

AI in Industry

2026 Market & Industry Forum—7 April 2026

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**AI in Industry
PLM Market & Industry Forum
A CIMdata Leadership Event**

7 April 2026—Ann Arbor, Michigan

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CIMdata Defining What Comes Next in Digital Transformation

Cross-Industry Digital Impact

CIMdata: The Leading Authority on PLM
An independent global leader providing research, education, and strategic consulting for digital transformation.

Maximizing Product Innovation
Focused on helping clients design, acquire, deliver, and support innovative products and services.

Competitive Global Advantage
Utilizing strategic management consulting to drive success in complex global markets.

Industry Verticals & Core Focus Areas

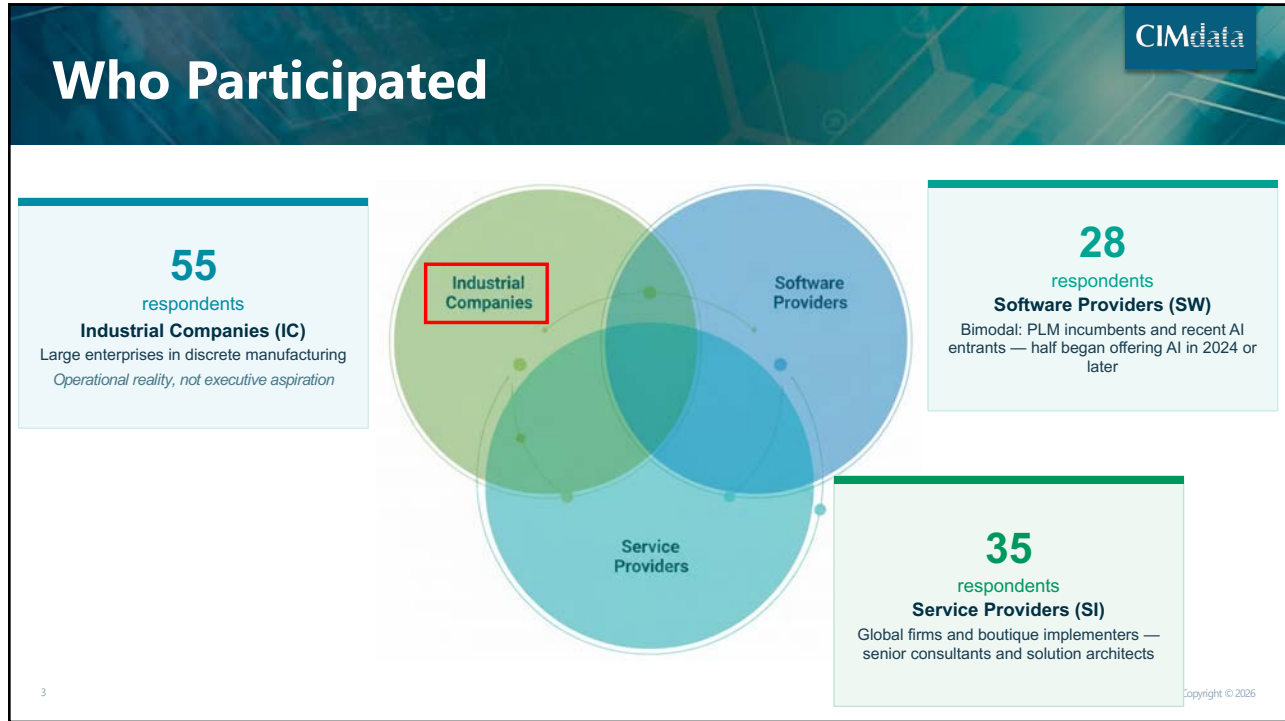
Industry Vertical	Core Focus Area
Transport & Tech	Aerospace, Automotive, and Computing
Infrastructure	Construction, Manufacturing, and Logistics
Service & Care	Healthcare, Retail, and Global Communication

Defining "What Comes Next"
Guiding organizations through the evolving landscape of digital transformation and industrial innovation.

