

DATA STRATEGY TRACKS

Governance platform

Governance capabilities that once lived in separate tools are converging into platforms. Decide which policies matter most, what each persona needs, and which tools to consolidate.

THE SO WHAT OF THIS TRACK

Prioritise two or three policy types, write the requirements by persona, and consolidate governance tooling around them rather than buying another point tool.

Part of stage 4: Design

Governance fails when it lives in documents, spreadsheets and half a dozen disconnected tools: policies are written but not enforced, and nobody can see whether they work. A data strategy that commits to trusted data must say how governance will be operated day to day, and on what. Choosing the platform from the policy priorities and the people who use it, rather than from feature lists, keeps governance tied to the strategy.



QUESTIONS THIS TRACK ANSWERS

- Which policy types matter most to our strategy: quality, security, privacy, ethics, retention or access?
- What does each persona need from governance to do their job?
- Which governance capabilities do we have, and in how many separate tools?
- Where are policies written but not enforced or monitored?
- What would we consolidate first, and what would it free up?

1

The method

Policies, personas and one platform for governance

From scattered tools to one governance platform

Scattered today

- Policies in documents nobody can find
- A catalog here, a quality tool there, access rules in each system
- Stewardship by email and spreadsheet
- No single view of whether policies are working
- Each tool with its own glossary

Converged target

- Policies authored once, linked to the data they govern
- Discovery, classification, lineage and quality on shared metadata
- Stewardship workflow with tasks, approvals and escalations
- Monitoring and scores reported to the governance forums
- One glossary used by every capability

SO WHAT

Consolidation is a strategy decision, not a procurement one: it changes who does governance work and how it is seen.

Six policy types to prioritise

Few organisations can lead on all six at once. Choose two or three from the strategy and posture.

Policy type	What it governs	Lead when
Quality	Rules, thresholds and remediation for critical data	Reported numbers are disputed or decisions are delayed by checking
Security	Classification, protection and handling of sensitive data	Sensitive data is widely copied or breach exposure is high
Privacy	Consent, purpose, minimisation and data subject rights	Customer or patient data drives growth plans
Ethics and responsible AI	Fairness, transparency and human oversight of automated decisions	Models or agents are starting to act on decisions
Retention	How long data is kept, archived and destroyed	Storage cost, legal holds or discovery requests are rising
Access	Who may see and use what, for which purpose	Self-service is growing faster than access reviews

SO WHAT

The posture calculator points the way: defence-led strategies lead on quality, security and privacy; offence-led ones cannot skip access and ethics.

Requirements by persona

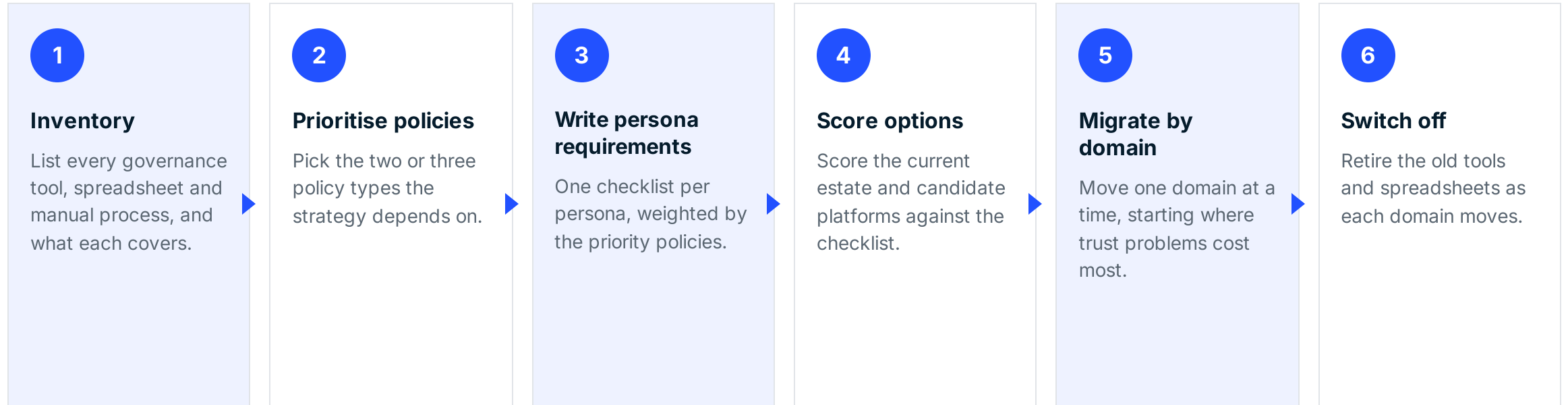
Write the checklist from the people who will use the platform, then score options against it.

