THE THINK BOX PROJECT

AI RISK & OPPORTUNITY CHECKLIST

IS YOUR ORGANISATION READY FOR THE AI ECONOMY?

Prepared by Jennifer Brown
www.thinkboxproject.org

INTRODUCTION

THE AI POWER SHIFT: WHY BUSINESSES MUST ACT NOW

AI is no longer just a tool for efficiency, it is reshaping entire economies, industries, and governance systems. A handful of companies control the infrastructure, data, and models that power AI, creating a new form of economic gatekeeping that determines who benefits from AI-driven progress and who is left behind.

For businesses, this means navigating new dependencies, regulatory shifts, and competitive threats.

For governments, it means grappling with the challenge of ensuring fair access, mitigating risks, and keeping up with rapid technological change.

Failing to plan for AI's impact risk means being disrupted, locked out of markets, or falling into AI-driven dependencies they can't control.

The good news? AI can be a force for innovation, resilience, and growth, if approached strategically.

The key is understanding where the risks lie, where the opportunities emerge, and how to build a proactive AI strategy that protects your interests while leveraging AI's full potential.

This checklist will support you in beginning to identify these areas. It will also enable you to get a free 20 minute consultation with Think Box Project to unpack your score. **Get in touch today.**

AI RISK CHECKLIST

HOW TO USE THE CHECKLIST

This checklist will help you understand your AI risks and opportunities before market shifts, regulations, or AI monopolies make it harder to compete.

What you'll get

✓ Identify 7 key AI risks that could impact your organisation today.

✓ Discover how AI can be a competitive advantage, not just a liability.

✓ Evaluate your AI readiness and take actionable next steps.

How to Use This Checklist

Each section outlines a key AI risk, providing background information and self-assessment questions. To determine your AI readiness, use the following scoring system:

✓ **0–2 points (High AI Exposure)**
You are likely dependent on AI systems without proper governance, making you vulnerable to disruption, regulatory fines, or supply chain issues.

✓ **3–5 points (Partial Readiness)**
You have some AI strategies in place, but you are not fully mitigating risks—your reliance on dominant AI providers could expose you to sudden changes in pricing, access, or compliance failures.

✓ **6–7 points (AI-Resilient, but Ongoing Monitoring Needed)**
You have a proactive AI governance strategy, but continuous monitoring is essential to keep up with emerging risks and regulatory shifts.
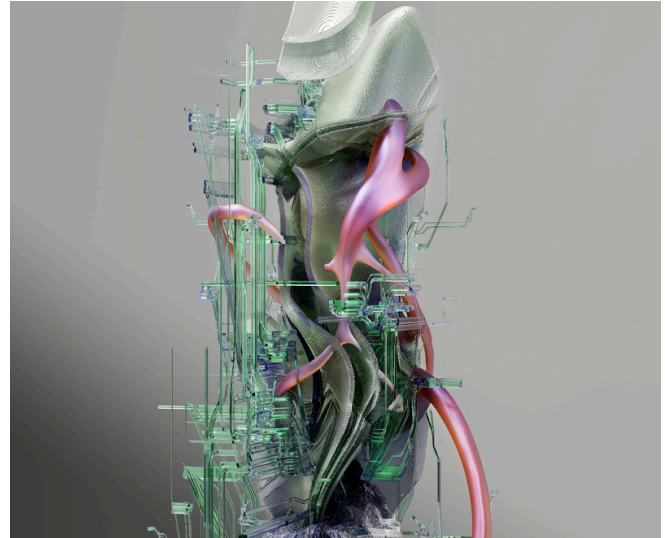
1. AI DEPENDENCY RISK: WHO CONTROLS YOUR AI INFRASTRUCTURE?

Many businesses now rely on external AI models (e.g., OpenAI, Google, AWS) for critical functions such as automation, decision-making, and analytics. While these systems provide efficiency, they also create supplier dependencies that can lead to pricing volatility, service disruptions, and loss of control. Companies that fail to assess their AI reliance may find themselves locked into high-cost AI services with few alternatives.

Self-Assessment Questions:
- Do you rely on AI platforms without alternative providers or backup options?
- Could a pricing change, API restriction, or service disruption negatively impact your operations?
- Have you conducted an AI dependency audit to assess the long-term risks of reliance on external AI systems?

