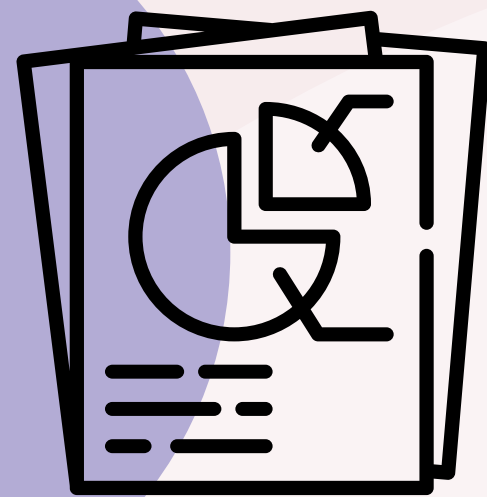


Navigating the Insight Frontier With Power BI Governance

 White paper



According to a Gartner report, nearly 80 percent of organizations aiming to scale will find it challenging if they do not take a modern approach to data governance. This shows how effective and adaptive data governance can minimize firefighting in the organization and enable use of resources for streamlining operations and maximizing value from data.

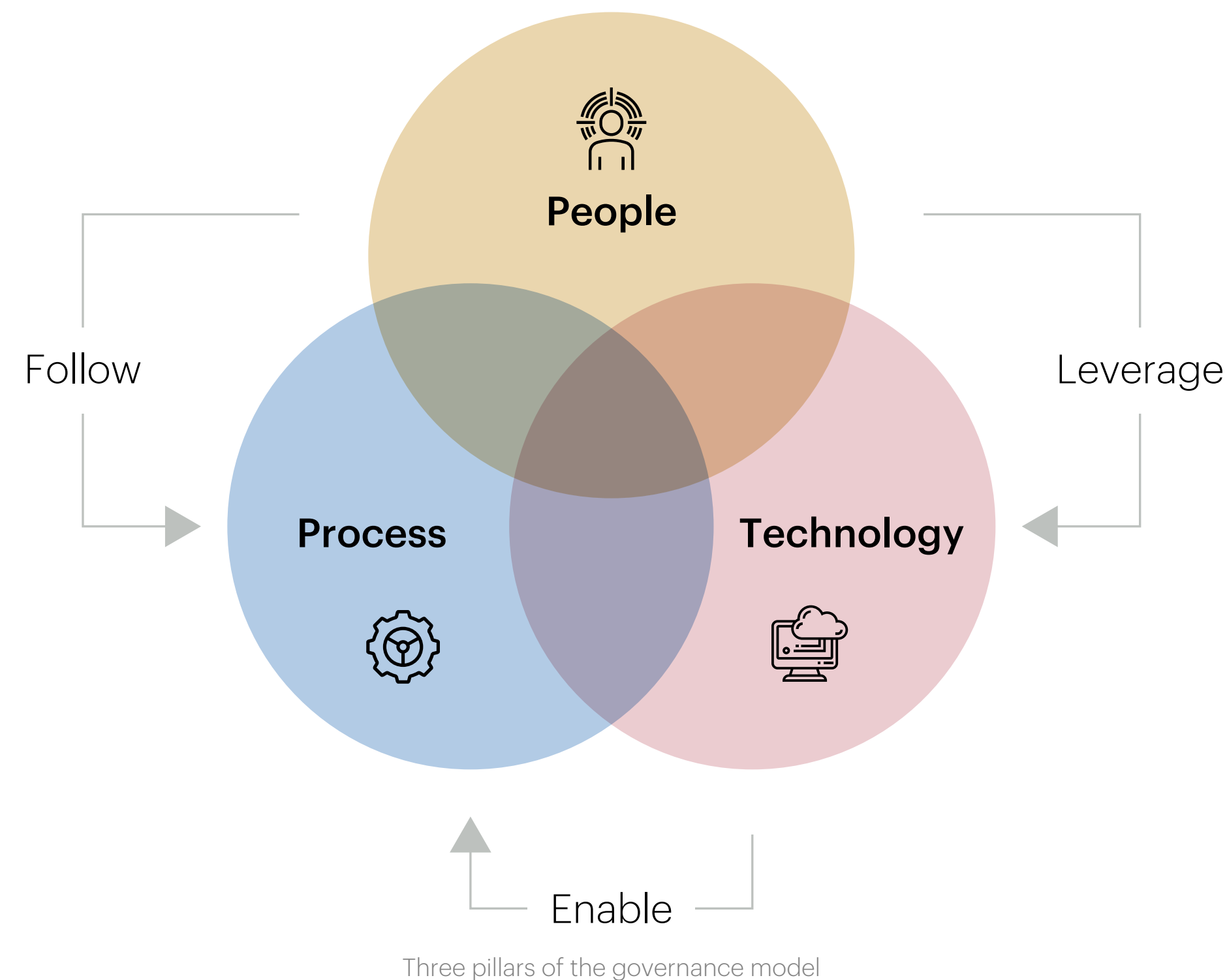
Further, a Business Insights research states that organizations can suffer major losses by basing strategies on inaccurate data. To understand market trends and customer needs, industries are increasingly adopting self-service BI tools. Companies are investing significantly in integrating self-service tools to provide quicker and reliable insights. The self-service BI market is projected to reach USD 20.22 billion by 2030.

