



The State of Enterprise AI (2026)

How 100+ Organizations Are Building and
Scaling Agentic AI

Executive Summary

This report summarizes our latest insights on enterprise AI, based on conversations with over 100 enterprises and CIOs. We aim to demystify the rapid rise in enterprise AI adoption and answer the questions every enterprise leader is asking: Where is AI being adopted fastest inside different departments? What are enterprises actually building? And how does adoption scale from pilot to platform? We also discuss one key pattern: across enterprises spanning finance, legal, operations, healthcare, and beyond, what starts as a small pilot with a handful of builders rapidly scales into a company-wide platform with hundreds or thousands of active users. All of this goes to show: 2026 is the year that enterprise AI goes mainstream.

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Introduction

To be a CIO in the AI era is to suddenly be confronted with more questions than answers: What agent should we start with? Who should build it? What governance do we need? When can our entire team start using it? What's the ROI?

That's why we decided to write this report: based on data from over 1,000 participants in large, regulated enterprises around the world, we've curated the top insights about where enterprise AI is really working in 2026. At StackAI, we're uniquely positioned to have a front-row seat to AI transformation; we spend each and every day in the field. So we hope these figures and this research will be useful to the CIO isn't sure where exactly to start, but knows that the future has, in some sense, arrived.

If we zoom out a bit, our vision of the future enterprise is becoming more real each day. We see hundreds of AI agents humming in the background, seamlessly looping humans in to approve or check work before taking any action. They know your systems, your tools, and your institutional knowledge. They can work like you do, navigate a browser, create and upload files. They are designed by the very employees who intimately understand the nuances of the process—builders empowered with every tool they need. With agentic AI, they do their best thinking and operate at their highest level, free from the drudgery of repetitive, manual work.

The enterprise of the future starts now. Want to learn more? Book a free AI strategy session with our team [here](#).



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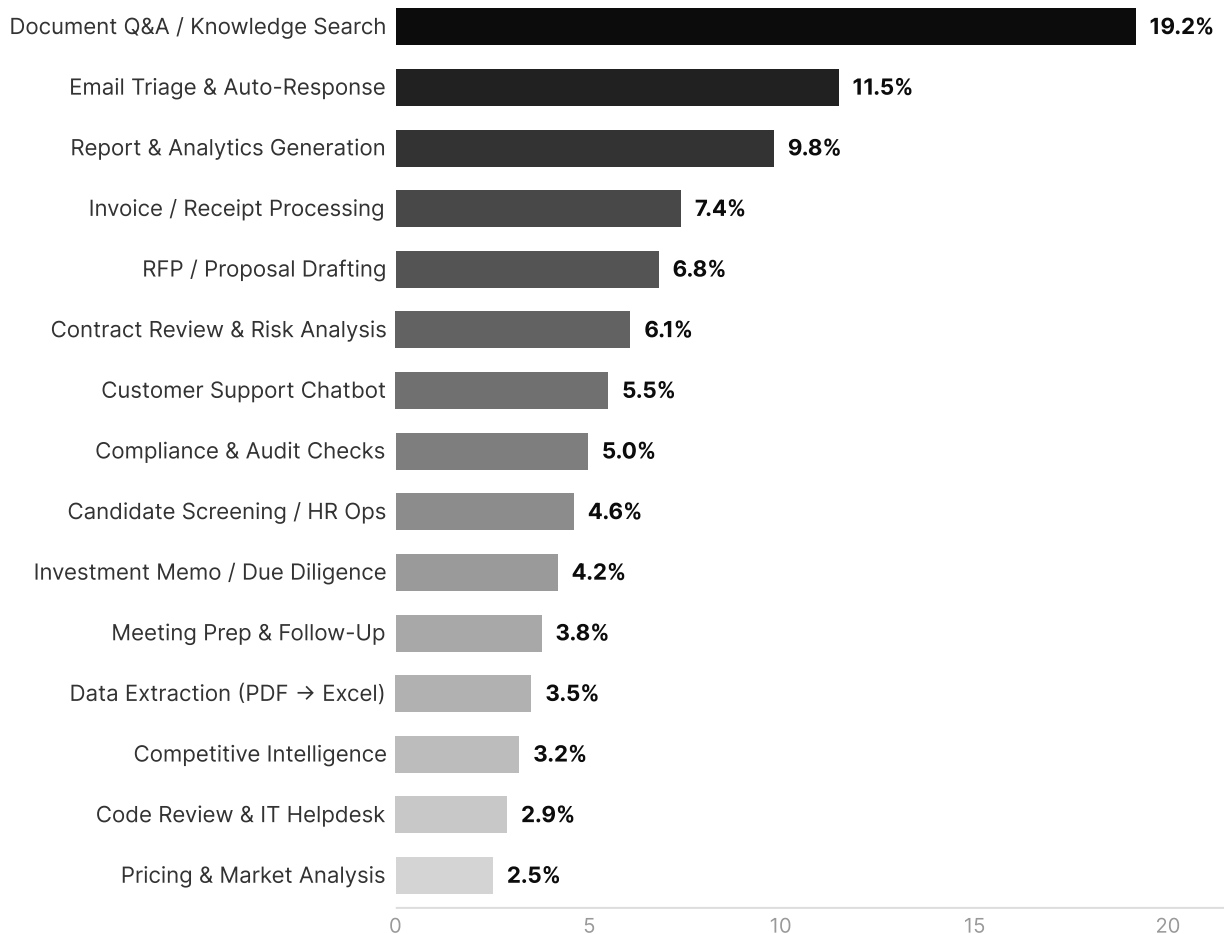
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Document Q&A Dominates 19% of Enterprise AI Workflows

