

# Data Fabric Solution Checklist

Choosing the best solution for your business.

**Selecting the right data fabric solution is a crucial decision that can significantly impact your organization's ability to manage and leverage its data.**

To assist you in this process, we've developed a comprehensive checklist designed to guide you through every step of your evaluation. Whether you're in the initial stages of exploring options or deep into vendor discussions, this checklist will help you ensure alignment with your strategic goals, assess the technical capabilities, and understand the potential return on investment.

We invite you to use this checklist in your upcoming meetings to drive meaningful conversations and throughout your entire software selection process. By doing so, you can confidently navigate the complexities of data fabric solutions and make an informed decision that best suits your organization's unique needs.

## Business Strategy & Goals

First, understand how the solution you are considering aligns with both your current and future business goals.

### Alignment with Business Objectives:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the company's strategic goals and objectives does a data fabric solution support?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What are the top 3-5 insights that are missing or unreliable today which you will integrate into your decision making after a data fabric is in place?
- \_\_\_\_\_ How will each of your business units be empowered by a data fabric and how will you prioritize the implementation of all the affected departments? Consider Sales, HR, Marketing, Engineering, Finance, Production, etc.

### Support for Business Agility:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the solution provide the flexibility to adapt to changing business needs?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can it scale as your business grows in revenue, data volume, and people?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the data fabric solution built on a future-proof architecture that can adapt to technological advancements outside of your business?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does it avoid vendor lock-in, ensuring you can switch providers if necessary? Do you know how that process would work with the vendor you are considering?



# Data Management & Integration

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## Unified Data View:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the solution offer a unified view of data across the organization?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Will this be a single source of truth business users can trust? What will make it different than the data business users can access today?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What solution do you or will you have in place for visualizing the data?

## Technology, Automation, and Efficiency:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the solution automate data integration processes, reducing manual effort and errors?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can it automatically propagate changes across the data environment?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Will you offer need to offer different sets of data products to different users or business units? Does the platform have a solution for data products or catalogues?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are all areas of a robust data architecture included: integration, orchestration, master data management, quality, and governance, or will you require additional software for these needs?

## Security and Compliance:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the solution ensure that your data is secure, with robust access controls and encryption?
- \_\_\_\_\_ How does it handle sensitive data to comply with privacy laws and regulations?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can the solution help you maintain compliance with industry standards and regulations, for example, GDPR, CCPA, or HIPAA?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does it provide automatic audit trails and documentation for compliance reporting?



# Usability & Accessibility

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Understand how easy it will be learn, use, and access data for business insights.

## Ease of Use:

- \_\_\_\_\_ What are the leading causes of data silos and bottlenecks in your business today?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the solution capable of integrating data from your specific data sources causing these bottlenecks and silos?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does it support a wide range of data types and sources (databases, APIs, IoT devices, etc.) that you may utilize in the future?
- \_\_\_\_\_ How often are new data sources, technologies, and innovations being added to the solution being considered? Are you confident innovation is a priority for the potential vendor?

## Data Accessibility:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Can users across different departments easily access and utilize the data?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the solution include a semantic layer to simplify data discovery and usage?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Which users or departments will be responsible for ownership, training, and controlling data access?

# Performance & Reliability

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One of the main barriers to building a single source of truth is the quality of your business data. No solution can fix every source of bad data, but consider how the solution you are considering will help in your efforts in improve data reliability.

## Data Quality:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the solution include tools for data cleansing, validation, and enrichment?
- \_\_\_\_\_ How does it ensure or aide in the accuracy, completeness, and consistency of your data?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What manual data quality and preparation tasks can be automated or eliminated by the solution, and can you estimate how much time that will save your team?

## Reliability & Up-Time:

- \_\_\_\_\_ What is the solution's track record for reliability and uptime?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does it offer real-time monitoring and alerts for data issues?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Will you need real-time analytics and is the solution capable of supporting this requirement?



# Cost & Return On Investment

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This section speaks for itself- will your investment be worth it?

## Cost-Effectiveness:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the solution cost-effective compared to your current or traditional data integration methods?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What are the total external costs, including implementation, licensing, and maintenance?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Identify the main areas you where you are trying to find a cost savings. Is it technology costs, maintenance time, licensing, or something else? Will the solution provide those savings?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Understand the personnel related costs associated with the software training, maintenance, and sometimes, support.

## Return On Investment:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Can the solution demonstrate a clear ROI through improved data management and decision-making?
- \_\_\_\_\_ How quickly can you expect to see benefits from the implementation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ How will you monitor the ROI of the platform on an on-going basis?
- \_\_\_\_\_ How long are you guaranteed the pricing without an increase and how often will that pricing be reviewed to be sure it remains a good investment?

# Vendor Support and Community

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Finally, look into the support and community of the vendor you will be working with to be sure you can count on them if you encounter any issues.

## Vendor Support:

- \_\_\_\_\_ What kind of support and training does the vendor provide and is that included in the pricing?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are there options for ongoing support and consultation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are there any self-paced training materials available for new users?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the vendor have an easily accessible knowledge base or support site for technical questions?

## Community and Ecosystem:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there an active community or ecosystem for additional resources and collaboration?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can you find third-party integrations and extensions that enhance the solution's capabilities?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are there a substantial amount of external reviews to see how other customers use and like the solution?

