Before an AI project starts, put the read throughput it needs next to your array's busiest hour

About 15 minutes, plus one question to the project team

Whether storage can keep up with an AI project is an easier conversation before kickoff than after it. Two numbers make it short: what the project needs, and what your array (the box of disks that holds your data) hands out at its busiest hour.

Yes 2 Written down, with a date (a log, a screen, a document), and it meets your own plan.

Partly 1 Remembered, but not written down, or the record shows you missed your plan.

No 0 Nobody knows, or it was never done. A blank is a finding.

"None, checked on a date" counts as a record. No plan or target written down? Write your guess first, then measure: the guess is your plan.

Five questions about your own setup

1 Has the project team written down the read throughput it needs?

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) Read throughput is how much data per second the array hands out when something reads from it. Ask for the number in writing, and how they worked it out.

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 Score 0, 1 or 2 This quarter ☐ Next quarter ☐

How to raise it

Where to find it:
Ask the project team.

To get it to a 2:
A written number from the project team, with how they worked it out and the date.

A map of where the project's data would come from: where the data would come from

2 What read throughput did your array hand out in its busiest hour last month?

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) Set the performance view to a month and find the highest hour.

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 Score 0, 1 or 2 This quarter ☐ Next quarter ☐

How to raise it

Where to find it:
The array's performance view with the range set to a month: the highest point, not the average.

To get it to a 2:
A measured reading with its date, taken from the measurement and not from the average or the datasheet.

A guide to finding the busiest hour in your array's performance view: five readings from your own dashboard

3 Are both numbers written side by side, with the date you read them?

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) The project's number next to the array's busiest-hour number. If the project's number is bigger, you know before kickoff.

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 Score 0, 1 or 2 This quarter Next quarter

How to raise it

Where to find it:
Rows 1 and 2 on this page.

To get it to a 2:
Both written together and dated, and the project's number is not bigger than the array's. If it is bigger, score 1: that is your next step.

4 Can your performance view show the busiest hour at all?

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) If it cannot, write that down too, so you know what to ask for next.

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 Score 0, 1 or 2 This quarter Next quarter

How to raise it

Where to find it:
The array's performance view, range set to a month.

To get it to a 2:
Yes, checked on a date, or "cannot show it" written down with the date.

5 Can you say it upward in one sentence with a date?

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) Here is what the project needs, here is what the array did at its busiest.

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 Score 0, 1 or 2 This quarter Next quarter

How to raise it

Where to find it:
Rows 1 to 3 on this page.

To get it to a 2:
The sentence is written down with both numbers and the date, and the project lead has read it.

Your total, out of 10

9-10 **Known** Score the same page again next quarter.

5-8 **Partly known** Fix your lowest row this week.

0-4 **Assumed** Do row 1 this week.

Two rules beat the total: if row 1 scores below 2, the result is Assumed. Any row that missed your plan or guess is your next step.

> On the last big project that landed on your storage, did anyone ask for the throughput number before kickoff?

What this does not prove

Two numbers side by side show only whether the busiest hour in that month has room for what the project asks. They do not show the project will perform once real users and real data arrive.

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