Veqtor8

ANALYST BUYER'S GUIDE

Agentic AI Governance Buyer Directions

Optimizing agent value and managing risk

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Enterprises are scaling agents faster than they can govern them

Agents have moved from pilots into daily operations across an increasing array of business activities. These include back office work in HR and finance, engaging customers in sales and service, and industry-specific tasks ranging from processing insurance claims to helping to diagnose medical conditions. One global bank told us its agents now read corporate registries and draft the suspicious transaction reports that its compliance officers once compiled manually across several systems.

Agents have scaled quickly, and governance has not kept pace with the authority they now hold. Many of the 63 enterprises we interviewed across North America, Europe and Asia Pacific cannot establish who is responsible for each agent, show a full record of its actions or prove the value it delivered. If they invest in governance, they tend to focus on compliance, while an increasingly significant business risk lies in agents that cost too much or deliver too little.

We assessed 29 vendors across the eight market segments that make up agentic AI governance, from identity and security to cost and testing. The market is new but growing rapidly. Seven vendors rate as strong in security and six in inventory and lifecycle management, while eight are strong in cross-platform reach, governing agents on other vendors' platforms as well as their own.

Every vendor in this guide has real strengths, but each covers only part of the overall agentic AI governance function. Platform vendors such as Microsoft, Salesforce and ServiceNow govern agents well inside their own products, and less well outside them. Security, identity and data vendors such as CrowdStrike, Okta and Collibra are strong in one or two segments. No vendor brings every segment together across all platforms.

Veqtor8 identified a missing layer and calls it the Sovereign Governance Layer, or SGL. It is a single governance layer that sits above every platform and agent, runs continuously, stays independent of any one vendor and keeps policy, evidence and value measurement in the hands of the enterprise. Sovereignty here means enterprise sovereignty, the enterprise setting its own policy and holding its own record of agent activity. Today no vendor provides it in full.

Until a complete product arrives, each organization should take five actions.

- **Use platform governance for operational control** of the agents on each platform.
- **Keep ownership of policy, records, evidence and value measurement** in tools the organization controls.
- **Measure cost and value with the same discipline applied to risk.** Few vendors yet combine the two, so value should be measured independently of the vendors selling the agents.
- **Make sure governance records are portable.** This is the least developed area across all 29 vendors, so it is important to ensure that records can be exported in open formats.
- **Check who owns each vendor and its sovereign deployment options in each market the organization serves.** Identity and security vendors are consolidating, and the rules differ from one country to the next.

KEY FINDINGS

7 of 29
vendors rate as strong in security

6 of 29
vendors rate as strong in inventory and lifecycle management

8 of 29
vendors rate as strong in cross-platform reach, governing agents on other vendors' platforms

6 of 29
vendors rate as strong in data quality and integrity

No vendors
yet provide the Sovereign Governance Layer, a vendor-independent governance layer above every platform

Source: Veqtor8. Counts exclude ratings of strong within its own platform.



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