

Data lineage platform evaluation scorecard

Score every vendor against the four criteria that decide which platform can anchor your AI stack.

Lineage is now table stakes. Every catalog, governance suite, and pipeline tool claims it, so a feature list will not tell you which platform can hold its role once AI changes your data faster than people can track it. Score each vendor against the four criteria below, and weight the checks a generic platform cannot fake.

HOW TO SCORE

- ☐ Write **0, 1, or 2** in the box beside each check. 0 = no, or undocumented. 1 = partial. 2 = yes, demonstrated on your own data.
- ☐ Add up each section in the box below it, then carry the four subtotals to **Your total score** on page 2.
- ☐ A platform that scores well on **every** criterion can serve as the trusted-data layer of your AI stack. A high total carried by one strong area still leaves a blind spot exactly where the risk hides.

THE FOUR CRITERIA

1 Complete lineage, end to end

Can it follow a value across the whole data estate, at the column level, even where a scanner cannot reach?

- End-to-end coverage across hybrid, multi-cloud, and legacy systems ☐
- Column and attribute-level lineage, not only table-level ☐
- Automated capture plus modeling for systems a scanner cannot read ☐
- A visual lineage map an analyst can explore and extend ☐
- One trace from source through transformation to the consuming report or model ☐

PROVE IT: Trace one critical data element across a system your scanner cannot read. Does the full path appear?

Add up your scores for this section / 10

2 Business context, not just technical flows

Does it link technical flows to meaning, ownership, and the rule that governs them?

- Ownership and accountability captured for each data element ☐
- Regulatory and policy tags (BCBS 239, DORA, EU AI Act, GDPR) ☐
- Risk ratings and SLAs linked to the lineage ☐
- Business process and glossary terms linked to the technical path ☐

PROVE IT: Take one field feeding an AI model. Show its business process, owner, and governing regulation in a single view.

Add up your scores for this section / 8

THE FOUR CRITERIA · CONTINUED

3 Active lineage that keeps itself current

When AI changes the data, can the platform keep up and keep every change reviewable?

- Agents that author and edit the lineage model, not only read it ☐
- Point-in-time, bi-temporal comparison of any two states ☐
- A propose-change sandbox to model impact before production ☐
- Git-like review of changes — compare, approve, revert — with human-in-the-loop ☐
- Proactive alerts before a change breaks a downstream report ☐

PROVE IT: Have an agent change the lineage, then review and roll it back. Can you see what changed and undo it?

Add up your scores for this section ☐ / 10

4 Focus and foundation

Is lineage the vendor's identity, or one module in a broad suite?

- Lineage is the vendor's core product, not one module in a suite ☐
- Integrates with runtime AI-governance tools rather than replacing them ☐
- Proven depth at enterprise scale, with named references ☐
- Honest scope, not a claim to be the whole AI-governance platform ☐

PROVE IT: Name two enterprise references at your scale, and the runtime AI-governance tools the platform integrates with rather than replaces.

Add up your scores for this section ☐ / 8

YOUR TOTAL SCORE

1. COMPLETE LINEAGE

☐ / 10

2. BUSINESS CONTEXT

☐ / 8

3. ACTIVE LINEAGE

☐ / 10

4. FOCUS & FOUNDATION

☐ / 8

TOTAL

☐ / 36

READING YOUR SCORES

Per criterion

10-point: 8–10 strong · 4–7 partial · under 4 weak
8-point: 7–8 strong · 4–6 partial · under 4 weak

Out of 36

29 and above: serves as your trusted-data layer on its own
18–28: covers some criteria, sends you elsewhere for the rest
Under 18: lineage is a feature inside another product

Check the floor, not just the total. Any criterion scoring under 4 is a blind spot whatever the total says. A platform at 32 with one criterion at 3 carries more risk than one at 28 scored evenly.

PUT YOUR FINALISTS TO THE TEST

Score your shortlist, then put your top two through the active-lineage test on your own data.

Ask to watch an agent change the lineage and roll it back, and trace one critical data element across a system the scanner cannot read.

[Book a Solidatus demo to run both tests on your environment →](#)