

lab34

Agile and code quality in 2026

What the data says: DORA, Stack Overflow, GitClear, Veracode, Faros AI, Gartner and McKinsey — read for IT leadership.

AI tooling & training for IT operations

More code is not becoming better software.

90%

of software professionals already use AI in their work.

DORA 2025 (Google) · n≈5,000

+98%

more pull requests merged in the teams with the highest AI adoption.

Faros AI 2025 · 10,000+ devs

44%

of generation tasks introduce a known vulnerability.

Veracode 2026 · 100+ models

The question of 2026 is no longer how to generate code. It is how to review, secure and maintain it without the bill arriving at the worst possible moment.

AI is already writing with your team, whether you decided it or not.

90%

of professionals use AI to develop software; more than 80% feel it makes them more productive.

DORA 2025 · n≈5,000

≈50%

of committed code in adopting organizations is now written by AI.

Veracode 2026

84%

of organizations running agile frameworks have adopted AI (68% a year earlier).

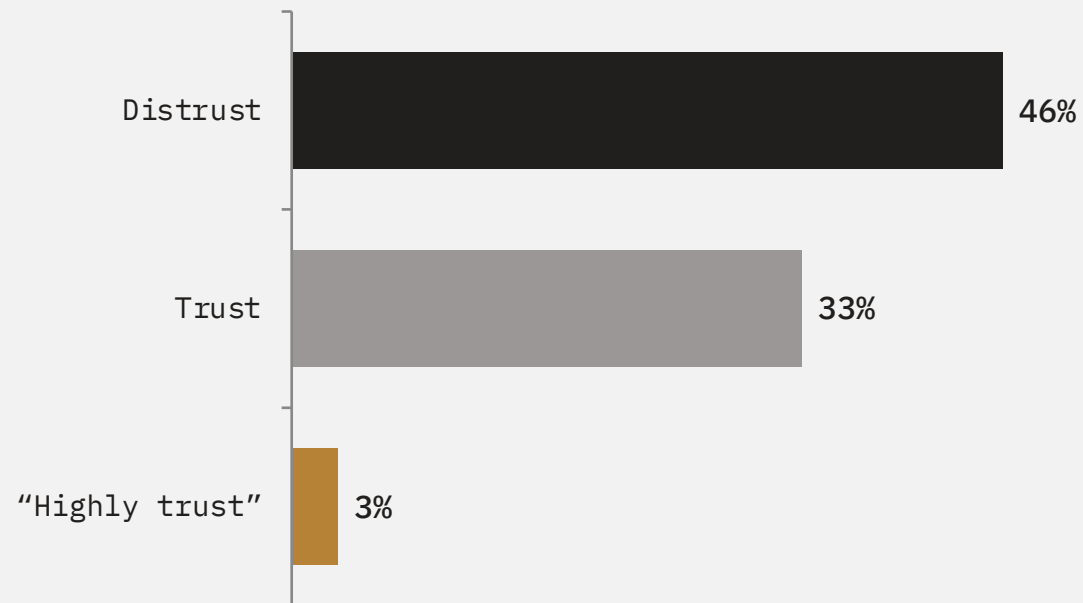
Digital.ai · 18th State of Agile, 2025

51%

of professional developers use it every day.

Stack Overflow 2025 · n=49,000+

Usage is up. Trust is down.



