



Trust Before Autonomy

This excerpt is from a presentation at IDC Directions Boston on April 8, 2026.

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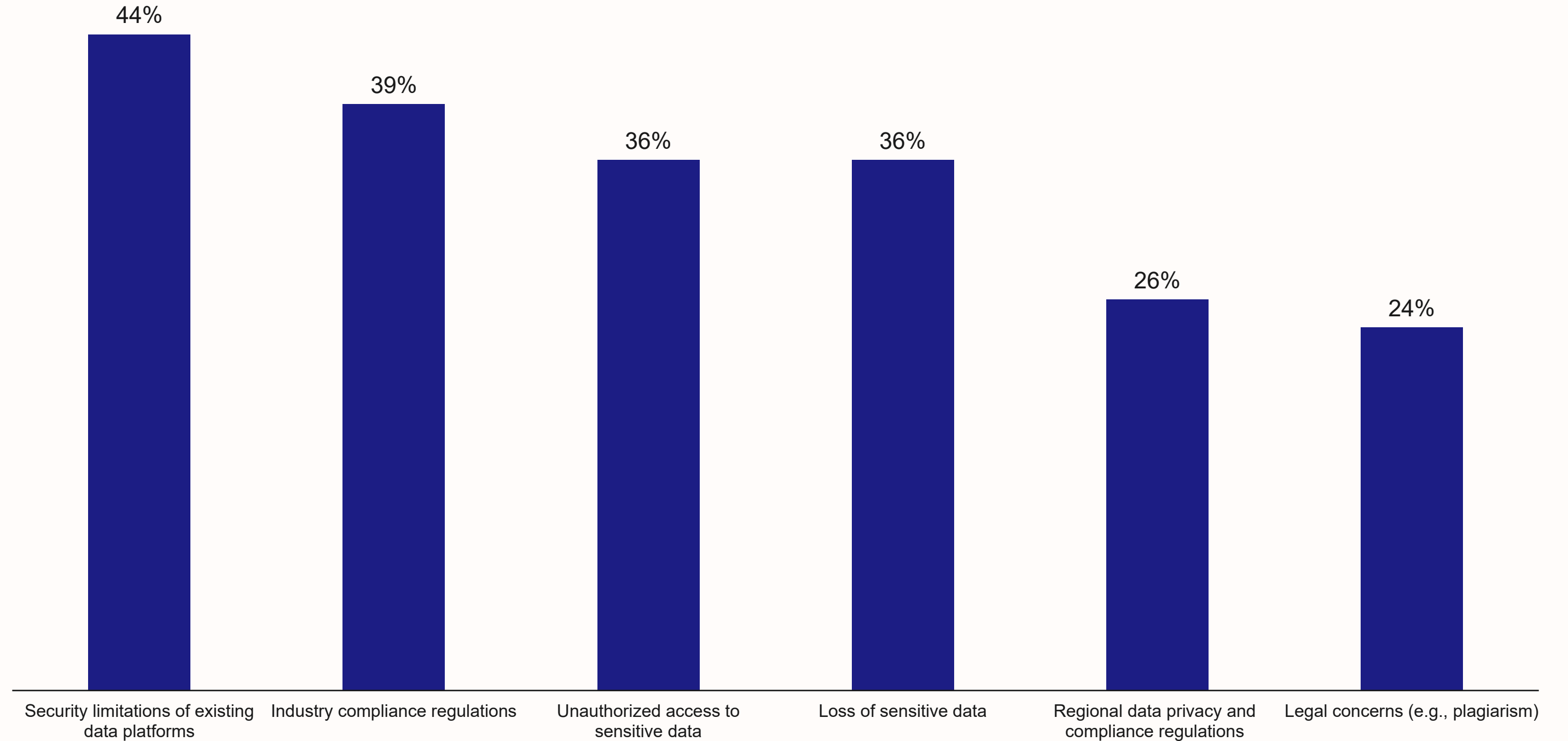
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Data is a common theme across security challenges limiting AI implementation

Q. Which of the following data security concerns, if any, limit or slow your organization from implementing AI and Agentic AI?