In our findings, Document Q&A and Knowledge Search dominates at 19.2% of all enterprise workflows, nearly double the next category. Email Triage & Auto-Response (11.5%) and Report & Analytics Generation (9.8%) follow. The long tail includes everything from RFP drafting to competitive intelligence.

Most Common AI Use Cases (Ranked)

% OF ENTERPRISE WORKFLOWS



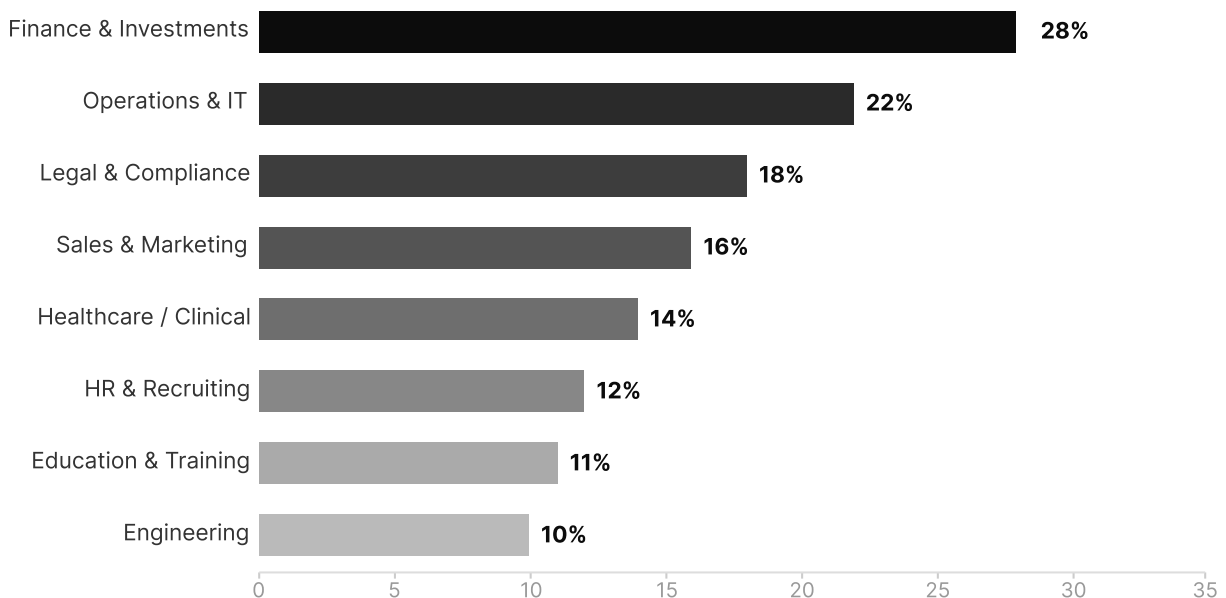
The #1 use case is entirely unglamorous. This tells us something profound about where enterprises are in their AI journey: the biggest pain point is unlocking the knowledge that already exists inside the enterprise, terabytes of institutional knowledge trapped in PDFs, SharePoint folders, and email threads.

