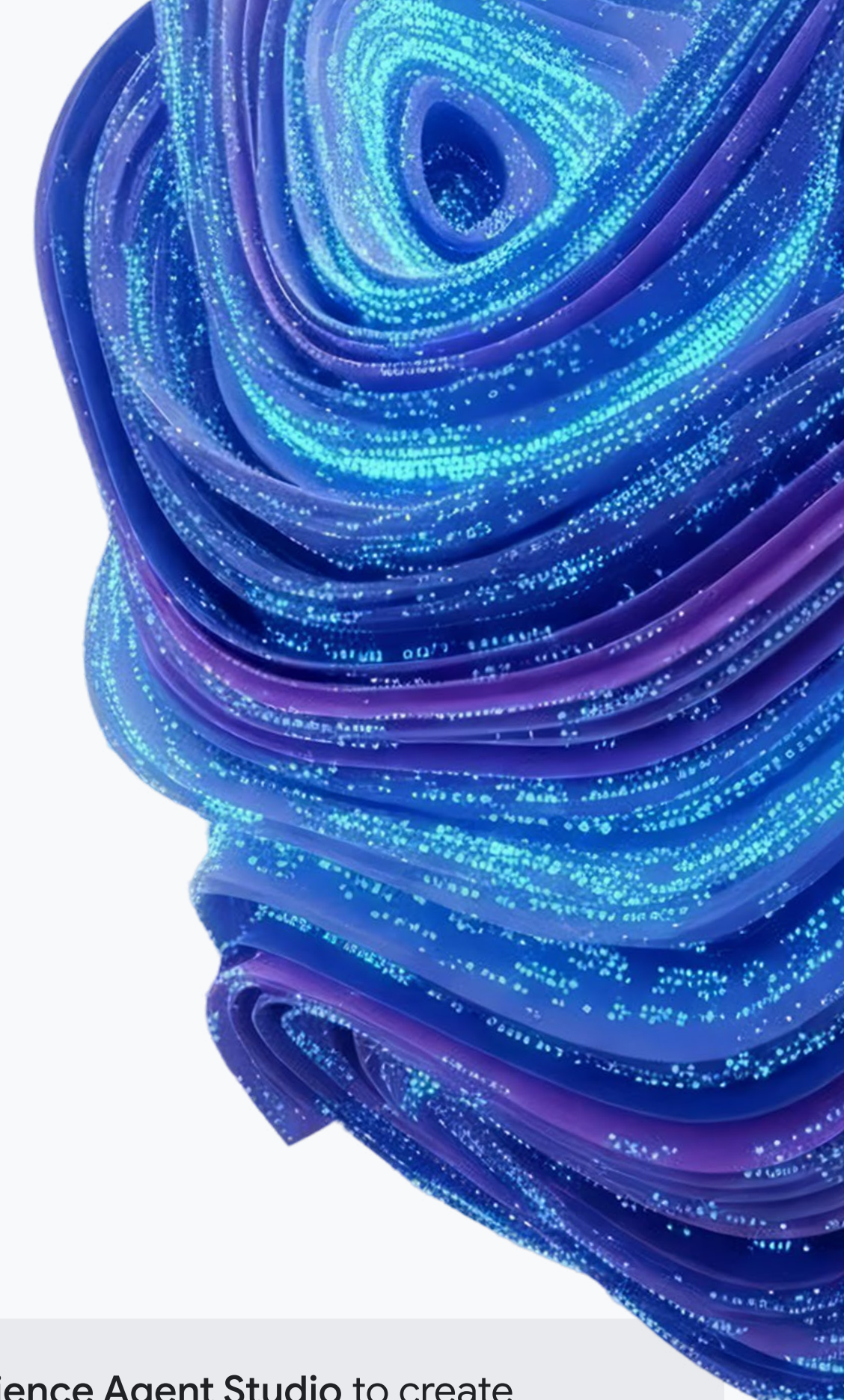
## Automating customer returns

Challenge

You've already automated parts of your customer support flow, including answering support queries. But your team still has to manage the return process manually, coordinating between systems and departments.

Solution

Use Customer Experience Agent Studio to create an agent for handling the entire return process. Once it receives the customer's request, the agent checks the inventory system to confirm stock, verifies the purchase date against your returns policy, processes the refund in your finance software, and sends a personalized email with the shipping label and final confirmation.