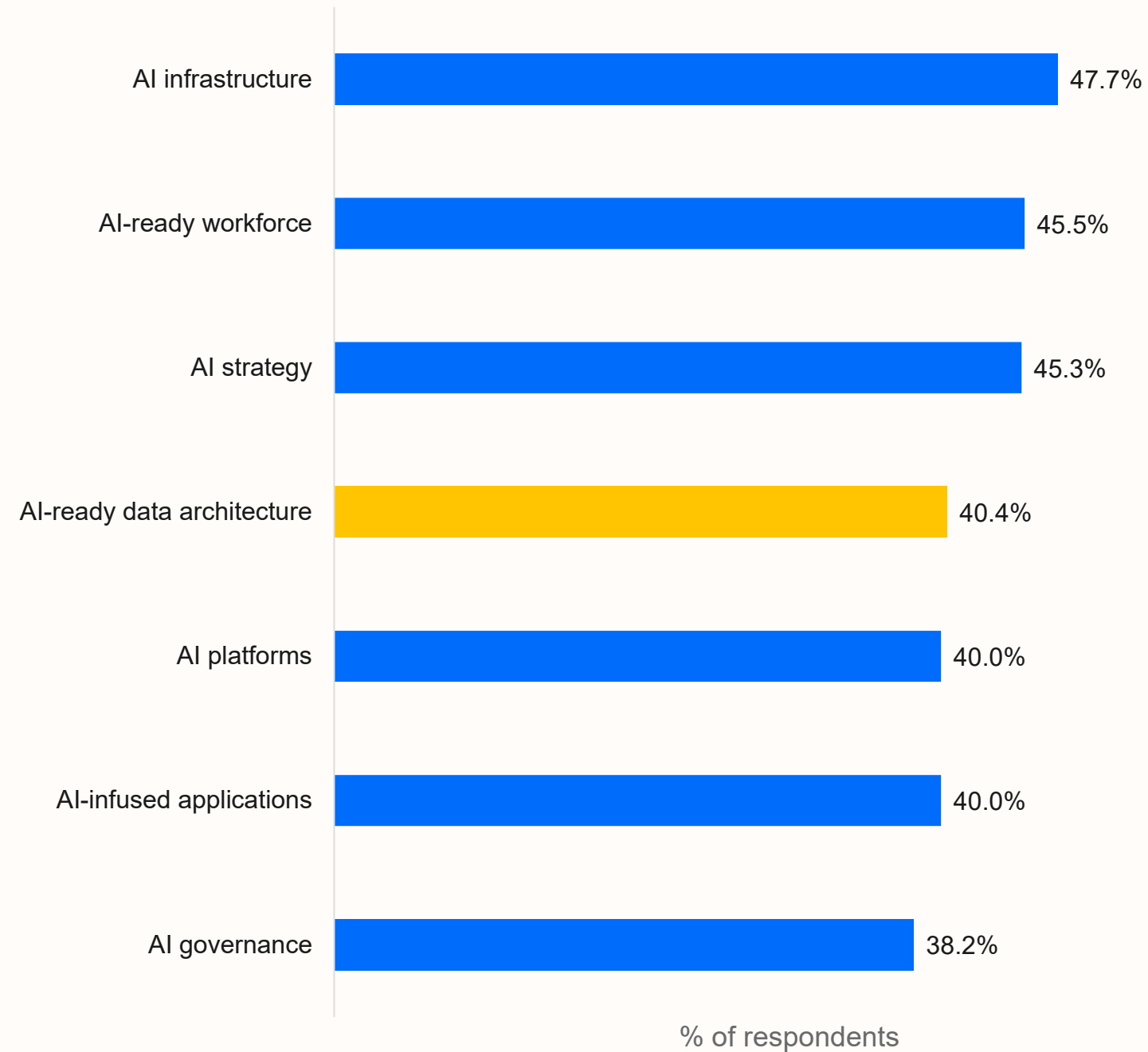
Source: IDC [IT Data Management Quick Poll Q1](#), February 2026
N=107