Finance Departments Lead AI Adoption at 28%

From our data, we see that Finance & Investments lead enterprise AI adoption at 28% of observed use cases, followed by Operations & IT (22%) and Legal & Compliance (18%). Sales & Marketing (16%), Healthcare/Clinical (14%), and HR & Recruiting (12%) round out the top six.

AI Adoption by Department

SHARE OF ENTERPRISE USE CASES OBSERVED (%)

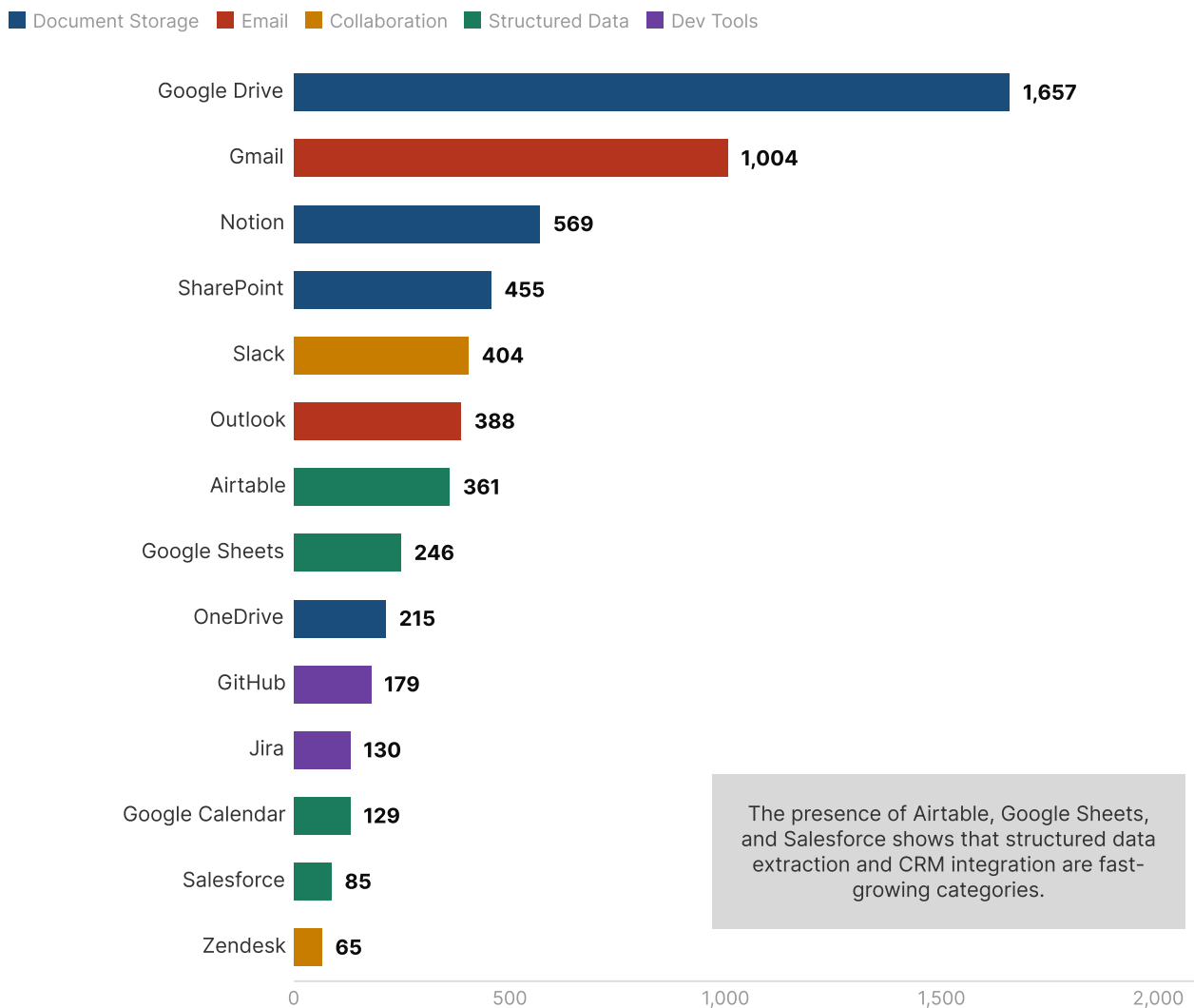


The conventional wisdom that AI adoption is led by engineering teams is wrong. Actually, the departments with the most document-heavy, repetitive knowledge work (finance, legal, operations) are the ones adopting fastest. These are teams where a single workflow that automates invoice processing or contract review can save hundreds of hours per quarter. The takeaway for enterprise leaders is perhaps to follow the paper.

The Top 14 Tools Enterprises Connect to AI

In our survey, Google Drive led with 1,657 connections, followed by Gmail (1,004), Notion (569), SharePoint (455), and Slack (404). It's a clear hierarchy: document storage platforms dominate, followed by email, then collaboration and structured data tools.

