




Advanced Topics in Automation and RPA, 1

Adv. Advisory | ACCTG 528 | Class 15
MPAcc Class of 2026

FOSTER
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

 UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

What will we do today?

- **Review**
- Agents v. Agentic workflows
- Team Project (Planning)



Looking ahead

Where does your team project go next?

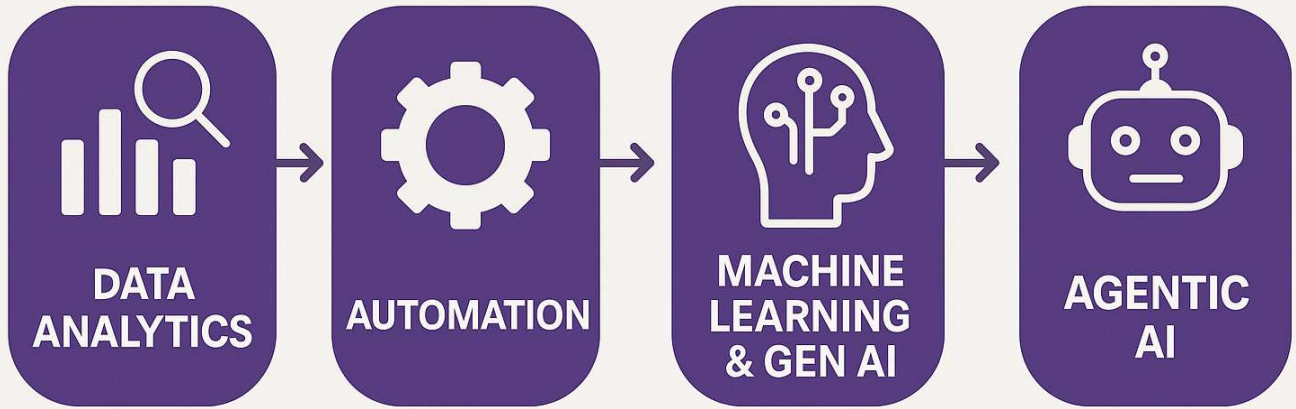
Individual:

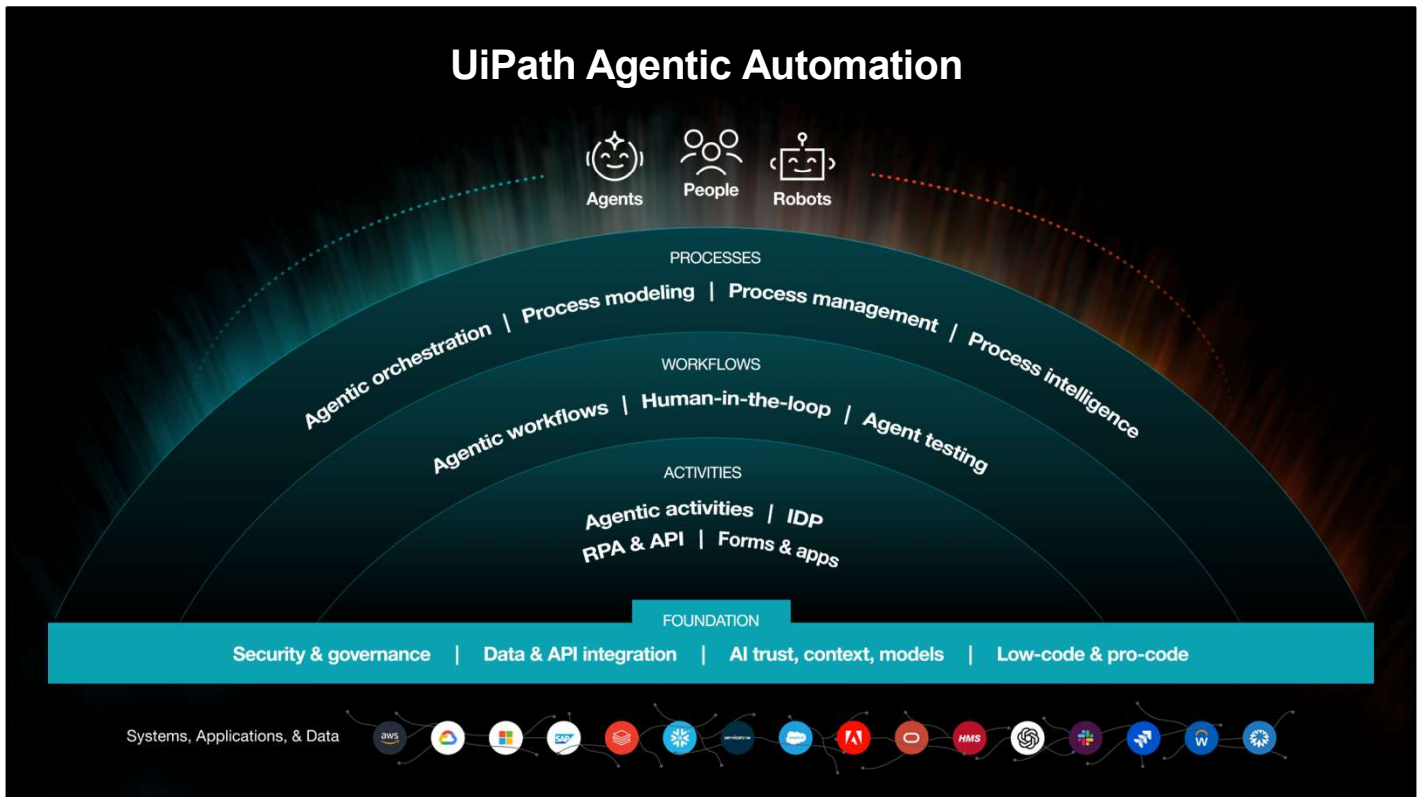
- Appropriate identification rules-based automation
- Selection of appropriate automation spectrum model

