

## Your First AI Slice

A one-page decision aid for leaders choosing where to begin

### The one idea

Don't lay the whole data foundation first. **Judgment is the horse; data is the cart.** Start with one real decision — it pulls the data up behind it.

### Build vertically, not horizontally

- ✗ Finish “data” everywhere, then “AI” everywhere — *stalls*
- ✓ One workflow, top to bottom, proven, then the next  
one workflow → just enough data → judgment captured → AI acting on it → end to end

### Pick slice #1 — score each candidate 1–5

Criterion	What you're looking for
<b>Painful &amp; recurring</b>	Frequent + resented = a fast, felt win
<b>Articulate judgment</b>	A real call someone can actually explain
<b>Data within reach</b>	Runs on what you have <i>this week</i>
<b>A willing owner</b>	A human who <i>wants</i> it to work

Start the highest total. Any criterion at 1 → fix it first or skip it.

### Do not start with

✗ The crown jewel / highest-ROI workflow. Deepest tacit judgment + messiest data = the hardest thing to prove, dressed up as the obvious place to start.

### The first slice's real job

Not to deliver the most value — **to make the second slice obvious and credible**, and to show you where your real gaps are.

A won small slice earns the right to attempt the big one. A lost big slice ends the programme.

### Done looks like

- Runs end-to-end, on real data, every time it recurs
- The judgment behind it is written down
- A human owns the call and stays accountable
- You can name the next column it makes obvious

*Better Execute — betterexecute.ai · Companion to the guide “Your First AI Slice: A Leader's Guide to Low-Risk AI Adoption”*