

# Data Intensive Applications

An Introduction

# Tonight's Quest



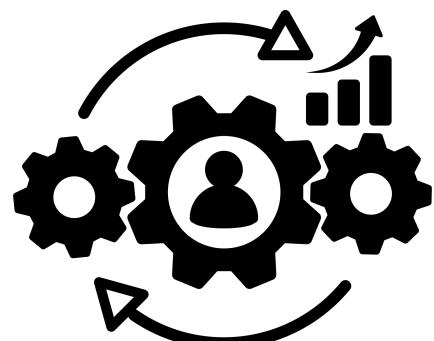
**What** is a Data Intensive Application -  
Our definition?

What are some of the **challenges**  
in building DIA?



**Who** Builds DIA?

How do we **classify** and **assess**  
the value of a DIA?



**How** are DIA Built?

?

Data intensive applications combine a  
large complement of data and compute to  
augment or replace human decision  
making for the benefit of optimizing  
important processes.

?

Data intensive applications combine a  
**large** complement of **data** and **compute**  
to **augment** or **replace** human **decision**  
making for the benefit of **optimizing**  
important **processes**.

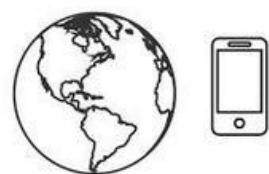
# THE 4 V'S OF BIG DATA



**40 ZETTABYTES**  
of data will be created by  
2020, an increase of 300  
times from 2005



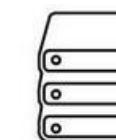
**6 BILLION PEOPLE**  
have cell phones  
WORLD POPULATION: 7 BILLION



## Volume

SCALE OF DATA

**2.5 QUINTILLION BYTES**  
of data are created  
each day



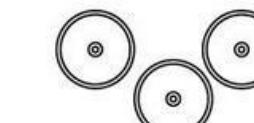
Most companies in the  
U.S. have at least  
**100 TERABYTES**  
of data stored



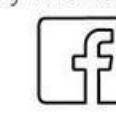
## Variety

DIFFERENT  
FORMS OF DATA

As of 2011, the global size of  
data in healthcare was  
estimated to be  
**150 EXABYTES**



**30 BILLION**  
**Pieces of Content**  
are shared on facebook  
every month



Multimodal

**4 BILLION +**  
**HOURS OF VIDEO**  
are watched on  
You Tube each month



**4 MILLION TWEETS**  
are sent per day by about  
200 million monthly active  
users



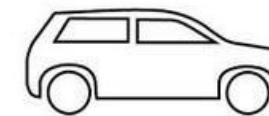
The New York Stock  
Exchange captures  
**1TB OF TRADE  
INFORMATION**  
during each trading  
session



## Velocity

ANALYSIS OF  
STREAMING DATA

Modern cars have  
close to  
**100 SENSORS**  
that monitor items such as  
fuel level and tire pressure



**1 IN 3 BUSINESS  
LEADERS**  
don't trust the information  
they use to make  
decisions



## Veracity

UNCERTAINTY  
OF DATA

**27% OF RESPONDENTS**  
in one survey were unsure  
of how much of data  
was inaccurate



Reference : <http://www.ibmbigdatahub.com/infographic/four-vs-big-data>

**What do we mean by “large” complement of data?**  
**Our work in this class is focused on “handling” these data challenges.**

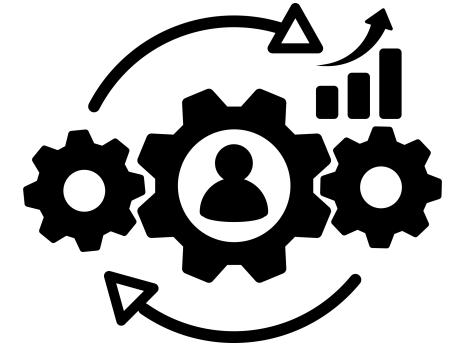


What do we mean by “large” complement of compute?