Leading strategic management consulting firm

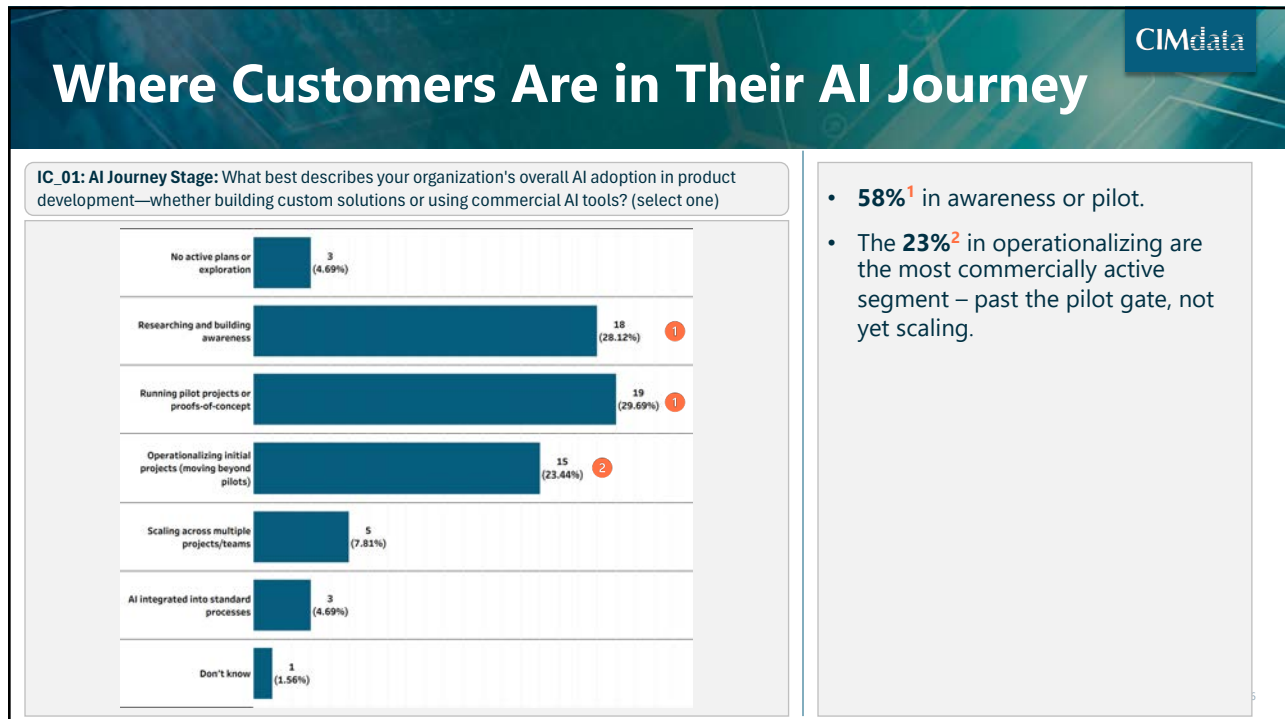
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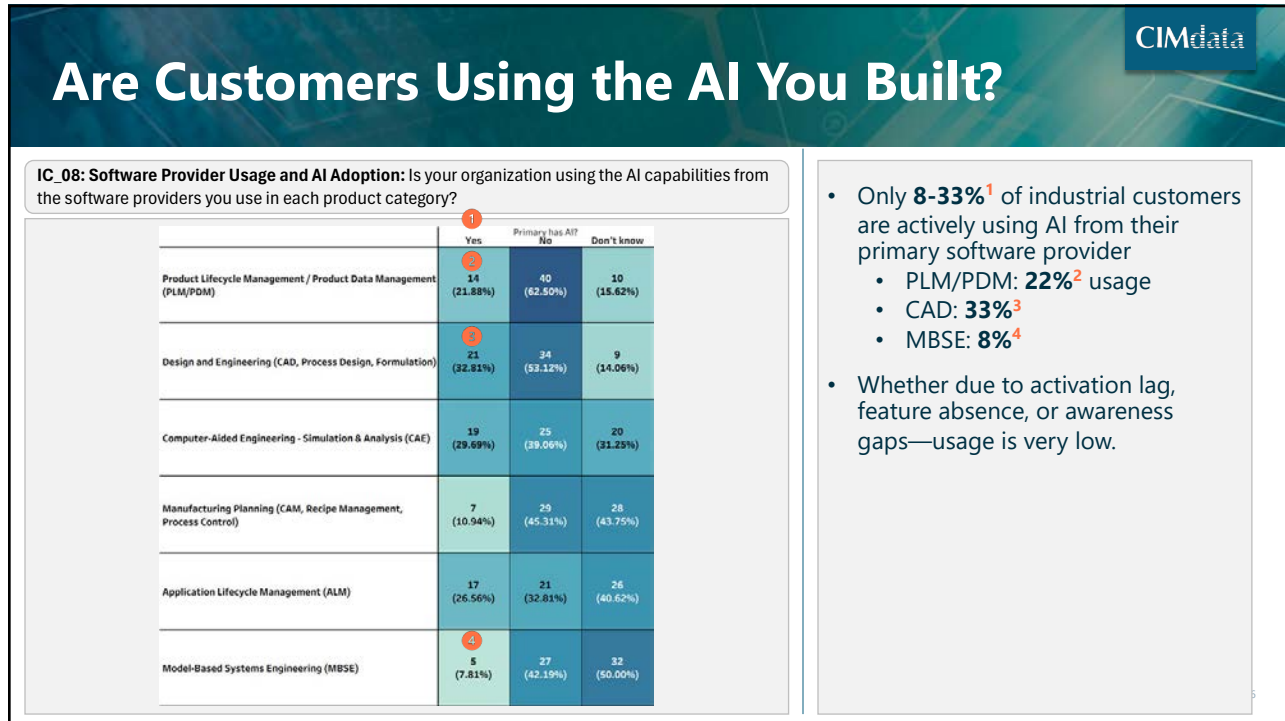
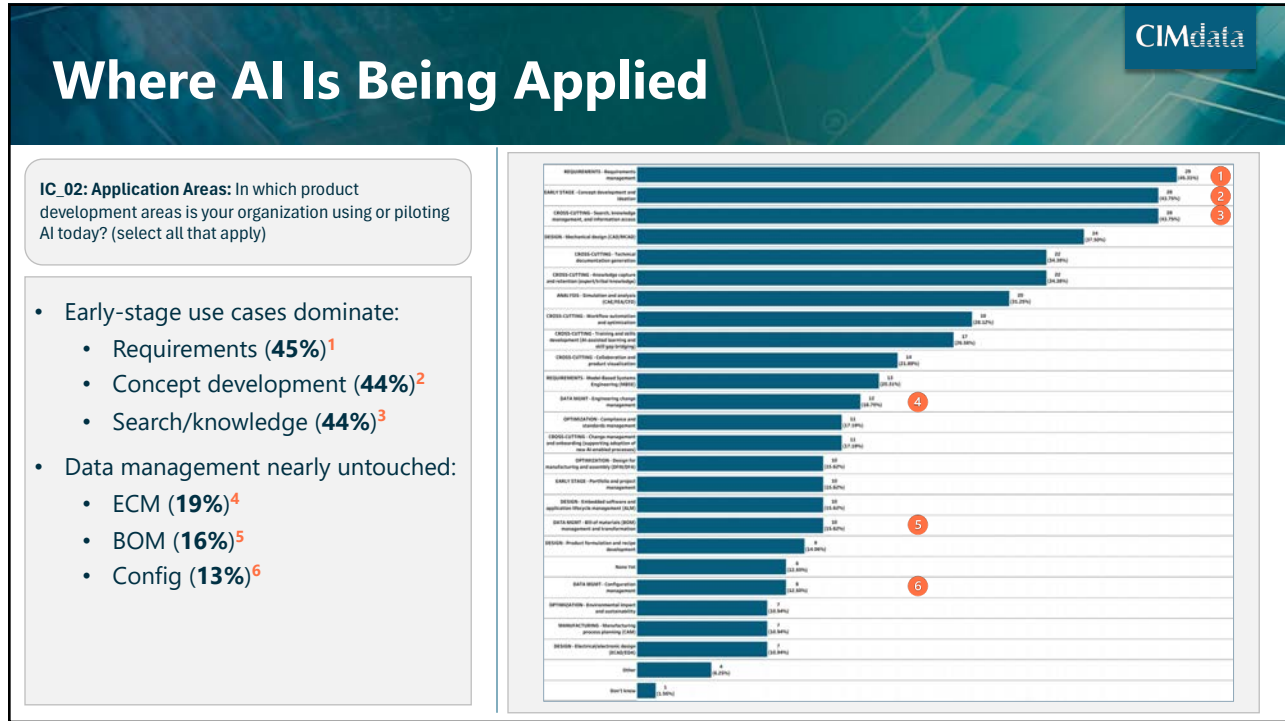
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Early Movers Use AI at Higher Rates

