

Strategic Recommendations for Technical Leaders

1



Start with Data, Not Models

Quality data + modest model > Generic data + frontier model

Action:

Build data collection pipelines, annotation workflows, and quality control processes first

2



Optimize for Inference, Not Training

Inference = 60% of 3-year TCO (Training = 15%)

Action:

Prioritize quantization, distillation, efficient architectures, and batching strategies

3



Maintain Human Oversight

AI augments expertise, doesn't replace it

Action:

Design escalation criteria, provide supporting evidence, enable efficient review workflows

4



Plan for Continuous Evolution

Allocate 20-30% of annual budget for maintenance

Action:

Monitor performance, collect feedback, update training data, retrain models periodically

5



Build Internal Capability

Internal expertise enables better decisions and faster adaptation

Action:

Start with small internal projects, invest in training, hire specialists, ensure knowledge transfer