AI RISK CHECKLIST

2. REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE RISK: ARE YOU AI LAW-READY?

Governments worldwide are implementing AI regulations that impact businesses, from GDPR compliance for AI-driven data processing to the EU AI Act restricting high-risk AI applications. Businesses that fail to comply could face legal penalties, reputational damage, or forced modifications to AI-driven products and services.

Self-Assessment Questions:
- Are you aligned with current AI regulations in your operating markets?
- Do you have clear AI governance policies to address bias, transparency, and accountability?
- Could regulatory changes force you to modify your AI deployments or business strategy?

3. WORKFORCE & AUTOMATION RISK: IS AI REPLACING OR EMPOWERING YOUR PEOPLE?

AI is automating business processes at scale, from customer service chatbots to AI-driven HR screening. Businesses that do not proactively manage workforce transitions may face talent shortages, employee pushback, or ethical concerns related to AI-driven hiring and performance management.

Self-Assessment Questions:
- Have you evaluated AI's impact on hiring, wages, and job displacement in your company?
- Are you investing in AI-driven upskilling & workforce transitions for employees?
- Do you have policies in place to ensure AI-driven decisions do not lead to unfair hiring or labor exploitation?
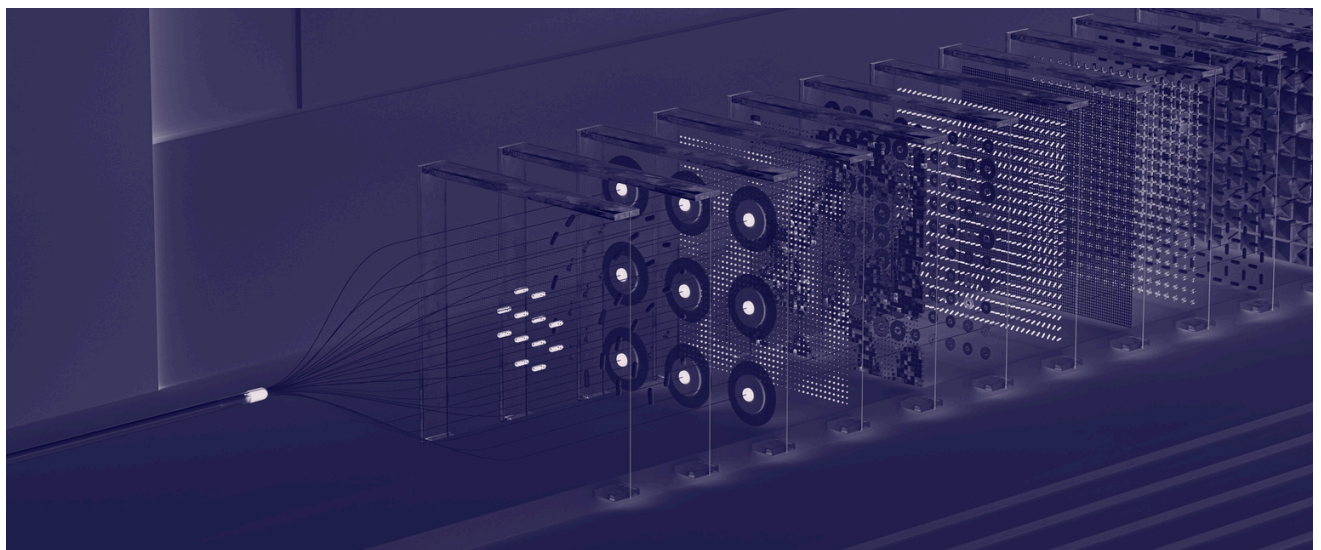
AI RISK CHECKLIST

4. AI DECISION-MAKING & ACCOUNTABILITY RISK: CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOUR AI'S DECISIONS?

Businesses using AI for hiring, lending, legal decisions, and automated operations must ensure their AI-driven decisions are fair, transparent, and legally compliant. AI models that produce biased or opaque decisions can lead to legal liability, customer backlash, and regulatory scrutiny.

Self-Assessment Questions:
- Do you know how your AI models make decisions?
- Have you reviewed AI bias, fairness, and unintended consequences?
- Can you audit your AI systems for compliance and transparency?

