

# Real-Time AI

## Opportunities and Challenges

---

**Sharon Richardson** <[sharon.richardson@databricks.com](mailto:sharon.richardson@databricks.com)>  
Data & AI Strategist, Databricks

15 June 2022



# Databricks

## The Data & AI company

Inventor and pioneer of the **data lakehouse** - cloud-based data analytics and AI on a single platform

Gartner recognized leader in both

- Database Management Systems
- Data Science and Machine Learning Platforms

Creator of popular OSS data projects: Delta Lake, Apache Spark, and MLflow

Raised over \$3B in investment

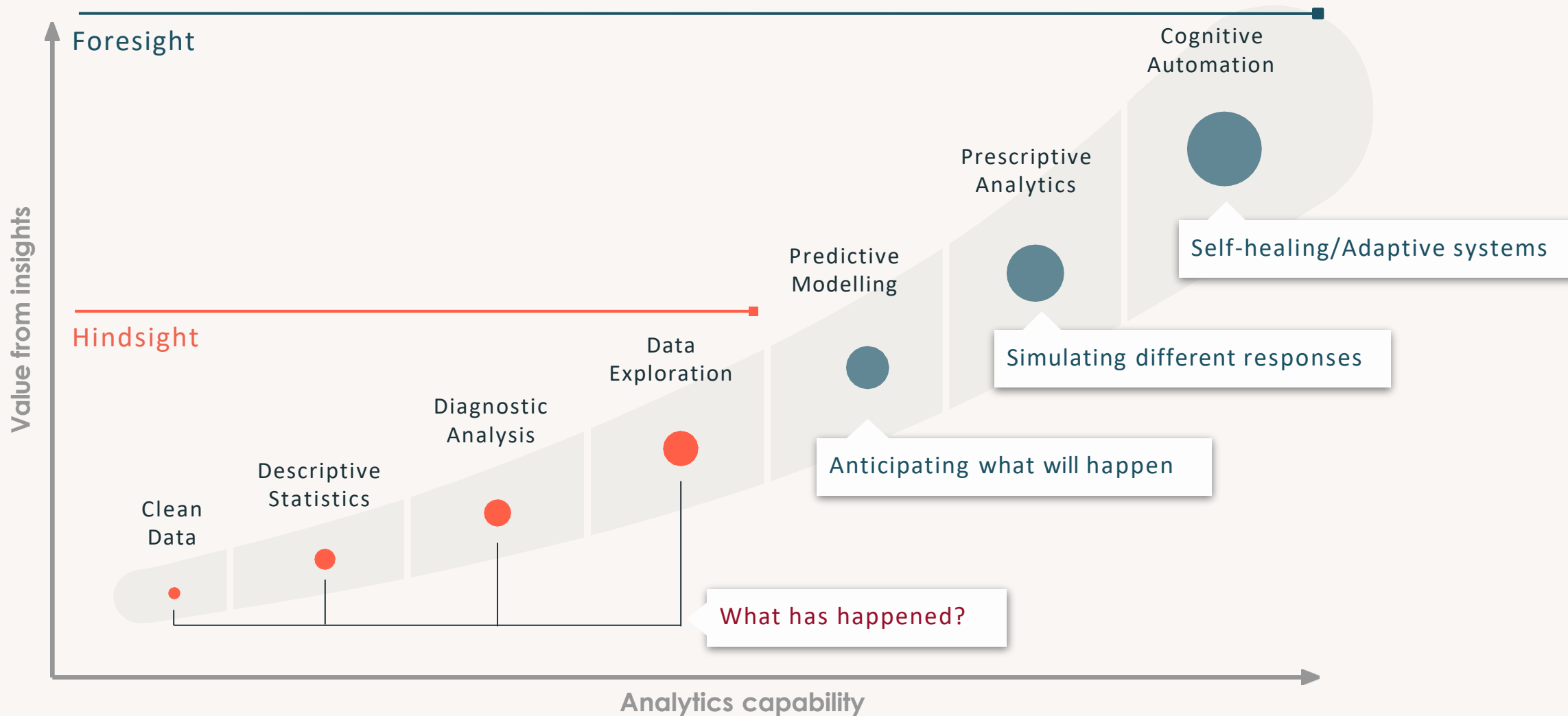
3000+ employees across the globe

## Global adoption

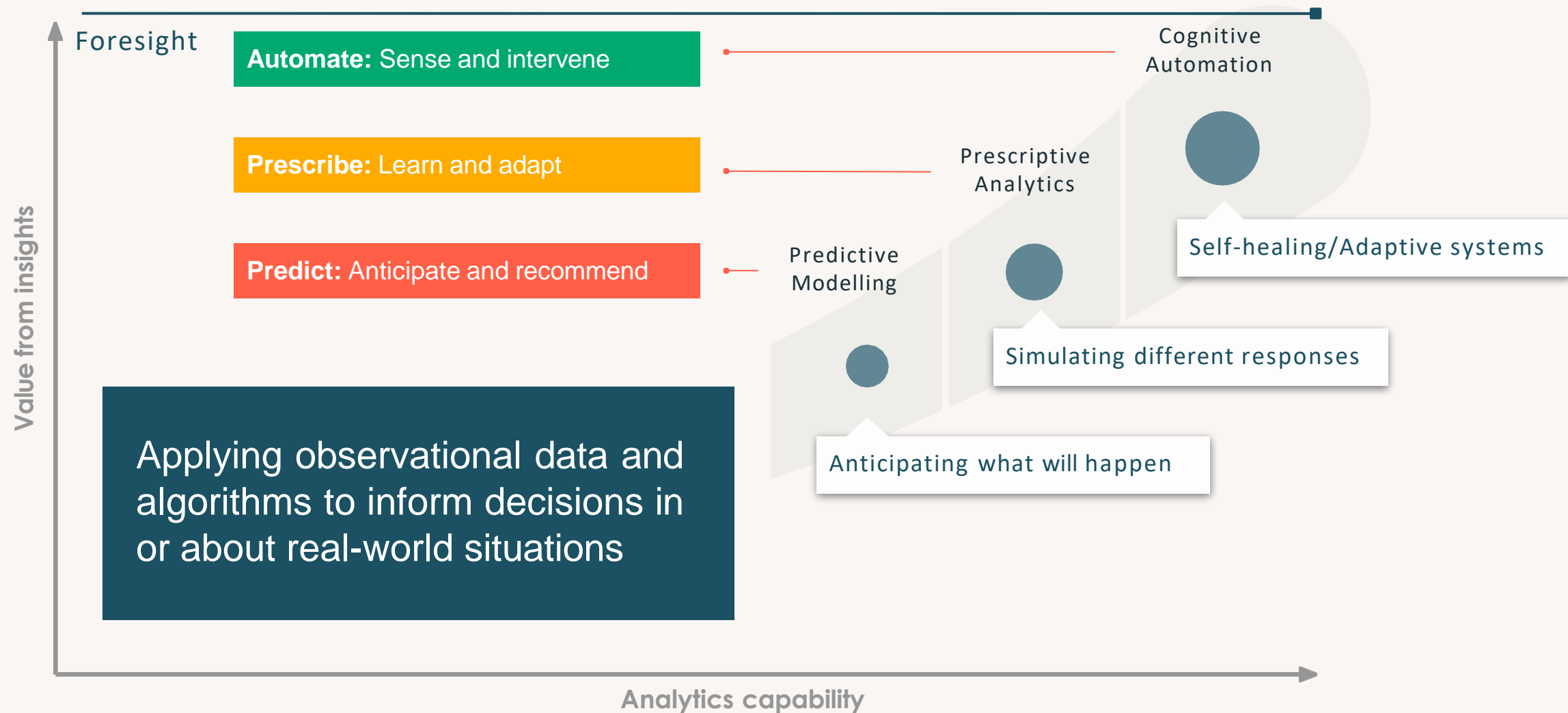
Over 6000 customers, from F500 to unicorns



