AI-SAFE V1.0 · SELF-ASSESSMENT

Where is your AI architecture *actually*?

Walk the thirty-six cells of the AI-SAFE matrix. For each, mark whether the artifacts that should exist are present, partial, or absent. The pattern that emerges is your architecture, and your gaps.

HOW TO USE THIS

1. For each of the 36 cells, ask: can a named owner point to the artifacts that should exist here?
2. Mark one box per cell — Present, Partial, or Absent.
3. Tally each column on the final page. The Absent and Partial cells are your backlog.
4. Prioritise gaps by risk (Trust ring) and cost (Value ring), not by convenience.

☐ Present — artifacts exist and are owned ☐ Partial — some exist, gaps remain ☐ Absent — nothing named here

The 36-Cell Self-Assessment Matrix

Mark one box per cell · P / Par / A

TRUST RING · GOVERNANCE · RISK · ETHICS | VALUE RING · FINOPS · PERFORMANCE · SUSTAINABILITY

	Commit *Strategic*	Design *Conceptual*	Compose *Logical*	Deploy *Physical*	Operate *Operational*	Adapt *Evolution*
I **Business & Operating**	S-I **AI Strategy & Roadmap** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	C-I **Operating Model Design** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	L-I **Process Architecture** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	P-I **Operating Deployment** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	O-I **Governance Operations** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	E-I **Operating Evolution** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A
II **Information & Knowledge**	S-II **Knowledge Strategy** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	C-II **Knowledge Architecture** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	L-II **Retrieval & RAG Design** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	P-II **Knowledge Substrate** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	O-II **Knowledge Operations** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	E-II **Knowledge Evolution** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A
III **AI Systems & Application**	S-III **AI System Strategy** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	C-III **Application Design** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	L-III **Workflow Orchestration** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	P-III **Application Deployment** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	O-III **AI Operations** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	E-III **Application Evolution** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A
IV **Model & Agent**	S-IV **Model & Sovereignty Strategy** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	C-IV **Model Portfolio Design** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	L-IV **Inference & Agent Routing** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	P-IV **Model Deployment** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	O-IV **Model Operations** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	E-IV **Model Evolution** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A
V **Substrate & Infrastructure**	S-V **Substrate Strategy** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	C-V **Compute Architecture** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	L-V **Inference Topology** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	P-V **Substrate Deployment** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	O-V **Substrate Ops & FinOps** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	E-V **Substrate Evolution** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A
VI **Security & Privacy**	S-VI **Security & Resilience Strategy** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	C-VI **Threat & Privacy Model** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	L-VI **Identity & Access Design** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	P-VI **Security Deployment** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	O-VI **Security Operations** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A	E-VI **Security Evolution** ☐ P ☐ Par ☐ A

Your Result

Tally your 36 cells

Count how many cells you marked in each state, then read the band below.

PRESENT	PARTIAL	ABSENT

What to do next

Your Absent and Partial cells are your AI-architecture backlog. Sequence them by risk under the Trust ring and weight under the Value ring. A cell that is both high-risk and high-cost is where attention belongs first. Name an owner for each before you build.

Reading your maturity

Mostly Absent · L1 Substrate Naive.

Scattered pilots, no architectural investment. Start by settling the four pillars and naming a substrate architect.

Mixed Partial · L2 Substrate Aware.

Architecture forming, governance emerging. Close the highest-risk gaps and stand up measurement.

Mostly Present · L3+ Substrate Native.

Domains in production, rings operating. Shift from building cells to compounding and evolving them.

The discipline

Name the cell, and you can defend it. A cell with no named artifact is a gap, and the gap is where AI initiatives break.