IC_08: Software Provider Usage and AI Adoption: Is your organization using the AI capabilities from the software providers you use in each product category? (by Adoption Timeline)

		Primary has AI?		
		Yes	No	Don't know
Product Lifecycle Management / Product Data Management (PLM/PDM)	2022 or earlier	4 (13.3%)	6 (50.0%)	2 (16.6%)
	2023	2 (22.2%)	6 (66.6%)	1 (11.1%)
	2024 or later	4 (18.1%)	11 (59.0%)	5 (22.7%)
	Haven't yet	0	0 (0.0%)	0
Design and Engineering (CAD, Process Design, Formulation)	2022 or earlier	6 (50.0%)	13 (33%)	2 (16.6%)
	2023	3 (13.3%)	14 (64%)	2 (22.2%)
	2024 or later	6 (27.2%)	11 (53.6%)	2 (9.0%)
	Haven't yet	1 (12.5%)	2 (25.0%)	1 (8.3%)
Computer-Aided Engineering - Simulation & Analysis (CAE)	2022 or earlier	1 (6.7%)	1 (25.0%)	1 (8.3%)
	2023	5 (18.5%)	2 (22.2%)	2 (22.2%)
	2024 or later	4 (18.3%)	9 (40.9%)	6 (30.9%)
	Haven't yet	1 (12.5%)	2 (25.0%)	1 (8.3%)
Manufacturing Planning (CAM, Recipe Management, Process Control)	2022 or earlier	4 (13.3%)	4 (13.3%)	4 (13.3%)
	2023	1 (11.1%)	3 (13.3%)	5 (18.5%)
	2024 or later	0	11 (50.0%)	11 (50.0%)
	Haven't yet	1 (6.7%)	1 (8.3%)	1 (5.0%)
Application Lifecycle Management (ALM)	2022 or earlier	3 (13.3%)	1 (11.1%)	5 (18.5%)
	2023	3 (13.3%)	10 (45.5%)	9 (31.8%)
	2024 or later	3 (13.3%)	5 (22.7%)	3 (11.1%)
	Haven't yet	0	0	0
Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE)	2022 or earlier	1 (8.3%)	4 (13.3%)	1 (5.0%)
	2023	2 (22.2%)	1 (11.1%)	4 (16.6%)
	2024 or later	1 (4.5%)	11 (50.0%)	7 (31.8%)
	Haven't yet	0	0	0

- Early movers (2022 or earlier) activate AI from primary providers at **2-5x** the rate of 2024 starters:
 - CAE: **67%**¹ vs. **18%**²
 - ALM: **67%**³ vs. **14%**⁴
- Same products. Same providers. Dramatically different usage rates.