Most Connected Enterprise Tools

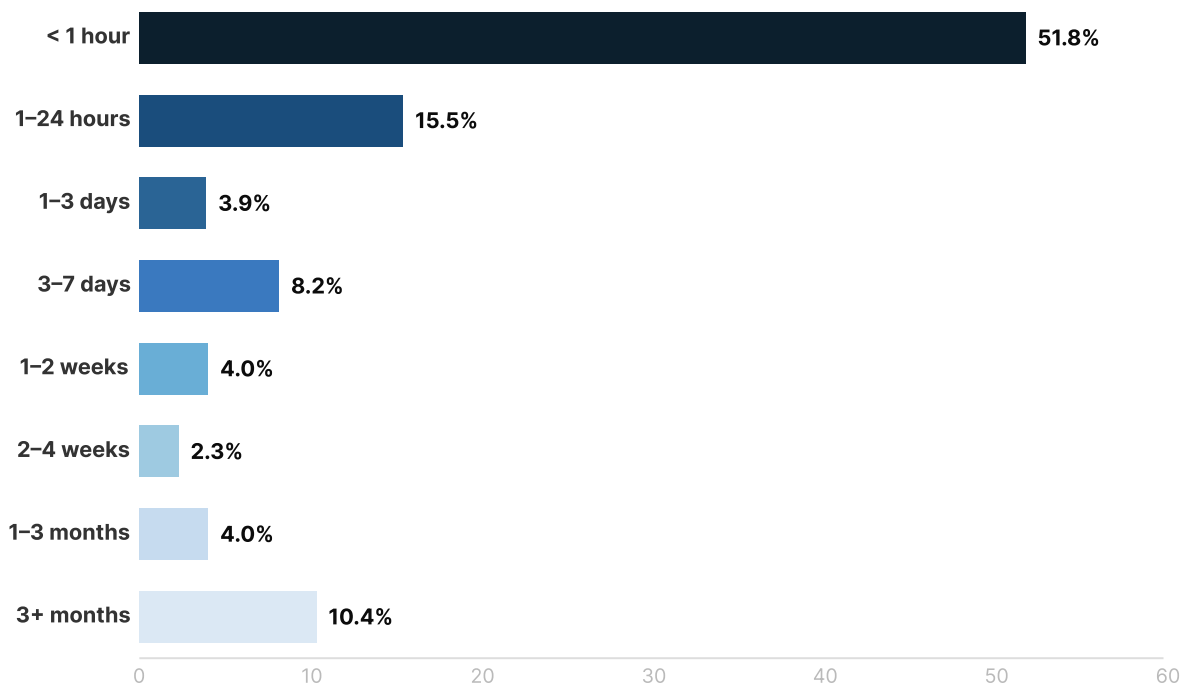


It's key to remember that AI doesn't exist in a vacuum. The value of an AI agent is directly proportional to how deeply it's connected to the tools where work actually happens. The dominance of Google Drive and SharePoint tells us that enterprises are building AI on top of their own document infrastructure first, then expanding to their entire tool ecosystem.

51% of Builders Create Their First Workflow in <1 Hour