While organizations demand the flexibility of self-service BI and data discovery, it introduces risks to data security and accuracy if left without controls. So it is crucial to strike a balance between user empowerment and data security.

This white paper aims to highlight the key elements of the Power BI Governance framework, its significance in promoting a data-driven culture, and the importance of following unified usage of the tool across the organization.

What is Power BI governance?

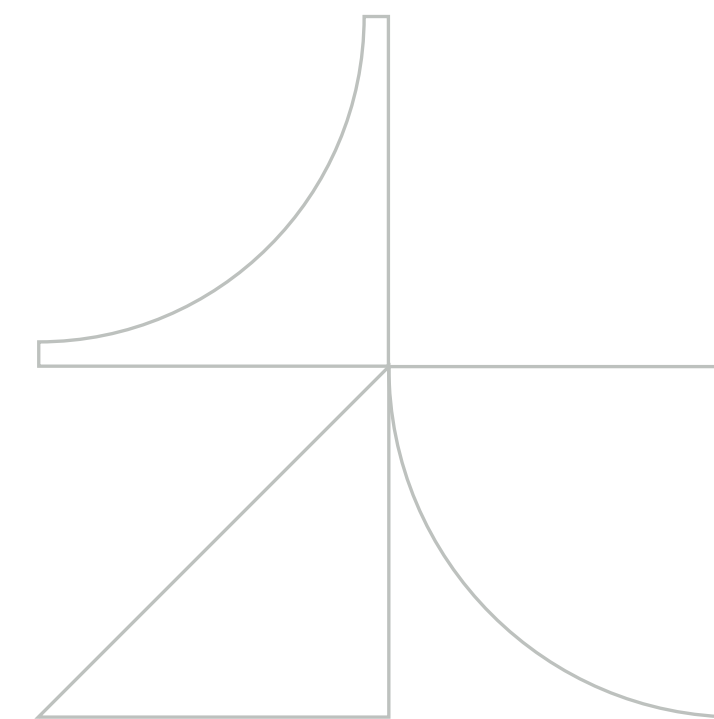
Data governance combines the right set of people, processes, and technology needed to keep data organized and secure. These are a set of policies, processes, rules, and guidelines to ensure a level of control and management in leveraging Power BI. The goal of governance is to make data assets well-managed, correct, complete, trustworthy, secure, and discoverable.



Why is Power BI governance important?