# Building Data Intensive Applications is a team sport.

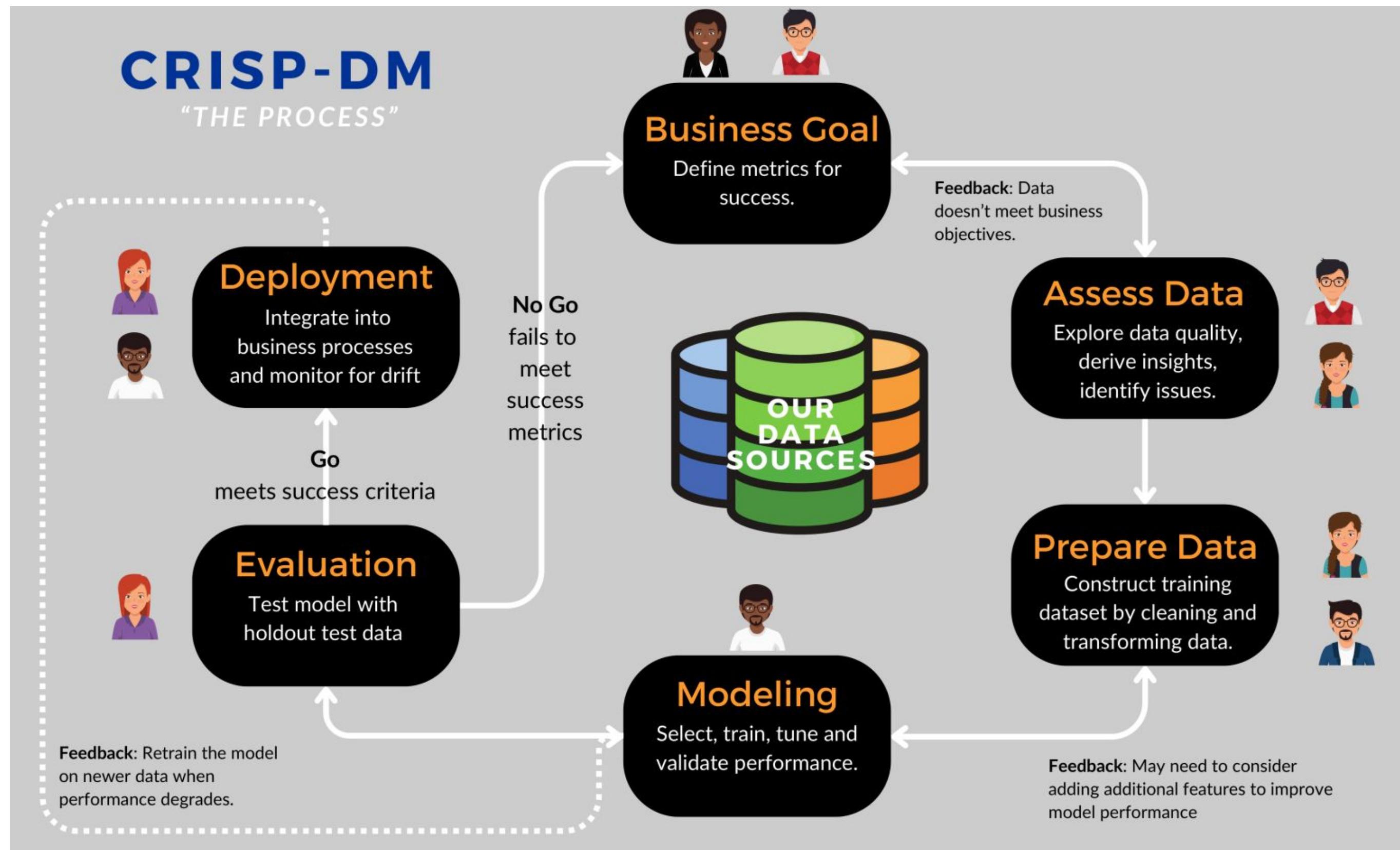
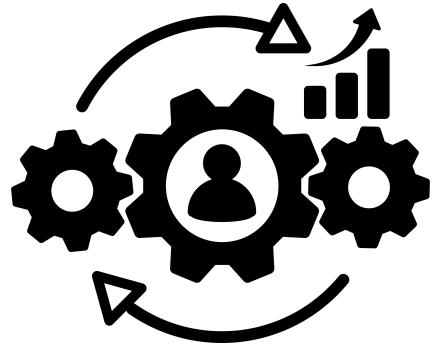