The Usage Gap

8-33%

of industrial customers are actively using AI from their primary software provider

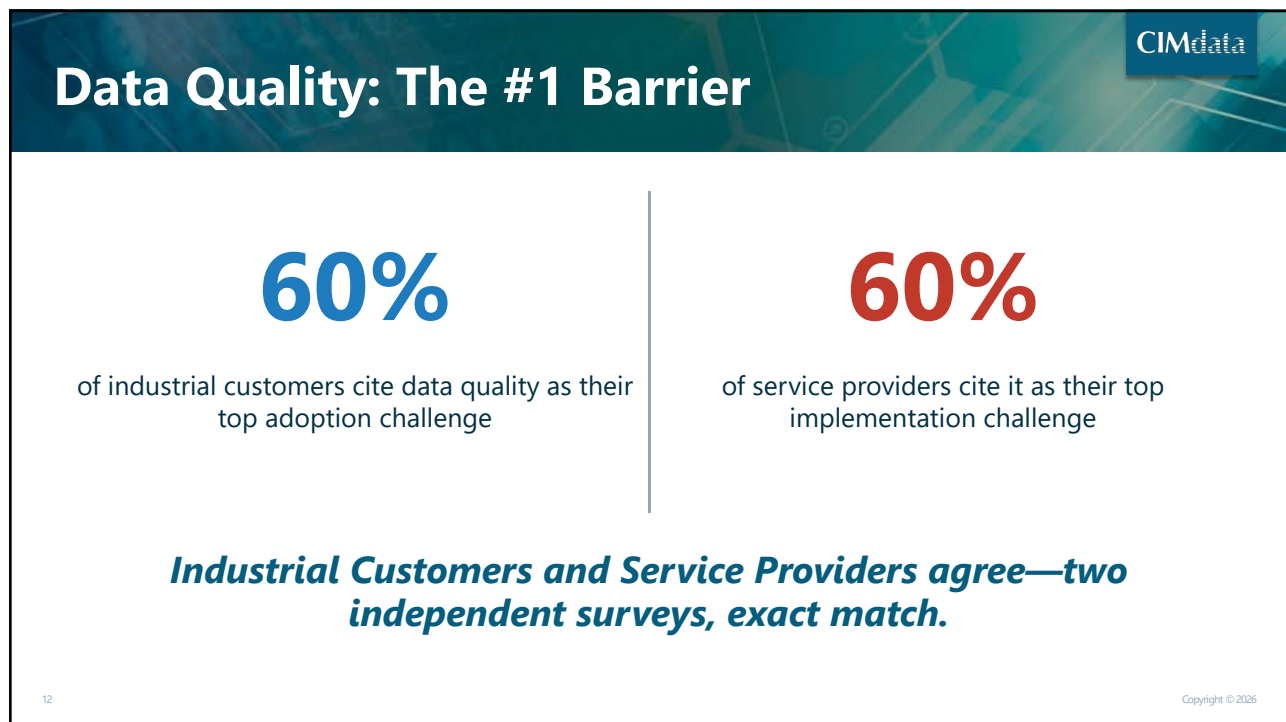
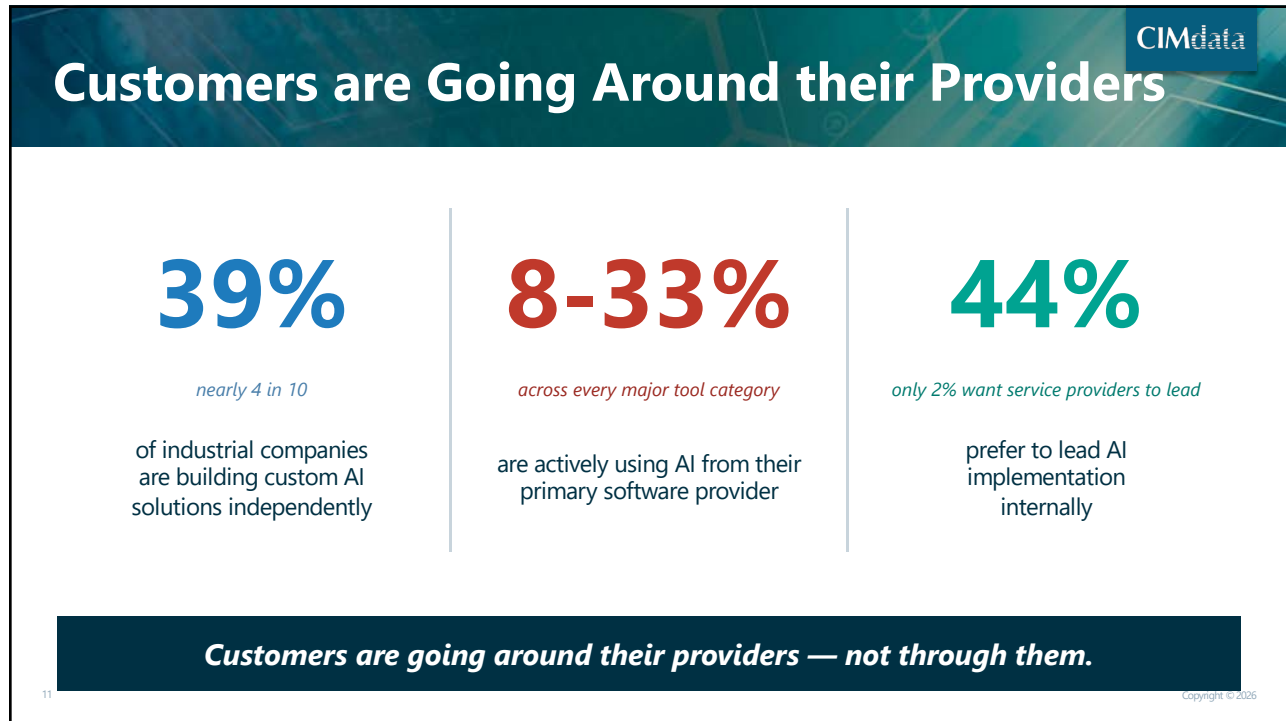
2-5x