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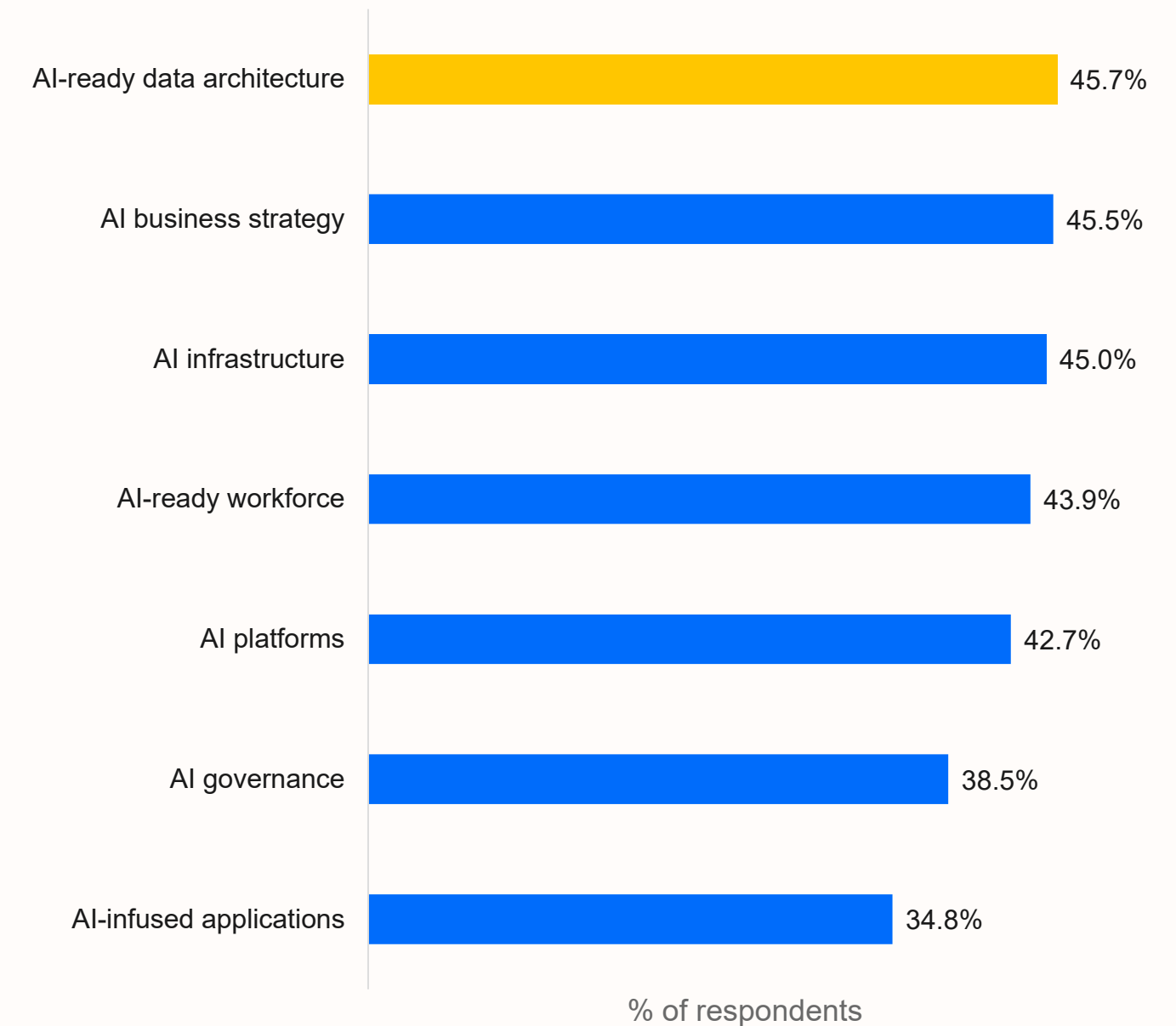


It's why AI-ready data architecture is now top priority

Q. What are your organization's top 3 AI adoption priorities for 2025?



Q. What are your organization's top 3 AI-adoption priorities for 2026?



Sources:

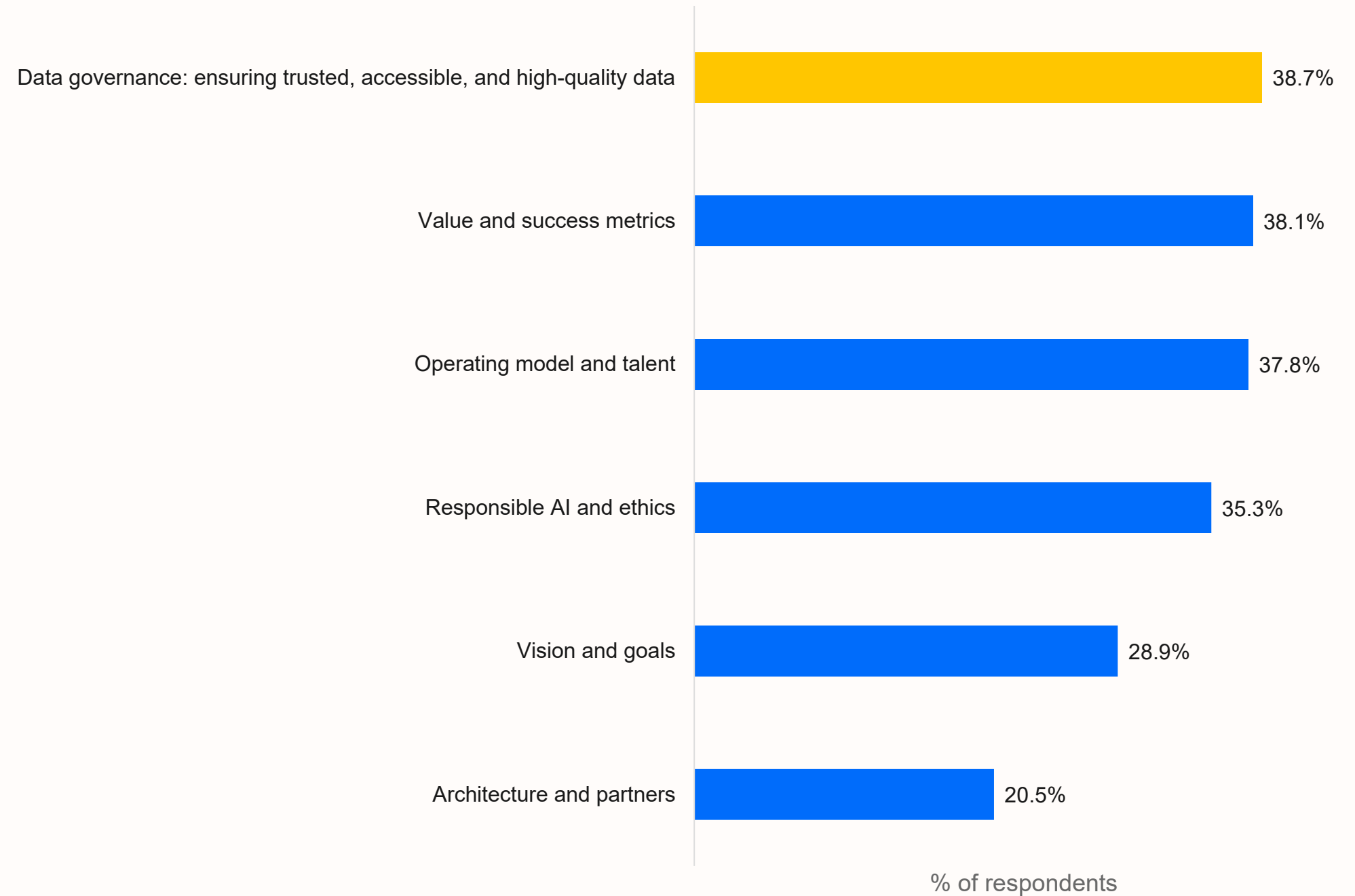
Left: IDC Future Enterprise Resiliency & Spending Survey Wave 1, IDC, February 2025
Right: IDC Future Enterprise Resiliency & Spending Survey Wave 1, IDC, March 2026, N=903



