

The Agentic Architecture Framework — Cheat Sheet

*The 12 principles and the AI Delivery Cycle from Jugal Shah's Agentic Architecture Framework (aideeva.com).
One page to judge every AI initiative against.*

The 12 principles

1. Business value first, models second.
2. Data quality is an AI prerequisite, not a data problem.
3. Evaluation before enthusiasm.
4. Humans in the loop by design.
5. Cost as an architecture concern.
6. Deterministic where possible, probabilistic where valuable.
7. Lineage is non-negotiable.
8. Governance that accelerates.
9. Start narrow, earn the right to expand.
10. Security and privacy by construction.
11. Observability from day one.
12. Learn in production.

The AI Delivery Cycle

Preliminary — Principles & Posture. Sign off principles, define risk appetite, stand up governance. (NIST AI RMF: Govern)

Phase A — Vision & Value. Name the business outcome and ROI thesis. Explicit non-goals. Sign-off before any model work.

Phase B — Data Foundation. Brutal readiness assessment: quality, freshness, lineage, access, bias. Go/no-go per source.

Phase C — Intelligence Architecture. Model selection, retrieval design, agent decomposition, cost projections per workflow.

Phase D — Evaluation. Build the eval harness before production: golden sets, red-teaming, pass/fail thresholds.

Phase E — Governance & Deployment. Map/measure/manage risks (NIST AI RMF). HITL where error cost is highest. Staged rollout.

Phase F — Operate & Evolve. Cost vs budget, drift detection, feedback loops, change process for model updates.