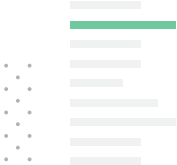EXECUTIVE WORKBOOK

Financial Data Health Assessment

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Executive Summary: Why Data Trust Is Your Strategic Advantage

In today's financial services landscape, precision and trust define success. Fintechs and cloud-native firms are outpacing traditional institutions by leveraging fast, reliable data for payments and AI-driven insights. Yet, many CDOs and Risk leaders face critical questions:

- Can we trace key metrics to their source?
- Will our data support an audit?
- Are we ready for AI's data demands?

Two trends are reshaping the industry:

- **High-volume payments** expose gaps in cross-border reconciliation and data quality (McKinsey, 2024).
- **AI transformation** requires data that's traceable, compliant, and reliable at every step.

Despite heavy cloud investments, data trust—knowing your data is accurate, observable, and compliant—remains a challenge, often hindered by siloed teams and fragmented metrics. This workbook helps you assess your data trust maturity, align Finance, Risk, and AI teams, and turn data challenges into a competitive edge.

Real-World Data Failures: Lessons from Banking and Insurance
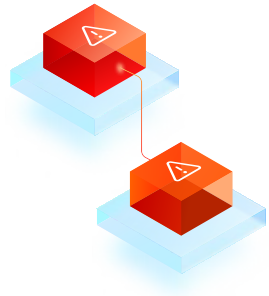
Poor data trust leads to costly consequences. Consider these examples:

Insurance: Claims Processing Bottlenecks

A leading insurer struggled with claims delays due to inconsistent data formats across legacy systems. Missing metadata caused errors in risk scoring, slowing payouts and increasing customer churn.

Banking: Cross-Border Payment Delays

A Global Systemically Important Bank (G-SIB) faced settlement delays when incomplete data from a reference system disrupted FX enrichment. Without proactive monitoring, the issue caused fines, delayed transactions, and reputational damage.

These challenges highlight why top firms prioritize data trust to support compliance and operations.

What Data-Driven Financial Institutions Do Differently

Top-performing banks, insurers, and asset managers share three data trust pillars:

- ⊘ **Traceable Data Sources:** Certified and aligned with business rules and SLAs.
- ⊘ **Proactive Monitoring:** Visibility into data delays, format changes, or quality issues. For example, proactive monitoring identifies data gaps in fraud detection pipelines, reducing losses.
- ⊘ **Cross-Functional Alignment:** Shared definitions for metrics like liquidity risk or claims accuracy.

These capabilities support faster compliance (e.g., CCAR, IFRS), confident AI models, and agile decision-making across banking, insurance, and beyond.

Acceldata's Role in Building Trusted Data

Acceldata helps financial institutions build trusted data by:

✋ **Preventing Issues Early:**

Detect data format changes, pipeline failures, or quality gaps proactively.

📰 **Supporting Compliance:**

Provide traceable metrics and audit-ready lineage to help meet regulatory requirements.

✦ **Powering AI:**

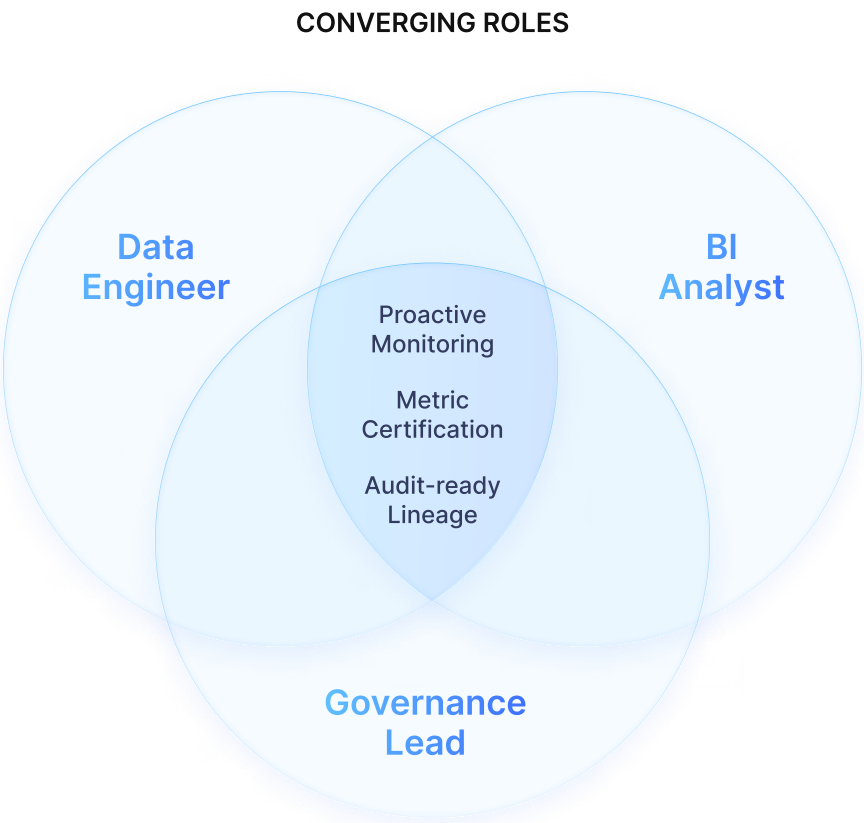Deliver reliable, policy-compliant data for models in lending, risk, or claims.

For example, Acceldata integrates with platforms like Snowflake or Databricks to monitor data pipelines, supporting CCAR reporting or fraud detection. This workbook's 11-question assessment will guide you in evaluating your readiness across these dimensions.

Converging Roles: Collaboration for Data Trust

Collaboration across data and business roles is essential for data trust in regulated financial environments (Elumilade, 2024). Data Engineers, BI Analysts, and Governance Leads now share ownership of trusted metrics, enabling compliance and AI readiness. Acceldata's platform supports this by providing shared visibility into pipelines and certified data, as assessed in questions like Q5 (Section 6).

Role Evolution Table:

Role	Traditional Focus	Modern Cross-Functional Role
Data Engineer	Build and manage pipelines	- Create observable pipelines - Define financial logic with Finance - Feed reliable data to AI models
BI Analyst	Build dashboards from curated data	- Validate KPIs with Risk - Flag data issues - Co-create trusted metrics with Engineers
Governance Lead	Enforce compliance and policies	- Certify data sources - Link lineage to audits - Tune retention with business needs

CONVERGING ROLES

Data Engineer

BI Analyst

Proactive Monitoring

Metric Certification

Audit-ready Lineage

Governance Lead

acceldata

Top 11 Financial Data Health Assessment Questions

Use these 11 questions to evaluate your organization's data trust maturity across key operational and regulatory priorities. Organized by theme, each question includes a benchmark to measure your readiness and an action to address gaps. Complete the assessment below or take it online at Acceldata.ai/quiz (#) for a personalized Data Trust Maturity Score (requires email submission). Proven with global firms in banking, insurance, and capital markets.

Data Lineage & Certification

Question	Theme	Benchmark	Action
Q1. Can we trace capital adequacy or claims metrics to their source systems?	Data Lineage	Top firms achieve 90% metric traceability.	Map lineage for critical metrics.
Q2. Are critical data sources certified and validated against business rules?	Data Certification	80% of sources should be certified.	Implement certification workflows.

Data Quality & SLA Monitoring

Question	Theme	Benchmark	Action
Q3. Do we monitor freshness and completeness for regulatory reports (e.g., CCAR, IFRS)?	Data Quality	95% of reports should meet quality standards.	Set up quality checks.
Q4. Are data SLAs in place, with breaches visible to Finance or Risk?	SLA Monitoring	Detect breaches within 30 minutes.	Deploy SLA monitoring tools.

Data Fitness & Anomaly Detection

Question	Theme	Benchmark	Action
Q5. Do teams agree on "fit-for-purpose" data for liquidity risk or claims?	Data Fitness	85% alignment on key metrics.	Define shared metric standards.
Q6. Can we detect anomalies in filings or data formats proactively?	Anomaly Detection	90% of anomalies detected within 2 hours.	Enable automated alerts.

Metadata & AI Readiness

Question	Theme	Benchmark	Action
Q7. Do we maintain clear metadata for data context and integration?	Metadata Discovery	75% of assets should have rich metadata.	Build metadata catalogs.
Q8. Are AI models trained on compliant, traceable data?	AI Data Readiness	100% of models should use certified data.	Validate AI data pipelines.

Decision Support & Observability

Question	Theme	Benchmark	Action
Q9. Do we maintain notebooks linking metrics to policies and audits?	Business Notebooks	70% of metrics should have policy links.	Create centralized notebooks.
Q10. Are risk analytics integrated with efficient data pipelines?	Decision Timeliness	80% of analytics should use optimized data.	Upgrade pipeline integration.
Q11. Do we monitor data assets for format changes or quality issues?	Data Observability	90% of assets should have automated monitoring.	Implement observability tools.

Note: These questions are designed to spark cross-functional discussions. Use them with your Data Council to prioritize data trust investments.

Customer Success: Transforming Data Trust in Action

See how one bank applied these principles to achieve measurable results:

| **Institution:** Top-5 U.S. Commercial and Retail Bank | **Challenge:** Gaps in CCAR audit readiness and slow AI lending model deployment. |

Assessment Findings:

Metric	Observation	Business Risk
Metric Traceability	63% of capital metrics had lineage	Audit risks, model errors
Data Source Certification	28% of sources validated	Regulatory rework, misaligned models
Anomaly Detection Lag	8-hour breach detection	Operational delays, risk exposure
Policy Enforcement	<50% of tables had policy bindings	Compliance gaps, data leakage

Results with Acceldata:

- ✅ Proactive monitoring reduced breach detection from 8 hours to 30 minutes.
- ✅ Improved lineage accelerated CCAR sign-off by 30%.
- ✅ Saved $1.2M in audit, model rework, and compliance costs within 6 months.

8-hour detection, 63% traceability	30-min detection, 90% traceability
BEFORE	**AFTER**

Additional Example: A global insurer used Acceldata to streamline claims data, cutting processing time by 25% and improving risk scoring accuracy.

Next Steps: Turn Insights Into Impact

Use this workbook with your Data Council to:

- **Identify Gaps:** Pinpoint weaknesses in lineage, quality, or AI readiness.
- **Prioritize Fixes:** Focus on high-impact areas like SLA monitoring or anomaly detection.
- **Align Teams:** Unite Finance, Risk, and Engineering on trusted metrics.

Additional Resource: Download our free "AI-Ready Data Guide" at Acceldata.ai/resources (#) to explore next steps.

Ready to Build Trusted Data?

Data trust is your competitive edge. Make it traceable. Make it compliant. Make it shared.

Book a Strategy Session with Acceldata's experts to review your assessment and build a data trust roadmap.

Data trust is your capital buffer. Make it visible. Make it verifiable. Make it shared.