Cross-Functional Responsibility Matrix

Bounding Agency: Identity, Authority, and Trust in the Age of AI Agents

The AI-IAM Practitioner Series · Book 1 · Rahul Bhardwaj · Arvik Press

Tool, version and date	Cross-Functional Responsibility Matrix v1.0, September 2026
Purpose	Gives each agent-program decision a clear accountable owner, with the functions responsible, consulted and informed.
Source in the book	Chapter 12, Table 12.3 (starting pattern v1.0); lifecycle handoffs in Table 12.1.
When to use it	For questions of ownership and decision rights, especially decisions that cross teams.
What it produces	A tailored matrix with one clear accountable owner per decision where your organization's model supports it, and short narratives for the few high-risk decisions where letters alone will not settle who decides.
Scope	Fill in: which agents, use cases, environments and business units this record covers.
Completed by / reviewed by	Fill in: who completed it, who reviewed it, and when.
How to use this workbook	Cells shaded pale yellow are for you to fill in; drop-down lists appear where the book defines the options. Example rows are shaded blue-grey and written in italics: replace or delete them. Reference sheets reproduce the book's tables.
Evidence conventions	For every evaluative entry record the evidence source and date. Evidence strength, strongest first: tested control or log; configuration; documented policy; interview. Use N/A only with a reason. Record Unknown as a finding, never as zero.
Starting pattern, not a recommendation	The letters are the book's starting pattern for testing, not a recommended assignment. Replace the role archetypes with your own roles, and define each decision before assigning letters.
R, A, C, I	R: responsible for execution. A: accountable for the decision (keep one clear accountable owner per decision where your model supports it). C: consulted. I: informed.
Status	**A working diagnostic. Not a certification, audit opinion or compliance attestation.**
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Decision	Your definition of this decision	BUS	AIG	AIE	PLT	IAM	SEC	DAT	RSK	LGL	Accountable owners (aim for 1)	Narrative for high-risk decisions
Use-case approval		R	A	C	I	C	C	C	C	C	**1**	
Agent registration		I	I	R	R	A	I				**1**	
Sponsor assignment		A	I		I	R			I		**1**	
Sponsor succession		A	I		I	R			I		**1**	
Credential issuance				C	R	A	C				**1**	
Authority and access		A	C	C		R	C	C			**1**	
Privileged access		C			R	A	C		I		**1**	
Delegation within a team		A	I	C		R	C				**1**	
Cross-team delegation		A†	I	C		R	C		I		**1**	
Data permission		C		C		R		A		C	**1**	
Regulatory applicability		C	C			C	C	C	R	A	**1**	
Deployment and change		C	C	R	A	C	C				**1**	
Runtime monitoring		I		R	R	C	A				**1**	
Exceptions		R	C			C	C		A	C	**1**	
Incident containment		I	I	C	R	R	A		I	C	**1**	
Retirement		A	I	R	R	R	I				**1**	
Evidence and reporting		I	C		R	R	R		A		**1**	

Decision	Your definition of this decision	BUS	AIG	AIE	PLT	IAM	SEC	DAT	RSK	LGL	Accountable owners (aim for 1)	Narrative for high-risk decisions

BUS business sponsor · AIG AI governance · AIE AI engineering · PLT cloud/platform · IAM identity and access management · SEC cybersecurity · DAT data governance · RSK risk and compliance · LGL legal and privacy. †A = the owner of the authority being exercised (at CrystalSoft, Finance), with the requesting sponsor responsible for the justification. Column L turns red when a decision has no accountable owner or more than one.

Table 12.1 — Lifecycle Handoffs and What Must Cross Them

Transition (trigger)	Decision owner	What must move	Evidence retained
Proposal to registration (use case approved)	AI governance, with the business sponsor	Purpose, sponsor, risk tier	Approval record; inventory entry
Registration to authority (identity registered)	Business sponsor; IAM implements	Principal, tools, data, delegation needs	Authority approval; grant configuration
Test to production (release ready)	Platform, with IAM and sponsor sign-off for any new authority	Version, environment, credentials	Change record; test credentials retired
Operation to change (new version, tool, data or sponsor)	Sponsor for purpose; IAM for authority	What changed and why	Re-approval, or a recorded decision to continue
Signal to incident (detection threshold crossed)	Security, with IAM for identity actions	Identity and task context; telemetry	Containment log; decision record
Operation to retirement (purpose ended or agent replaced)	Business sponsor; platform and IAM execute	Credentials, grants, integrations	Proof of revocation, including third parties