# Data & AI Maturity Curve

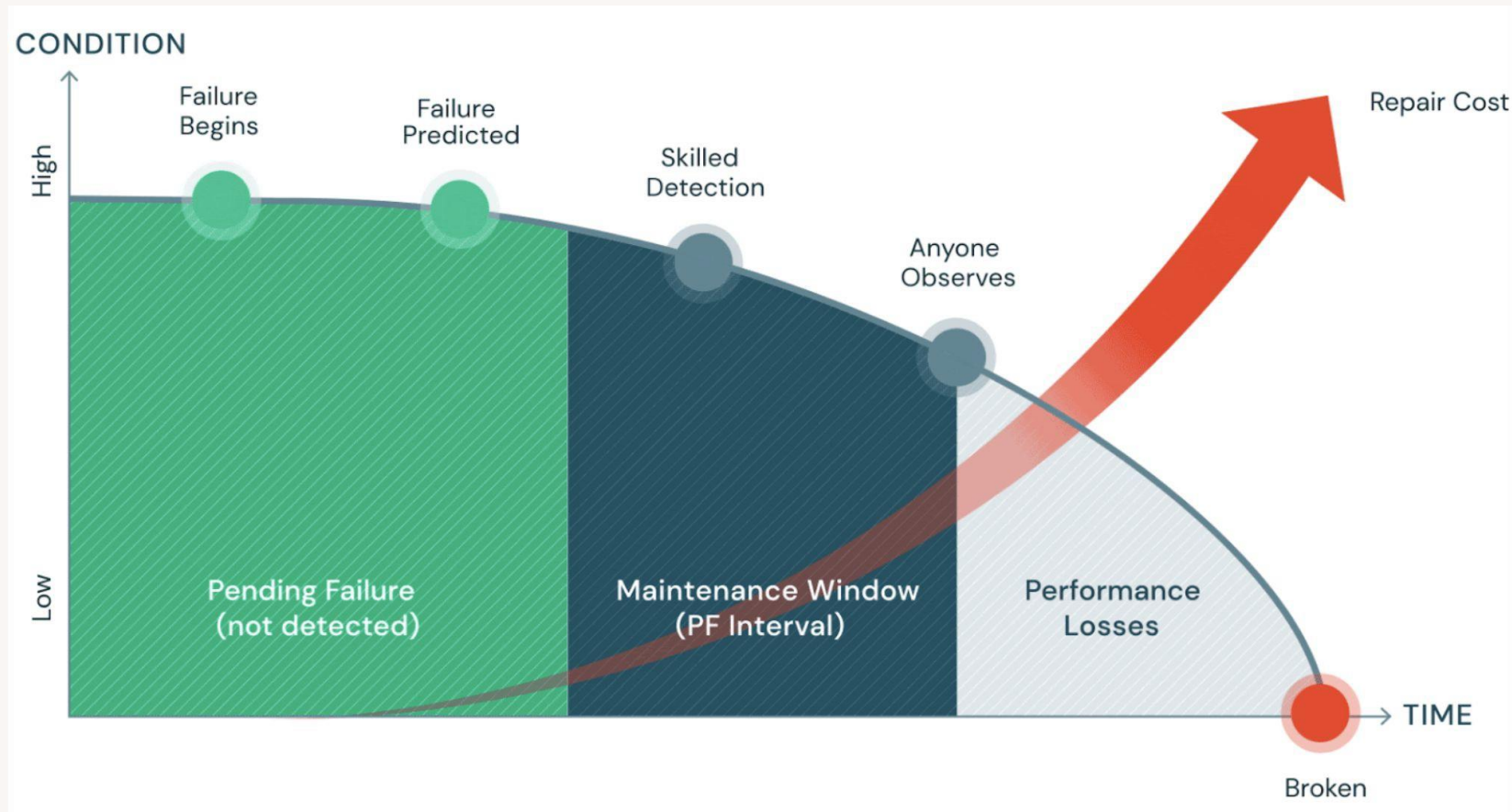


# The Potential of Real-Time AI



# Predict

Detect anomalies and anticipate failures before they are visible



## Requires

- ML model built on training data and streaming IoT sensor

## Scenarios

- Equipment maintenance
- Production monitoring

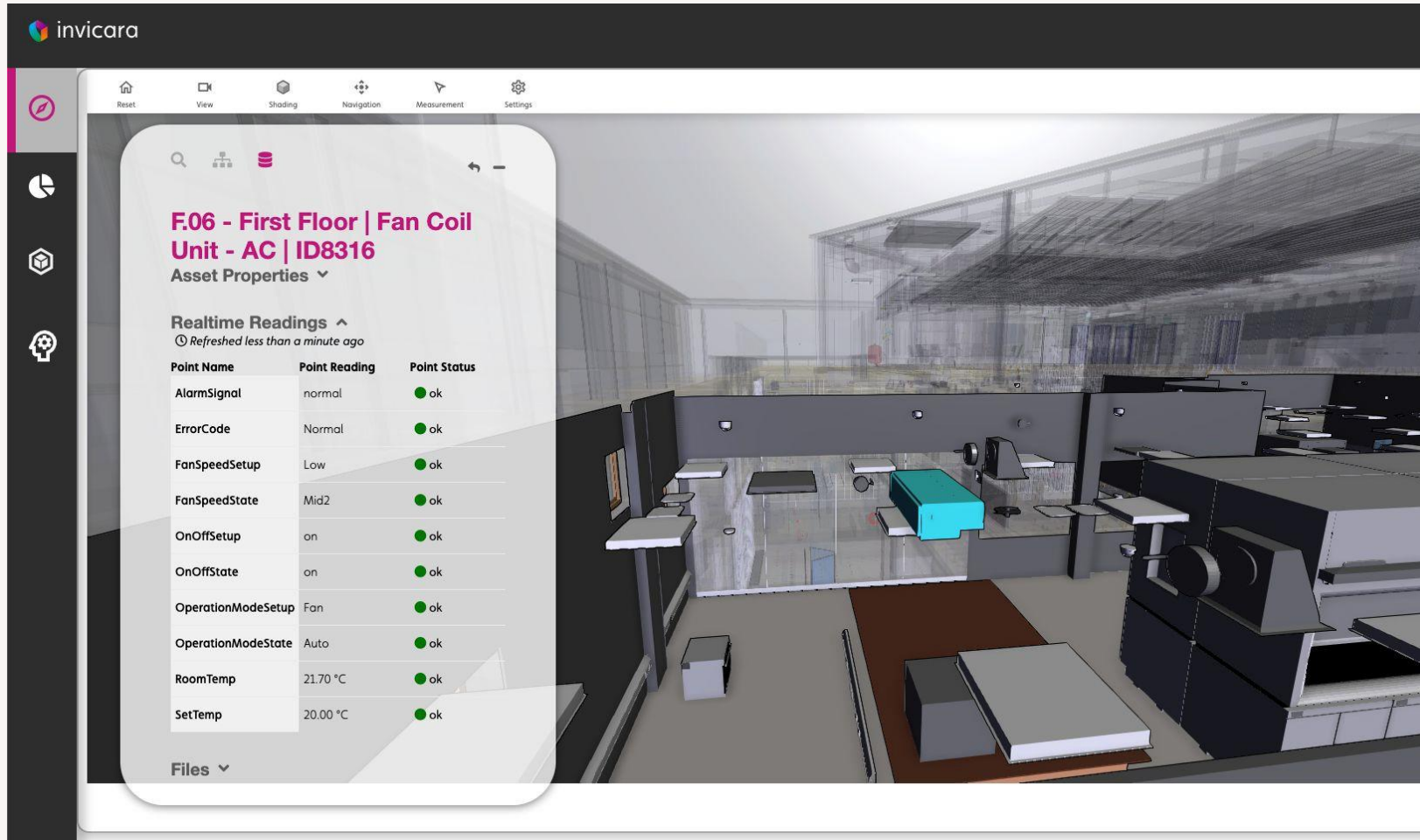
## Benefits

- Reduce waste
- Reduce risk
- Increase quality

Image source: <https://databricks.com/solutions#by-industry>

# Prescribe

Evaluate and simulate based on real-world observations



## Requires

- Spatial data, IoT data and BIM tools