5. ECONOMIC POWER & AI MONOPOLY RISK: WHO PROFITS FROM AI?

The biggest economic shift AI is creating isn't just automation—it's the centralisation of AI power. Businesses that depend on AI providers for search ranking, advertising, or decision-making tools may find their profitability, visibility, and operational costs controlled by external AI landlords.

Self-Assessment Questions:
- Are AI-powered platforms extracting profits without reinvesting in your industry?
- Are you paying increasing AI-related costs just to remain competitive?
- Do you have strategies to protect against long-term AI dependency?
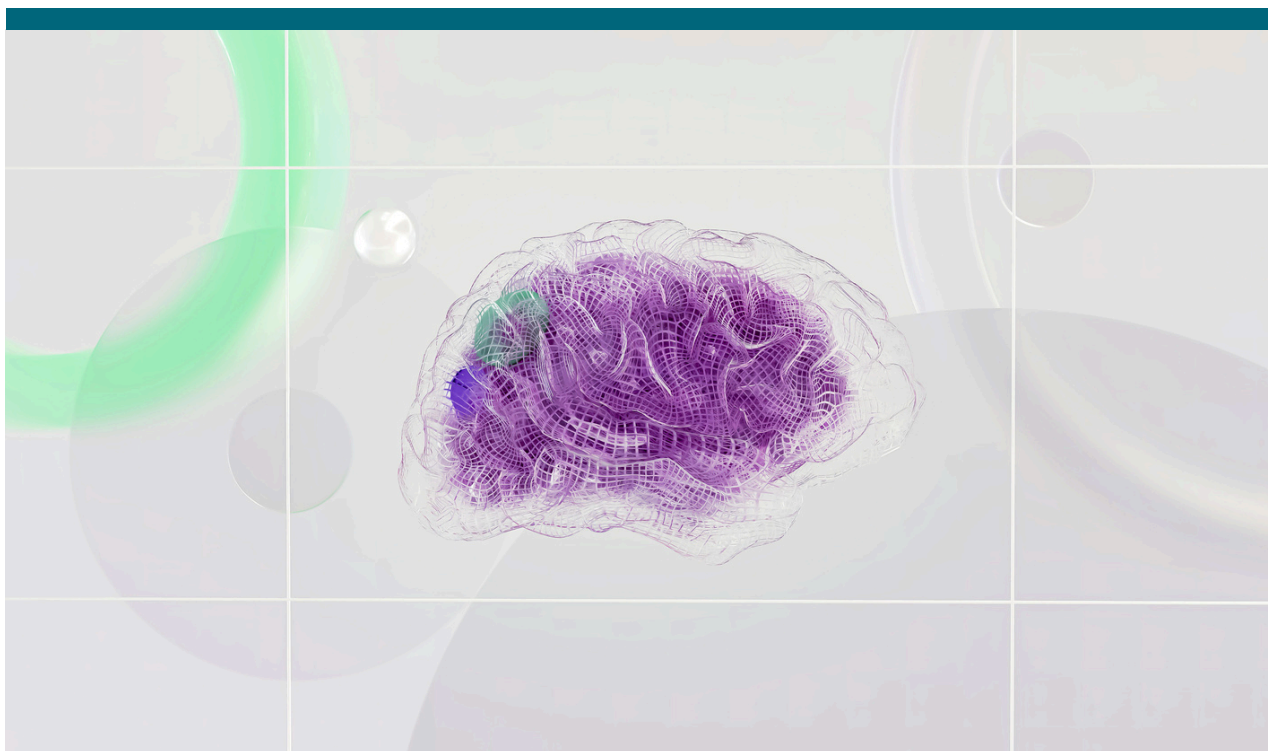
AI RISK CHECKLIST

6. AI ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST RISK: WILL YOUR AI PRACTICES HOLD UP TO SCRUTINY?

AI backlash is rising businesses must act now to prevent trust erosion. Companies that deploy AI without ethical oversight risk losing customer confidence, facing regulatory fines, and damaging their brand reputation. Transparency, fairness, and accountability in AI-driven decision-making are now essential business imperatives.

Self-Assessment Questions:
- Have you developed clear AI ethics policies on privacy, fairness, and responsible AI use?
- Are you prepared for public, employee, or media scrutiny on AI risks?
- Have you engaged with stakeholders on ethical AI concerns proactively?

