

FACTSHEET

AI SDLC From Assistance to Autonomy

A path that **derisks the journey at enterprise scale**, and a solution you can employ today.

Practically, with no hype.



Every enterprise we speak with wants AI in their SDLC. Few are operating it at scale. The reason isn't ambition, **the compounding value lives in stages most organizations haven't reached, and the path to get there carries real enterprise risk**. This is the framework we use to manage that path.

The Five Stages of an AI SDLC

Entry → Fully Autonomous

1		AI Assistance AI as a writing partner. Humans carry the context , do everything else. No memory between sessions.	
2		Compound Engineering AI gets smarter every iteration. Institutional knowledge compounds across sprints. Humans still manage the output.	
3		MCP & Skills AI reads from and writes to your systems via live connectors. Validation skills gate quality. Humans approve every output.	
4		Harness Engineering AI-driven iterations on Golden Paths via Agentic Pods. Humans validate at design, dev, test, and deployment gates.	
5		AI Native Autonomous, loop-based, parallel threads. Humans set intent and guardrails , sit above the loop, not within it.	



Most enterprise adoption sits in Stages 1–2 where gains are real, but incremental and linear.
The compounding, step-change value lives in Stages 4–5.

Future Forward

Two concurrent efforts. Managed risk. Compounding reward.

Reaching a truly AI Native SDLC at enterprise scale is not a single jump. We recommend **two efforts running in parallel**, one that matures today's engineering, and one that builds the autonomous capability of tomorrow

EFFORT A

Stage 4 · Harness Engineering

Mature today's engineering.

Linear, sequential, human-in-the-loop. Built on Agentic Dev Environments, MCPs, and Golden Paths. Validation gates at design, dev, test, and deployment. Derisks the transition while delivering near-term velocity.

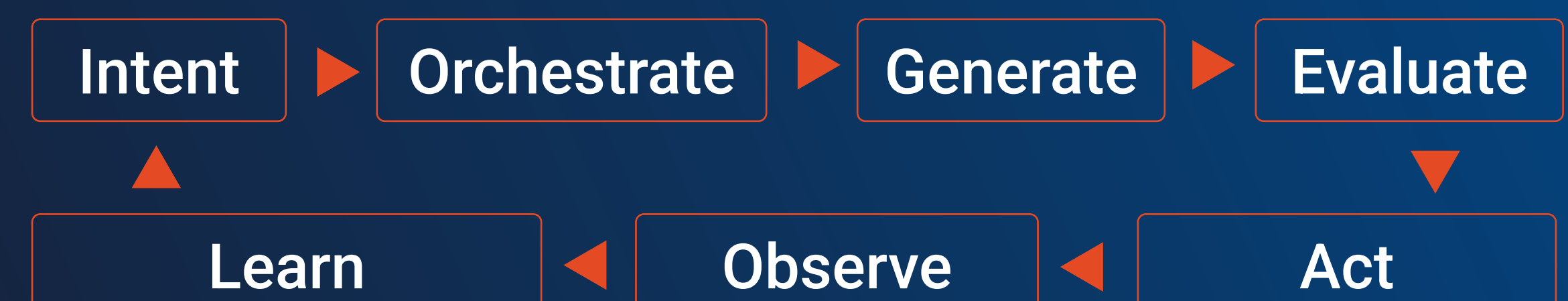
Design ▶ Dev ▶ Test ▶ Deploy

EFFORT B

Stage 5 · AI Native SDLC

Build tomorrow's capability.

Autonomous, loop-based, parallel. Humans set intent and guardrails. Learning and improvement compound continuously across every iteration.



Actionable Now

Apexon Harness — Stage 4, proven at scale, available today.

The **AgentRise Harness** is an iterative, AI-accelerated development model built on agentic dev environments, MCPs, and Golden Paths. Each feature runs through an **Agentic Pod**, a six-step loop that produces production-ready output while human decision-makers stay above the loop, guiding it, delivering intent.

80-90%

AI-DRIVEN
EXECUTION

2-4 weeks

STAND UP
THE HARNESS

2-4 weeks

TO A FUNCTIONAL
CODE BASE

∞

AGENTIC PODS
DELIVERING DAILY

VELOCITY

Sprint velocity, step-change.

Agentic Pods absorb the deterministic work and free human capacity for higher-order decisions: design intent, trade-offs, risk.

THROUGHPUT

Unlimited concurrent pods.

Pods deliver daily iterations on Golden Paths, scaling parallel work without scaling headcount, with managed token usage.

GOVERNANCE

Governance, not chaos.

Human sign-off at design, dev, test, and deployment gates. AI validates mechanically; humans confirm intent.

About Apexon

Apexon is a technology services firm focused on engineering intelligent enterprises through an AI-first approach. We help enterprises solve complex technology challenges and accelerate transformation by embedding AI across digital and engineering ecosystems. Backed by Goldman Sachs Asset Management and Everstone Capital.

We are Apexon.

Want to see the full picture?

We'd walk your leadership team through the framework and share a live demo of the Apexon Harness.

[Book a briefing](#)