## Scenarios

- Digital twins: Holistic systems monitoring
- Low-cost prototyping
- Complex construction sequencing

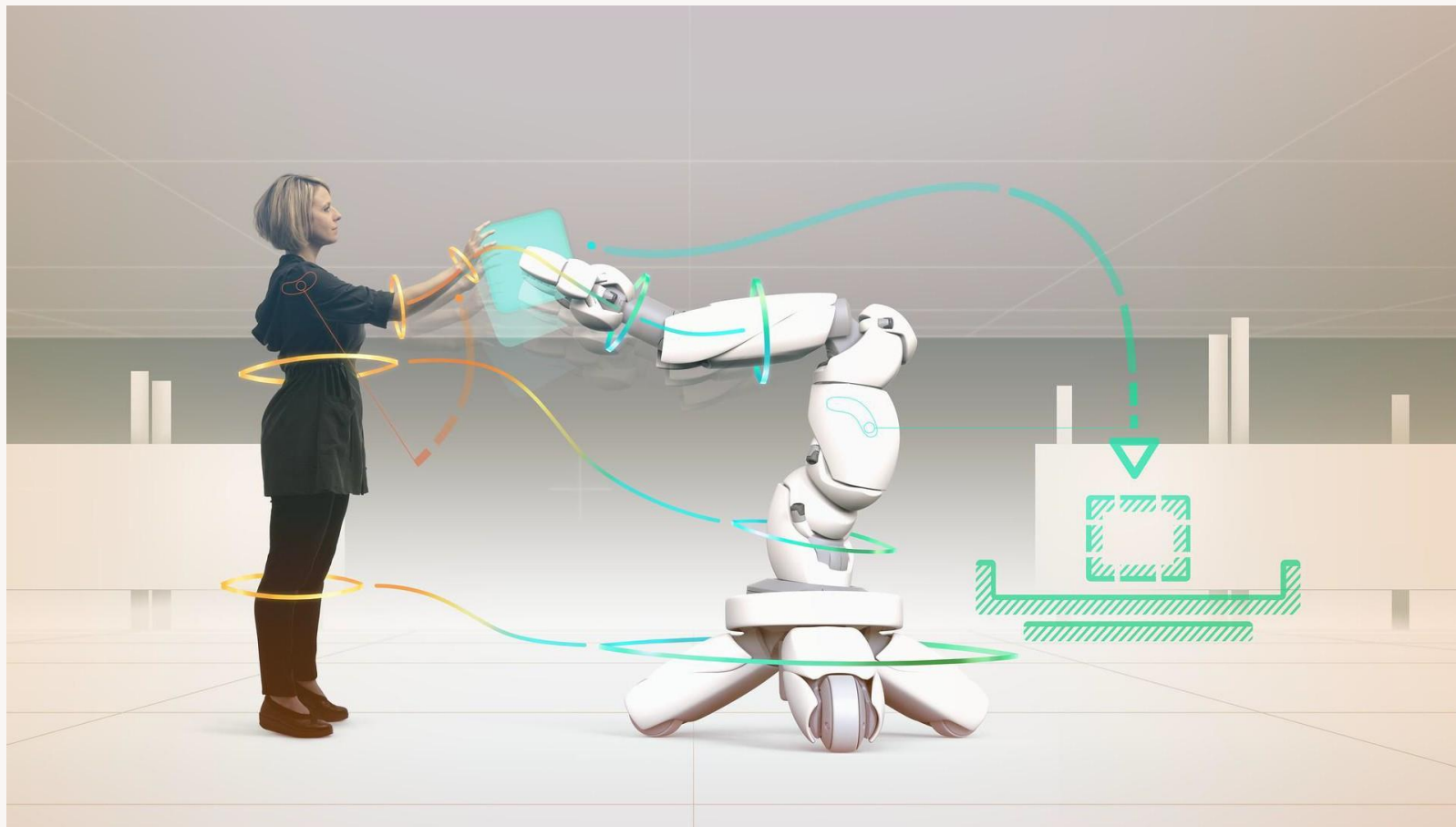
## Benefits

- Optimise resources
- Innovate without material waste



# Automate

Adapt to uncertain and changeable conditions



## Requires

- Pervasive sensors and real-time analytics

## Scenarios

- Intelligent supply chain
- Industrial athletes
- Cobots

## Benefits

- Accelerate processes
- Increase productivity
- Increase safety

Image: <https://flic.kr/p/2h7GZ5j> (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

# AI trends



# Accelerating breakthroughs

2014:



