
The 10 Levels of AI Capability

A framework for understanding where your organisation stands.



Turn Intent Into Impact.

01

02

03

04

05

06

07

08

09

10

A clear, shared view of your organisation's current AI capability.

Using a simple, progressive model rather than a technical or vendor-led maturity assessment.

Establish a common language for discussing AI capability

Reduce ambiguity about what "good" looks like

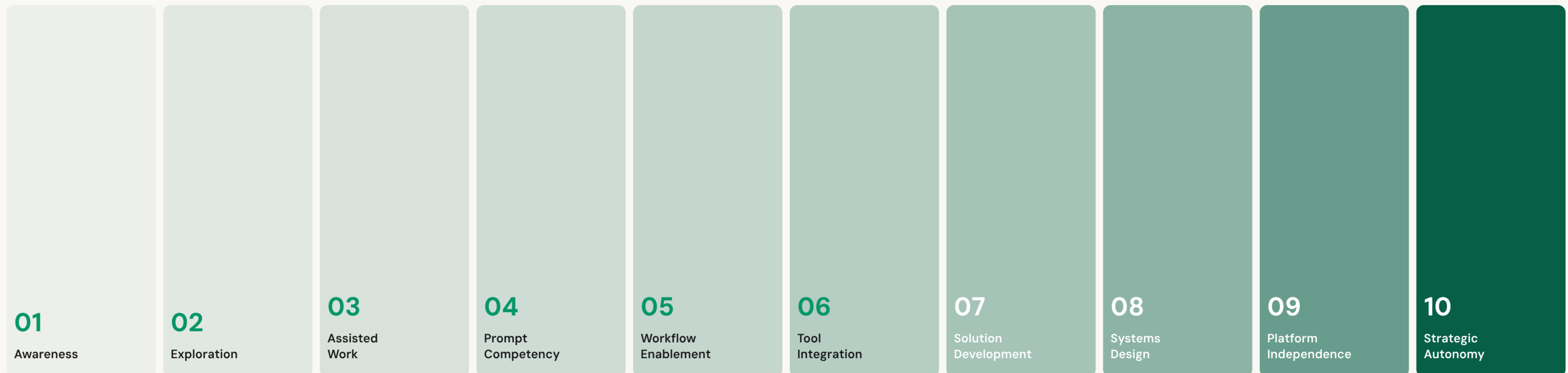
Ground ambition in reality rather than hype

Support informed decisions about sequencing, investment, and risk

**Capability,
not tools.**

Ten levels of capability, from awareness to strategic autonomy.

Progression is not linear or mandatory. Different parts of your organisation may sit at different levels at the same time.



01

Awareness

ACTION

Understands what AI is and why it matters at a high level.

IN PRACTICE

People can talk about AI trends and risks but are not using AI in their work.

"Keeping informed on emerging technologies."

02

Exploration

ACTION

Experiments with AI tools in low-risk, informal contexts.

IN PRACTICE

Individuals test tools out of curiosity, often outside formal workflows.

"Piloting AI for individual productivity."

03

Assisted Work

ACTION

Uses AI for summaries, drafting, analysis, and ideation.

IN PRACTICE

AI is used to speed up tasks, but outputs vary in quality and consistency.

"Efficiency gains in day-to-day tasks."

04

Prompt Competency

ACTION

Applies structured prompting and iteration techniques.

IN PRACTICE

Users understand that better inputs produce better outputs and refine prompts deliberately.

"Improving output quality through better inputs."

05

Workflow Enablement

ACTION

Embeds AI into repeatable personal or team workflows.

IN PRACTICE

AI is part of how work is done, not an occasional add-on. Outputs are more predictable.

"Standardising AI-supported ways of working."

06

Tool Integration

ACTION

Connects AI across platforms, systems, and data sources.

IN PRACTICE

Manual handoffs are reduced and AI supports end-to-end processes.

"Reducing manual handoffs between tools."

07

Solution Development

ACTION

Builds internal tools, copilots, or AI-enabled services.

IN PRACTICE

AI capability is tailored to specific business needs rather than generic tools.

"Creating tailored solutions aligned to business needs."

08

Systems Design

ACTION

Designs AI systems with oversight, controls, and accountability.

IN PRACTICE

AI is governed, monitored, and audited as part of core operations.

"Ensuring responsible and scalable implementation."

09

Platform Independence

ACTION

Evaluates hosting models, data residency, and vendor reliance.

IN PRACTICE

The organisation understands and manages its dependency on external vendors.

"Optimising flexibility, resilience, and optionality."

10

Strategic Autonomy

ACTION

Aligns AI use with long-term capability, risk, and value creation.

IN PRACTICE

AI is treated as a strategic capability, not a collection of tools.

"Maintaining organisational control over critical capabilities."

4-6

**For most organisations,
Levels 4 to 6 deliver the
majority of practical value
with manageable risk.**

Reaching higher levels is not inherently better unless it aligns with your organisational risk appetite, regulatory obligations, and strategic priorities.

Levels 7-10 require:

- Strong governance maturity
- Clear ownership
- Sustained leadership commitment

Without a shared understanding of capability levels:

- Expectations become misaligned
- Tool adoption becomes chaotic
- Risk becomes overstated or ignored
- Investment decisions lack grounding

This framework provides a

**neutral
reference
point**

for decision-making, helping
leadership discuss AI capability
in terms of readiness, not aspiration.

Where does your organisation stand?

Take the assessment or subscribe to our newsletter for practical AI strategy insights.

TAKE THE ASSESSMENT →

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER ✉

bykovbrett.net/assessments

bykovbrett.net/newsletter



*Turn Intent
Into Impact.*