



# Integrating AI into mission goals

Successful strategies focus on agencies' broader objectives and invite employee participation



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**T**HE GOVERNMENT'S PIVOT toward the adoption of artificial intelligence is about more than learning a new technology. To be successful, agencies must ensure that their AI efforts are consistent with and supportive of their broader business, technical and security strategies.

In addition, agencies need to understand and plan for the significant positive and negative impacts that AI can have on an organization. Rather than getting caught up in the hype around broad ethical concerns, for instance, agencies should spend time

distilling them down to the tactical level as risks that can be monitored, managed and mitigated appropriately. And they must look for ways to encourage employees to embrace the technology.

### 3 steps to AI adoption

First, it's important for agencies to take stock of their goals relative to AI. Do they want to create efficiencies, improve productivity or reduce a backlog? All AI projects need to connect to the ultimate business goal or mission objective, and it is equally important that agencies develop

a realistic understanding of what the technologies can and cannot do.

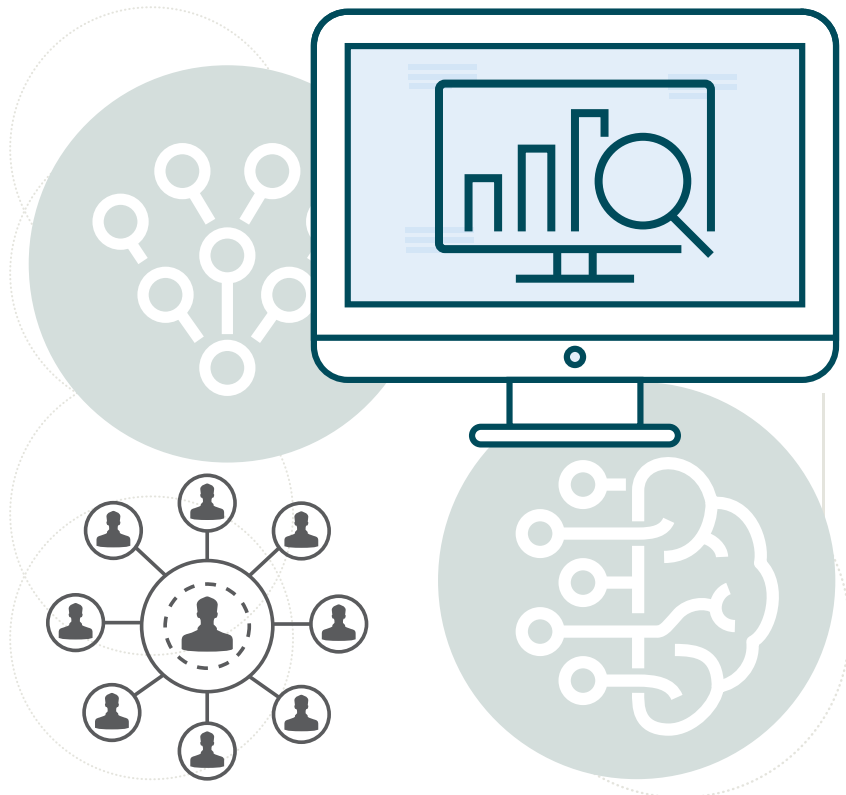
Second, organizations need to assess whether they have the right capacity in terms of talent, infrastructure, data, policies and culture to support and maintain AI solutions. Performing quick assessments of each business line against an AI readiness framework can help uncover where opportunities exist and which ones have a strong chance of successfully taking hold throughout the organization. Such activities also foster collaboration and encourage buy-in, both of which should happen as early in the process as possible.

Third, pilots and proofs of concept are good ways to learn about emerging technologies, but they are not the end goal. Instead, organizations should plan, design and build for final operating capabilities. Too often, amazing solutions never make it to production because leaders didn't plan for the broader goal.

### Boosting cyber defenses and employee buy-in

Today, cyber defensive postures are reactive, and network defenders are losing. The average intrusion is detected 200 days after the fact. On top of that, the cyberthreat environment is more complex than ever, and traditional tools and rule-based defenses don't scale with a limited cyber workforce. Adversarial tactics change rapidly, and models that train off-line are slow to update, rarely perform well, and often provide outdated and incorrect alerts.

To address those challenges, Booz Allen Hamilton has developed scalable solutions that augment established cyber defenses





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with AI-enabled workflows to proactively detect adversarial attacks. The solutions deploy deep learning techniques at the edge and in the data center by leveraging NVIDIA's open-source RAPIDS GPU-acceleration platform. The workflows analyze sensor data in motion at network speeds and can be deployed without changing the existing infrastructure or suite of tools being used.

No matter where they choose to deploy AI technology, agencies must make sure their workforce is prepared for and excited about the changes it brings. Employees should have a variety of opportunities to learn about the technology and the importance of human/machine collaboration, as well as the infrastructure (hardware, software and data) in which to explore the different technologies. Employees should also have

the chance to program their own software bots to perform rote tasks.

By providing AI tools and resources, agencies give their employees the ability to work on transformative ideas and further ensure that the use of AI is deeply connected to overall mission objectives. ■

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