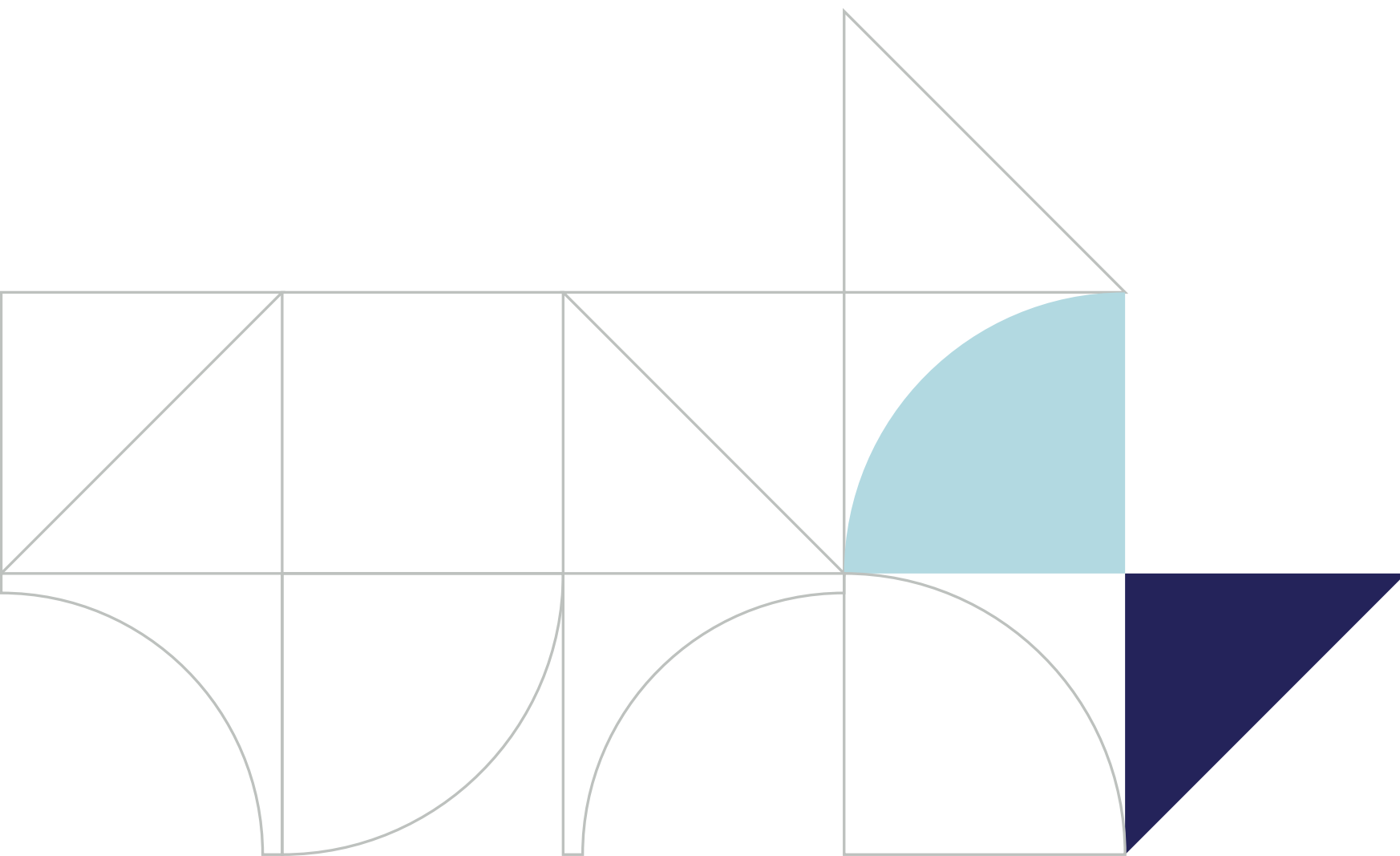
Initially, Power BI licenses are purchased and assigned to the team, workspaces are set up, and reports are shared with intended users. Later, with growing reporting needs, there is a risk of creating duplicated/multiple versions of content with the same underlying data. This could well result in a cluttered workspace and reports. Below are some of the primary focus areas of the BI platform that need attention:

- Using self-service BI without any standards and control can lead to data duplication, inconsistencies, and unauthorized access
- The platform ensures the data is securely, effectively, and responsibly utilized leading to better decision-making and a data-driven culture
- Delivers consistent, uniform, and reliable data insights
- Increases the scalability of the IT landscape
- Optimizes costs with central control mechanisms
- Establishes security measures to control access to sensitive and compliant data



