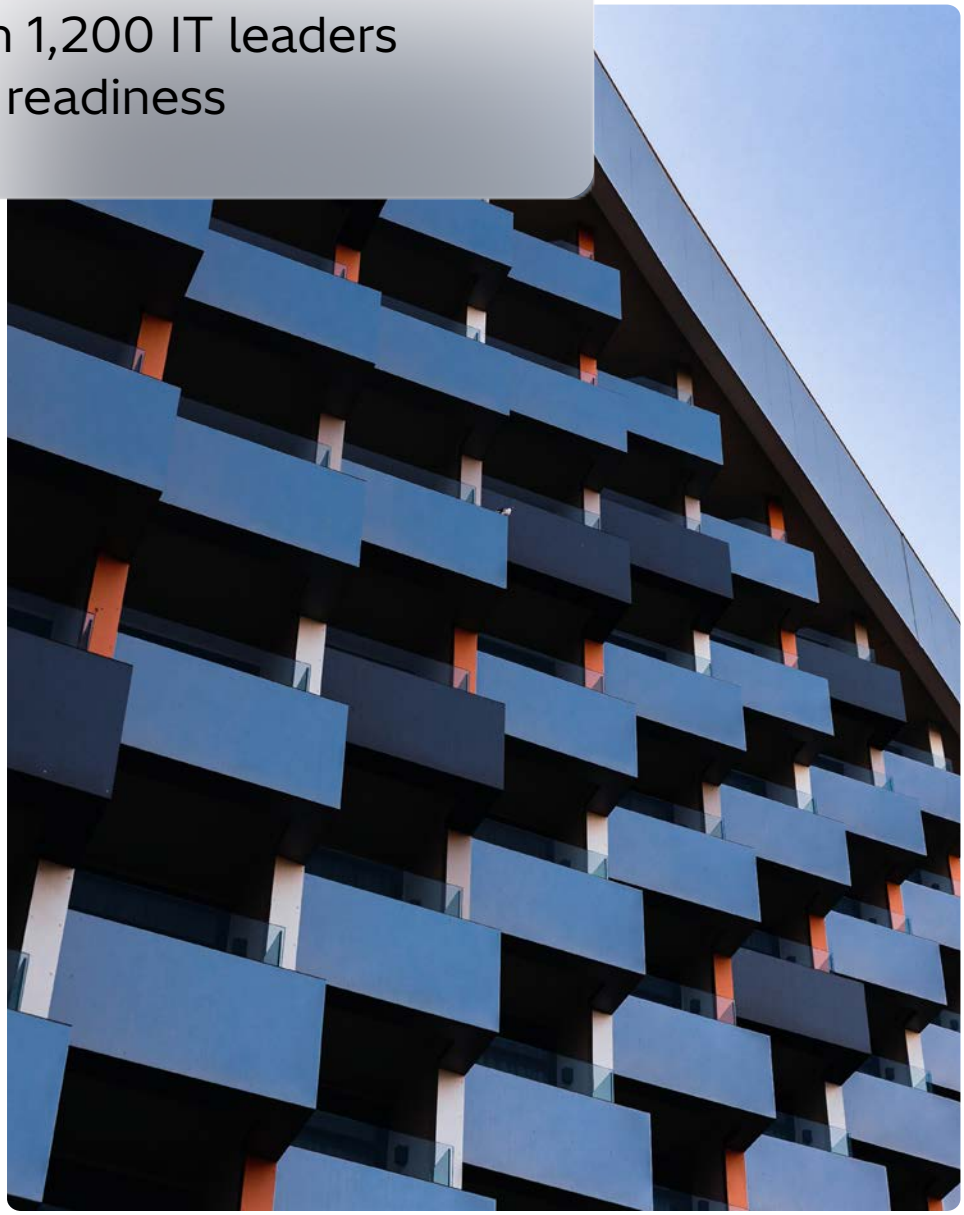
Hitachi Vantara

State of Data Infrastructure Global Report 2025

From Fragile to Optimized

What more than 1,200 IT leaders reveal about AI readiness



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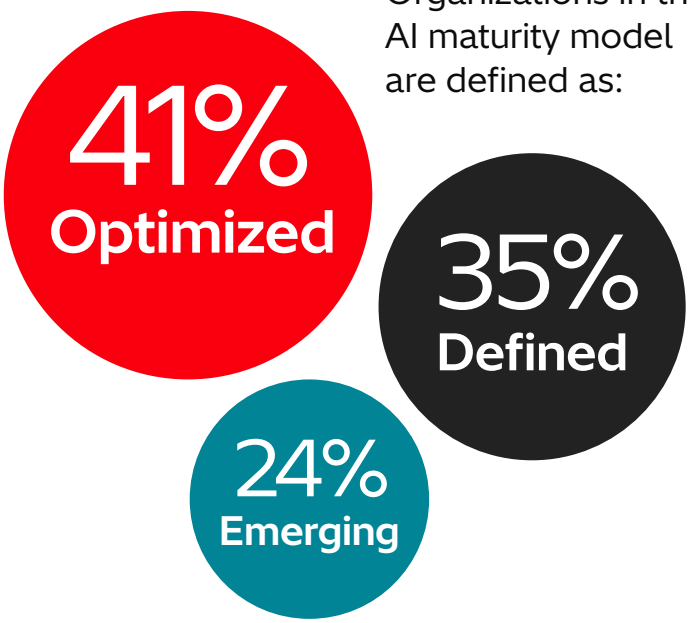
Executive Summary

Global enterprises are drowning in petabytes — juggling hybrid, private, and public clouds while complexity skyrockets. The result? A fragile ecosystem that keeps executives awake at night.

At the same time, the transition to AI-first everything is relentless. Over the next two years, IT leaders expect to increase AI investment by 70% and expect to increase hiring of skilled workers by 68%. Yet, 37% of organizations still can't calculate ROI on AI initiatives — though 58% say they have established ROI, and 71% are treating AI like R&D expecting returns over the long term. Meanwhile, internal AI threats have surged: concern about breaches from internal AI jumped from 31% to 41% year-over-year now nearly matching external AI-enabled attacks (43%). All while in the midst of one of the most threatening and polarizing market and geo-political environments since the Cold War.

In this year's *State of Data Infrastructure Global Report*, Hitachi Vantara's proprietary research draws a sharp line between enterprises that will thrive in this unique market, and those that will lag, with a model defining AI maturity. The research reveals 24% of organizations are **Emerging**, 35% are **Defined**, and 41% are **Optimized**. **Optimized** organizations have resilient infrastructure with clean data powering AI-driven operations and measurable returns. **Emerging** firms are risk-averse, skill-starved, and clinging to manual processes that leave them unable to scale. **Defined** organizations linger in the gray area between the two, risking irrelevance with marginal progress, but lack the talent and strategy to execute.

