

1. Cloud Foundation

- Confirm landing zone architecture (Azure/AWS) with network segmentation
- Enforce Terraform IaC controls and approval workflows

2. Security Baseline

- AES-256 at rest and in transit
- Zero-Trust IAM with least privilege and rotation policy
- VPC isolation for AI and critical workloads

3. Delivery Reliability

- CI/CD quality gates with rollback strategy
- SLO/SLA mapping and 4-hour critical incident response

4. AI Governance

- Human-in-the-loop checkpoints for high-risk automations
- Model usage logging, prompt audit trails, and escalation controls
- EU AI Act (2026) alignment review

5. Ownership & Compliance

- IP ownership clauses for all deliverables
- GDPR/CCPA data inventory and retention mapping

Use this checklist in your architecture audit to prioritize low-risk modernization steps.