<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Domain Expert</b>	<b>Data Analyst</b>	<b>Data Engineer</b>	<b>ML Engineer</b>	<b>Evaluation Engineer</b>
<p>Set business objectives and success metrics</p> <p>Approve project progression through milestones</p> <p>Bridge technical and business perspectives</p>	<p>Provide in-depth understanding of problem space</p> <p>Ensure solutions meet real-world needs</p> <p>Assist with interpreting and applying results</p>	<p>Perform exploratory data analysis to derive insights</p> <p>Communicate trends through statistical summaries and visualizations</p> <p>Skills in programming, statistics, data wrangling</p>	<p>Build and maintain data infrastructure and pipelines</p> <p>Extract, transform, load data from diverse sources</p> <p>Expertise in databases, distributed systems, ETL</p>	<p>Select, train, evaluate, and tune machine learning models</p> <p>Specialized knowledge in ML theory and algorithms</p> <p>Leverage math, stats, and software engineering skills</p>	<p>Design model performance tests aligned to success metrics</p> <p>Monitor production systems for drift, degradation, and bias</p> <p>Focus on model reliability, accuracy, and compliance</p>



# What we need in a process?

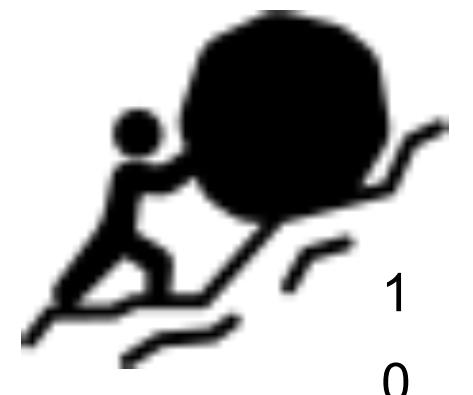
Structured Approach	Colaboration	Iteration	Predictability	Flexibiliy	Focus
Defines a clear, methodical sequence of steps to guide the end-to-end data value creation.	Clearly defines roles & responsibility to coordinate work across teams with diverse skills.	Allows folding back to previous steps when needed to refine the solution.	Following consistent standard methodology improves predictability.	The methodology can be tailored to fit different project needs and constraints.	Business goals anchor the process to ensure work stays aligned with delivering value.



# 10 Ways Your Data Project Might Fail

- Lack of Clear Objectives
- Insufficient Data Quality
- Poor Data Management
- Inadequate Skills & Expertise
- Ignoring Business Context
- Overcomplicating Solutions
- Poor Communication & Collaboration
- Ignoring Ethical Considerations
- Lack of Scalability
- Insufficient Monitoring & Maintenance

Source: Adapted from Martin Goodson, "[Ten Ways Your Data Project Is Going To Fail](#)"



# TEN WAYS YOUR DATA PROJECT IS GOING TO FAIL

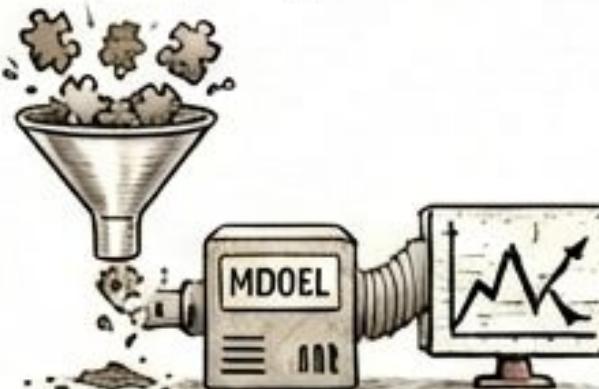
Source: Martin Goodson's Analysis. *Pitfalls for Data Science Practitioners*.

## 1 LACK OF CLEAR OBJECTIVES



Example: Nonprofit aims to 'increase donor engagement' without defining metrics (frequency vs. size vs. retention).  
Result: Generic reports, dissatisfied stakeholders.

## 2 INSUFFICIENT DATA QUALITY



Example: Healthcare predictive model for at-risk patients relies on inconsistent EHRs (missing fields, errors).  
Result: Unreliable predictions, ineffective project.

## 3 POOR DATA MANAGEMENT



Example: Media company has terabytes of unstructured, siloed customer data without governance.  
Result: Impossible to extract insights for recommendation system.