Team:

- **Appropriate mix of RPA, Agent, and human in the loop**
- **Selection of best cases for agent decision enhancement**

Course Diagram (high-level)





- Everything happens in one place: the UiPath Platform—where AI Agents aren't just assistants, they're true work partners, transforming complexity into a seamless, orchestrated operation.

- We break it down into three powerful layers: **Activities** (the building blocks—reading, processing, integrating), **Workflows** (connecting the dots with human-in-the-loop and testing), and **Processes** (the big picture—managing, optimizing, and enhancing enterprise operations).

- Agentic Orchestration / Maestro takes automation even further—coordinating UiPath Agents, third-party AI models, people, robots, and tools into a single, intelligent system.

- Your existing systems don't need to be reinvented—our platform integrates seamlessly with your data, applications, and workflows while maintaining enterprise-grade security, governance, and AI trust.

- We're not just compatible with your tech stack—we enhance it. From cloud providers like AWS, Google, and Azure to enterprise apps like Salesforce and SAP, we turn digital chaos into a symphony of efficiency.

RPA helpers versus Agent helpers

Step	RPA (Automation)	Agent (Interpretation)
Data ingestion	Reads budget and actuals	—
Aggregation	Computes totals and variances	—
Detection	Flags differences	—
Interpretation	—	Explains what happened
Prioritization	—	Identifies what matters most
Recommendation	—	Suggests actions
Decision	—	Supports human judgment

UiPath Studio Revenue_analyzer_agent > Agentic Process Saved recently

Debug Debug step-by-step Publish Submit as template Share

Data manager Main.xaml Process.bpmn

Variables
{ } rev_table
{ } mda_plaintxt
Arguments
{ } In_clk

Start event
RPA: Generate Revenue Table
RPA: Scrape MD & A
Revenue Analyzer Agent
RPA: Send email

Properties XML

Start event

General
Name
Start event
Description
Custom Instance ID

Implementation
Action
None

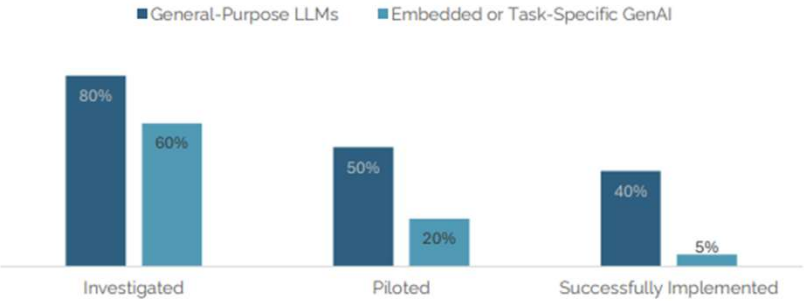
Arguments
In_clk
Tt

+ Add new

Outputs
In_clk
Tt In_clk
+ Add new

```
graph TD; Start([Start event]) --> RPA1[RPA: Generate Revenue Table]; RPA1 --> RPA2[RPA: Scrape MD & A]; RPA2 --> RPA3[Revenue Analyzer Agent]; RPA3 --> RPA4[RPA: Send email];
```