Persona	Needs from governance	Sign it is working
Executive	A view of policy health and risk on the data that matters	Governance is reported on the data scorecard
Data owner	Clear accountability, approval requests and quality scores for their domain	Owners approve access and changes in the platform
Data steward	Task queues, issue workflow, rules authoring and glossary editing	Issues are closed within agreed times
Data engineer	Policies as code, lineage captured automatically, quality checks in pipelines	Pipelines fail fast on policy breaches
Analyst	Find trusted data, see its meaning, quality and permitted use	Analysts start from the catalog, not from a colleague
Risk and privacy officer	Classification, consent, retention evidence and audit trails	Audit evidence is produced from the platform, not assembled by hand

The capabilities a governance platform brings together

Capability	What it does	Linked to
Policy authoring	Write policies once, in business language, with scope and owner	Every other capability
Workflow and stewardship	Tasks, approvals, issue management and escalation	Owners, stewards, forums
Discovery and classification	Find data across systems and tag sensitivity automatically	Security, privacy, access
Lineage	Trace data from source to report, model and action	Quality, impact analysis, audit
Monitoring and scoring	Measure policy compliance and quality over time	Scorecard, forums
Reporting	Policy health, open issues and trends by domain	Executive council, domain councils
Automation	Enforce policies in pipelines, queries and agent actions	Engineering, AI governance

How to consolidate



SO WHAT

Retiring tools is part of the plan, not an afterthought; otherwise consolidation adds one more tool.

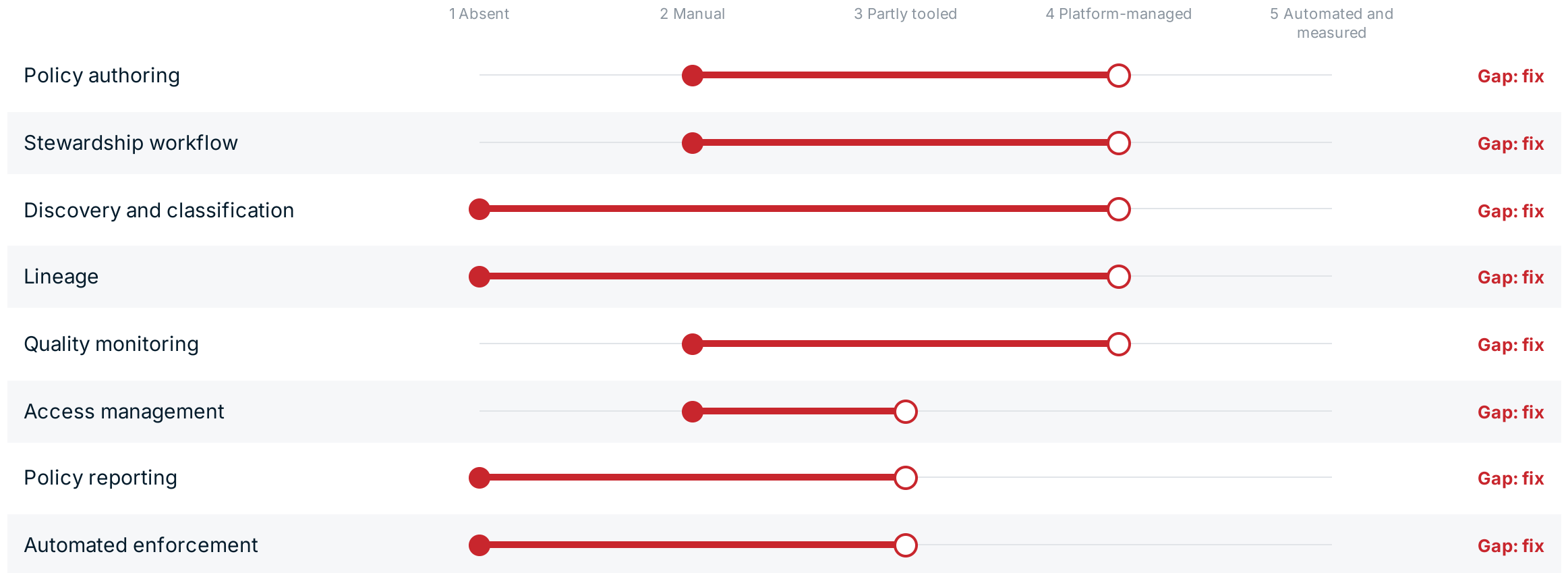
2

Tools and evidence

Score it, measure it, see it in six industries

Governance capability gap

Set where each capability is today and where the strategy needs it. Red bars are the deficits to put on the roadmap.



Filled dot: current level. Open dot: level the strategy needs. Illustrative defaults; score your own.