A key insight: once employees get access to a central enterprise AI platform and their own integrations, building happens faster than ever. Gone are the days of asking engineering to unblock a project. Business users in 2026 are increasingly empowered with AI toolkits to create and iterate on their own agents.

Time to First Published Workflow



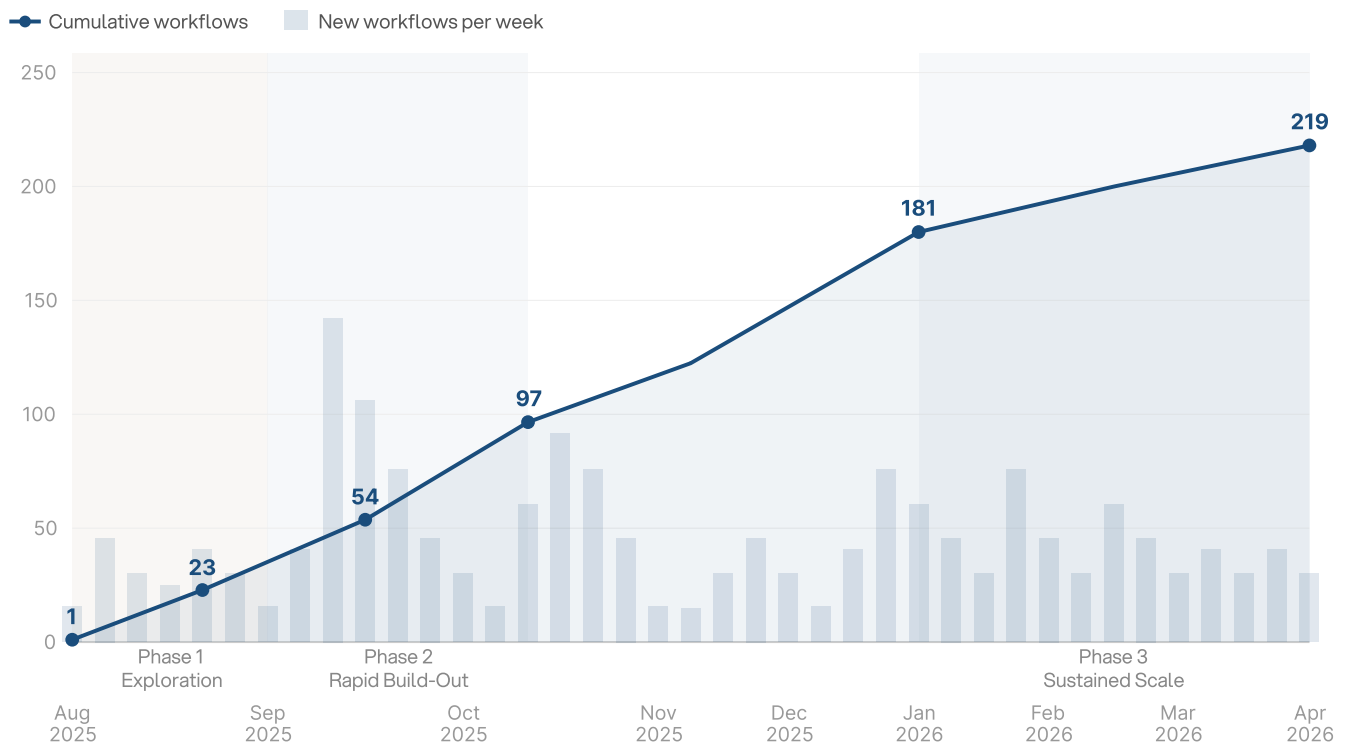
When the tooling gets out of the way with a no-code/low-code platform, builders ship, and CIOs get the fastest time to value. More than two-thirds of users had a production workflow running within 24 hours of starting. Over 83% shipped within two weeks.