<https://xkcd.com/1425> published 24 Sept 2014

2015:



<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/blog/microsoft-researchers-algorithm-sets-imagenet-challenge-milestone/> published 10 February 2015



# Modern AI timeline

DeepMind AlphaGo Zero beats  
#1 world-ranked human player

Transformer language model (LM)  
proposed by Vaswani et al

Microsoft computer vision outperforms  
humans in ImageNet classification

DeepMind AlphaGo wins Go  
game against human champion

Google launches TensorFlow (open source NN library)  
and Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)

AI able to recognise and classify high-res  
images (ImageNet) using deep learning

IBM Watson wins Jeopardy game  
against human champions

GPU for deep learning  
paper by Raina et al

Deep Learning paper  
by Hinton et al

AlphaFold placed 1st at first attempt in CASP  
protein folding competition, **average score 58.9%**

AWS launches first Graviton processors

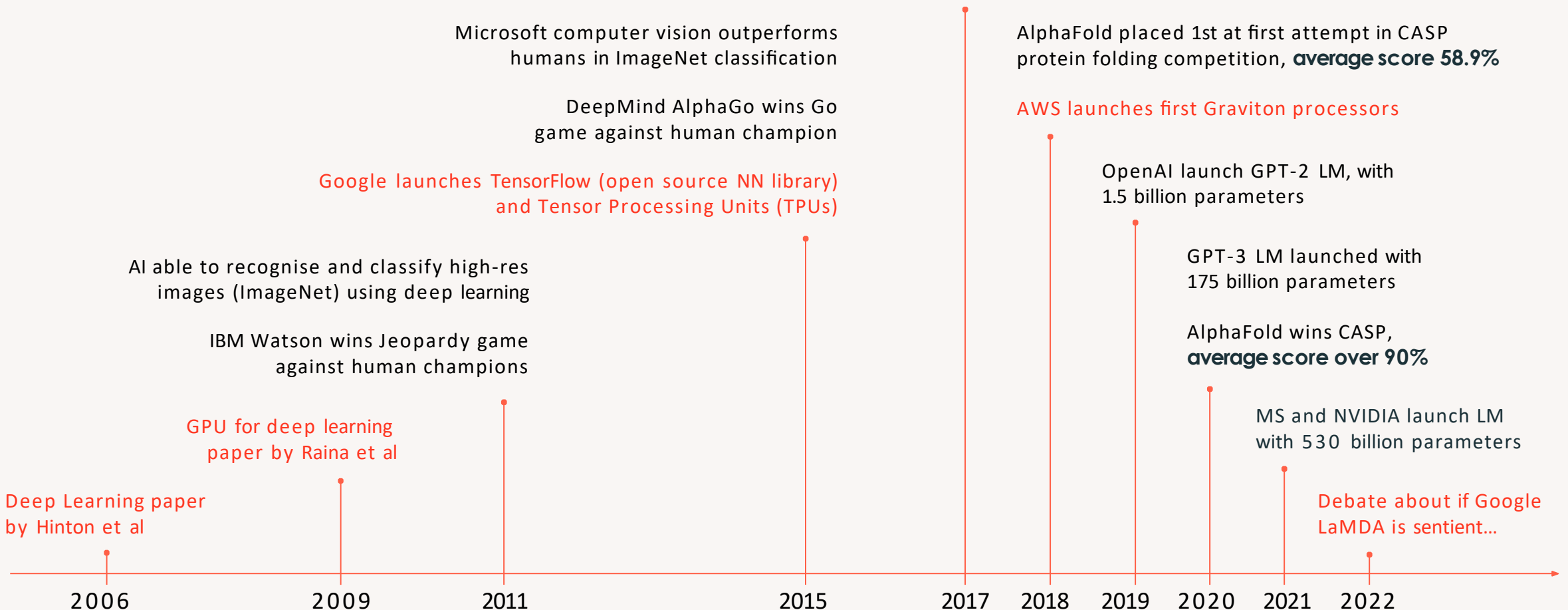
OpenAI launch GPT-2 LM, with  
1.5 billion parameters

GPT-3 LM launched with  
175 billion parameters

AlphaFold wins CASP,  
**average score over 90%**

MS and NVIDIA launch LM  
with 530 billion parameters

Debate about if Google  
LaMDA is sentient...



# Four factors driving the AI economy

## 1. Data

'Big Data' (aka real-world evidence)  
underpinning the training of modern AI

Data becoming a demand factor for AI -  
using AI to make sense of the data

## 2. Processing power and the cloud

Hardware tailored for AI: microprocessors,  
graphics processing units (GPUs)

Cloud platforms providing infinitely scalable  
storage and elastic processing power