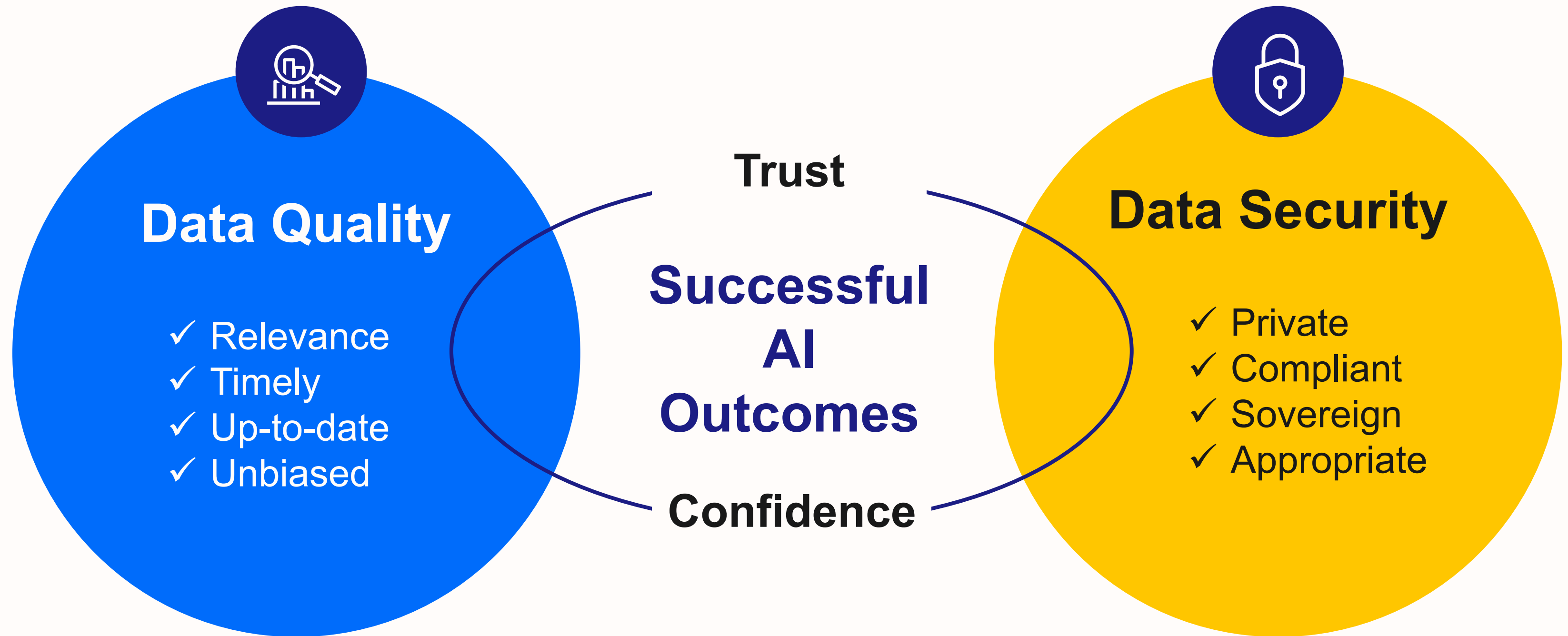
And... data trust is at the top of AI strategic priorities



Q. What are the two most important issues that your 2026 AI business strategy needs to address?



Why do we need trusted AI?



Trust is where data security and data quality meet *fueled by data intelligence*

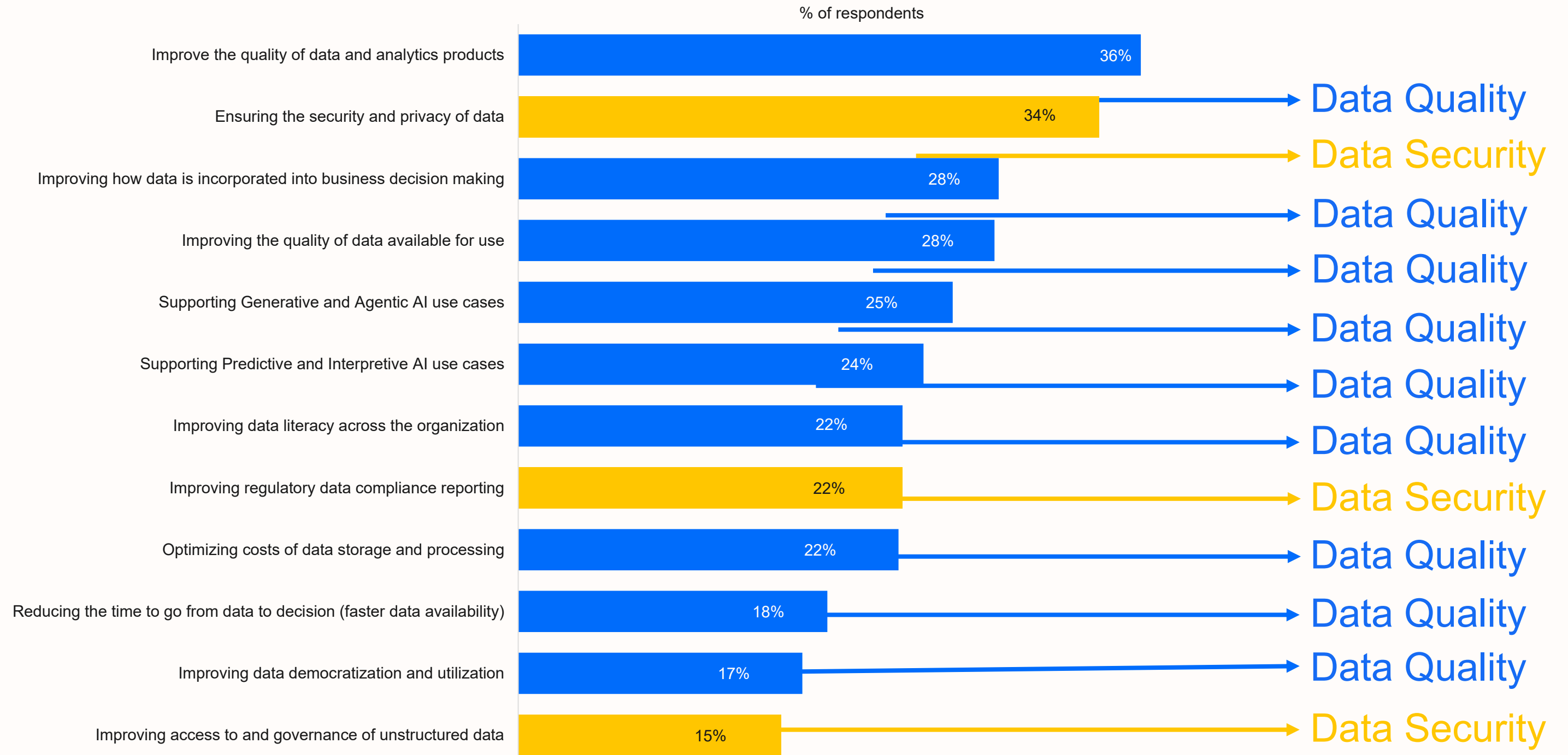
What is data trust?

