

CAPSTONE DAY – OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF THE CAPSTONE

- Consolidate learning by building a small project.
- Encourage teamwork and creativity.
- Push the **accelerator** closer to production for at least one use case.

FORMAT & SCHEDULE

Suggested 3–4 hour structure:

1. Intro & recap (20–30 min)

- Remind everyone of Days 1–3.
- Clarify expectations and scoring (if any).

2. Team formation and project selection (20–30 min)

- 2–4 people per team.
- Pick or adapt a project idea (see project ideas file).

3. Build time (2–2.5 h)

- Implement a small but end-to-end solution.

4. Demos and feedback (30–60 min)

- 5–10 min per team.
- Explain goal, architecture, demo, lessons learned.

EXPECTATIONS FOR TEAMS

Teams should:

- Use both environments where possible (Ollama + watsonx).
- For a “production-ready” flavour, build on top of:
 - The accelerator service (API + tools + UI), and/or
 - RAG & governance notebooks from labs-src.

Produce:

- A working notebook or small service.
- A short explanation (slides or markdown) that covers:
 - Problem statement.
 - Architecture (how they used RAG, agents, orchestration).
 - Limitations and next steps.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (OPTIONAL)

If you choose to “score” or rank projects, consider:

- **Clarity of problem statement**
 - Is it clear what the assistant or system is trying to solve?
- **Technical implementation**
 - Does it run end-to-end?
 - Does it use RAG and/or agents in a meaningful way?
- **Use of workshop topics**
 - RAG (Day 2).
 - Orchestration / agents (Day 3).
 - Evaluation / governance (optional but encouraged).
- **Presentation & storytelling**
 - Is the demo easy to follow?
 - Do they reflect on what worked / didn’t?

DELIVERABLES

Each team should provide:

- A repo or folder (or branch) with:
 - Code / notebooks.
 - Instructions to run (README).
- A demo plan:
 - 2–3 main use cases to show.
 - Known limitations.

Optional:

- PRs or patches against accelerator (if your org uses a shared repo).

LINKING TO PROJECT IDEAS

You can reference the **Capstone Project Ideas** page for inspiration.

Highlight projects that explicitly:

- Extend `retriever.py`, `pipeline.py`, `eval_small.py`, `ui/app.py`.
- Combine the two environments (local vs watsonx).
- Include some governance / evaluation flavour.

Encourage teams to adapt scope to fit the available time.

SUGGESTED FACILITATION TIPS

- Keep teams small (2–4 people) so everyone can contribute.
- Encourage early “thin slice” demos:
 - Simple but working RAG / agent path first.
 - Add polish only if time allows.
- Have a floating “**help desk**” (one or two facilitators) for debugging.

The capstone is about **learning and collaboration**, not perfection.