## 3. New algorithm types

Mathematical approaches to improve  
explainability and causality

Computational discoveries enabling human  
and super-human capabilities

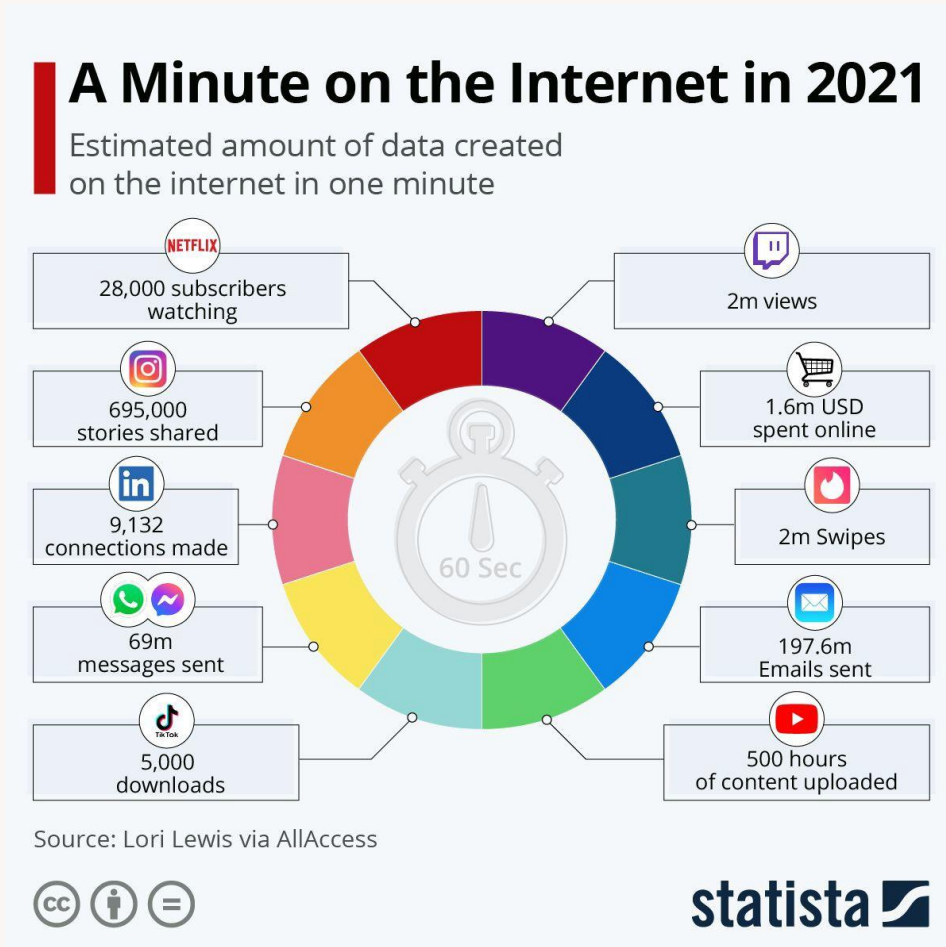
## 4. Socio-political factors

Geo-political differences in approaches to data  
privacy, and funding and controlling AI research

Social and cultural expectations for ethical,  
responsible and sustainable AI

# 'Big Data' = real-world evidence

Who owns the data?



- **Volume**: massive scale, infinite growth
- **Velocity**: rate of capture, propagation (and decay)
- **Variety**: diverse range of types and formats
- **Veracity**: level of trust in authenticity, accuracy
- **Virtue**: responsible, ethical, representative, fair?
- **Value**: is it useful? For how long?

# Using AI to make sense of the data

AutoML - rapid, simplified machine learning

## Quick-start initiatives

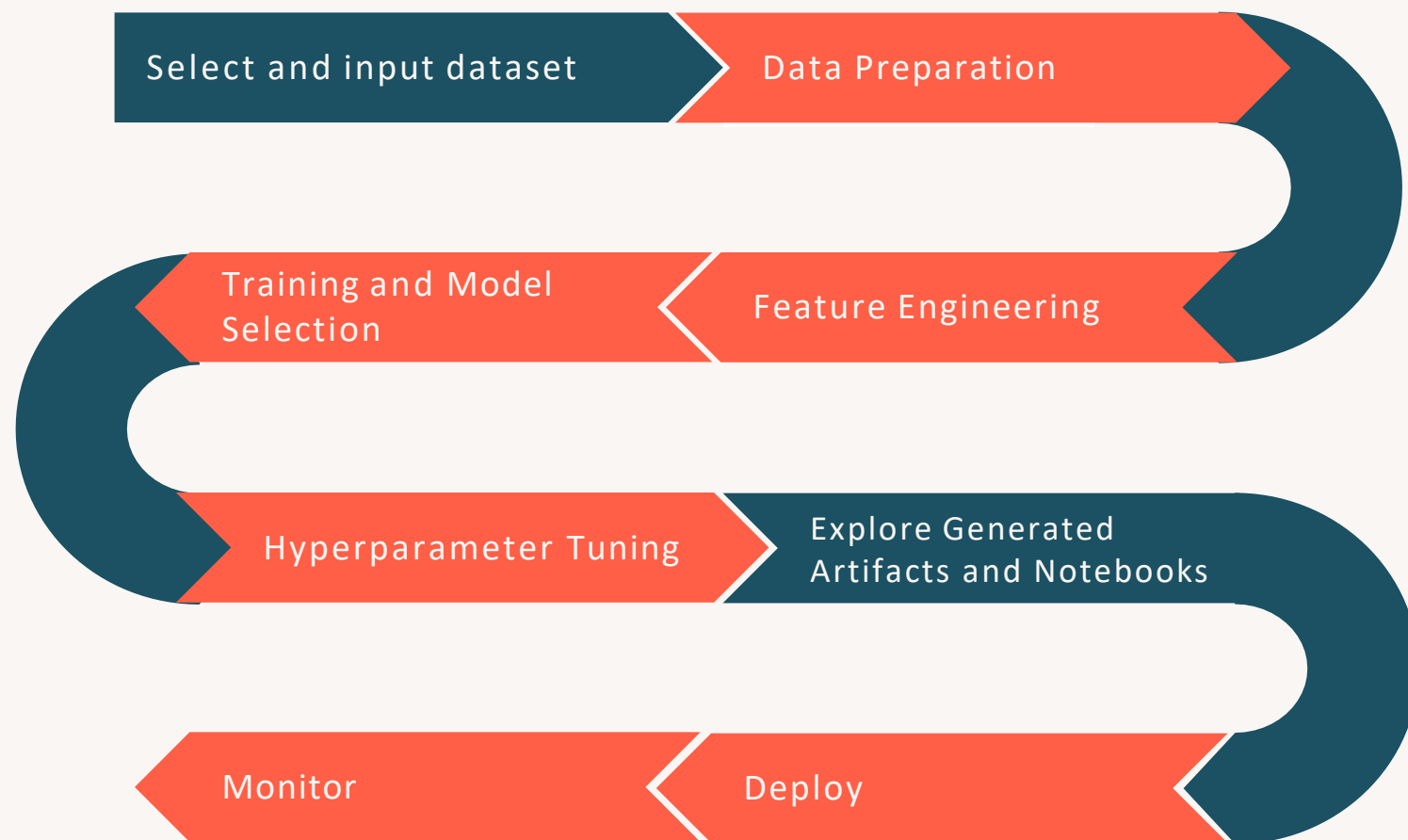
Accelerate time to production, Save weeks on ML projects

