DATALOGZ

AI
Readiness

July 2025

Is your BI Environment ready for AI?

The future is coming. Will you be ready for it?

We're one-quarter of the way through the 21st century, and already we've seen massive transformation in data and analytics.

In 2005, the era of big data arrived. Then, in 2015, the release of Microsoft Power BI ushered in the democratization of business intelligence.

In 2025, product roadmaps and marketing budgets are all signalling that AI will dominate the next decade, if not the rest of the century. Many of our brightest minds believe this revolution will dwarf the impact of any era that became before it.

But, amid all of the hype, it's important to remember that the future doesn't erase the past.

Each period of transformation builds on the last, and change is cyclical. Infrastructure, tools, workflows, and best practices aren't ripped out and replaced. Rather, components are swapped, refined, and calibrated to an organization's particular needs.

It is in this work that a vision of the future is filled in, until it becomes the living present.

In business intelligence, we've taken giant steps on the journey to self-service analytics over the last decade. Capabilities to gather, catalog, analyze, and visualize data have grown more powerful, and they are now in the hands of more users. The consumption layer has become the critical point where users interact with data, and data turns into data products.

There is more data, sitting in more tools, that are accessed by more people, to generate more reports and dashboards.

2005
Big Data

2015
Business Intelligence

2025
Artificial Intelligence

BI Sprawl is Already Holding BI Back

BI environments aren't ready for tomorrow, let alone what's coming next.

Inside the world's largest businesses, the truth is that data and analytics environments are drowning. Teams can't even keep up with the data coming in. That leaves them unable to address the issues that are discovered after the reports go out.

Amid this BI sprawl, the problems accumulate.

Duplicate BI reports create conflicting versions of the truth that leaves leaders unable to make a decision, and distrustful of using data.

Poor permissioning leads users to improperly access regulated data, causing compliance nightmares that no one saw coming.

Lacking capacity planning leads resource-intensive jobs to be performed unnecessarily during peak times, wasting compute and driving up costs.

There is a cost associated with every decision. This cost includes:

- *Employee time to access data and create reports.*
- *Compute to perform complex analysis.*
- *Infrastructure resources.*
- *Risk to expose data.*

BI sprawl eats up more of each these, creating hidden costs that chip away at the effectiveness of a data program.

The truth is that most organizations haven't achieved true self-serve analytics because we've lacked guardrails around BI environments that provide governance, security, and operational efficiency.

BI in the AI Era

Now comes AI.

In visions of the AI-fueled future of business intelligence that are typically presented, humans will be able to task machines to create reports and dashboards.

This means that AI models that are trained on a mixture of public and proprietary data will be able to use tools to analyze company data and create reports.

It's data in, and data out.

That means there will be even more data, accessed by more tools and more non-human users, creating more reports and dashboards.

Generative AI won't erase the consumption layer, and it won't end BI sprawl. Rather, it will give the sprawl more room to stretch out, and grow.

Governance, security, and operational efficiency will become more important, not less.

In data, we often say, Garbage in, Garbage out. That doesn't go away with AI.

Today, humans access data through BI tools to create reports that inform decisionmaking.

In the AI era, machines will access data to create reports that inform decisionmaking.

Machines will be able to reason and complete workflows. But they will not be able to identify discrepancies and exercise discretion in access and resource planning on their own. They will need guardrails.

Data in

Garbage in

Data out

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BI as an AI Differentiator

In the AI era, BI governance will be more important, not less. Data must be:

- *Accurate, up-to-date, and free of duplicates.* Machines are trained to generate reports, not catch discrepancies.

- *Permissioned* to control access for security and compliance. If AI is allowed access to a dataset, it will take it.

- *Operationally efficient.* AI is compute and infrastructure-intensive. Resources will be more in-demand, and capacity must be carefully monitored to prevent compute from spiraling.