Closing the gaps that matter

Capability	What it covers	First fix
Policy authoring	Policies written once, owned, and linked to the data they govern	Move the top ten policies into one register with owners and scope.
Stewardship workflow	Tasks, approvals and issues tracked to closure	Route all data issues for one domain through a single queue with target times.
Discovery and classification	Sensitive data found and tagged automatically	Scan the systems holding customer or patient data and classify them first.
Lineage	Source-to-report trace for critical metrics	Capture lineage for the metrics on the executive scorecard.
Quality monitoring	Rules and published scores on critical data	Publish quality scores for the critical data elements behind the top objectives.
Access management	Purpose-based access with regular reviews	Run an access review on the most sensitive data products.
Policy reporting	Policy health visible to the governance forums	Add a governance section to the monthly data scorecard.
Automated enforcement	Policies enforced in pipelines, queries and agent actions	Add policy checks to the deployment path of new pipelines.

SELF-CHECK

Is this in place today?

Score each statement 1 (not at all) to 4 (fully, evidenced).

#	Statement	Score
1	We have chosen the two or three policy types the strategy depends on most.	
2	Governance requirements are written per persona, not as a generic feature list.	
3	Policies are linked to the data they govern and their compliance is monitored.	
4	Stewardship work is tracked in one workflow, not by email and spreadsheets.	
5	We know which governance tools overlap and have a plan to consolidate them.	

How it looks in six industries

Industry	Situation	The move	Measure
Manufacturer	Quality and supplier data rules differ by plant and live in local spreadsheets.	Lead on quality policies; one stewardship workflow for product and supplier data across the five plants.	Share of critical product data elements with published quality scores
Retail bank	Supervisory findings on risk data aggregation; evidence is assembled by hand each quarter.	Lead on quality, lineage and access; consolidate governance tooling so audit evidence comes from the platform.	Days to produce supervisory evidence for a risk metric
Retailer	Loyalty data drives personalisation, but consent is recorded differently online and in store.	Lead on privacy and access: one consent policy enforced wherever customer data is used.	Share of personalised campaigns checked against recorded consent
Hospital group	A privacy incident and a coding audit put data governance on the board agenda.	Lead on privacy, security and quality; classify patient data first and report policy health to the board.	Share of patient data assets classified with enforced access policies
Telecom operator	Consent records are incomplete across three billing and CRM stacks.	Lead on privacy and retention; resolve consent per customer and enforce it in every campaign and model.	Share of active customers with a complete, resolved consent record
Insurer	The conduct supervisor expects evidence of fair pricing and claims handling.	Lead on ethics and quality: oversight of pricing and fraud models, with lineage and decision audit trails.	Share of pricing and claims models with documented oversight and lineage

Measures for the data scorecard

Measure	Definition	Lead or lag
Policies under management	Share of priority policies authored, owned and linked to data in the platform	Lead
Classification coverage	Share of sensitive data assets classified automatically	Lead
Issue closure time	Median days to close a data issue in the stewardship workflow	Lead
Tools consolidated	Governance tools and spreadsheets retired against the plan	Lead
Policy compliance score	Share of monitored checks passing, by domain and policy type	Lag
Audit evidence effort	Person-days to produce evidence for a regulatory or internal audit	Lag
Trust in data	Share of surveyed users who trust the data they use for decisions	Lag

3

Making it happen

Traps, the first 90 days and where SCIKIQ fits

Traps to avoid

Feature-list buying

The platform is chosen on the longest feature list. Counter-move: Score options against persona requirements weighted by the priority policies.

All policies at once

Six policy programmes start together and none finishes. Counter-move: Lead with two or three policy types tied to the strategy; sequence the rest.

One more tool

A new platform is added but the old tools stay. Counter-move: Plan retirement by domain and track tools consolidated on the scorecard.

Governance by documents

Policies exist but are never enforced or measured. Counter-move: Link each policy to data, monitor compliance and report it to the forums.

Stewards without time

Stewardship is added to day jobs with no capacity. Counter-move: Size stewardship effort per domain and agree it with the domain owner.

The first 90 days

Days 1-30: Inventory and prioritise

- List governance tools, spreadsheets and manual processes
- Choose the priority policy types with the executive council
- Name owners and stewards for the first domain

Days 31-60: Requirements and scoring

- Write persona requirement checklists
- Score the current estate and candidate options
- Agree the consolidation plan and the first domain

Days 61-90: First domain live

- Move priority policies for one domain into the platform
- Start the stewardship workflow and quality scores
- Retire the first redundant tool
- Report policy health at the monthly review

Where SCIKIQ fits

Governance Gate

Identity and access, classification, privacy, policy and compliance checks, approvals and audit before anything is executed.

Enterprise Discovery Engine

Automatic classification, lineage including SQL lineage, ownership and criticality across sources.

Semantic and Ontology Construction

A governed glossary and ontology editor with maker-checker approval and provenance on every object.

Outcome and Observability

Measures outcomes against baselines, so policy health and its effect can be reported to the forums.

Take it further

- The SCIKIQ Data Strategy Framework: the cascade this track plugs into
- Strategy Cascade and Scorecard Workbook: add this track's objectives and measures
- Run the interactive tool and self-check at scikiq.org/data-strategy#track-governance

scikiq.org/data-strategy