higher usage rates for early movers vs. 2024 starters

Same product. Same provider. Time is the only variable.

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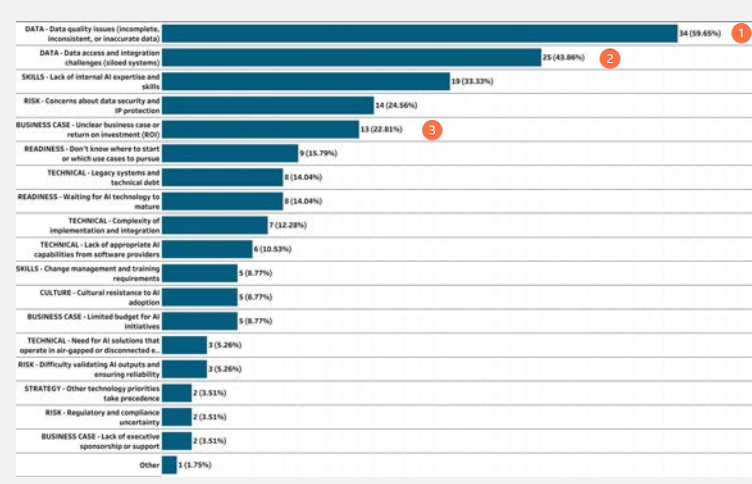


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What is Blocking AI Adoption

IC_18: Adoption Challenges: What are the biggest challenges your organization faces with AI adoption in product development? (select top 3) (By Adoption Timing)



- Data quality leads at **60%**¹, data access/integration at **44%**²
- Unclear ROI – the barrier providers most assume is #1 – is only **23%**³

AI Maturity: No Area Reaches the Midpoint

IC_12: Organizational Maturity: Rate your organization's maturity in these areas

	1. Not developed	2. Initial/Ad hoc	3. Developing	4. Defined/Managed	5. Optimized/Leading	Don't know
AI strategy and planning	10 (16.13%)	14 (22.58%)	24 (38.71%)	7 (11.29%)	4 (6.45%)	3 (4.84%)
Change management for AI adoption	13 (20.97%)	28 (45.16%)	9 (14.52%)	7 (11.29%)	3 (4.84%)	5 (8.06%)
Data engineering and infrastructure	8 (12.90%)	16 (25.81%)	20 (32.26%)	14 (22.58%)	2 (3.23%)	2 (3.23%)
Data quality and governance	8 (12.90%)	17 (27.42%)	27 (43.55%)	8 (12.90%)	1 (1.61%)	1 (1.61%)
Product development domain knowledge	8 (12.90%)	15 (24.19%)	19 (30.65%)	11 (17.74%)	8 (12.90%)	1 (1.61%)
Technical AI skills (data science, ML)	6 (9.68%)	16 (25.81%)	24 (38.71%)	13 (20.97%)	2 (3.23%)	1 (1.61%)

- Change management is the weakest dimension at **2.18/5**¹ – **66%**² at Initial/Ad hoc, **zero**³ at Optimized.
- Domain knowledge leads at **2.93**⁴.
- No dimension exceeds the midpoint of the scale.

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The Innovation Disconnect

28%

Of industrial customers report it as a **realized** benefit

0%

Of software providers expect customers to prioritize design innovation over the next 2-3 years

36%

Of software providers report it too – 8th overall

6%

Of service providers expect the same

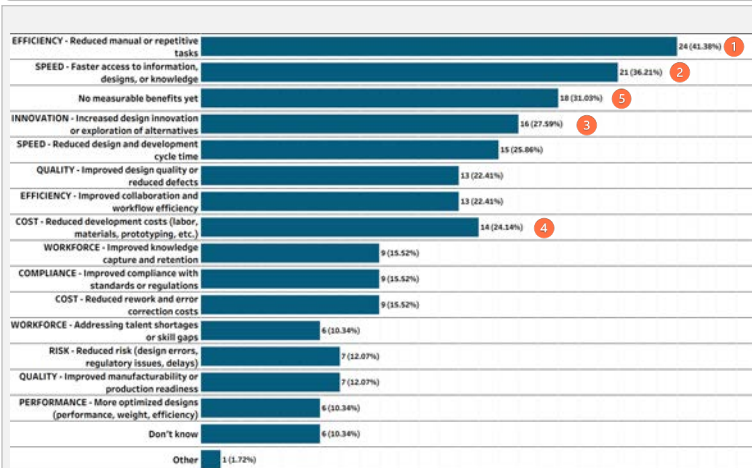
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What AI is Delivering