The implication for enterprise AI leaders is straightforward: the bottleneck is rarely the builder. Enterprises that reduce approval overhead, pre-connect data sources, and give teams a clear mandate see immediate returns. The first workflow is rarely the most important one, but it is the one that helps builders feel capable of closing the loop from prototype to production faster than ever.

How One Builder Created 219 Workflows in 9 Months

The data shows that motivated builders don't stop, they gain momentum. A single user with the right platform and the right mandate becomes a one-person automation engine and, ultimately, a force multiplier.

Case Study: One Builder, 219 Workflows in 9 Months



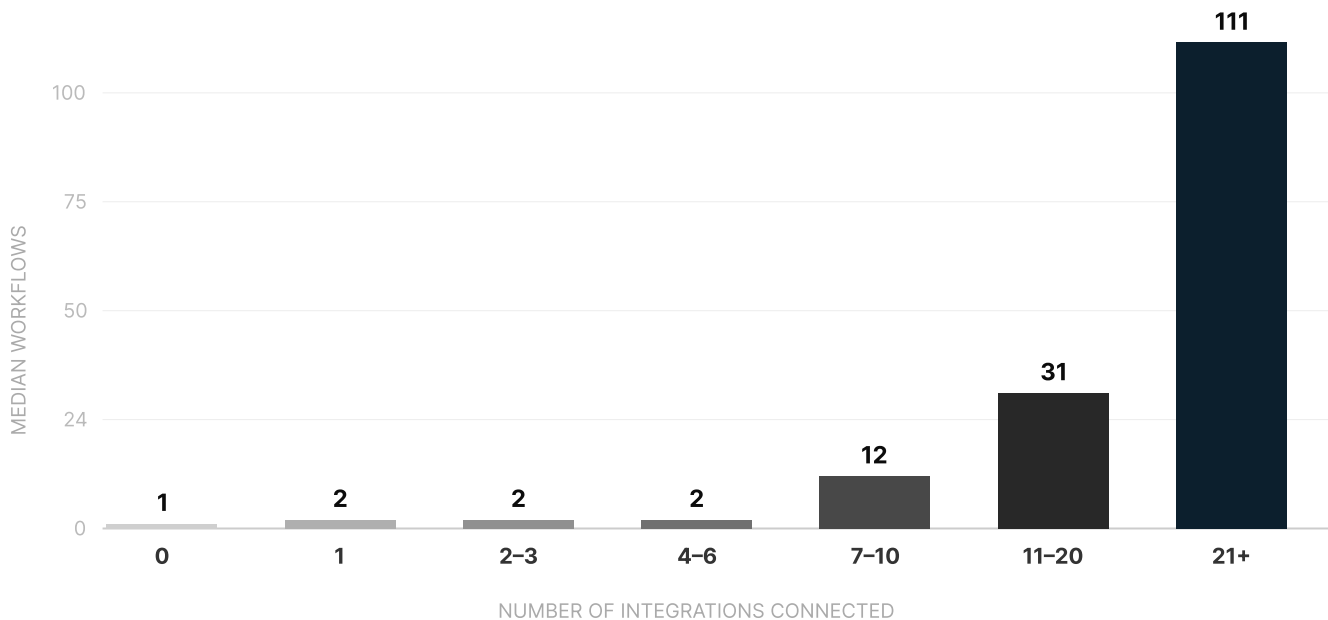
Case in point: a single user within one enterprise created 219 AI workflows over 9 months, following a clear three-phase adoption curve: exploration (23 workflows in month 1), rapid build-out, and sustained scale (steady ~6/week cadence).