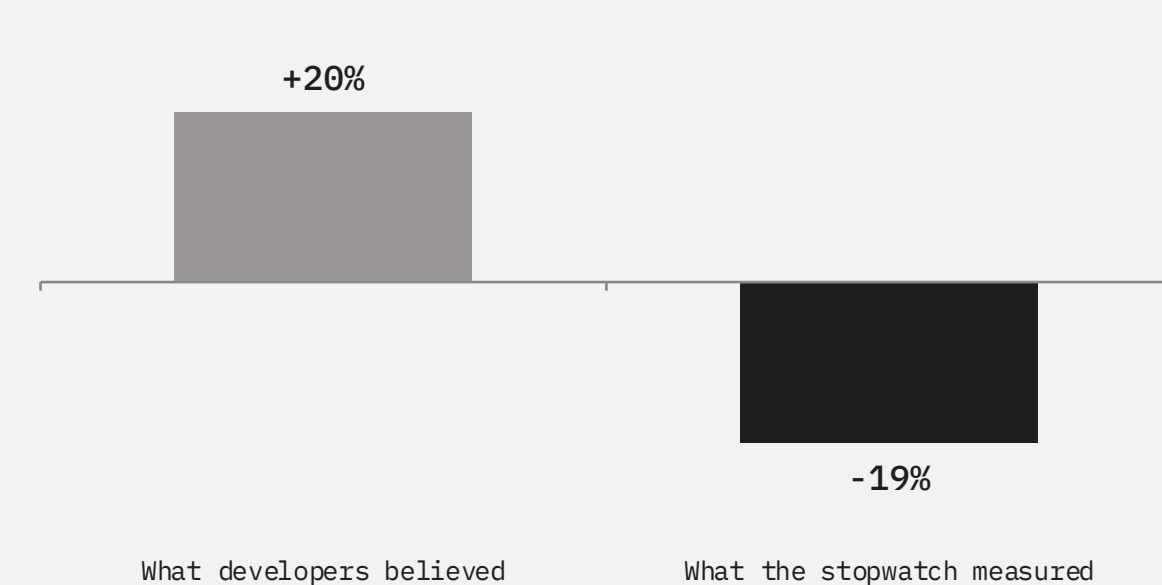
Attitudes toward the accuracy of AI-generated code · Stack Overflow 2025 · n=49,000+

66%

name solutions that are “almost right, but not quite” as their #1 frustration.

30% have little or no trust in AI-generated code (DORA 2025).

The speed you feel is not the speed you measure.

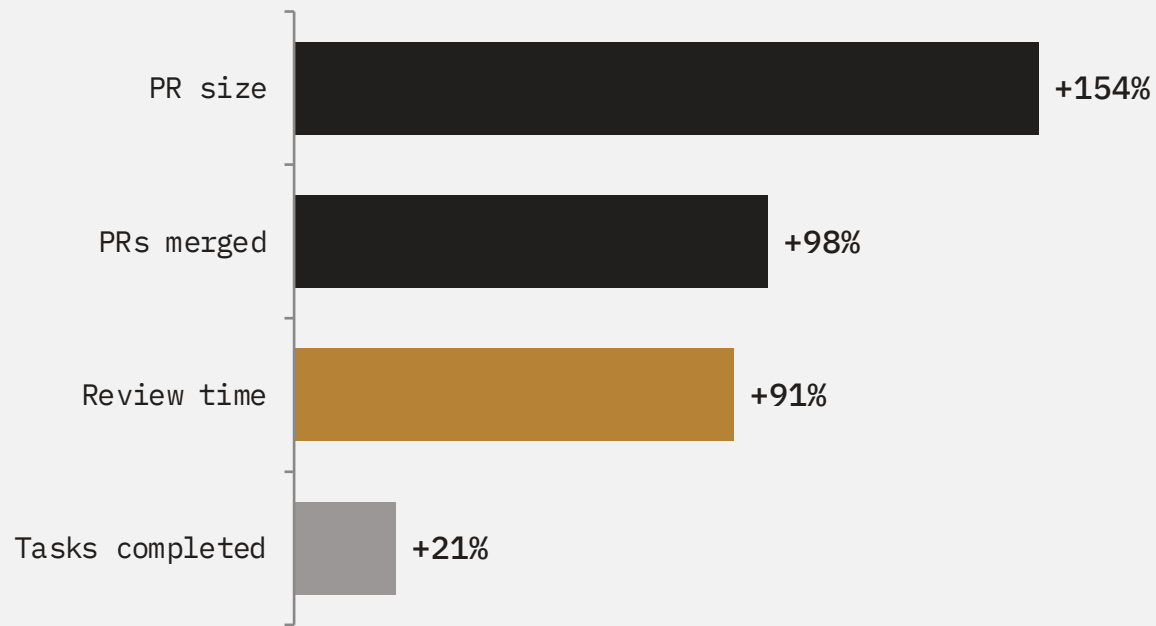


Controlled trial with experienced developers, 246 real tasks · METR, Jul 2025

- **The gap is perception:** 39 points between what was felt and what was measured.
- **Updated in 2026:** with a larger sample (57 devs, 800+ tasks) the effect comes out $\approx$ neutral; METR estimates a benefit by early 2026.
- **It depends on the task:** McKinsey measures large savings on routine work and under 10% on high-complexity tasks.
- **The realistic number:** heavy users gain $\approx$ 25% against themselves (GitClear, 2026).

Sources: METR Jul 2025 and Feb 2026 update · McKinsey, Unleashing developer productivity with generative AI · GitClear, Jan 2026.

The bottleneck moved: from writing to reviewing.