IC_15: Realized Benefits: Which benefits has your organization realized from AI use in product development? (select all that apply)



- Reduced manual tasks (**41%¹**) and faster information access (**36%²**) lead.
- Design innovation ranks 4th at **28%³** – ahead of cost reduction (**24%⁴**).
- **31%⁵** report no measurable benefits yet

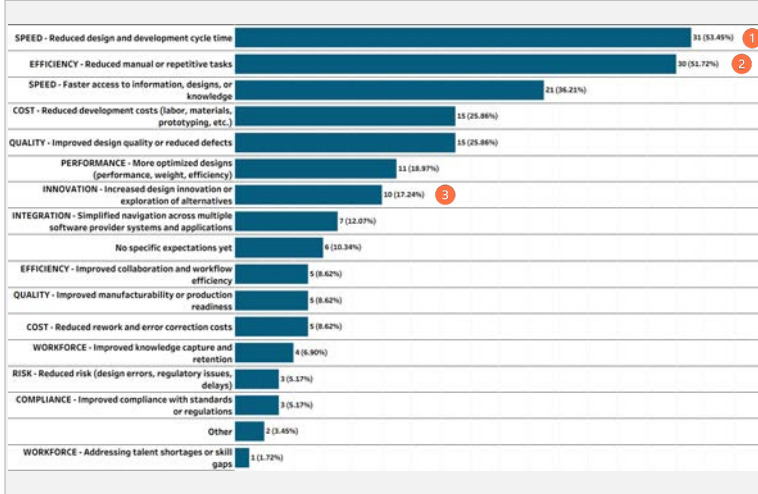
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What Customers Expect Next

IC_16: Expected Benefits: Which benefits from AI in product development does your organization expect to prioritize over the next 2-3 years? (select top 3)



- Reduced cycle time (**53%**¹) and reduced manual tasks (**52%**²) lead IC forward expectations.
- Innovation ranks 7th at **17%**³ – even though customers are already realizing it at **28%**.

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A Benefit Nobody is Talking About

16%

of industrial customers report compliance as a realized AI benefit

5%

expect it to be prioritized over the next 2-3 years

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The Validation Baseline

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5%

of industrial customers are “very confident” they can validate AI outputs in their product development processes

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Can Customers Validate AI Outputs?

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IC_19: Validation Confidence: How confident is your organization that AI can be validated and used safely in your product development processes? (select one)