Exhibit: The steep drop from pilots to production for task-specific GenAI tools reveals the GenAI divide



The GenAI Divide is starkest in deployment rates, only 5% of custom enterprise AI tools reach production. Chatbots succeed because they're easy to try and flexible, **but fail in critical workflows due to lack of memory and customization.**

Five Myths About GenAI in the Enterprise

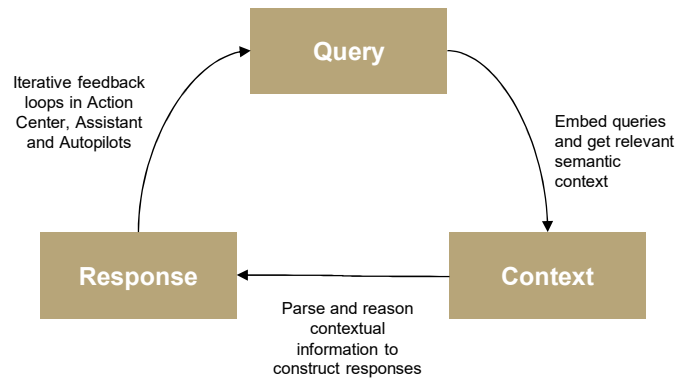
1. AI Will Replace Most Jobs in the Next Few Years → Research found limited layoffs from GenAI, and only in industries that are already affected significantly by AI. There is no consensus among executives as to hiring levels over the next 3-5 years.
2. Generative AI is Transforming Business → Adoption is high, but transformation is rare. Only 5% of enterprises have AI tools integrated in workflows at scale and 7 of 9 sectors show no real structural change.
3. Enterprises are slow in adopting new tech → Enterprises are extremely eager to adopt AI and 90% have seriously explored buying an AI solution.

Five Myths About GenAI in the Enterprise

4. The biggest thing holding back AI is model quality, legal, data, risk → ***What's really holding it back is that most AI tools don't learn and don't integrate well into workflows.***
5. The best enterprises are building their own tools → Internal builds fail twice as often.

Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG):

Overcomes (existing) LLM context window limitations and optimizes interactions with large context windows
Reduces risks of hallucination through reference to specific data stores
Gives Generative apps access to specialized and proprietary knowledge sources
Gives Generative apps access to up to date sources of information
Enables positive feedback loops between data stores and user-queries
RAG)



FOSTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

foster.uw.edu

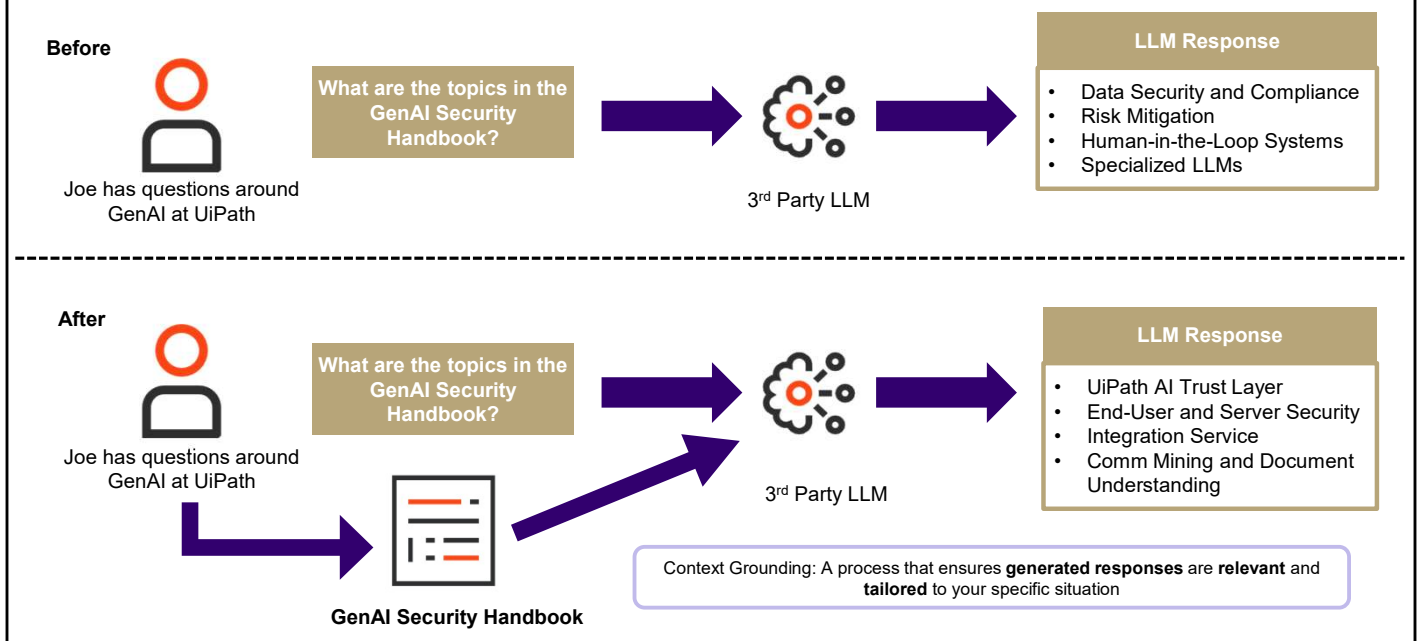
Let's learn more about Context grounding

It allows customers to use their business-specific data with UiPath GenAI experiences to reduce hallucination likelihood ensuring AI-generated responses are always based on real, up-to-date business data.

By leveraging Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG), we overcome LLM limitations, **grounding prompts with context from business-specific data.**

- With integration into UiPath Activities, Connectors, Document Understanding, and Communications Mining, we enable enterprises to ground AI in their sources of truth.

Example



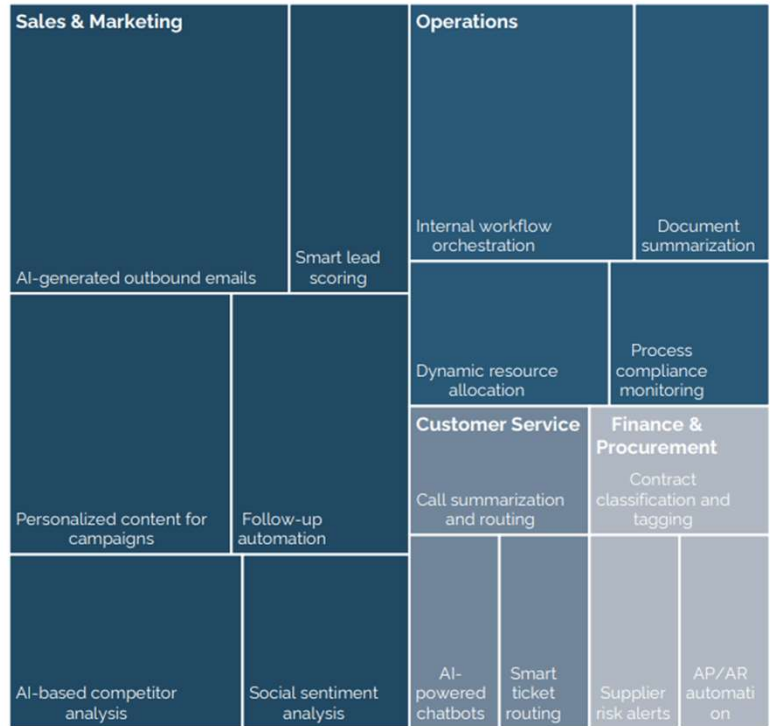
Example

Without grounding, an LLM provides general knowledge. But when we connect it to trusted enterprise data—like the GenAI Security Handbook—it delivers precise, business-specific answers.

This is how we make AI work smarter: **grounding** every response in the right context, reducing hallucinations, and ensuring accuracy.