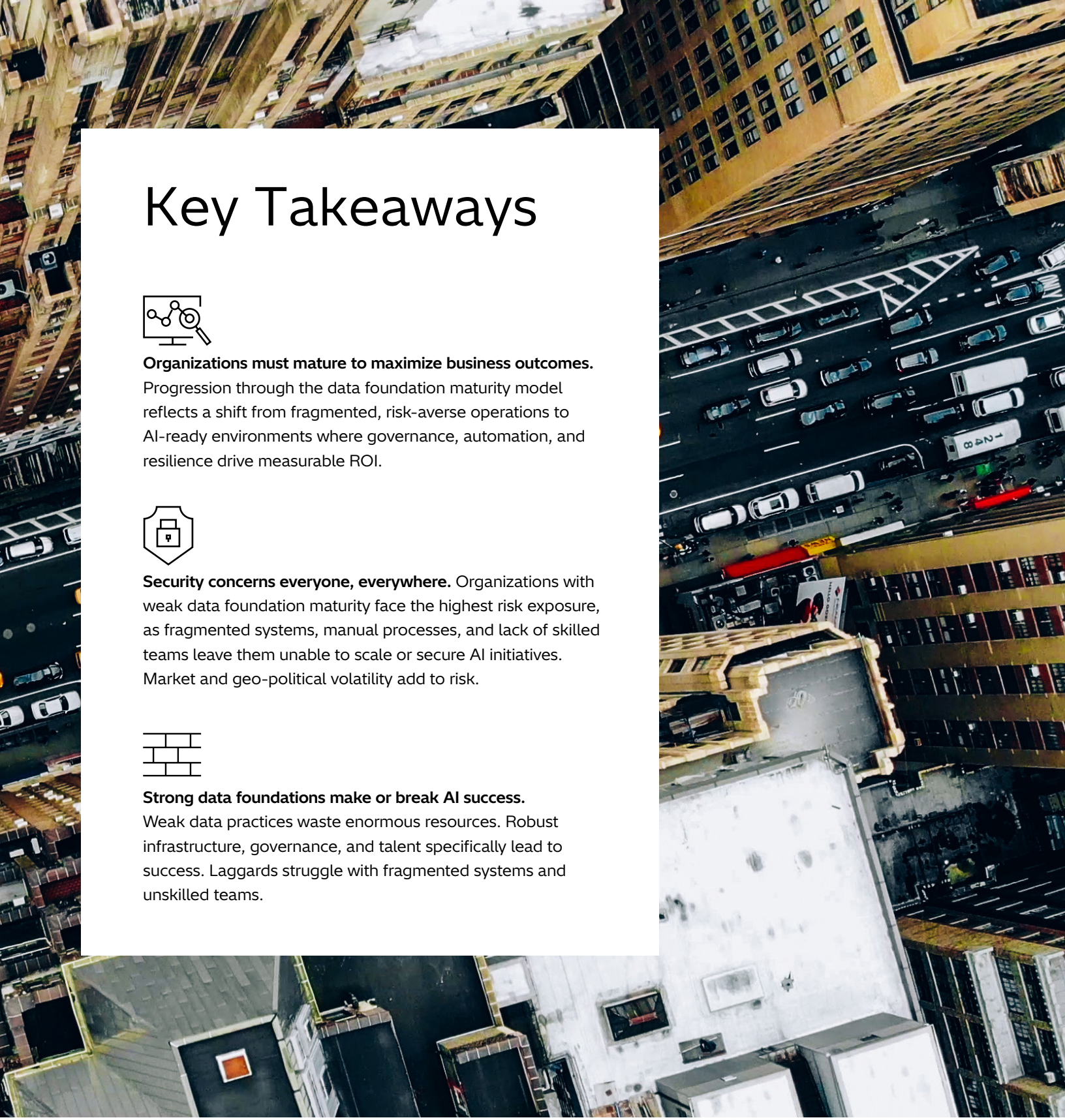
Organizations in the AI maturity model are defined as:



The difference among these organizations is clear and falls on the shoulders of leadership. Critically, this distribution is not correlated with budget, company size, or data volume — maturity is a strategic choice driven by leadership prioritization.

Those who invest in infrastructure, governance, and trusted partnerships win big.

The rest will be left counting losses, while competitors turn insight into dollars.



Key Takeaways

Organizations must mature to maximize business outcomes. Progression through the data foundation maturity model reflects a shift from fragmented, risk-averse operations to AI-ready environments where governance, automation, and resilience drive measurable ROI.

Security concerns everyone, everywhere. Organizations with weak data foundation maturity face the highest risk exposure, as fragmented systems, manual processes, and lack of skilled teams leave them unable to scale or secure AI initiatives. Market and geo-political volatility add to risk.

Strong data foundations make or break AI success. Weak data practices waste enormous resources. Robust infrastructure, governance, and talent specifically lead to success. Laggards struggle with fragmented systems and unskilled teams.

Get the complete findings and your stage-by-stage action blueprint.

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