One year later (2026, 22,000 devs):

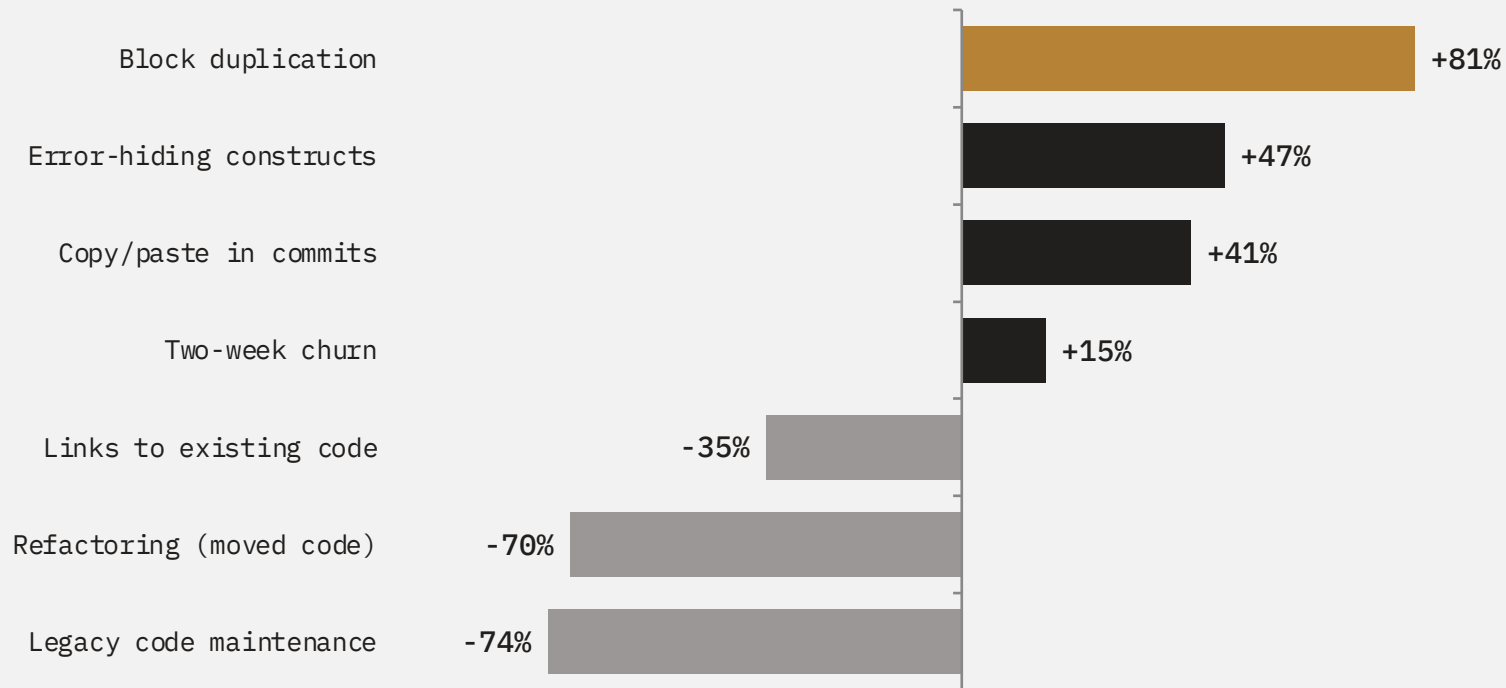
- **+441%** in median time spent in review.
- **+243%** incidents per pull request.
- **+31%** PRs merged with no review at all.

85% of teams agree: the limit is no longer writing code — it is reviewing it (GitLab, 2026).

Faros AI 2025 · telemetry from 10,000+ developers across 1,255 teams

Sources: Faros AI, AI Productivity Paradox (2025) and The Acceleration Whiplash (2026) · GitLab, AI Accountability Report 2026.

New code gets pasted; old code gets abandoned.



Copy/paste is now $\approx 5x$ as likely as refactoring. In 2022, the ratio ran the other way.

Cloned code is associated with 15–50% more defects.

Source: GitClear, The Maintainability Gap (2026) · 623M changed lines, 2023–2026. Change vs 2022–23.

Security is not improving. Volume is.

44%

of generation tasks introduce an OWASP Top 10 vulnerability.

56%

average security pass rate. Two years ago it was 55%: flat.

>95%

syntactic correctness. The code compiles; that does not make it safe.