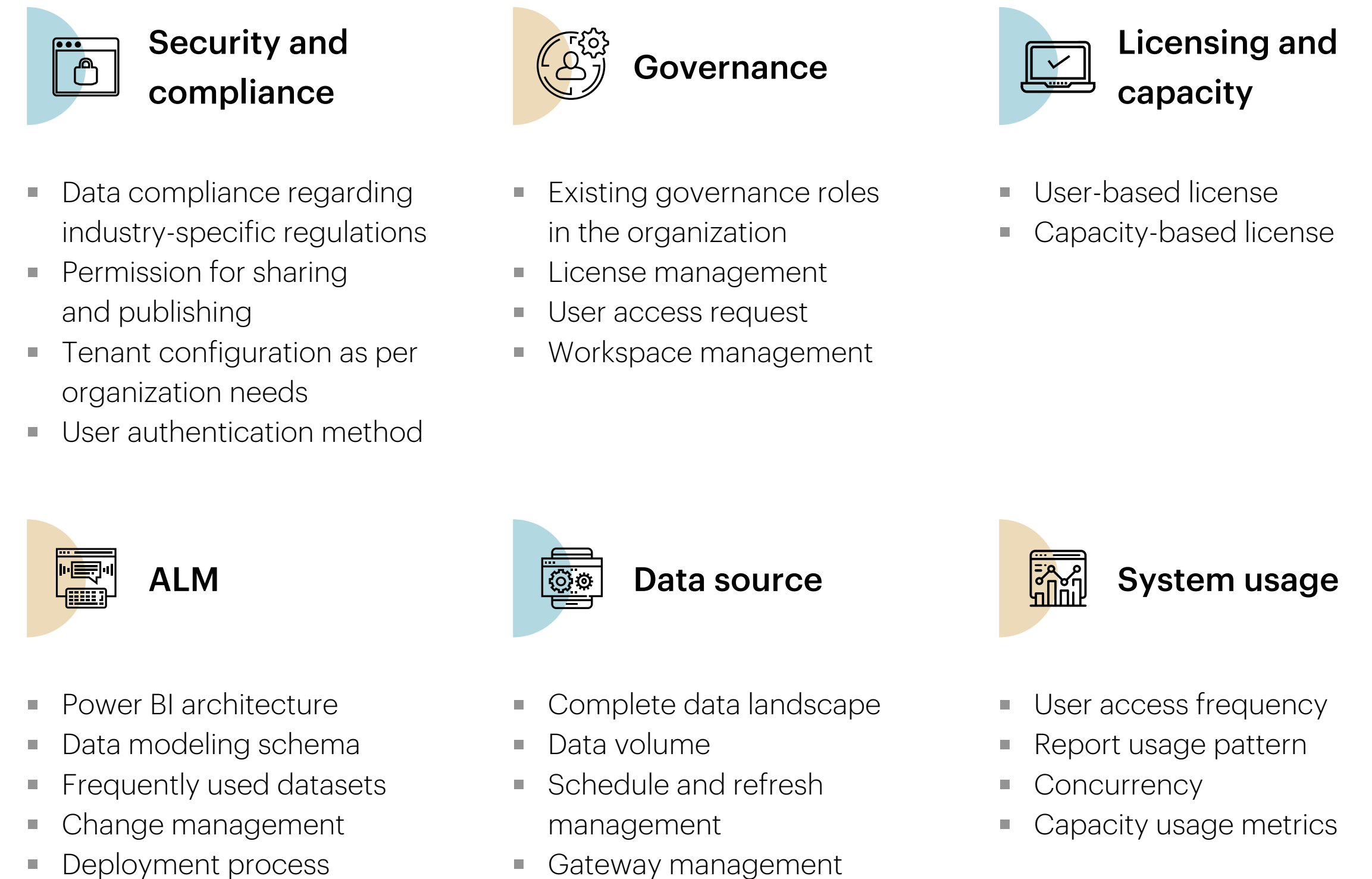
Risk to business without data governance

- No single version of truth
- Data quality issues, leading to inaccurate, inconsistent, incomplete, or outdated data for reports
- Data security issues without well-managed restrictions or permission controls, leading to data breaches and non-compliance penalties
- Creation of multiple reports without any standard processes and guidelines, resulting in cluttered and mismanaged information
- Unoptimized, unpredictable cost due to ineffective resource utilization



