

Data Products Without Data Mesh

A practical business assessment for moving from isolated data products to trusted, governed, decision-ready data products.

Purpose of this template

This template supports the white paper by helping executive teams assess whether their data product efforts are likely to create sustained value, or whether they risk becoming another set of disconnected outputs. It is designed for CEOs, CDOs, CIOs, CFOs, domain leaders, and governance leaders who need a business-level view before committing to a pilot or transformation program.

How to use it: complete the scorecard, review the maturity band, identify the biggest gaps, then select one domain and one high-value data product pilot.

Scoring Key

Score	Meaning	Executive interpretation
1	Not in place	This is not currently addressed or only exists informally.
2	Early	Some activity exists, but it is inconsistent or dependent on individuals.
3	Developing	There is a repeatable approach in parts of the organization.
4	Established	The approach is broadly understood and actively used.
5	Leading	The capability is embedded, measured, and continuously improved.

1. Strategic Clarity

Does the executive team understand why data products matter, where they create value, and which business decisions they support?

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Score
We can name the priority business decisions that improved data products should support.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Our data product work is connected to measurable outcomes such as revenue, cost, risk, customer experience, or operational speed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Executives understand the difference between a data asset, a dashboard, and a sustainable data product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
We have agreed which domains or business areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Score
should be tackled first.						

Section subtotal: _____ / 20

2. Domain Ownership

Are business domains accountable for the meaning, quality, and ongoing relevance of the data they use and share?

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Each important data product has a clear business owner, not only a technical owner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Domain teams are actively involved in defining data quality, definitions, and usage context.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Business teams can explain why a data product is needed and how it will be used in decisions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Ownership includes ongoing lifecycle responsibility, not just sign-off at launch.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Section subtotal: _____ / 20

3. Data Product Discipline

Are data products being designed as reusable, trusted, fit-for-purpose products, rather than renamed datasets or reports?

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Every data product has a clearly defined purpose, consumer group, and usage scenario.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Data products include documentation, definitions, lineage, quality expectations, and access rules.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
There is a minimum standard for what qualifies as a data product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Products are reviewed, improved, and retired when they no longer serve the business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Section subtotal: _____ / 20

4. Self-Service and Access

Can business users discover, request, build, or use data products without being blocked by long central data team queues?

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Business teams can discover available data products in a consistent marketplace, catalog, or workbench.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
The process for creating or requesting a data product is simple, visible, and repeatable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Central data teams are not the only route to every data product change or request.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Our tooling lowers technical friction for business users while maintaining control and trust.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Section subtotal: _____ / 20

5. Federated Governance and Trust

Are standards, policies, and controls embedded into the way data products are created and used?

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Governance standards are applied consistently across domains without excessive manual bottlenecks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Sensitive data, access rights, quality rules, and compliance requirements are visible and managed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Consumers can see whether a data product is trusted, approved, current, and fit for purpose.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Governance is treated as an enabler of faster trusted use, not just a control function.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Section subtotal: _____ / 20

6. Platform and Interoperability

Does the technology environment allow data products to connect across tools, sources, teams, and decision workflows?

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Data products can draw from existing platforms without forcing a major replacement program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
The organization has repeatable patterns for quality, access, lineage, monitoring, and sharing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Data products can be reused or combined across domains without creating conflicting versions of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Score
truth.						
The platform supports both current analytics needs and future AI or agent-based decision workflows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Section subtotal: _____ / 20

7. Executive Sponsorship and Change

Is there leadership commitment to move beyond isolated quick wins toward a connected operating model for data?

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Score
There is an executive sponsor who can align business, data, technology, and governance teams.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
The organization is willing to pilot, learn, and scale without waiting for a perfect big-bang transformation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Success is measured by business decision outcomes, not only data platform activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
Teams understand the change required: fewer handoffs, clearer ownership, and trusted data closer to decision-makers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Section subtotal: _____ / 20

Results and Executive Interpretation

Total score: _____ / 140

Use the table below to interpret the result. The goal is not to achieve a perfect score before starting. The goal is to understand whether your next data product investment will become a trusted, reusable business capability or another isolated output.

Score range	Readiness band	What it means
28-65	Isolated Data Product Risk	Your organization may be creating useful data outputs, but the foundations for sustained value are weak. Priority should be placed on ownership, minimum standards, and one executive-backed pilot.
66-95	Emerging Mesh Readiness	There are pockets of good practice, but they may not yet be connected. Focus on repeatable standards, clear business ownership, and reducing dependency on central queues.
96-120	Connected Data Product Foundation	The foundations are forming. This is the point to formalize a minimum viable data product standard, strengthen federated governance, and scale domain-by-domain.
121-140	Decision-Ready Data Product Operating Model	Your organization is well positioned to move from isolated data products to a connected, governed, decision-ready model. The next step is scaling, measurement, and continuous improvement.

Executive Workshop Notes

1. Which business decision would improve fastest if trusted data was available at the point of decision?

2. Which domain is best placed to own the first pilot data product?

3. What is the biggest risk in our current approach: unclear ownership, weak governance, central team bottlenecks, inconsistent definitions, or low trust?

4. Which current tool or platform investment should Lattice or another workbench partner with rather than replace?

5. What outcome will prove the pilot worked: faster decisions, reduced rework, improved trust, lower cost, better compliance, or increased revenue?

30-60-90 Day Action Plan

Period	Executive action	Owner / due date
First 30 days	Select one domain, one high-value business decision, one data product candidate, and the executive sponsor.	_____
Next 60 days	Define the minimum viable data product standard, clarify ownership, map governance requirements, and build the pilot.	_____
Next 90 days	Measure adoption, decision impact, trust, reuse, and governance evidence. Decide whether to scale to the next domain.	_____

Suggested next step

Use this assessment to start a data conversation with your executive team. If your score shows isolated data product risk, the next step is not a large transformation program. The next step is one trusted, governed, business-built data product pilot that proves the operating model.

Visit data-tiles.com or lattice.com to learn how Lattice helps teams build business-built, trusted, governed data products. Zero Code Data Tools. Enabling Better Decisions.