



TRENDS 2026



Powering the Future of AI

Dare to orchestrate data, agents, and roles



Everything is about
centralization vs. decentralization



vs



POLITICS SOCIETY TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE

The constant pendulum swing



Centralization

Central Planning

State

The Physical

Central Banks

Proprietary

Decentralization

Free Markets

Network

The Virtual

Crypto

Open Source

Your enterprise is experiencing **unprecedented pressures** with AI



CENTRALIZATION CONTROL

- Big stacks want to centralize your data
- Data sovereignty and regulations
- Pressure to govern and scale AI
- Consolidation and cost control
- Slow change management

- Shadow AI and “Vibe coding”
- Data inconsistency
- Explosion of new data sources
- Unchecked AI agents
- Shortage of skills

DECENTRALIZATION INNOVATION



The great dichotomy

Individual productivity AI usage is exploding,
while enterprise value is stalling.

88% of employees
use AI at work

EY 2025 Work Reimagined Survey



The great dichotomy

Individual productivity AI usage is exploding,
while enterprise value is stalling.



95% of enterprises
report **not seeing ROI**
from AI

Hierarchies are Breaking down.



- Data lives **everywhere**.
- Agents demand **autonomy**.
- **Roles** and **Responsibilities** are changing. Every employee will soon be a digital CEO, **managing agent swarms**.
- **Execution** and **Empowerment** will look completely different when **innovation outpaces policy**.
- This is no longer about choosing a side — it's about learning **a new motion altogether**.



Data



Agents



Roles



Execution



Innovative edge

Caching Layer
Comeback

Sentient, Perceptive
Task Agents

New Human-
AI Roles

Vibe Code,
Low Code,
No Code



Interoperable grid

Semantics
Everywhere

Compound
Multi-Modal AI

Protocols over
Platforms

Trusted Data
Products to Service-
as Software



Integral core

Vendor Consolidation
into "Everything
Stores"

BI for AI = CI

Data Sovereignty
Evolves

From Lakehouse
Optimization to
xOps Control Plane

Data



By 2027, as low power AI and open source commoditizes LLMs, **differentiation will come from unique data and combinatorial application of AI.**

Gartner

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Innovative Edge



Interoperable Spine



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Innovative Edge

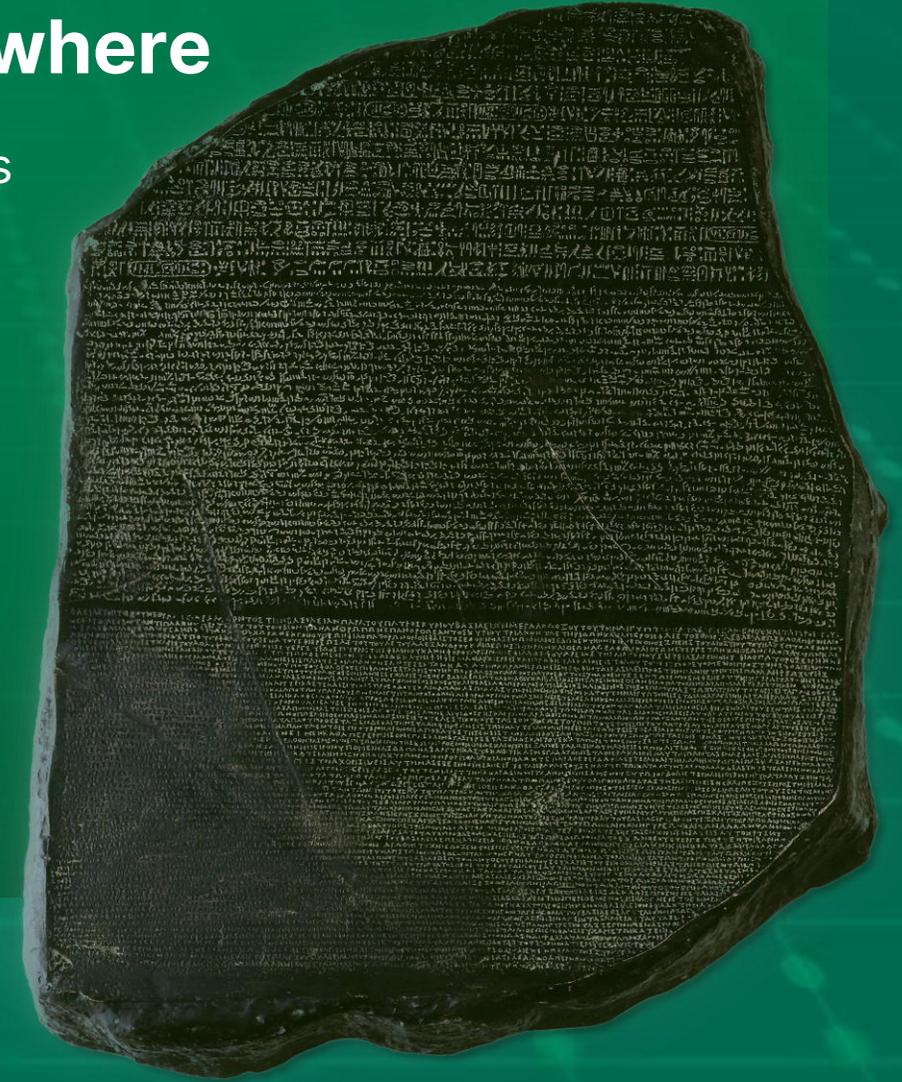
Data

Caching Layer
Comeback

“Everything
Stores”

Semantics-Everywhere

- Shared, agreed Semantics (OSI, ODCS etc)
- Catalogues, Ontologies in Graphs
- Metadata is becoming active, with dynamic lineage, context and glossaries



Integral Core



Interoperable Spine



Innovative Edge

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Caching Layer Comeback

Factor	 Local Compute (Single Node / Edge / SLM)	 Cluster Compute (Distributed / Cloud / LLM)
Data / Model Size	Small and Medium	Very Large
Latency	Low-latency on device	Higher latency from network
Cost	Low for local resources	Scales massively but at higher cost
Scalability & Reliability	Limited by one machine's memory, compute, or GPU	Multi-node scale and built-in redundancy
Use Case Fit	For analytics, prototyping, personalization, edge AI	For heavy ETL, training, global workloads, multi-user systems

IDC: By 2030, 50% of enterprise AI inference workloads will be processed locally on endpoints or edge nodes, reducing cloud traffic and latency while supporting greater control over sensitive data.



Integral Core



Interoperable Spine



Innovative Edge

Agents



If data was the moat of the cloud era, context is the moat of the AI era.

Redpoint AI64

Agents

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Task Agents

Compound
Multi-Modal AI

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Innovative Edge



Interoperable Spine



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**Sentient, Perceptive
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Platinum | Contextual Intelligence

Analytics App as the Trusted Agent Interface

Agents query a single, trusted context rather than the raw lake.

Gold | Decision Models

Semantic & Metrics Layer / Knowledge Marts

One source of truth for meaning, metrics, and language.

Silver | Validated Core

Aligned and Cleansed Data

Consistent, high-integrity data for consumption and modeling.

Bronze | Optimized Raw

Iceberg-based Open Lakehouse

Low-cost, reproducible storage foundation for analytics and agents.



Integral Core



Interoperable Spine



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Integral Core

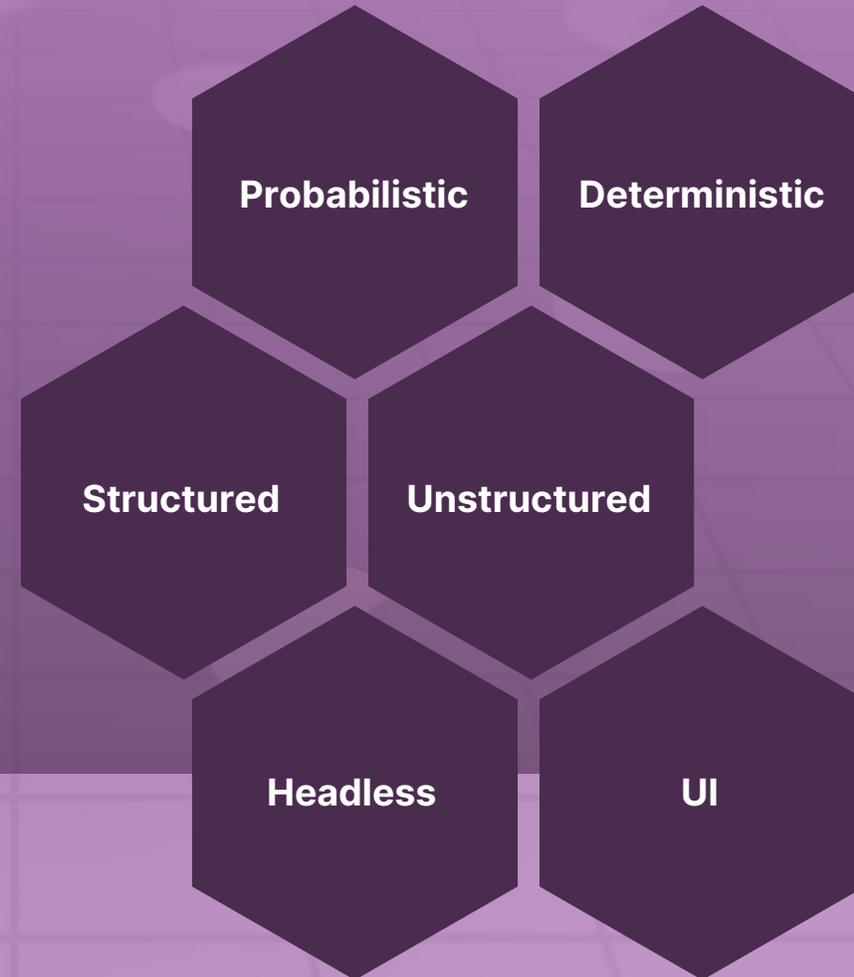


Interoperable Spine



Innovative Edge

Compound Multi-Modal AI



Agents

Compound
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BI for AI = CI

Sentient, Perceptive Task Agents

AGENTS

Pipeline
Agent

Data
Analyst
Agent

Predictive
Agent

Data
Quality
Agent

Knowledge
Agent

Automation
Agent

Help Agent

Productivity
Agent

Discovery
Agent

3RD PARTY

AI ASSISTANTS



AI CODING ASSISTANTS



DATA PLATFORMS



Integral Core



Interoperable Spine



Innovative Edge

Roles



Maybe the most radical **future-of-work innovation** won't come from Silicon Valley ... but from places forced to redesign work from first principles because the maths demands it. It won't be one future of work, but many, shaped by demographics, culture, and societal forces.”



Sharon O'Dea

sharonodea.com

Roles

**New Human-AI
Roles**

**Protocols over
Platforms**

**Data Sovereignty
Evolves**



Innovative Edge



Interoperable Spine



Integral Core

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Data Sovereignty Evolves

Compliance → Control

Data → Data + Energy + Compute

Sovereign + Hybrid by default



By 2030, **70% of governments will enforce digital sovereignty laws**, requiring CIOs and technology executives to redesign data architectures for compliance and cross-border resilience.

IDC



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Interoperable Spine



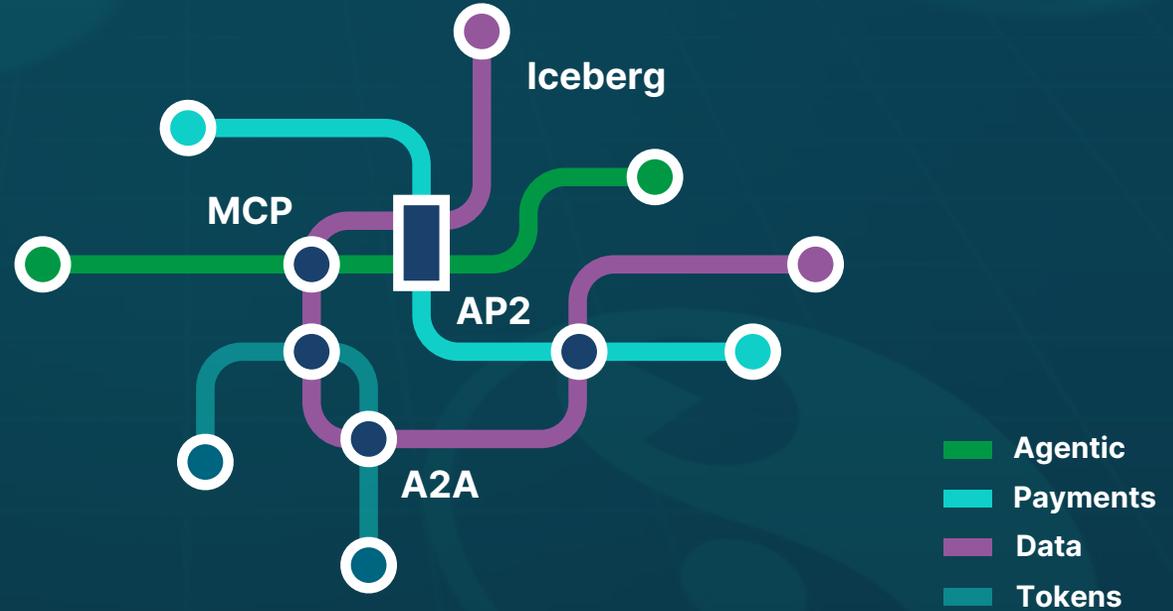
Innovative Edge

Roles

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Protocols over Platforms



Integral Core



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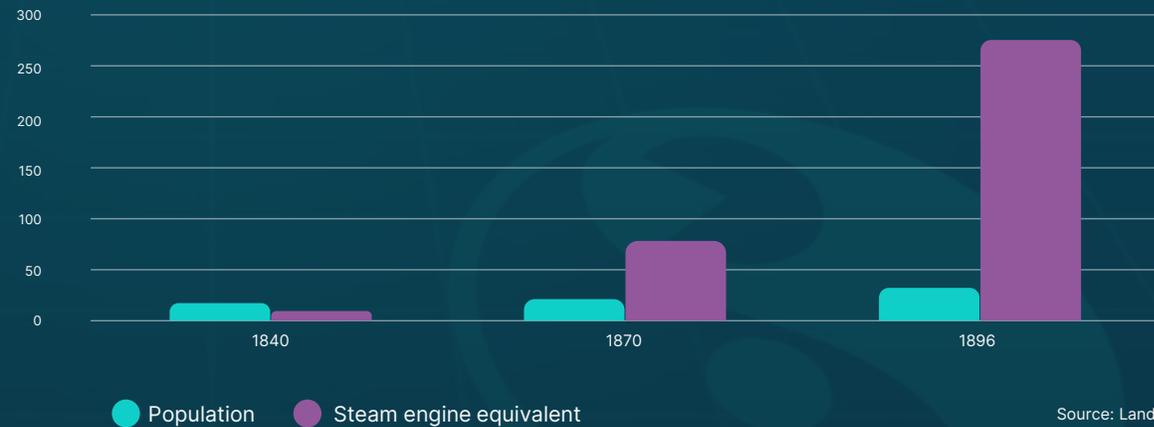
Interoperable Spine



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New Human-AI Roles

UK population and steam engine labor unit equivalent (m)



Execution

“ Execution is the ability to mesh strategy with reality, align people with goals, and achieve the promised results.”

Lawrence Bossidy

Execution

Vibe Code, Low Code, No Code

Trusted Data Products to Service-as-Software

From Lakehouse Optimization to xOps Control Plane



Innovative Edge



Interoperable Spine



Integral Core

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AutomationOps
ProcessOps
FinOps
AIOps
DataOps
ModelOps



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Trusted Data Products to Service-as-Software



Data...Products...Services...Software...



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Vibe Code, Low Code, No Code

Code becomes creative, and speed
reshapes the app layer

Trust still needs guardrails. Sometimes
Low Code, No Code more apt.

From writing software to **orchestrating
automations.**



Integral Core

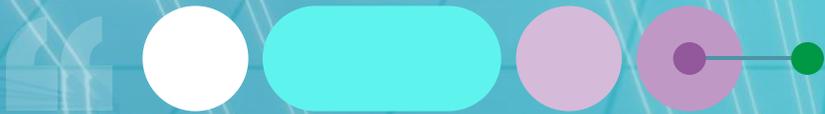


Interoperable Spine



Innovative Edge

Powering the future of AI



**AI is the spark.
The intelligence grid is the power.**



Innovative edge

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Break the Pendulum, and DARE to do things differently

Every modern enterprise is looking for three things:

- Trust in its data, through integrity
- Adaptability across its systems, through interoperability
- Innovation contextualized for its edge.

Qlik is your partner to deliver exactly that — Trust, Adaptability and Context.

Through providing the Intelligence layer connecting data with context and action, Qlik removes the barriers to AI success.

Orchestrating data, agents, roles, and executions, you get exponential value (the network effect) in "powering AI".

**Let's turn disconnected AI
sparks into an orchestrated
system of intelligence**