

From Proof Of Concept (POC) to Productionising AI

After being involved in many AI projects, I have realised that many AI POC never reach the production stage due to the following reasons:

1. The focus on solving the problem with AI, rather than just solving the problem!

Many organisations get excited about the possibilities of AI and how this technology can be applied in their business. However, they often fail to identify the right problem with the right data for AI. Selecting the wrong use case often leads to developing ML models with poor accuracy and performance, or AI solutions with limited business value which is why many AI POCs and pilots never reach the production stage.

2. No support from the business

Often AI POCs developed by technical teams get stuck in the pilot stage because executive and business teams are not involved in the discussions and decision making during the initial stage of the project. Although technical teams can develop great AI solutions, these projects often do not proceed to the next stage due to the lack of support from the business. To avoid this, technical teams should engage the business in the early stages of the project and work together to define the project objectives and outcomes.

3. The right skills

Another reason why many AI POCs get stuck and never reach the production stage is because in-house Data Science teams often do not have the right skills for developing, deploying and maintaining ML models in production environments. The ideal AI team required for productionising AI POCs includes highly specialised data scientists, analysts/business translators that can translate business problems into AI solutions, machine learning and data engineers for implementing the AI pipeline, and ML Ops engineers for deploying and maintaining production models.

4. The right data

The fourth and probably one of the most important factors when it comes to productionising and deploying AI is the access to the right data for training initial ML models and retraining the models once they are deployed in production. Since business environments and conditions are often dynamic, AI solutions should be designed to detect changes in environment and model performance and enable retraining and redeploying of ML models as soon as these changes are detected.

To find out more, please contact a Fujitsu Data & AI specialist now.

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