## Use case

### Coordinating supply chains

### Automating lead nurturing

## Challenge

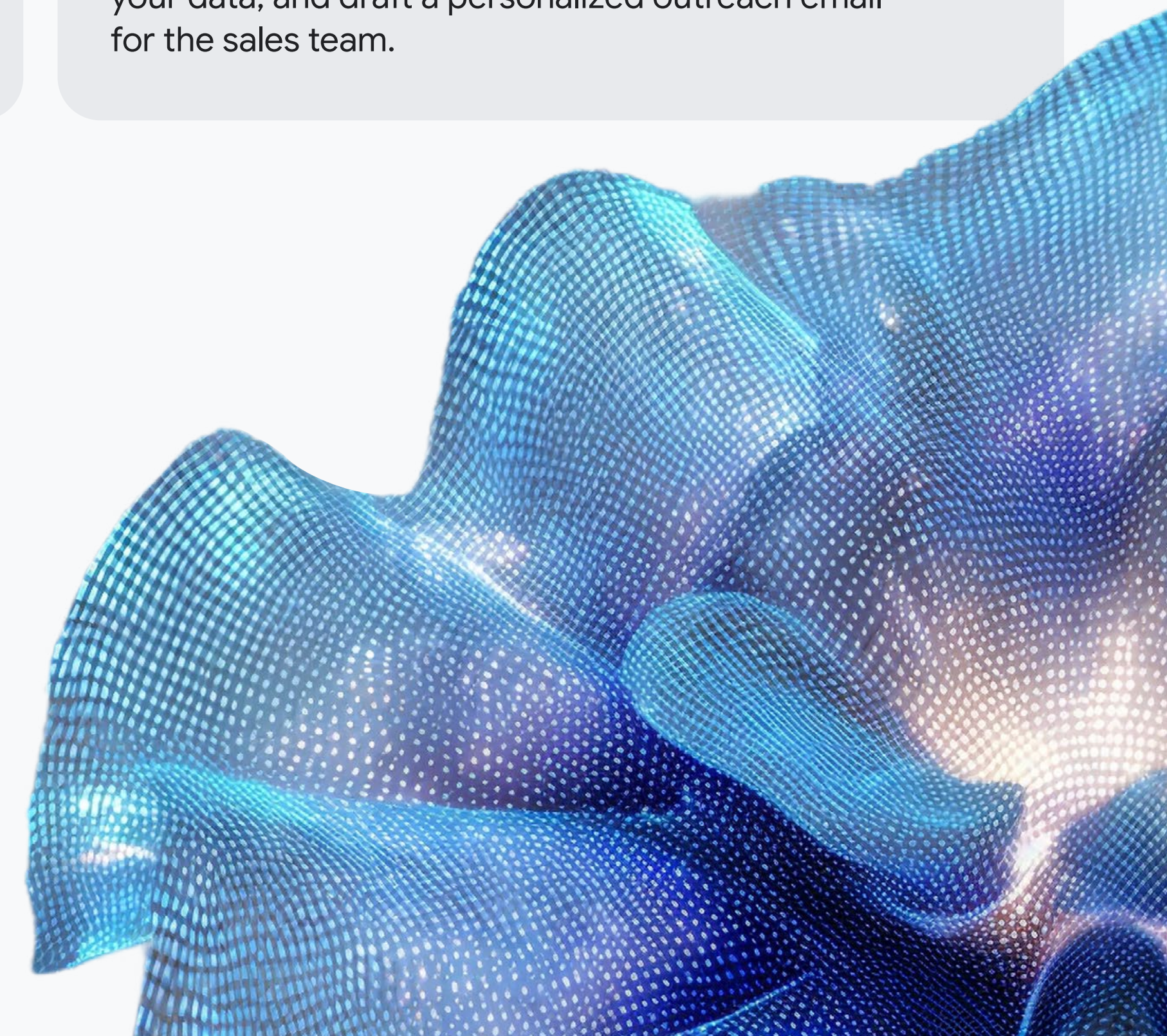
You've built an agent to forecast inventory and send daily stock alerts, but supply chain updates—like placing orders or confirming delivery—still happen manually across systems.

A new lead arrives via your website, but a sales team member still has to manually enter it into the CRM and send a follow-up.

## Solution

Set up a custom smart agent using [Vertex AI Agent Builder](#) and connect it to your inventory and news feeds. It constantly monitors for risks (e.g., low stock + shipping delays) and instantly generates an actionable solution, such as a draft purchase order for a backup supplier, so you can prevent stockouts.

Create an agent that can identify a new lead, create a contact in your CRM, find relevant case studies from your data, and draft a personalized outreach email for the sales team.



## Customer story

# IT-Development reduces the cost of developing AI features

IT-Development provides the software that helps telecom operators and tower companies manage and maintain their complex networks of cell towers, fiber lines, and data centers.

Previously, the company had to train its own custom AI models, which was a slow, costly process. With Gemini, IT-Development can now build and release powerful new features for about a **fifth of the cost** of creating those custom models.

[Read the case study](#) →

“

Gemini is brilliant to work with. Our clients used to have to spend time manually analyzing documents and inputting data. It was expensive, cumbersome, and error-prone. With Gemini we automated the whole process, allowing them to speed up their work, reallocate staff to more productive tasks, and improve accuracy.”



**Julie Munoz**

Cross-Functional AI Project Manager,  
IT-Development



# Best practices



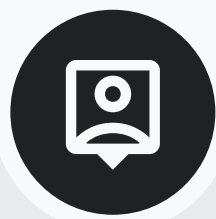
## Focus on the outcome

When designing your agent, prioritize the feature or functionality that delivers the most business value. Tailor your agent to focus on the result and end goal you want to achieve.



## Be aware of available tools

Building new tools for agents is a time-consuming task. Leverage pre-built tools from Gemini, Google Cloud, and third parties before building your own custom tools.