Data trust requires organizational data to be **accurate, unbiased, and free of ROT**. It must be **accessible** to authorized users, used in the **right context**, and **protected** from threats, vulnerabilities, and unauthorized exposure.

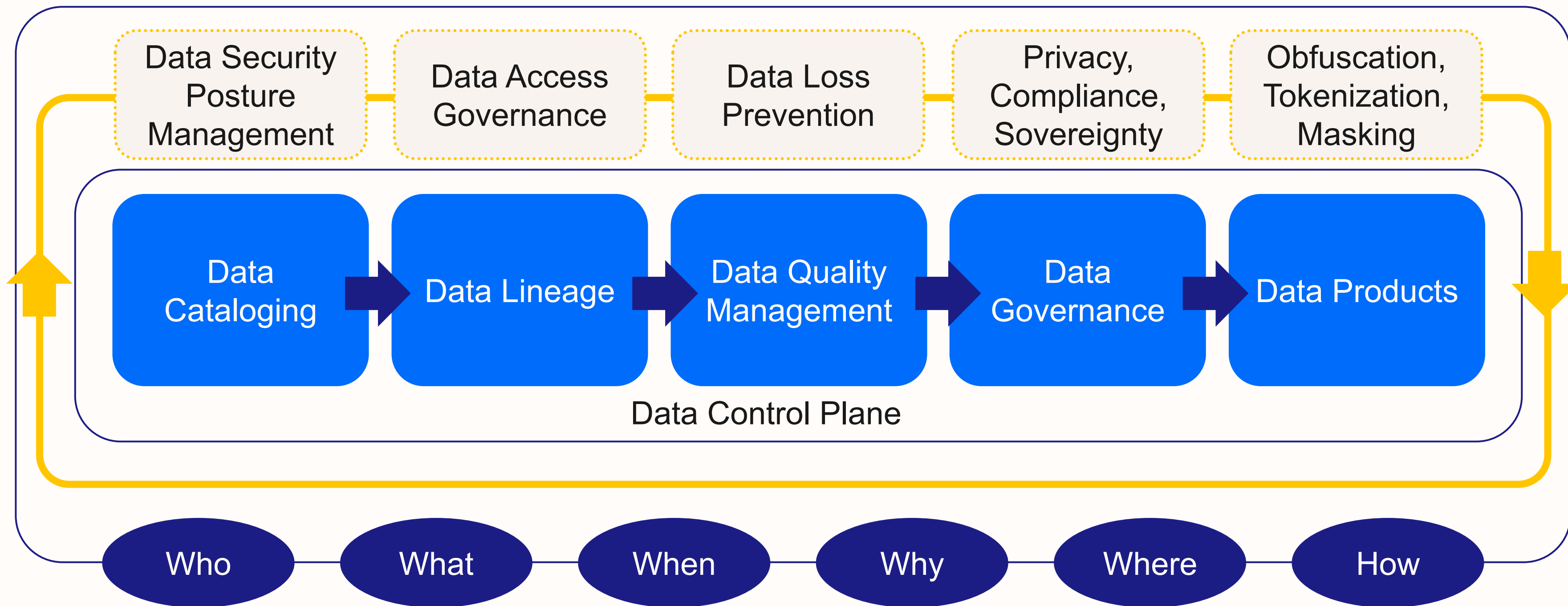


High-priority objectives in the next 12-18 months point to data control

Q. What are the top 3 strategic objectives for data leadership in the next 12-18 months for use of data and analytics in the organization?



Taking control of data



Data intelligence + data security = Data governance

DATA INTELLIGENCE

- Classification & sensitivity
- Lineage & provenance
- Business semantics
- Usage telemetry
- Ownership & stewardship
- Quality & observability



DATA SECURITY

- RBAC / ABAC access control
- Encryption & masking
- Policy enforcement
- Audit trails & monitoring
- Least-privilege enforcement
- Integrity protection



Permissions



Provenance



Privilege



Policies



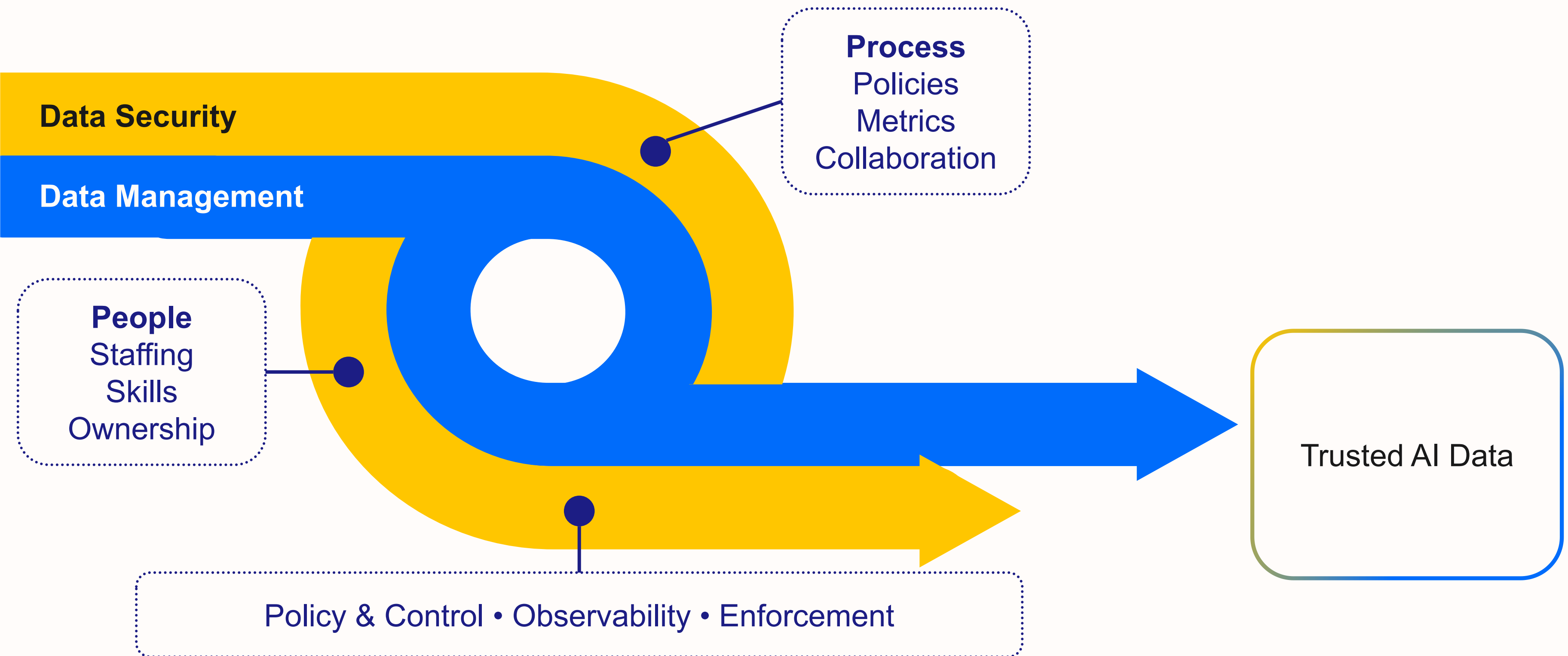
Principles



Integrity

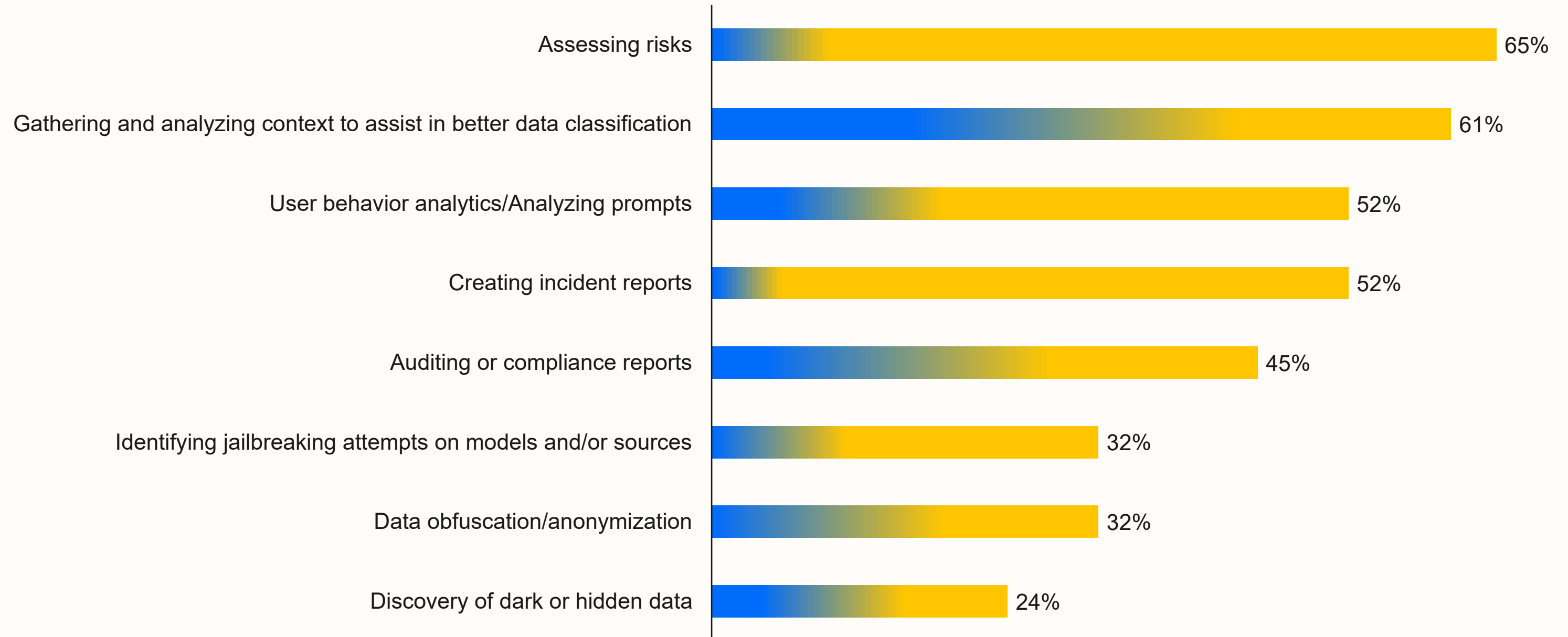


Governance: implementing data security and management with people and process delivering trusted data



Organizations are turning to AI to build valuable data

Q. What data management functions is your organization supplementing with AI tools or Agents?



Advice for vendors

- ✓ **Differentiate trust capabilities.** Clearly articulate how your platform (uniquely) enables trusted data and AI outcomes in a crowded market.
- ✓ **Prioritize governance by risk.** Help customers focus on the highest-risk data, AI use cases, and regulatory exposures first.
- ✓ **Act as change agents for AI governance.** Educate customers on how governance priorities are shifting as AI becomes embedded across the data stack.
- ✓ **Position trusted data as the foundation for autonomy.** Emphasize that strong governance is required before organizations can safely scale AI and autonomous agents.



Related Resources



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Explore how Agentic AI is reshaping enterprise applications and why data readiness determines which pilots make it to production

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