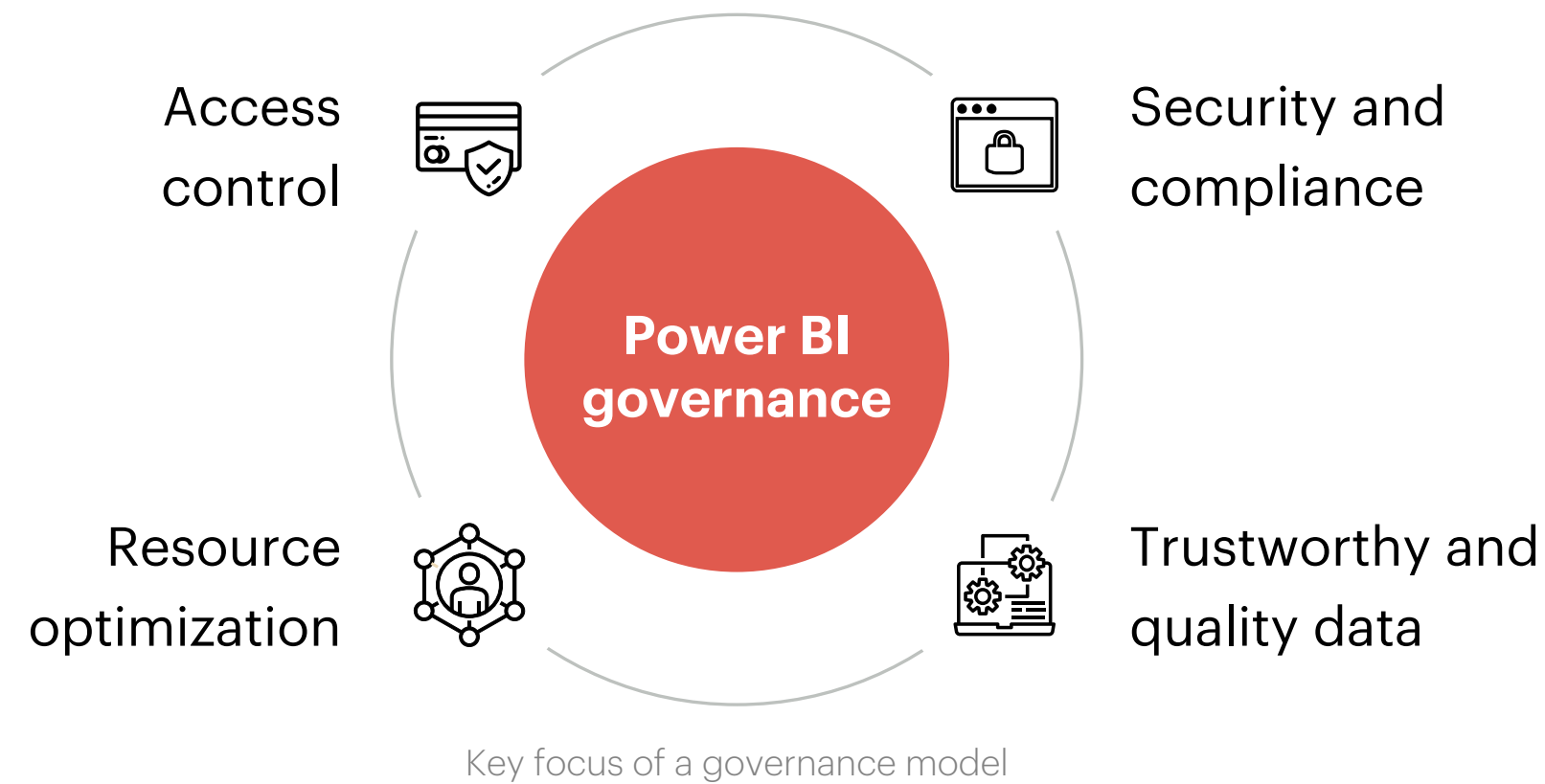
Evaluation basis the governance program

These are the key evaluation areas for the implementation of a governance program.



