

RESOURCE 1



Who Owns The AI Outcome

A HUMAN PAUSE ownership check before AI spend becomes operational risk.

USE THIS WHEN

Use this before approving an AI pilot, platform, workflow change, or automation project where accountability is still vague.

WHY IT MATTERS

AI projects often have a budget owner, a delivery team, and a technical lead. That is not the same as having one named business owner who carries the outcome. If ownership is unclear at approval, it usually becomes even less clear when cost, adoption, trust, or delivery problems appear.

The Ownership Question

- If this project underperforms, disrupts work, costs more than expected, or damages trust, which leader owns the consequence?
- A useful AI decision names a person who owns a business outcome, not just the person managing the project.

3 Ownership Decisions to Make

- Name the outcome owner: who is accountable for the business result this AI project is meant to create?
- Name the adoption owner: who is responsible for whether people affected can actually use, trust, and work with the change?
- Name the pause authority who has permission to reduce scope, redesign, or stop the project if the evidence is not holding?

What good looks like

- The outcome is specific enough to explain in plain English.
- The owner has enough authority to change the plan, not just report on it.
- The leadership team agrees what evidence would prove the project is working.
- The decision can be defended financially, operationally, and reputationally.

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Working Page

Use this page with your leadership team. If the answer is vague, leave it blank and treat that as useful evidence.

CHECK	QUESTION	ANSWER / EVIDENCE
BUSINESS OUTCOME	What measurable result is this AI project expected to improve?	
NAMED OWNER	Who owns the result if the project underperforms?	
PEOPLE/ ADOPTION IMPACT	Who will use, check, trust, or be affected by the change?	
PAUSE AUTHORITY	Who can reduce scope, redesign, or stop the project?	
EVIDENCE TO REVIEW	What will we measure, and when will we review it?	

If you cannot name the owner, the decision is not ready. Take a Human Pause before approval.