

Domain Methods

Build or Buy Data Decision Matrix

Use this worksheet to score Build vs Buy vs Outside Help for one spec

1. Name the operating problem
 - What decision or workflow is failing?
 - What is the real business consequence?

2. Weight the criteria (1-3)
 - Business-context fit
 - Internal capacity
 - Time pressure
 - Maintenance burden
 - Workflow adoption
 - Implementation risk

3. Score each option (1-5)
 - Build internally
 - Buy software
 - Outside help

Multiply weight x score for each column and total the result.

Interpretation prompts

Build tends to win when the capability is durable, company-specific, and realistic for your team to own after implementation.

Buy tends to win when the workflow is standardized, the tool reduces maintenance, and adoption is clearer than custom build value.

Outside help tends to win when the ask is still fuzzy, the team is overloaded, or a short bridge is smarter than premature headcount/tool

Bias check

- Lower outside-help scores on ownership and maintenance.
- Lower build scores on speed and capacity if the team is stretched thin.
- Lower buy scores if definitions and workflow are still unclear.

Recommended next step

Write one sentence: what is the smallest credible next move?

If the ask is still unclear: [/services/translate-the-ask](#)

If the blocker is architectural trust debt: [/services/data-foundation](#)