Key areas of assessment for governance

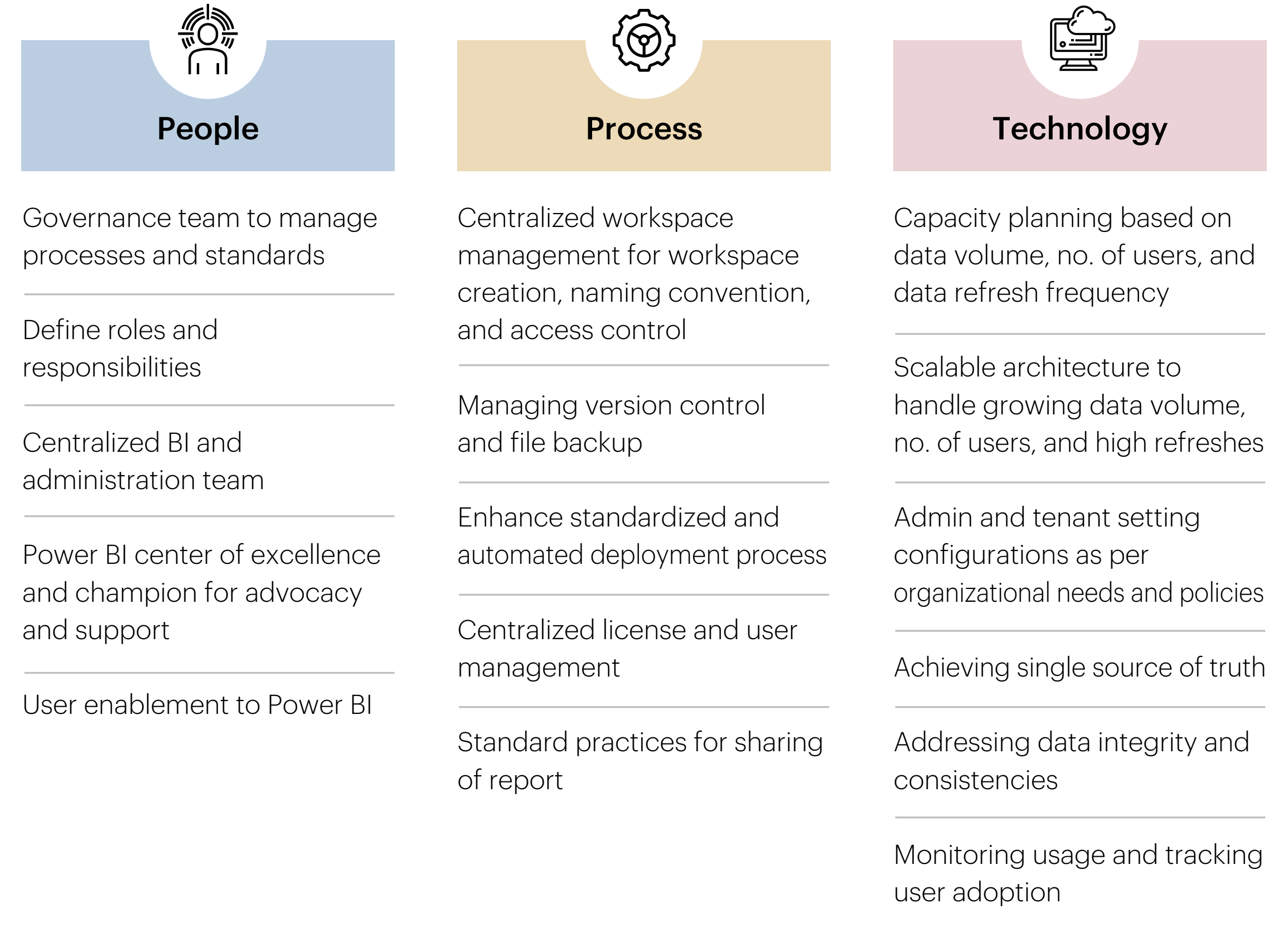
Governance framework



A well-governed Power BI framework has the following goals:

- Secure content sharing within the organization
- Ensuring any new business unit can access a clean uncluttered BI dataset from existing resources
- Heavy use of BI tools throughout the organization for day-to-day decision-making.
- Defining roles to help with the right resources and privileges
- Regular monitoring of usage activities
- Establishing access controls and security measures to protect sensitive data within Power BI reports
- Compliance with data privacy regulations and industry standards such as GDPR, HIPAA, etc.

Governance implementation model



Key elements of the governance implementation model

Structured approach to governance framework implementation:

- Evaluation of existing BI landscape, usage patterns, and Power BI adoption maturity model
- Prioritization of organizational goals and policies such as data security and self-service BI enablement
- Establishing governance roles and responsibilities for data ownership, report creation, access control, and monitoring
- Defining data ownership for each data source in the organization and ensuring data owners are responsible for the accuracy, quality, and security of respective data
- Implementing a data security framework to protect data from unauthorized access
- Defining standardized governance practices for:
 - User access management
 - License management
 - Workspace management
 - Content distribution and sharing
 - Naming conventions
 - Information security
- Data source and gateway management with a common approach for new data sources
- Capacity planning
- Standardizing ALM practices (report development standards, deployment processes, change management)

- Regularly monitoring usage activity, capacity usage, and access patterns
- Providing end-user support and training
- Defining and tracking key performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of Power BI governance efforts such as user adoption rates
- Forming a dedicated Power BI Center of Excellence responsible for overseeing Power BI governance, promoting best practices, and providing support to users



Zensar's POV

Today's data-driven world is characterized by information overload with a lot of hidden, inaccessible insights. Microsoft Power BI is a powerful tool but is like Excel in terms of convenience and ease of use – leading to possible contradictions, a glut of insights, and uncontrolled data quality.

A well-driven Power BI governance acts as a compass that helps navigate toward valuable data insights and promotes reliable data-driven decision-making.