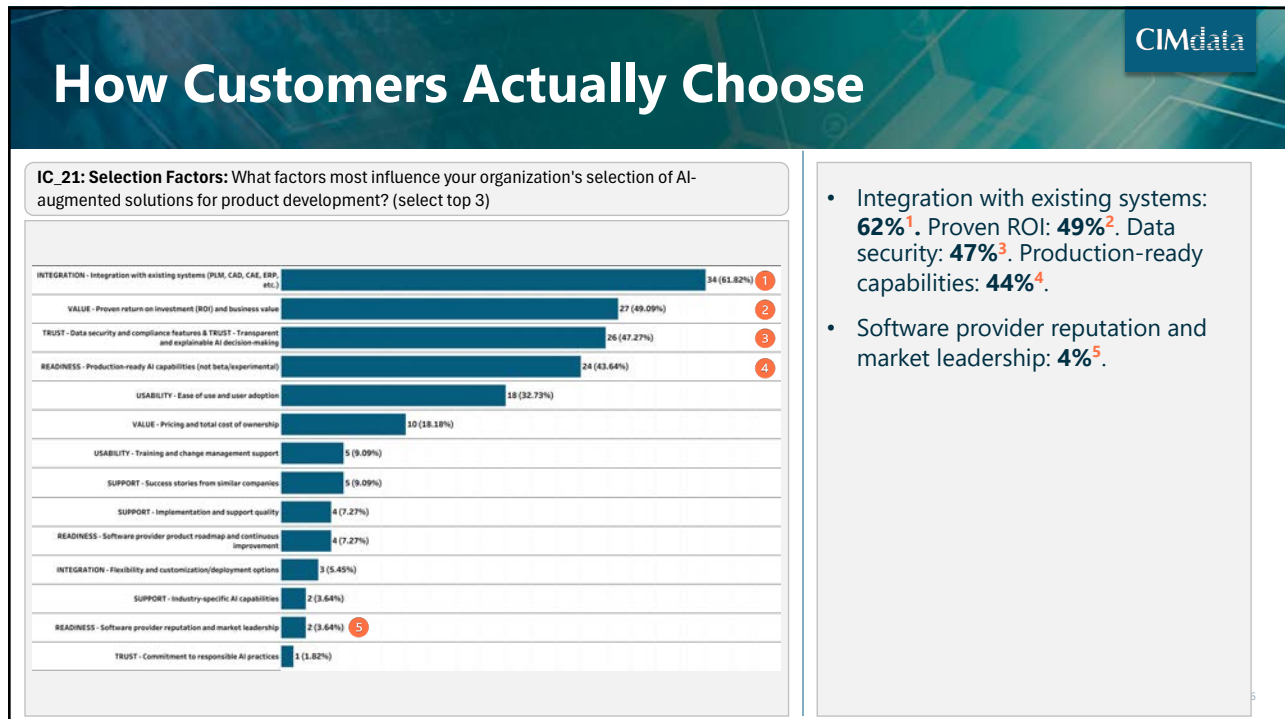
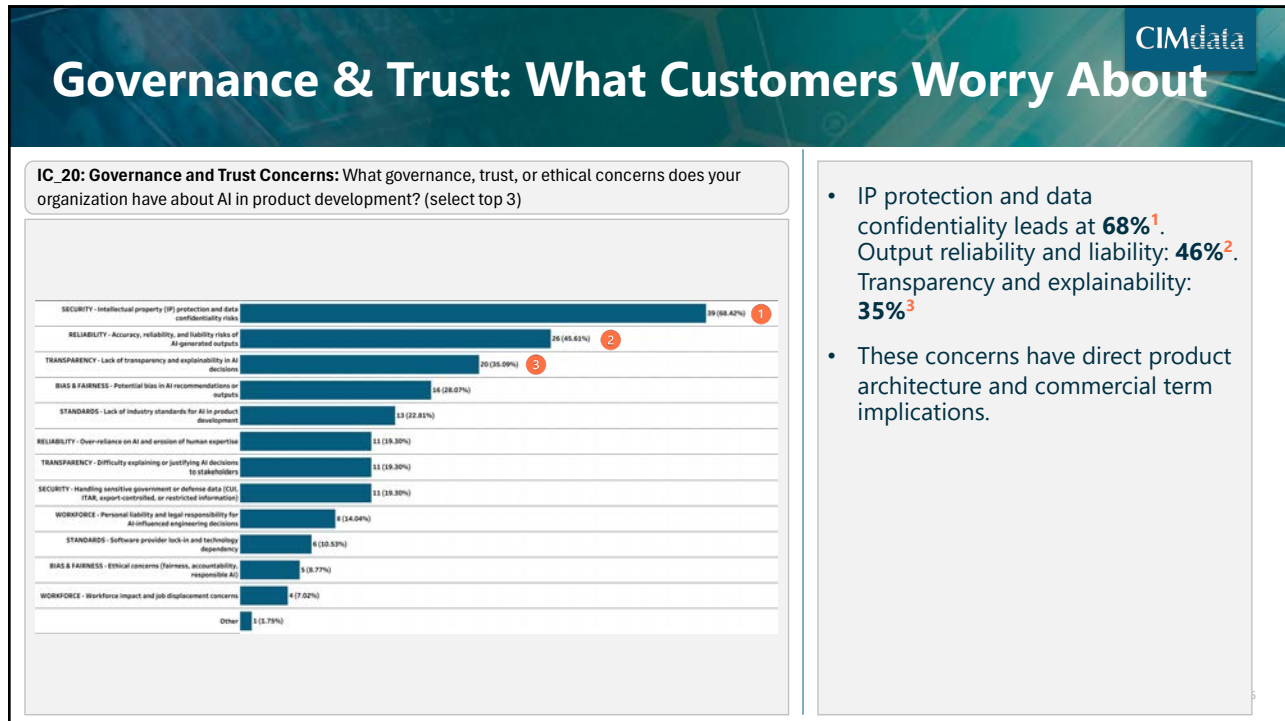
Confidence Level	Count	Percentage	Rank
Very confident - robust validation approaches in place	3	5.26%	1
Somewhat confident - validation methods available	24	42.11%	
Not very confident - validation is a concern	11	19.30%	2
Not confident at all - major validation gaps	5	8.77%	2
Too early to assess	12	21.05%	3
Don't know	2	3.51%	

- **5%**¹ very confident. **28%**² actively not confident. **21%**³ say too early to assess.
- The majority cannot characterize a reliable validation approach for their product development processes.