## Auto-generated notebooks

Customize baseline models with domain expertise.

## Wide range of problems

Solve classification, regression, and forecasting problems



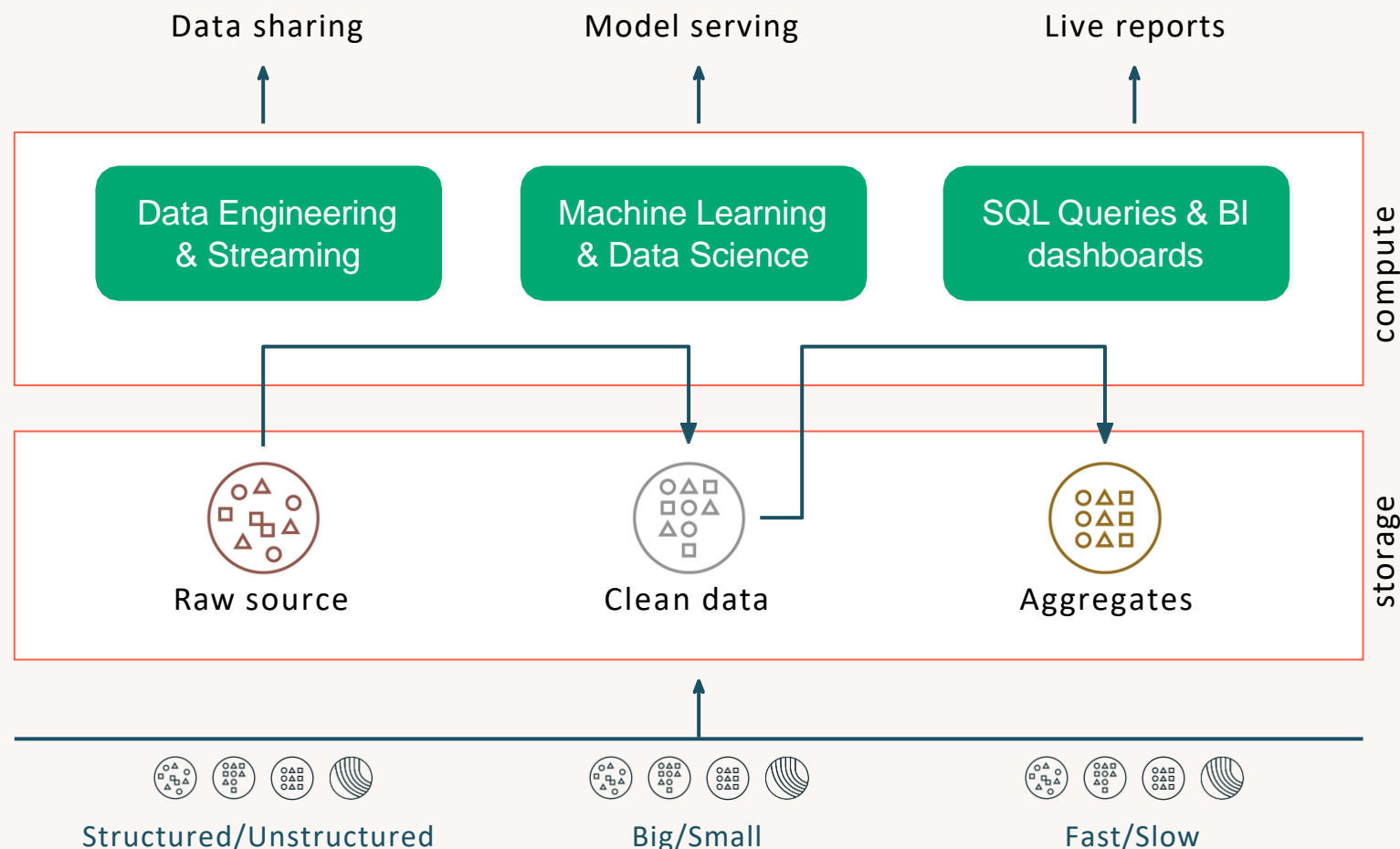
# Processing power and the cloud

Infinite scalability in storage and elasticity in compute

Open standards and protocols for interoperability across all use cases

Elastic, auto-scaling compute  
Unified collaborative environment  
serving all data personas

Low-cost scalable storage  
Single source of truth







Colas uses Databricks to reduce energy consumption and optimize asset efficiency.

## Use Case

- Unite hundreds of subsidiaries across 50 countries and create a data-led organization to support various use cases from asset management to procurement
- Highly decentralized organization created challenges around access of a variety of data across sources

## Why Databricks?

- Unified platform manages vast data volumes across subsidiaries and delivers high value use cases leveraging analytics and ML
- Enables Cola's architecture, BI and data science teams to collaborate efficiently, critical during the COVID-19 pandemic

## Impact

- **Reduced time to market** for new ML use cases
- **2 weeks to deliver a solution** that allowed management to monitor the reopening of construction sites disrupted by COVID-19

Source:  
<https://databricks.com/customers/colas>

# Socio-political factors

Challenges applying AI in real-world situations

- Compliance with regulations
- Ethical and responsible AI
- Representative and FAIR data