## 4 INADEQUATE SKILLS & EXPERTISE



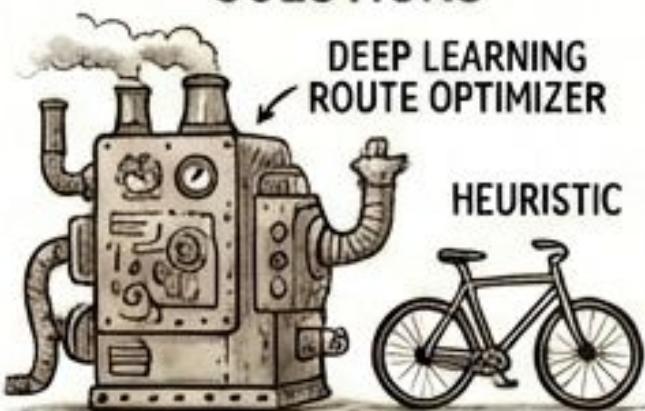
Example: Retail chain hires data scientist without domain expertise.  
Result: Complex, impractical model incompatible with inventory workflows.

## 5 IGNORING BUSINESS CONTEXT



Example: Bank's accurate fraud model ignores manual approval process.  
Result: Overwhelming false positives, delayed transactions, frustrated staff.

## 6 OVERCOMPLICATING SOLUTIONS



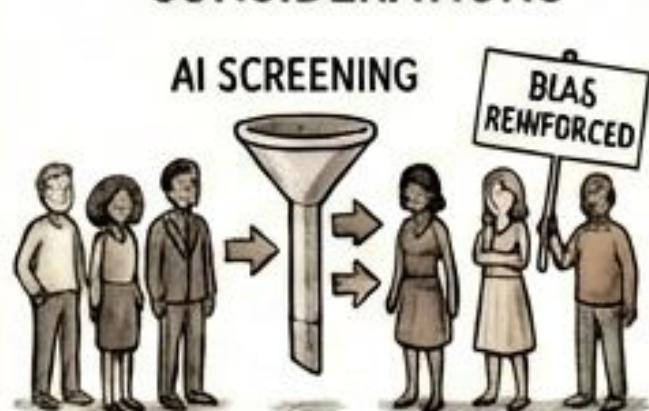
Example: Logistics company uses complex deep learning when simple heuristic could achieve 90% benefit.  
Result: unsustainable resource & expertise requirements.

## 7 POOR COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION



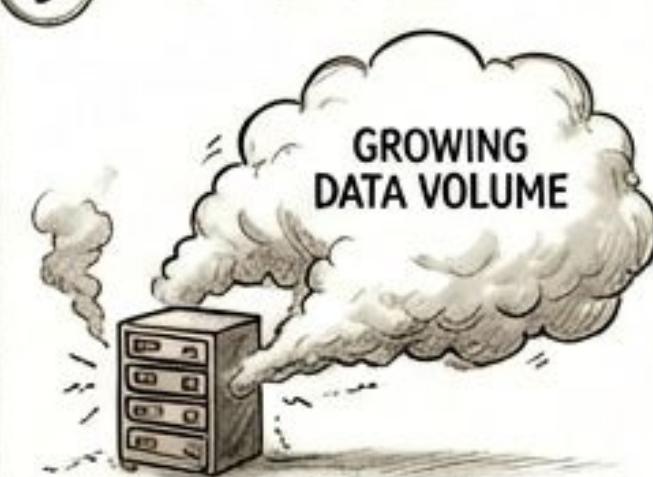
Example: E-commerce customer segmentation model built without marketing input.  
Result: Model too technical, misaligned with campaigns, underutilized.

## 8 IGNORING ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS



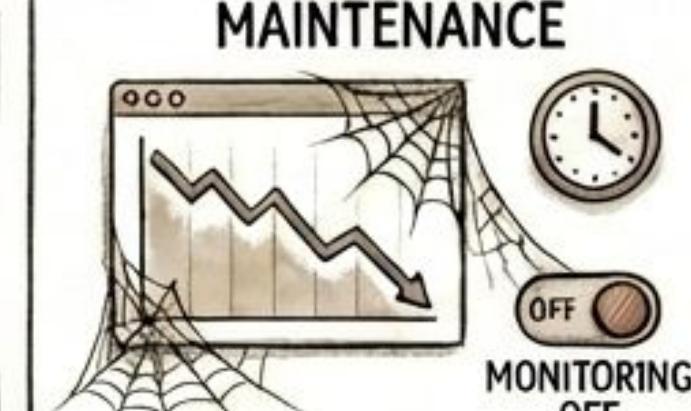
Example: Recruitment AI uses historical hiring data, reinforcing bias against underrepresented groups.  
Result: Public backlash, reputational damage.

