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# The SANS AI Security Maturity Model™ | Govern Field Guide




Why AI governance sets the ceiling for AI security

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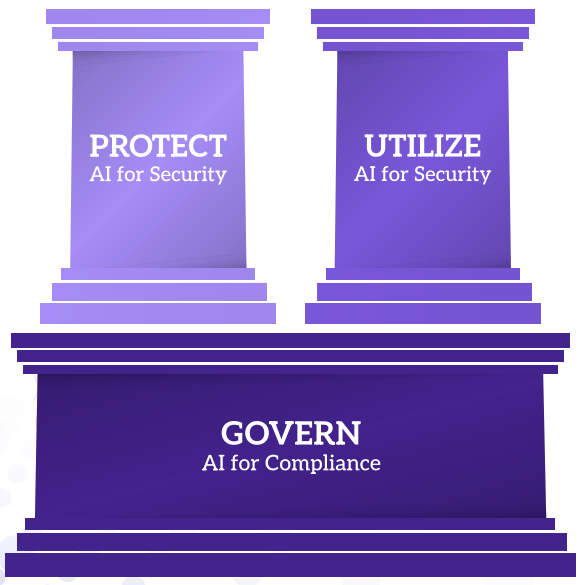
## Adoption moved faster than oversight

**81%**
of employees use unapproved AI tools
Source: UpGuard

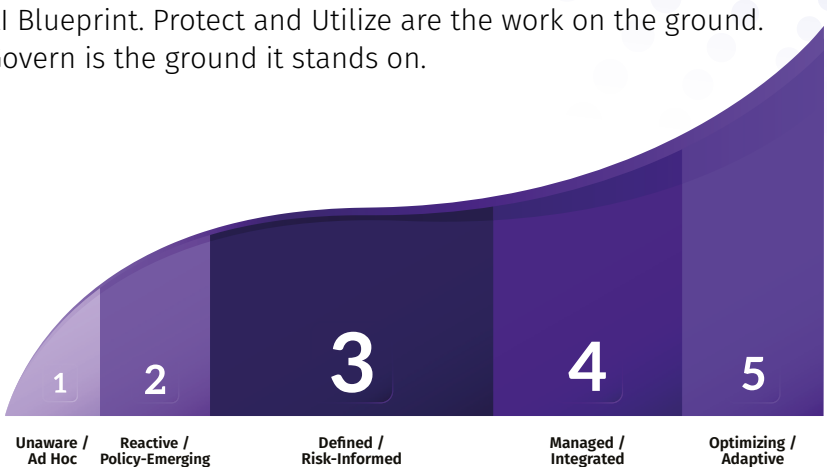
**43%**
of security incidents involved shadow AI, up from 20%
Source: IBM

**1 in 5**
organizations has a comprehensive AI governance framework
Source: SANS

## The SANS AI Security Maturity Model™

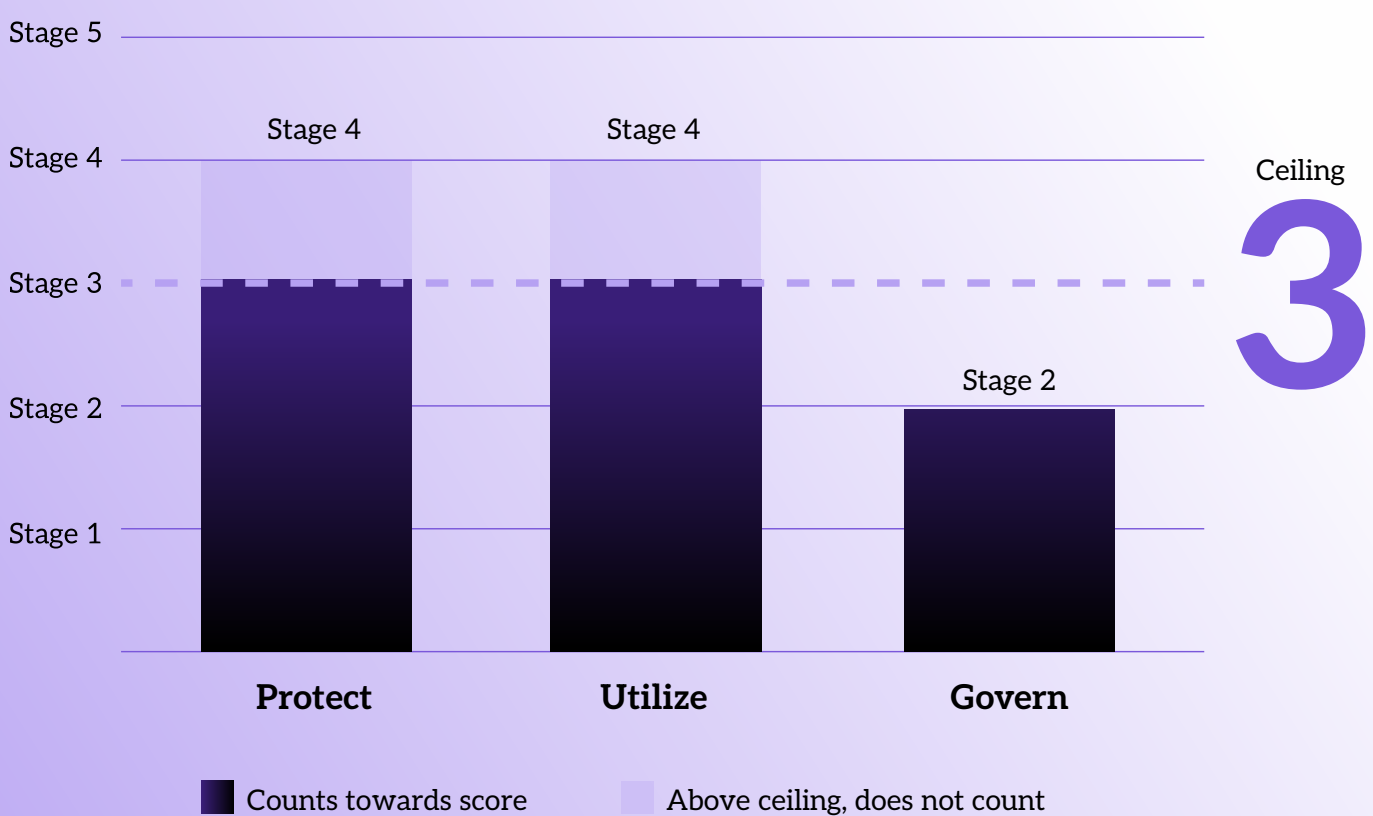



The model builds on the three pillars of the SANS Secure AI Blueprint. Protect and Utilize are the work on the ground. Govern is the ground it stands on.




This guide covers the move from Stage 2 to Stage 3

## Governance sets the ceiling




## Five capabilities to reach Stage 3

| | Capability | Stage 3 move |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | AI Policy That Enables | Replace the ban with clear, tiered rules |
| 2 | AI Risk Management | Put AI risks on the register |
| 3 | Oversight and Accountability | Name an owner for every agent |
| 4 | Shadow AI and BYOAI Visibility | Monitor AI use continuously |
| 5 | Compliance Readiness | Map governance to recognized frameworks |

## Start with one owner, one honest score, and one documented decision.

Get the AI Govern Field Guide

Sources. UpGuard, State of Shadow AI (2025). IBM, Cost of a Data Breach Report 2026. SANS 2026 Cybersecurity Workforce Research Report.