- Privacy and trust issues
- Audit trail from data to decision
- Regional differences in data handling
- Inertia in business processes

Innovations in data and ML operations will become as important as data capture and model building

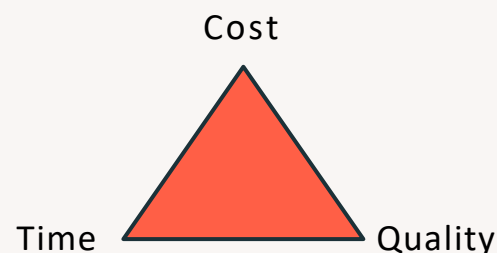
# Real-time AI and Build Digital



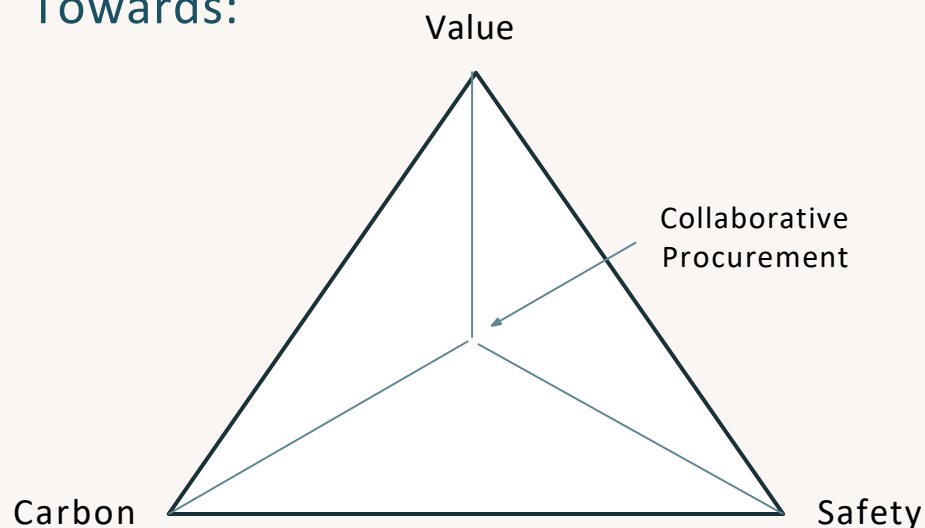
Rialtas na  
hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

From:



Towards:



	Predict	Prescribe	Automate
Value	Increase efficiency	Increase quality	Increase productivity
Carbon	Optimise use of resources	Digital prototyping & simulation	Reduce friction from processes
Safety	Anticipate when reach threshold	Non-invasive testing of thresholds	Rapid and proactive intervention



# DATA+AI SUMMIT 2022

HYBRID | JUNE 27-30, 2022

## Building the modern data stack on the data lakehouse

The world's largest data and AI conference returns live, to San Francisco and virtually in our new hybrid format. Four days packed with keynotes by industry visionaries, technical sessions, hands-on training and networking opportunities.

- Hear from data and AI thought leaders about latest trends and innovations, including Apache Spark, Delta Lake, MLflow, TensorFlow, dbt and many others.
- See how others are applying the data lakehouse paradigm to unify data, analytics, and AI on one platform
- Take advantage of a full range of hands-on training workshops

Organized by



[Register Now](#)





*Thank you!*

**Sharon Richardson** [<sharon.richardson@databricks.com>](mailto:sharon.richardson@databricks.com)