Without explicit instructions, security behaves like an option, not a default. Java is the worst case: a 72% failure rate.

Source: Veracode, GenAI Code Security Report 2025 and 2026 · 100+ models tested across Java, JavaScript, Python and C#.

Technical debt now has a market of its own.

+2,500%

more software defects by 2028, driven by “prompt-to-app” development in non-technical hands: Gartner calls it a quality and reliability crisis.

Gartner · Predicts 2026 (Dec 2025)

- **80% of debt will be architectural by 2027.** Not typos: design flaws — the expensive kind to fix.
- **First Magic Quadrant for technical debt management (2026).** Gartner estimates a ≈\$1.2B market this year.
- **A remediation market is born.** Tools and services to audit and refactor AI-generated debt.

Translation for the CFO: what looks like free speed today gets paid for in 2027 out of the maintenance budget.

Sources: Gartner, Predicts 2026: AI Potential and Risks in Software Engineering · Gartner, Magic Quadrant for Technical Debt Management (May 2026).

Agile is not dead: it has stopped being a ritual.

- **The “fourth wave”.** The 18th State of Agile describes AI moving from assistant to orchestrator of the delivery cycle; 76% of organizations feel more pressure to prove the ROI of agile.
- **The framework matters less than the flow.** PMI measures similar outcomes across agile, hybrid and predictive approaches: you choose by type of work, not by doctrine.
- **From the sprint to a continuous loop.** McKinsey describes development as a continuous, high-speed cycle: people direct, agents execute, and the platform guarantees security and quality.
- **AI is an amplifier.** DORA 2025: it multiplies the strengths of solid teams and the frictions of everyone else. It does not fix teams — it exposes them.

Sources: Digital.ai, 18th State of Agile (Oct 2025, n≈350) · PMI, Pulse of the Profession · McKinsey, The AI revolution in software development (2026) · DORA 2025.

What sets apart the teams that capture the benefit.

- **An explicit AI policy.** Which tasks yes, which no, and who owns the result.
- **Small batches.** Short, reviewable PRs: average size grew 154% and review paid the price.
- **A refactoring budget.** Time reserved every month to consolidate and retire code.
- **Duplication alarms.** An automatic alert when cloned code passes a threshold.
- **Security where code is generated.** Automated scanning before human review, not after.
- **Measure structure, not volume.** Lines written is not productivity; churn, defects and incidents are.

A synthesis of the recommendations from DORA 2025 (AI capabilities model), GitClear 2026 and Veracode 2026.

How we approach it at Lab34.

- **First the problem, with numbers.** The Diagnostic: 2–3 weeks, fixed price, a plan with prioritized use cases and estimated return.
- **We build — we do not just advise.** A pilot in production in 6–8 weeks, with a weekly demo and the code in your repository from day one.
- **Control and security by design.** LLM Proxy and llm-redact, our open source, auditable stack to govern and measure AI usage.
- **The capability stays in your house.** We train the team that will run and maintain what gets built — no dependency on us.

“If the Diagnostic shows that AI is not your best investment right now, we will tell you.”

Every figure, with its source.

- DORA · State of AI-assisted Software Development (Google, Sept 2025) · n≈5,000 · dora.dev
- Stack Overflow · Developer Survey 2025 · n=49,000+ · survey.stackoverflow.co/2025
- GitClear · The Maintainability Gap: AI Code Quality in 2026 · 623M changed lines · gitclear.com
- GitClear · AI Coding Tools Attract Top Performers (Jan 2026)
- Faros AI · The AI Productivity Paradox (2025) · 10,000+ devs · faros.ai
- Faros AI · The Acceleration Whiplash (2026) · 22,000 devs
- Veracode · GenAI Code Security Report (2025 and 2026) · 100+ models · veracode.com
- METR · Measuring the Impact of AI on Developer Productivity (Jul 2025; Feb 2026 update) · metr.org
- Gartner · Predicts 2026: AI Potential and Risks Emerge in Software Engineering (Dec 2025)
- Gartner · Magic Quadrant for Technical Debt Management (May 2026)
- Digital.ai · 18th State of Agile Report (Oct 2025) · n≈350
- McKinsey · The AI revolution in software development (2026)
- McKinsey · Unleashing developer productivity with generative AI (2023)
- GitLab · AI Accountability Report (2026) · PMI · Pulse of the Profession · Easy Agile · Team Alignment 2026

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How much of this is happening in your team?

Book 45 minutes → hola@lab34.es · lab34.es