## Keep humans in the loop

As we've discussed, even when agents handle complex workflows, human oversight, decision-making, and continuous improvement are essential. Don't forget to set clear approval points where human review adds value.



## Embed security and governance

Security and governance must always go hand-in-hand with innovation. As your agents become more sophisticated and autonomous, clear policies, audit trails of agent actions, and robust security build trust and ensure compliance.



# Congratulations. You've laid the foundation for future AI innovation.

You've now completed all four steps and successfully scaled your first AI agent. By connecting your data, models, and actions, you've built an agent that can automate complex, end-to-end workflows that were once out of reach—ultimately enabling your lean team to focus on strategic growth.



## Start experimenting today

Get hands-on with no-code AI right now. See how Gemini Enterprise can help you draft emails, brainstorm ideas, and summarize research in minutes—get a free 30-day trial.

[Start your trial](#)



## Use AI to generate a solution

Need a more personalized step-by-step guide? Use our solution generator to create a handy guide for your specific use case.

[Get started](#)



## Have a specific challenge in mind?

Our technical specialists can help map your business needs to the right AI solutions and build a plan for success, with complimentary CloudUp credits to kickstart your first AI proof of concept for qualifying customers.

[Schedule a free consultation](#)



# Why Google Cloud for lean teams?



For any business without the employee resources and scale of enterprises, AI offers exciting potential—but the path forward can be complex, costly, and uncertain.

Google Cloud helps turn that complexity into clarity by making AI accessible and practical for every employee, in all businesses.

We'll help unify your business data into a single, reliable foundation. From there, you can unlock the power of easy-to-use AI agents that automate tasks and uncover new insights—all tailored to your business, with no coding required.

Most importantly, it all happens on a platform with enterprise-grade security built into every layer.

With Google Cloud, you can innovate with confidence and free up your team to focus on what you do best: growing your business.

# Glossary



## Agent Development Kit (ADK)

A flexible and modular framework for developing and deploying AI agents.



## BigQuery

Google Cloud's fully managed, petabyte-scale, and cost-effective analytics data platform that lets you run analytics over vast amounts of data in near real time.



## BigQuery Data Engineering Agent

An agentic solution which automates daunting tasks, freeing you to extract more value from your data.



## BigQuery Data Science Agent

An agent that lets you automate exploratory data analysis, process large volumes of data, and clean your data to improve accuracy.



## Cloud Vision

Helps you extract insights from images, documents, and videos, including automating vision tasks, streamlining analysis, and building custom apps with no-code model training.



## Cloud SQL

Fully managed, cost-effective relational database service for PostgreSQL, MySQL, and SQL Server.



## Conversational Analytics Agent in Looker

A Gemini-powered feature that allows users to ask data-related questions in natural language, generating instant, verified answers and visualizations based on Looker's semantic layer.



## Customer Experience Agent Studio

A next-generation platform to rapidly build, evaluate, and deploy highly personalized conversational agents, with AI that helps build AI agents in a visual, low-code interface, and collection of pre-built agents.



## Gemini

Google's family of powerful, multimodal generative AI models that can process and understand text, code, images, and audio, forming the core technology behind the Google Cloud AI platform.



## Gemini Deep Research agent

A specialized AI agent designed to tackle complex research by autonomously searching the web, reasoning over gathered information, and synthesizing the findings into comprehensive, multi-step reports.



# Glossary



## Gemini Enterprise

An advanced agentic platform that brings the best of Google AI to every employee, for every workflow. It connects to the organization's business data, empowering teams to discover, create, share, and run AI agents—all in one secure environment.



## Google AI Studio

The fastest way to build with Gemini models. A web-based prototyping and development environment that allows developers to “vibe-code”—using natural language to build, tune, and deploy fully functional AI applications.



## Google Cloud

Google's suite of cloud computing services and products, providing the infrastructure and tools for developing, deploying, and operating applications, data analytics, and AI solutions.



## Idea Generation agent

A no-code agent that helps teams with innovation and problem-solving by using a unique competition framework to generate, evaluate, and rank novel ideas.



## Large Language Models (LLMs)

A type of generative AI that uses vast amounts of data to understand, summarize, generate, and predict new content, making them the foundational technology for many AI agents.



## Looker

A business intelligence platform that uses a semantic layer to unify data definitions and help users analyze data, create dashboards, and share consistent, reliable insights across their business.



## Model Garden on Vertex AI

Jump-start your ML project with a single place to discover, customize, and deploy a wide variety of models from Google and Google partners.



## NotebookLM Enterprise

An AI-powered research assistant that helps users create a trusted, central reference point by grounding a chat-based Q&A experience in their own curated documents and web sources.



## Vertex AI

A unified, managed platform from Google Cloud for building, deploying, and managing machine learning models, providing a single environment for developers to accelerate their AI projects.



## Vertex AI Agent Builder

An open, comprehensive, full-stack platform that empowers enterprises to rapidly build, scale, and govern reliable, enterprise-grade AI agents grounded in their proprietary data.



Google Cloud

# Ready to build your competitive edge?

[Schedule a free consultation](#)