Prior to Power BI implementation, we need to identify the delivery approach, project size, and more. For example, self-service business-led BI is completely governed by business teams whereas corporate BI is managed by a centralized IT team. Roles and responsibilities have to be defined based on project size, mode of delivery, and the governance framework.

Self-service Power BI implementation will be a success only when the governance framework is strategically built to promote collaboration across the organization and break down data silos within teams.

Even with a structured approach, there are several complexities in Power BI governance, licensing, and capacity planning.

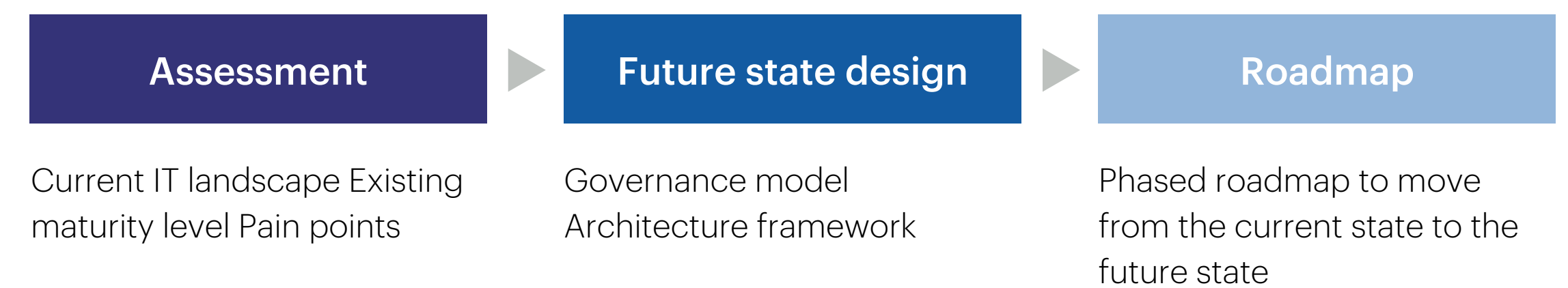
Zensar's approach

Our approach aims to reduce the complexity of capacity planning, licensing, and governance. We ensure that Power BI is effectively utilized within the organization, leading to cost optimization, compliant and secure data, and a data-driven decision-making culture.

Zensar conducts a two-week assessment to capture the i) complete BI landscape, ii) Power BI adoption maturity level, and iii) pain points of the existing system.

Based on this evaluation, Zensar equips a future state-proposed architectural framework and governance model.

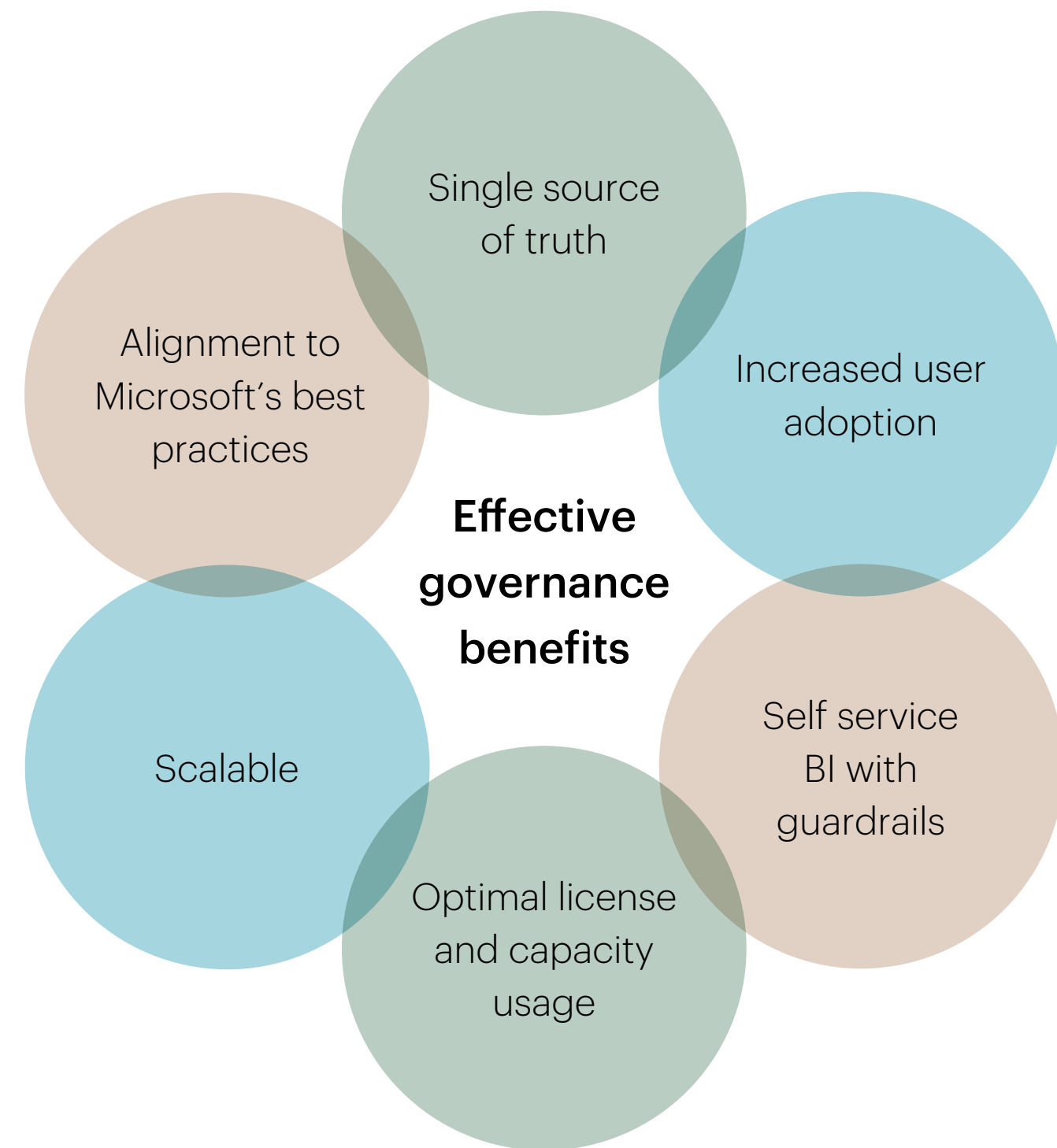
We also provide complete support in implementing best practices, processes, and recommendations with a phased road map for moving from the current state to the future state architecture.