The exponential early growth followed by sustained, steady expansion is the hallmark of genuine platform adoption: not a spike of novelty, but a new way of working. One person alone was able to create 219 solutions, each eliminating a manual process, accelerating a decision, or unlocking a capability that didn't exist before.

Enterprises with 21+ Integrations Create 111× More

One surprisingly strong component of AI output at the company level isn't team size, budget, or technical sophistication. It's the number of data sources (also called "apps" or "integrations" with existing enterprise tools) connected to the platform they use.

Integrations Help Drive Output



We've seen that enterprises with 21 or more integrations publish a median of 111 workflows, while enterprises with zero publish one. That's because AI agents are only as useful as the data they can reach. When builders have access to the systems where work actually lives (the inboxes, the document repositories, the databases, the ticketing systems) they stop building demos and start building workflows that automate an entire multi-step process.

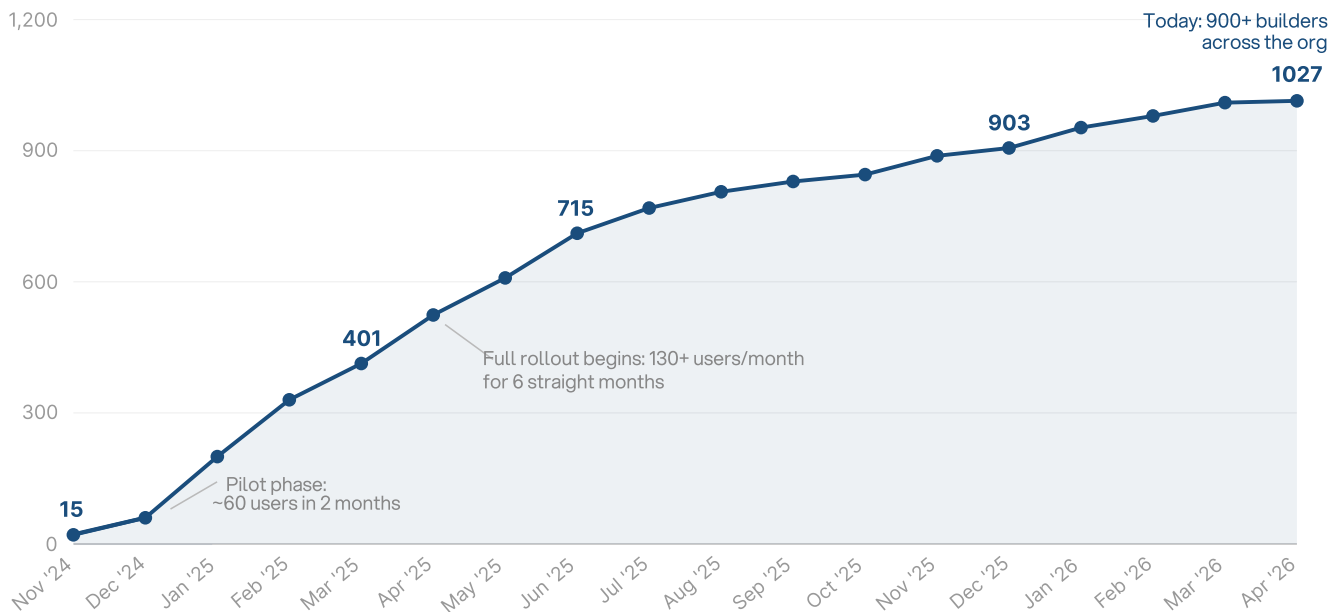
The practical implication is clear: integration is not an IT task to be scheduled after adoption. It is the precondition for adoption. Enterprises that connect their stack in the first 30 days consistently outpace those that defer it.

How an Enterprise Grew from 20 AI Builders to 900+

One enterprise grew from just under 20 AI builders to over 900 by April 2026—a 48x increase in 18 months. The growth followed a classic curve: a 2-month pilot phase, a 6-month steep ramp, and a steady-state maturation phase.

