

zBriefings – Edition 1

AI in regulated industries – how to start without losing control

Welcome to the first zBriefing — your no-fluff, high-signal AI update built for leaders in complex, regulated environments. We kick off with the question I hear most often:

“How do we get started with AI— without screwing up governance, compliance, or strategy?”

Start with a problem, not with a tool

Don't roll out ChatGPT because everyone else is doing it. Instead, identify a critical process where decisions rely on too much human effort, too slowly — think compliance reporting, document classification, or predictive maintenance.

Use a controlled sandbox

Before scaling, run a 30–60 day test in a narrow, non-critical part of your operation. Involve both your compliance and IT leads from day one. This builds confidence and keeps control where it belongs: in your leadership team.

Map risks before they happen

Even a small AI pilot should include a mini risk register. What data is used? Who reviews outputs? How do we flag unexpected behavior? You don't need a 60-page AI governance framework — but you do need shared awareness and defined escalation paths.

Track one success metric

Don't over-measure. Pick one outcome — faster throughput, reduced errors, clearer decisions — and focus on that. This gives your board something concrete, and gives your team permission to learn without fear of failure.

What it means for leaders

In regulated industries, precision beats speed — but speed still matters. The leaders gaining ground with AI are those who: • Start focused • Keep humans in the loop • Build internal trust before external flash • Align pilots with real business needs

“AI isn't the future. It's the current edge. Just don't let it fly your plane — yet.”

Next zBriefing (July 26): AI & compliance – what regulators are really looking for in 2025

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