## 9 LACK OF SCALABILITY



Example: Startup's personalized email system on a simple database fails as customer base grows.  
Result: Delays, failures, frustrated customers.

## 10 INSUFFICIENT MONITORING & MAINTENANCE



Example: Social media recommendation engine deployed without performance monitoring.  
Result: Relevance drift due to behavior changes, decreased engagement.

**Course Note:** Success requires balancing technical rigor with clear goals, domain context, and ongoing stewardship. Avoid these traps!

***CRISP-DM covers a lot of ground, but must be complemented by strong communication, ethical considerations, and scalability planning.***

CRISP-DM Stage	What Pitfall does it help mitigate?
Business Goal	1: Clear Objectives & ROI - Defines success metrics upfront.
Assess Data	2: Data Quality - Identifies and addresses data issues early.
Prepare Data	2: Data Quality - Cleans & transforms data for reliability. 3: Data Management - Supports documentation and governance.
Modeling	4: Expertise - Emphasizes model validation & performance. 6: Overcomplicating - Promotes pragmatic solutions.
Evaluation	10: Monitoring - Tests model with holdout data prior to deployment.
Deployment	3: Data Management - Supports integration. 5: Context - Integrates into business processes. 10: Monitoring - Provides framework for monitoring after integration.

# **DATA + COMPUTE**

necessary / not sufficient

# **MODELING + OPTIMIZATION**

deliver the value



**Optimizing  
For ...**

More  
Less

# Human Decision Making

Augment - Narrow

Replace - General

[Skin lesion Classification > Correct Diagnosis](#)

[Trading Bots > profits](#)

[Delivery Route Planning < Fuel use](#)

[Self driving car < Accidents](#)

**Key Reason DIA are important: Data 2 Optimal Decisions**



# Decision Frequency

Decision Impact	Decision Frequency	
	High	Low
High	<b>Prime Value Target</b> E.g. medical diagnosis and autonomous vehicles	<b>Mixed Bag</b>
Low	<b>May be worth the investment</b> E.g. route planning and recommendations	<b>Forget It!</b> Too Costly

**Key Reason DIA are important: Data 2 Optimal Decisions**



Save ~100M  
driving miles and  
\$350–400M per  
year with ORION  
route optimization  
system

		Decision Making	
		Augment	Replace
Optimizing For ...	More		
	Less	X Routes - Fuel	
		Decision Frequency	
Decision Impact	High	High	Low
	Low	X aggregation	

