

Executive Guide to Production-Ready AI

How to avoid three common AI mistakes and unlock business value with Databricks

To compete in today's AI-driven economy, organizations must go beyond experimentation and deliver AI solutions that are production-ready. According to a recent Economist Impact survey, 70% of enterprises are preparing to move past the pilot phase and release new use cases into the real world. However, only 29% of practitioners believe their company's AI investments are production-ready. This guide explores three common mistakes and how Databricks can help you avoid them and deliver business value with the Data Intelligence Platform.

Three Common Mistakes That Derail Enterprise AI

1

Mistake #1: Minimizing Accuracy and Quality Requirements to Support Production-Ready AI

Many teams can quickly create an AI proof-of-concept (POC) with sampled data. Moving to production for customer-facing applications introduces demands for high quality, accuracy, all under real-world variability. It requires a system that can continuously evaluate and improve performance, without exposing the organization to unacceptable financial or reputational risks.

Pain Points

- Over 75% of AI projects stall before production, draining resources and delaying impact (S&P GLOBAL, 2025)
- Only 1% of companies call themselves AI-mature, underscoring a lack of readiness for real-world deployment (McKINSEY, 2024)



Flo Health, the world's leading health app for women with 75M users **doubled their medical accuracy over standard commercial GenAI models**, giving them confidence to meet the high standards needed for clinical accuracy, safety, privacy, and security.



Databricks
Data Intelligence
Platform

Ready to unlock business value with a trusted, production-ready AI platform? Learn how leading enterprises are scaling with Databricks at: databricks.com/why-databricks/executives

2

Mistake: Overlooking Security and Governance From the Start

Early projects can sideline security and governance for speed, but without strong governance, enterprises open themselves up to significant risks. Siloed access controls, fragmented tooling and a lack of visibility make it hard to enforce policies, manage entitlements or prove compliance in production environments.

Pain Points

- Lack of unified governance framework slows security and compliance processes — 76% of executives cite governance as a top challenge ([DATABRICKS + ECONOMIST, 2024](#))
- Sensitive data exposure due to inconsistent access controls — only 10% of organizations report having strong AI governance frameworks ([DELOITTE, 2025](#))
- Governance blind spots delay production — only 7–8% of enterprises have integrated governance into AI lifecycles ([TRUSTMARQUE, 2025](#))



By establishing governance as a foundation with Databricks' Unity Catalog, AT&T has enabled secure, decentralized data use. This has **fueled predictive AI models, which has led to a 70–80% reduction in fraud.**

3

Mistake: Underestimating the Cost of AI at Scale

AI costs spike as teams scale workloads, use multiple disparate agent technologies (ie. AI agent sprawl), replicate data and security, and rely on disconnected infrastructure across clouds and business units. Without a unified architecture, organizations face mounting inefficiencies: data replication, different AI models that touch data differently, duplicated tooling and disconnected workflows. Additionally, teams often default to large, general-purpose models that are overkill for a specific task.

Pain Points

- Infrastructure and compute costs grow exponentially with scale, and up to 80% of costs stem from infrastructure and data prep ([MCKINSEY, 2025](#))
- Disconnected systems, AI agent sprawl, and manual pipelines waste time — 42% of companies abandoned AI efforts in 2025 due to operational inefficiencies ([S&P GLOBAL, 2025](#))



adidas built a scalable GenAI solution that **cut compute costs by more than 90% and improved chatbot response times by 60%** by deploying optimized models on Databricks. The company now delivers faster, more efficient insights from millions of product reviews while boosting analyst productivity by up to 40%.

The Solution: A Unified Platform for Production-Ready AI

Why Databricks: Accelerating Business Value With Trusted AI

Over 20,000 customers trust Databricks to help their organizations scale AI securely, efficiently and with measurable outcomes. Its architecture and capabilities are designed to reduce time to value, increase trust and accelerate AI innovation across the enterprise while keeping costs low. Key capabilities include:



Together, these capabilities help teams move quickly from AI prototype to production, maintain compliance and control and deliver measurable outcomes while keeping costs low.

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