Reports will also be more valuable. Proprietary data will become the fuel that makes a business' AI models superior to off-the-shelf varieties. To train these models, businesses will rely on BI reports and dashboards for data and analytics. Those must be a source of truth, with accurate and up-to-date information. Otherwise, the model may produce faulty information. This not only challenges trust in data and analytics, but all of the functions where AI is used.
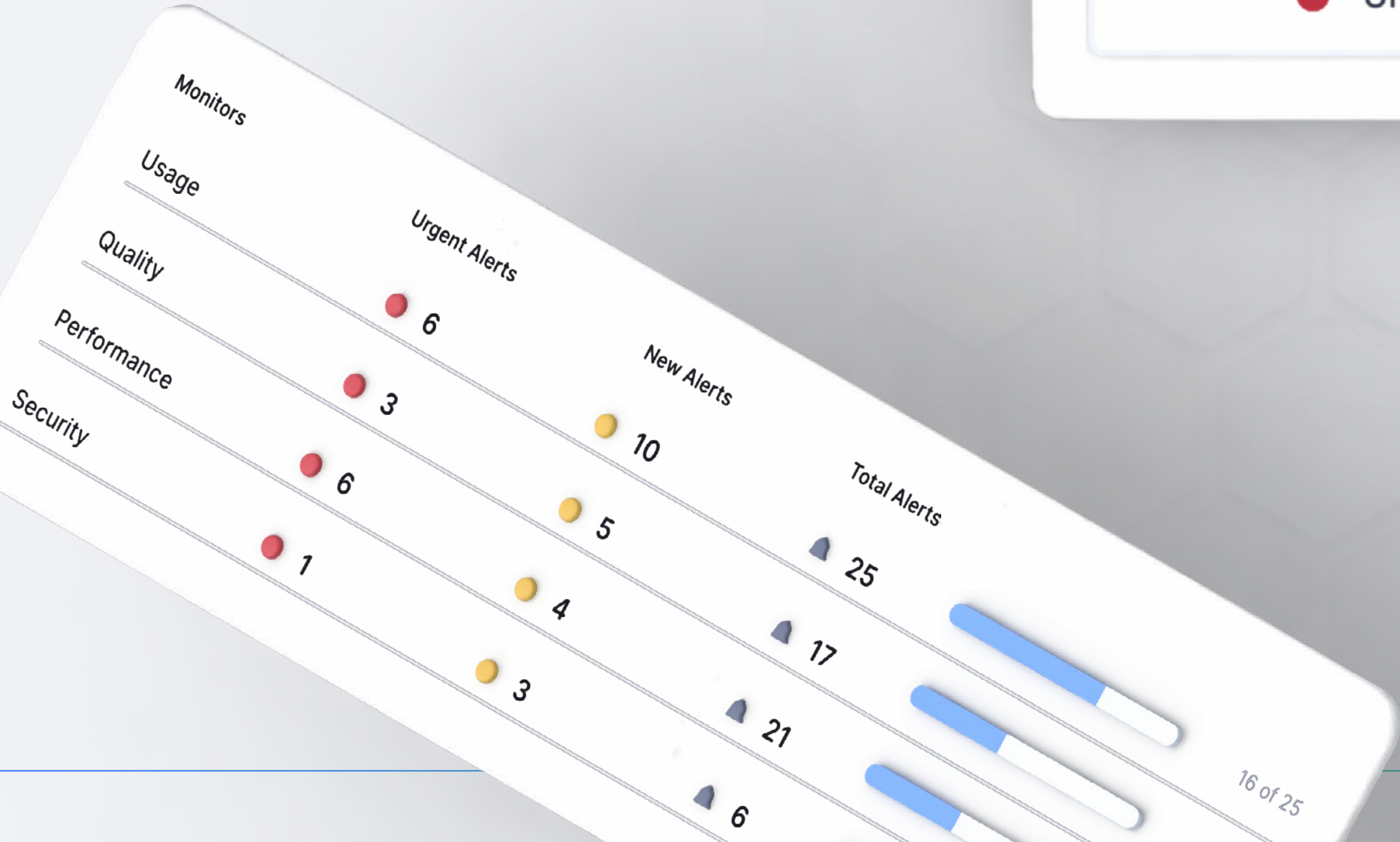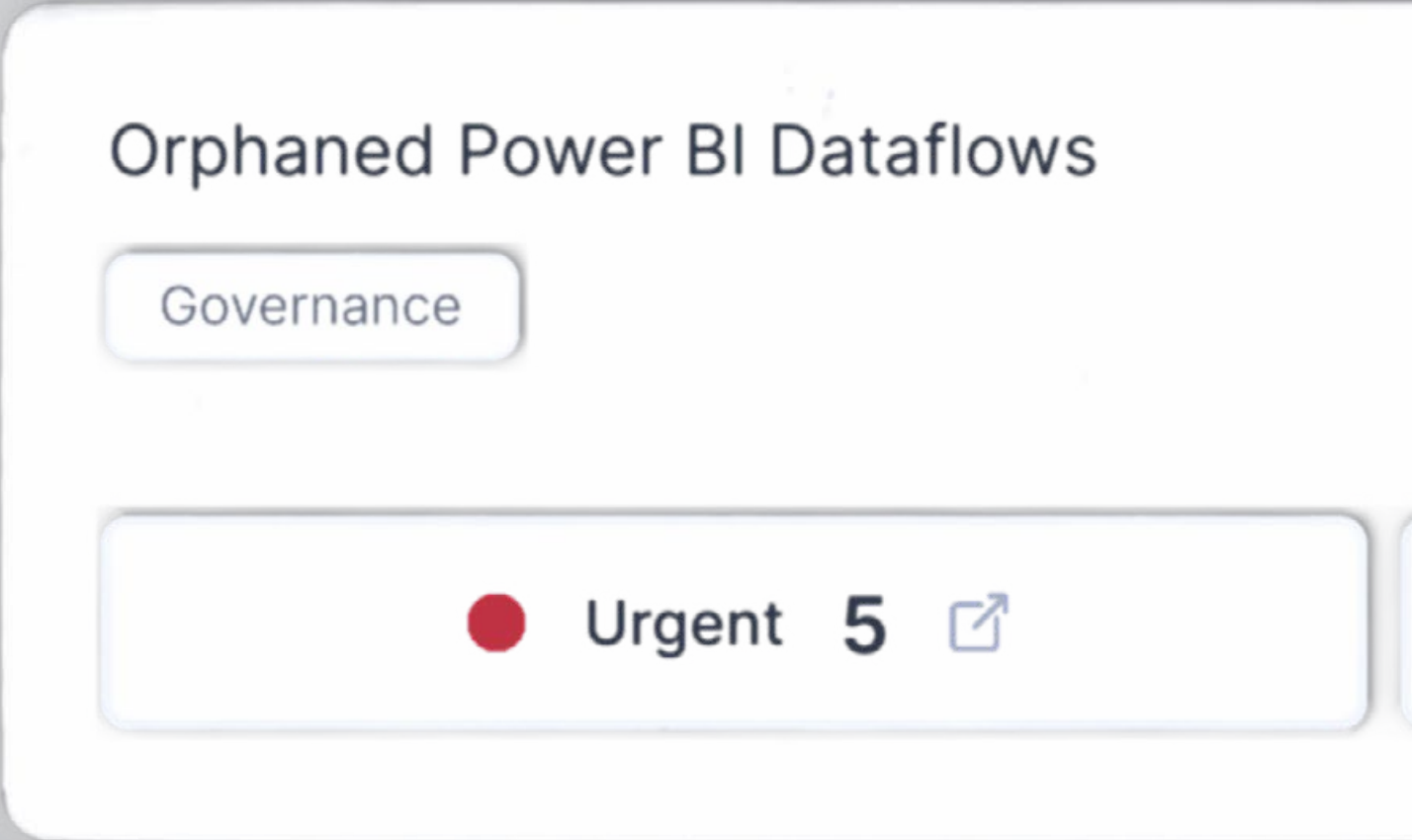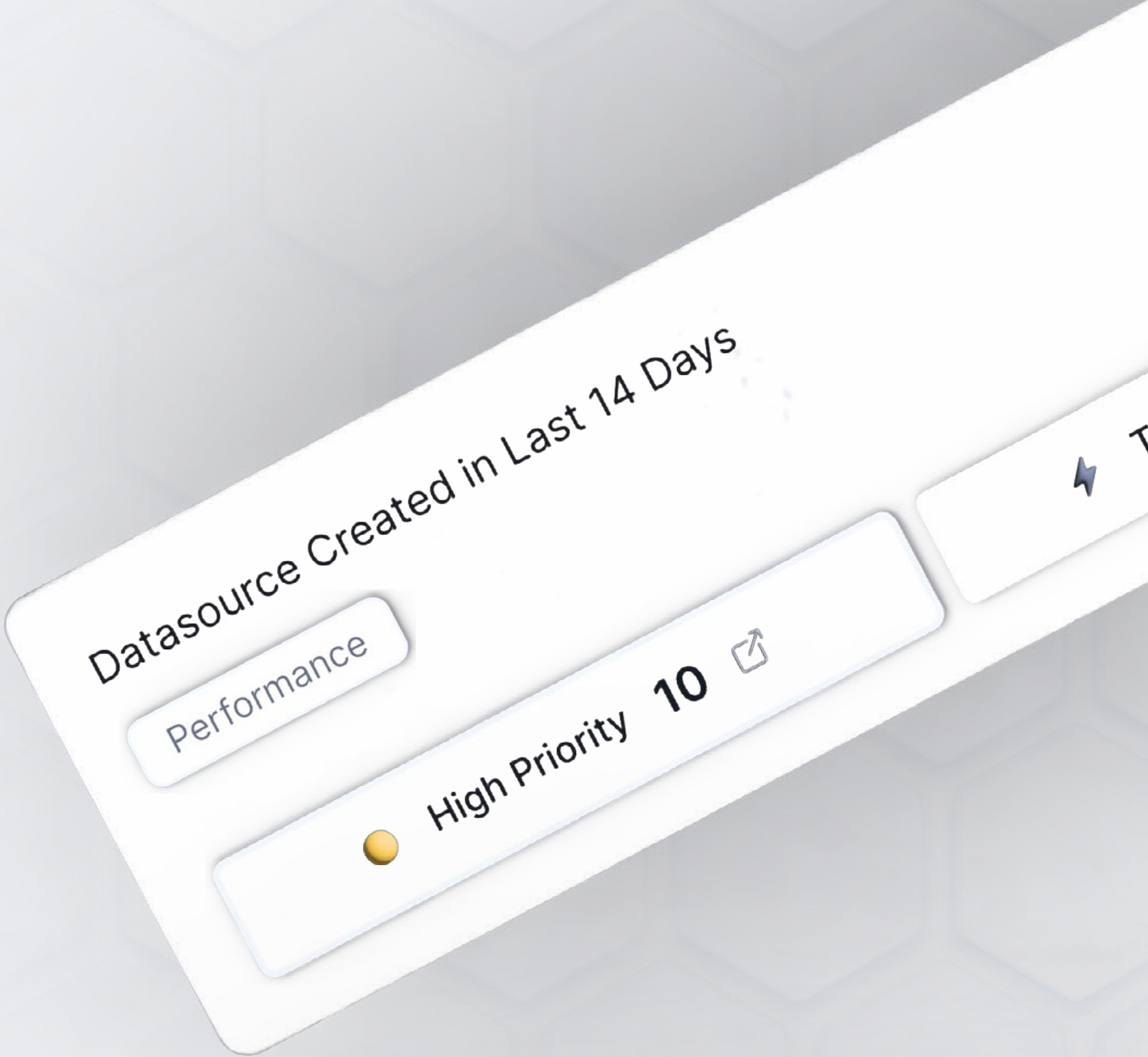
Always-on Monitoring

Today, data and analytics teams are playing whack-a-mole. Admins are stretched, and they are only catching issues as they are discovered, or reported. Most issues only get addressed one-at-a-time, or between larger jobs.

To achieve true governance, BI teams need to have always-on monitoring that:

- *Identifies discrepancies in real-time.*
- *Alerts teams to issues.*
- *Provides recommendations to fix them.*

In the AI era, BI will be an always-on function. After all, machines don't need as many breaks as humans, and they will be able to work faster and in greater volume.

That means always-on governance will become more important. You'll no longer be able to depend on people to catch discrepancies. Automated report generation will require automated monitoring. Otherwise, issues will go undetected, and even more will pile up. Making matters worse, you won't be able to make a plan to fix them.

Datasource Created in Last 14 Days

Performance

High Priority **10**

Orphaned Power BI Dataflows

Governance

● Urgent **5**

Monitors

Usage
Quality
Performance
Security

Urgent Alerts
● 6
● 3
● 6
● 1

New Alerts
10
5
4
3

Total Alerts
25
17
21
6

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Proactive BI Governance for AI

Those who are prepared for the future are best positioned to capitalize when it arrives.

Today, businesses are looking forward to identifying which tools, infrastructure and resources will enable them to leverage AI to increase productivity and gain a competitive advantage.

But they can't forget the data that they already have. It will be foundational to the success of AI, and it must have guardrails around it.

Clean.

Secure.

Operationally Efficient.

Monitored.

The current momentum around AI is an opportunity to shift to proactive BI Ops. Poor governance is already holding back data programs. That will only become more true. AI won't replace BI, and it won't prevent the need for BI governance.

The good news is that it's not too late. You can start today.

The time to prepare for the future is now.

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Stay Tuned for More!

We are incredibly excited to be developing BI Similarity monitors. This isn't just another monitoring feature; it's a powerful, proactive capability designed to address the root cause of BI sprawl. These specialized monitors will empower you to identify similarities across your BI landscape before redundant reports become embedded problems. Imagine the ability to drill down into potential overlaps early in the development life cycle, highlighting similarities and preventing inconsistencies from gaining traction. This innovation will fundamentally change how you manage BI, allowing you to move beyond reactive cleanup and proactively build a cleaner, more efficient, and trustworthy data environment.

Want to be among the first to know when BI Similarity monitors are available and learn more about how they can transform your organization?

Visit **datalogz.io/book** to book a demo!