Case Study: How One Enterprise Scaled Adoption

CUMULATIVE AI BUILDERS



This is a pattern we'll continue to see more of in the next year:

- **Pilot (Months 1-2):** A small team builds the first 5-10 workflows. They prove value in one department, usually operations or finance.
- **Rollout (Months 3-8):** Leadership greenlights broader access. Word spreads organically. 100+ new builders join as department after department discovers the platform.
- **Maturation (Months 9+):** Growth slows but doesn't stop. The enterprise shifts from "building new workflows" to "optimizing existing ones." Usage deepens even as new-user growth plateaus.

The pilot-to-platform journey takes 6-8 months. Enterprises that invest in integration infrastructure during the pilot phase can scale 3x faster than those that wait.

Conclusion

Enterprise AI adoption is accelerating in 2026. Across 100+ enterprises and 1,000+ builders, a clear pattern has emerged: the teams seeing the greatest returns are not the ones with the largest budgets or the most sophisticated engineering teams. Rather, they're the ones who built successful AI initiatives by connecting enterprise data securely, giving people a mandate, and trusting them to build.

Building starts where the paperwork is heaviest, in finance, legal, operations. The use cases are unsexy: document search, invoice processing, contract review. But those first workflows compound. Enterprises that connect their full stack publish 111 times more workflows than those that don't. Builders who ship once ship again. The median time to a first production workflow is under an hour, and 83% of builders are in production within two weeks.

The enterprises that scaled began with the most obvious problem in the room, gave their people the tools to solve it, and expanded from there. That is the playbook this data describes, and it's available for every CIO ready to start.

About StackAI

StackAI is the no-code, drag-and-drop platform for building enterprise-grade AI agents that automate manual work across every team. Connect 100+ tools like SAP, SharePoint, and ServiceNow with cutting-edge generative AI, then export agents as chatbots, forms, APIs, and more. Manage roles, access, and analytics in one secure environment—SOC 2, HIPAA, ISO, and GDPR compliant. With white-glove support from AI experts, StackAI helps enterprises build, deploy, and scale AI safely with the fastest time to value. Built by MIT PhDs; trusted by enterprises worldwide.



Appendix: Industry Use Cases

Every industry is building. From hospitals to banks to nonprofits, the enterprise AI buildout is broader, deeper, and further along than anyone expected. Healthcare, Technology, Insurance, Real Estate, and Legal round out the landscape, each with distinct signature use cases.

Top AI Use Cases by Industry

INDUSTRY	#1 USE CASE	#2 USE CASE	#3 USE CASE
Financial Services & Banking	Investment Memo Generation	Portfolio Analysis & Reporting	KYC / AML Document Review
Legal & Compliance	Contract Review & Redlining	Risk Assessment (RCSA)	Regulatory Compliance Check
Healthcare & Life Sciences	Patient Triage & Routing	Clinical Note (SOAP) Generation	Medical Coding & Extraction
Real Estate & Construction	Lease Abstract Extraction	Property Due Diligence	Invoice & Cost Reconciliation
Education & EdTech	Course Content Generation	Student Feedback & Grading	Application Review Assistant
Technology & SaaS	Product Spec Writing	Support Ticket Triage	Release Notes Automation
Government & Public Sector	RFP Shredding & Response	Policy Navigator Chatbot	Procurement Document Search
Media & Marketing	SEO & Content Performance	Newsletter Generation	Competitive Intelligence
Supply Chain & Logistics	Order Processing Automation	Inventory Tracking	Vendor Availability Monitoring
Insurance	Claims Reconciliation	Policy Q&A Assistant	Compliance Document Review

Interestingly, every industry has converged on three meta-patterns: (1) knowledge retrieval at scale; (2) document processing pipelines, which are consistently the highest-ROI pattern; and (3) decision support systems, where the most mature deployments go beyond retrieval to recommendation.



Let's Build AI Agents for Your Enterprise, Together

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