Zensar's approach to governance framework implementation

Key benefits to business

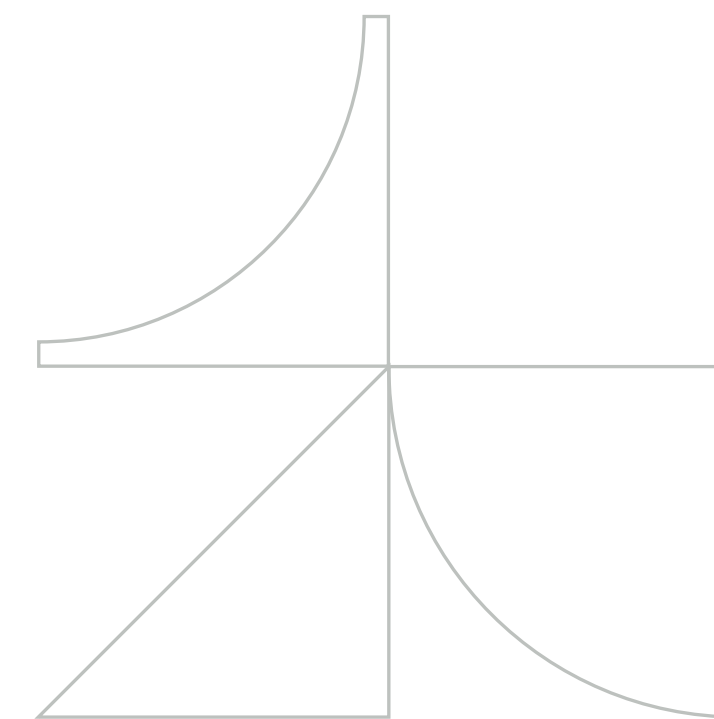
Adhering to Power BI governance maximizes the full potential of Power BI by empowering users, safeguarding data, promoting efficiency, optimizing cost, extending scalability, and ultimately empowering a data-driven culture with reliable and quality data.



Conclusion

Today, there is a growing demand for data-driven decisions and rising data security concerns due to the surge in BI tools. Power BI stands out among business intelligence tools compared to Qlik, Tableau, etc. due to its ease of use, cost-effectiveness, and more importantly because it is part of the Microsoft ecosystem. Well-planned governance is not about restriction and control; rather it enables the business and IT with clear guidelines and promotes data discoverability.

Power BI needs to be effectively utilized to gain maximum benefit from the tool, which drives the need for effective governance ensuring responsible and reliable data usage.





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