7. AI FUTURE STRATEGY & RESILIENCE: ARE YOU PROACTIVELY PLANNING FOR AI'S IMPACT?

AI is evolving faster than regulation. Companies that fail to anticipate AI disruptions and emerging technologies will struggle to adapt. A future-proof AI strategy requires businesses to consider long-term risks, open-source AI alternatives, and resilience against AI-driven economic shifts.

Self-Assessment Questions:
- Have you developed a long-term AI strategy for innovation and resilience?
- Are you exploring alternative AI models (open-source AI, decentralised AI governance)?
- Do you have contingency plans for future AI risks and disruptions?
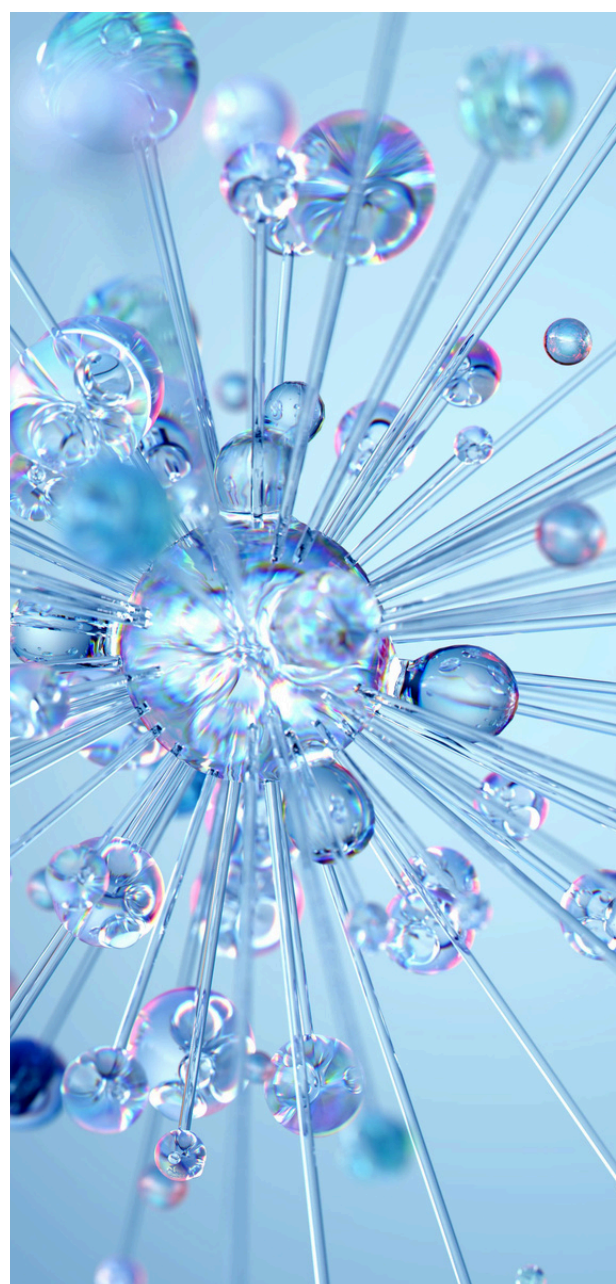
WHAT'S YOUR AI RISK SCORE?

✓ **0–7 points (High AI Exposure)**
You are highly dependent on AI systems without proper governance, making you vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, pricing shifts, and compliance failures. Immediate action is needed to assess AI risks and diversify AI strategies.

Book free 20 Minute Consultation with Think Box Project today.

✓ **8–14 points (Partial Readiness)**
You has has some AI strategies in place, but gaps remain. Without a stronger governance framework, you could be at risk of unexpected regulatory costs, monopolistic pricing from AI providers, or lack of internal AI expertise. Now is the time to strengthen your AI risk mitigation efforts.

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✓ **15–21 points (AI-Resilient, but Ongoing Monitoring Needed)**
You have a proactive AI governance strategy, but AI risks evolve rapidly. To maintain a competitive advantage, you must continuously monitor AI trends, regulatory updates, and supplier relationships.

Stay up to date on emerging trends and Think Box Project's insights.

Take the Next Step: Future-Proof Your AI Strategy.

Schedule your free 20 minute AI Risk Consultation with **Think Box Project** today.