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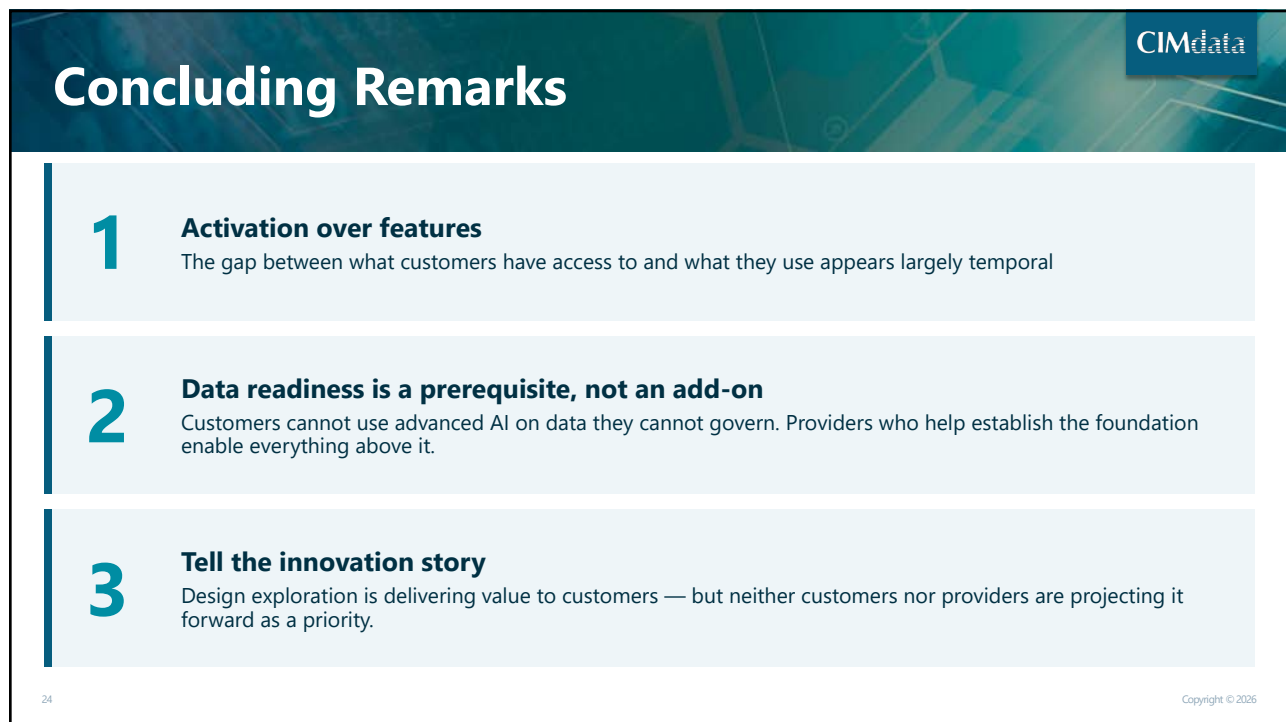
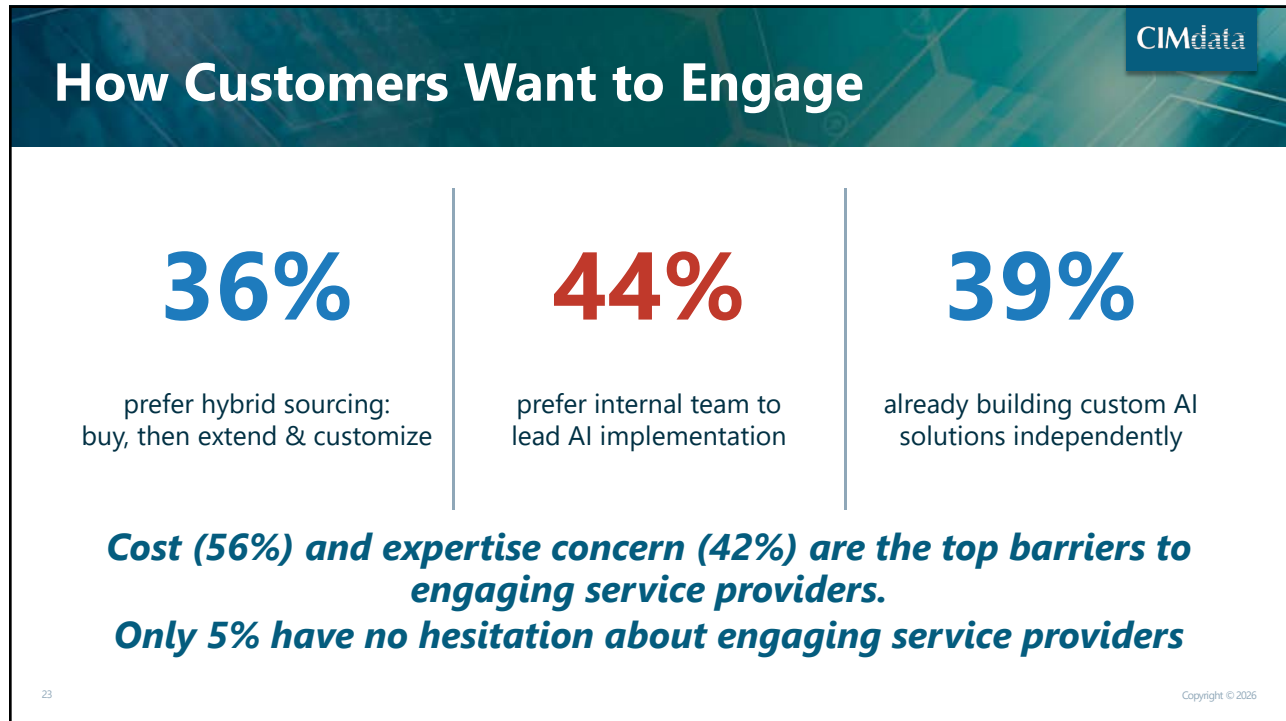
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Questions & Answers

 What's on your mind?



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