Investment allocation reveals the GenAI Divide in action, 50% of GenAI budgets go to sales and marketing, **but back-office automation often yields better ROI**. This bias reflects easier metric attribution, not actual value, and keeps organizations focused on the wrong priorities.

Exhibit: GenAI Investment Distribution by Function

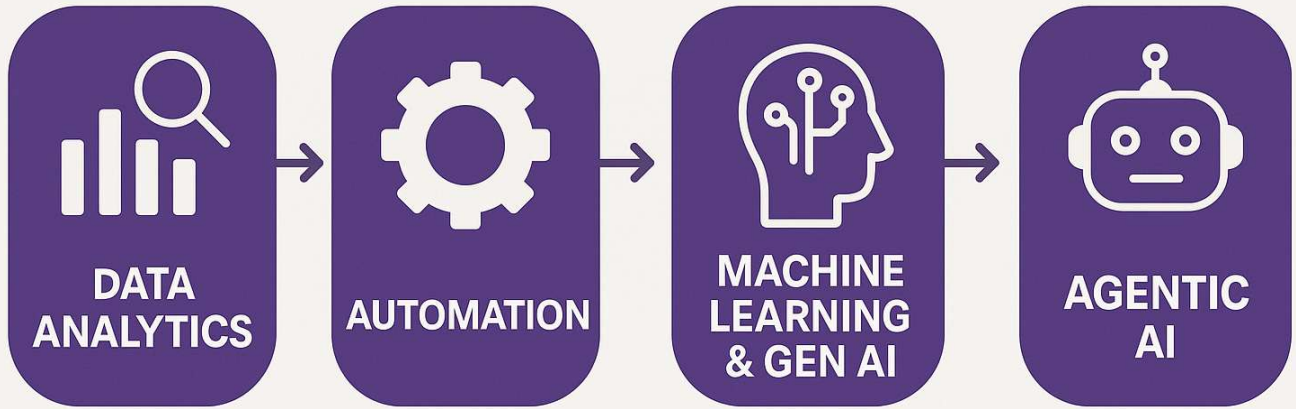


What will we do today?

- Review
- **Agents v. Agentic workflows**
- Team Project (Planning)



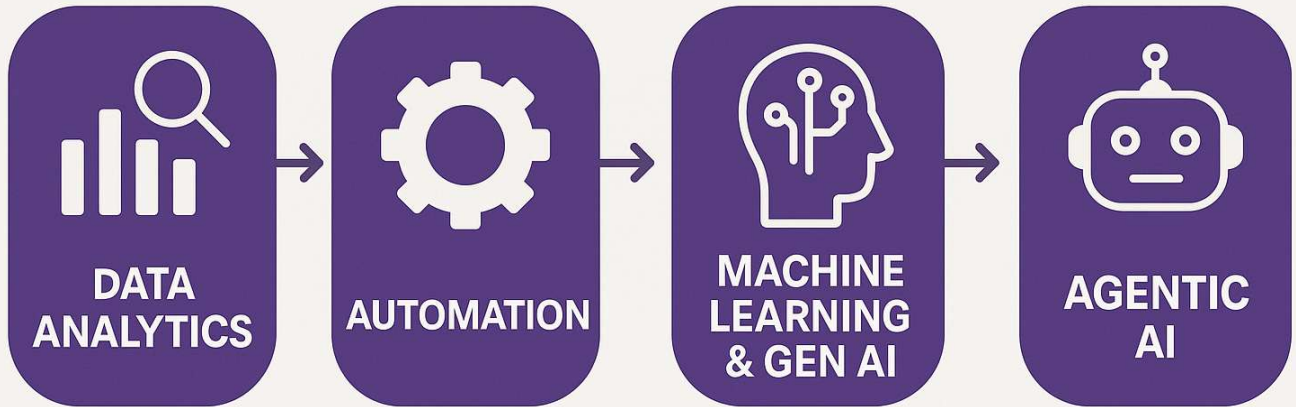
Course Diagram (high-level)



RPA

RPA + Gen AI
(intelligent automation)

Course Diagram (high-level)



Agents solve unstructured tasks autonomously (agentic automation)

What will we do today?

- Review
- Agents v. Agentic workflows
- **Team Project (Planning)**



Thank you

FOSTER
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON