



IDC RESEARCH · AI MATURITY BENCHMARK

Tech Leaders Think They're Ahead. **Only 3.1% Actually Are.**

Where do you actually stand, and what's the fastest path to the next stage?

The AI-Fueled Organization

IDC's AI-Fueled Maturity Model scores organizations across four dimensions: strategy, governance, people, and technology, on a five-stage curve from *Ad Hoc* to *Optimized*.

Based on a survey of 1,900 organizations, the market is splitting: the worldwide mean maturity score barely moved, from 2.39 to 2.43, but the share of organizations reaching *Optimized* nearly rose eight-fold, from 0.4% in 2025 to 3.1% in 2026.

A leading cohort is pulling away while the broad middle advances slowly.

For CIOs, CTOs, Heads of AI Transformation, CISOs, and Procurement leaders alike, that score is quickly becoming board-level currency: the evidence behind vendor bets, AI budget asks, and the case for where investment goes next.

Take a 2-minute self-assessment to see which side of that gap you're on, and what it'll take to stay there, or catch up fast.



Where do you stand?

Rate each statement from 1 (Not true) to 5 (Fully true). Then add up your score out of 20 to see your stage.

Governance is IDC's newly elevated 4th maturity dimension for 2026 (up from 3 in the 2025 model). Trust, risk management, and responsible-AI practices are now treated as prerequisites for scaling AI, not just IT hygiene.

		NOT TRUE				FULLY TRUE	
		1	2	3	4	5	
Strategy	We have a clearly defined AI strategy that ties to specific business outcomes.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
Governance	NEW We have clear governance and accountability for how AI is deployed and monitored.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
People	Our teams have the skills and support to use AI confidently in their day-to-day work.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	
Technology	Our technology foundation (data, infrastructure, tools) can scale AI beyond pilots.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	



Your AI-Fueled Maturity Stage

Gaps in strategy, governance, people, and technology are what separate the leading cohort from everyone else.

4–8	Ad Hoc 11.7% of orgs	Fragmented strategy and manual oversight. AI use is scattered and largely reactive.
9–12	Opportunistic 49.6% of orgs	Pockets of experimentation, but not coordinated across teams — the largest group by far.
13–15	Repeatable 25.8% of orgs	Consistent processes are emerging in some teams, but not yet organization-wide.
16–18	Managed 9.7% of orgs	AI is monitored and managed with clear ownership across strategy, governance, and people.
19–20	Optimized 3.1% of orgs	AI is embedded, governed, and continuously improved — the leading cohort.

Confidence and capability are loosely correlated: of organizations that already see themselves as AI “thrivers,” only 15.1% actually score at Managed or Optimized under IDC's methodology.

See exactly where you stand, not just where you think you stand.

See What the Leading
3.1% Do Differently

IDC **Quanta** shows you exactly what separates your stage from the next, and how to close it.

Explore IDC Quanta →

