Category

Data & AI

Data Literacy for Board Committees (Audit, Risk, ESG) Playbook

Giving board committee members enough data fluency to provide genuine oversight, not just receive reports

- Executive
- Intermediate
- Template Included

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- 4 minute(s)

Overview

A framework for building data literacy specifically for board committee members overseeing audit, risk, and ESG functions — enough working understanding of data quality, methodology, and metric limitations to provide genuine oversight and ask probing questions, rather than passively receiving management-prepared reports at face value.

Board members typically aren't data specialists — is deep data

literacy realistic for this audience? Not deep technical expertise, but sufficient working literacy to ask genuinely probing questions of management-prepared data and reports — the goal is oversight capability, not technical mastery, similar to how board members

develop sufficient financial literacy without becoming accountants.

What's the biggest governance risk from insufficient board-level

data literacy? Board committees rubber-stamping management-prepared metrics and reports without probing their underlying data quality or methodology, reducing genuine oversight to a formality rather than a real check on management's own reporting.

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