TITLE: The Sovereign AI Governance Framework for Enterprise Architecture SUBTITLE: De-risking M&A and AI Transformation in Regulated Markets

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1. Executive Summary In the era of Agentic AI, the role of Enterprise Architecture has shifted from "Systems Integration" to "Sovereign Governance." As organizations in Canada and the UAE accelerate AI adoption, the primary risks are no longer technical—they are regulatory and ethical. This framework outlines a strategic approach to deploying AI agents while maintaining strict data sovereignty and M&A readiness.

2. The Core Pillars of Sovereign AI

- **Pillar 1: Data Residency & Border Control** Enterprises must treat AI models not as software, but as data processors. Our architecture mandates that "Inference Logic" can be global, but "Training Data" and "RAG Context" must remain locally sovereign (e.g., complying with PIPEDA in Canada or DET guidelines in UAE). We utilize Hybrid Cloud architectures to enforce these boundaries at the API gateway level.

- **Pillar 2: M&A Technology De-risking** Mergers fail when technical debt is discovered too late. My approach integrates "Architecture Assurance" into the due diligence phase. By scanning target AI stacks for non-compliant model dependencies (e.g., proprietary IP leakage into public LLMs), we protect the valuation of the combined entity before the deal closes.

- **Pillar 3: Agentic Governance (TOGAF Enhanced)** Traditional TOGAF frameworks are insufficient for autonomous agents. We extend the architecture repository to include "Agent Permissions" and "Human-in-the-Loop" checkpoints. This ensures that AI agents can execute code and make decisions, but within a bounded "Safe Zone" that prevents hallucinated authorization.

3. Conclusion The future of Enterprise Architecture is not just building systems; it is governing intelligence. By adopting a "Safety-First" Sovereign AI strategy, organizations can innovate aggressively without exposing themselves to catastrophic regulatory risk.

About the Author Sanjeet Kumar is a Director of Enterprise Architecture specializing in Sovereign AI, M&A Integration, and Digital Strategy. He advises organizations on navigating the complexity of cross-border technology governance.

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