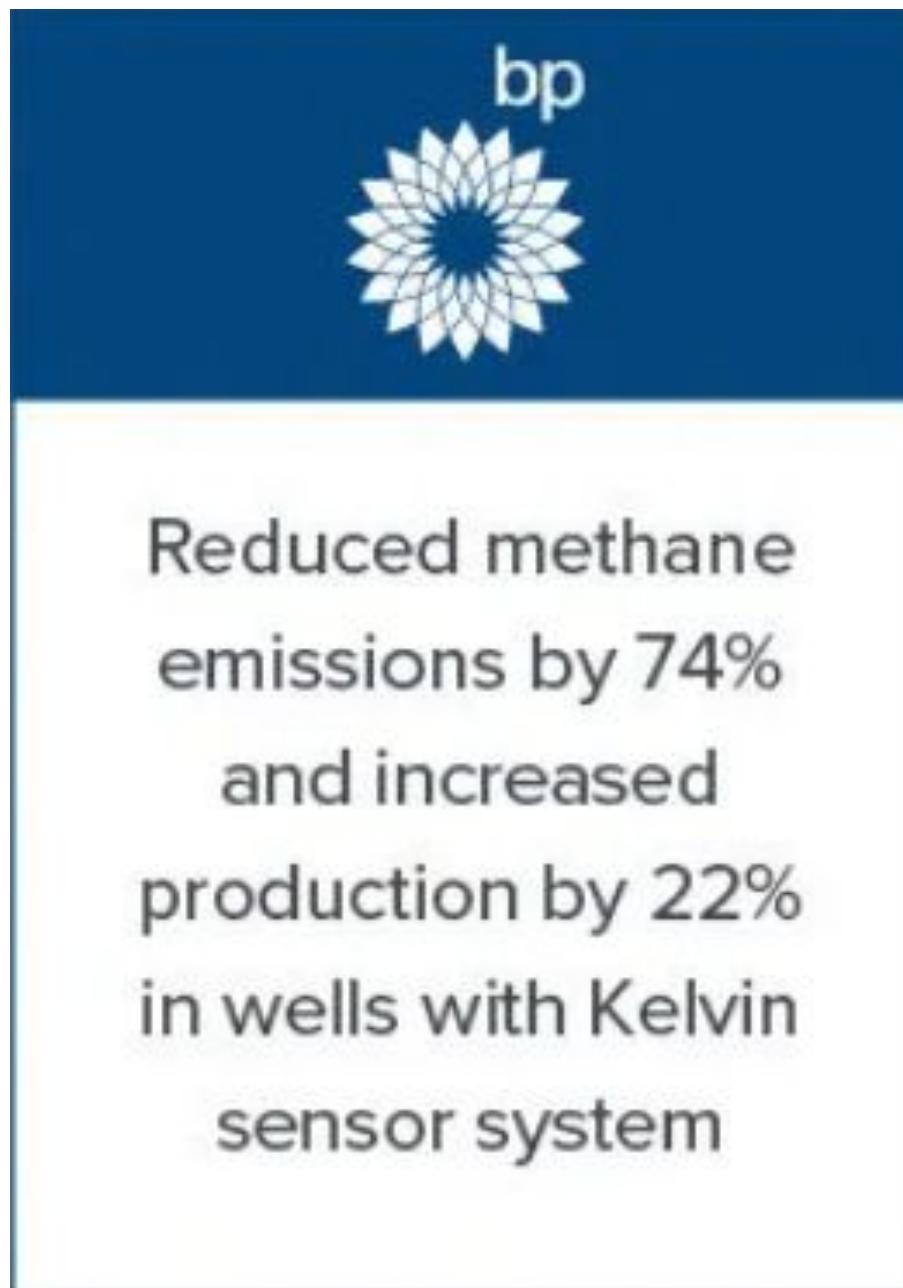
### Augmenting

Planners and Drivers frequent decision process (every day). Low impact on a given delivery although aggregation across the high number of deliveries.

### Outcome

Use Less fuel (KPI) by suggesting routes for each days deliveries.

Example: [UPS Route Optimization](#)



		Decision Making	
		Augment	Replace
Optimizing For ...	More	X Oil Produced	
	Less	X GHG	

		Decision Frequency	
		High	Low
Decision Impact	High	X	
	Low		

**Augmenting**  
 Oil field operators with “digital twin” simulations leading to optimizations of operational parameters (flow and pressure) across the large scale operations.

**Outcome**  
 Less GHG and higher production. (KPI)

Example: [BP's New Oilfield Roughneck Is An Algorithm](#)



Increased booking conversion rate by ~4% by modeling likelihood of host acceptance

		Decision Making	
		Augment	Replace
Optimizing For ...	More		X (rec)
	Less		

		Decision Frequency	
		High	Low
Decision Impact	High		
	Low	X (agg)	

## Outcome

More booking revenue (KPI) by recommending listings that are likely to accept the renter.  
Beware of ethical considerations of algorithmic bias!

## Replace

Replacing travel agent.  
Low impact on a given listing although aggregation across the high number of listings.

Example: [AirBnB Recommendation - increase booking revenue](#)

# NETFLIX

Generate more than 80% of content views through ML recommendation system

		Decision Making	
		Augment	Replace
Optimizing For ...	More		X (rec)
	Less		

		Decision Frequency	
		High	Low
Decision Impact	High		
	Low	X (agg)	

## Replacing

Search results based on user entered criteria. Low impact on a given search although aggregation across the high number of searches.

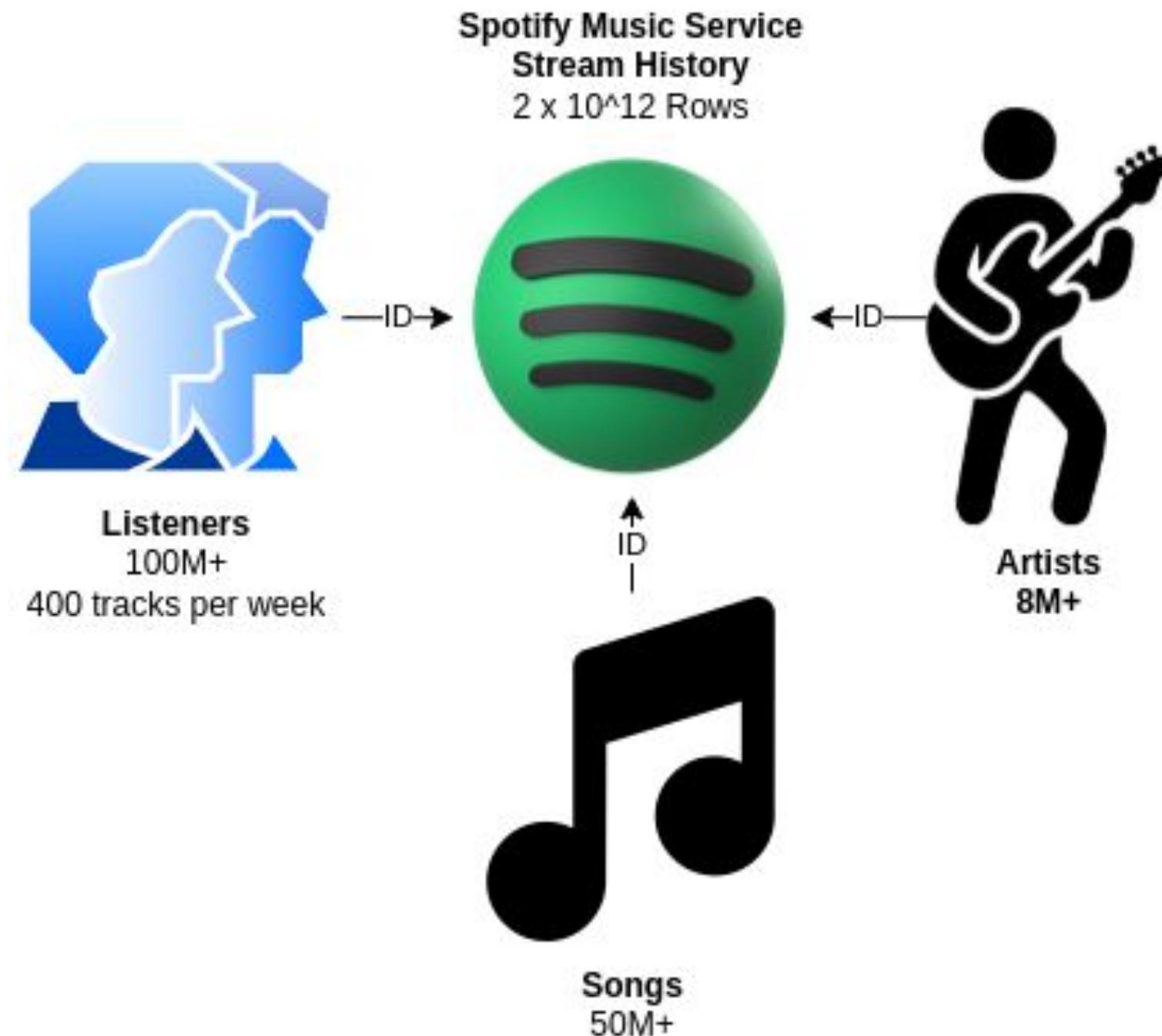
## Outcome

Increase engagement - watch time (KPI) by recommending movies.

Example: [Netflix Recommendation - 80% of views](#)

# A DATA & COMPUTE STORY

## How Spotify ran the largest Google Dataflow job ever for Wrapped 2019



```
SELECT
    L.UserName,
    A.ArtistName,
    S.Track,
    COUNT(1) as ListenCount
FROM Stream_History SH
JOIN Artists A on A.ID = SH.AID
JOIN Songs S on S.ID = SH.SID
JOIN Listeners L on L.ID = SH.LID
GROUP BY L.UserName, A.ArtistName, S.Track
ORDER BY ListenCount DESC
```

# Spotify Wrapped is a data-intensive application designed to:

		Decision Making	
		Augment	Replace
Optimizing For ...	More	X (engagement)	
	Less		

		Decision Frequency	
		High	Low
Decision Impact	High		X (agg)
	Low		

## Outcome

Strengthen emotional connections to the platform.

Drive business value through engagement, retention, and brand promotion.

## Augement

Increases the users self-awareness of their listening habits Analytics for the people.

# That's a Wrap!

Get going on your Labs!