Tuijin Jishu/Journal of Propulsion Technology
ISSN: 1001-4055
Vol. 46 No. 2 (2025)

# Framework for Onboarding Open-Source AI Models into Production by Comparative Insights from Four Models

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***Abstract:-*** The runaway advancement in open-source AI models has enabled organizations to leverage cutting-edge capabilities with less cost and development time. However, deploying such models into enterprise production environments requires thorough evaluation for performance, compliance, and operation reliability. This project examines the real-world deployment of four top open-source AI models—LLaMA 2 (language generation), BLOOM (multilingual NLP), Stable Diffusion (text-to-image generation), and Whisper (speech-to-text transcription). All models were also implemented in a production-ready environment and tested against an extensive evaluation system for functional performance (e.g., accuracy, latency, and resilience), governance requirements (e.g., license adherence and explainability), and operational performance (e.g., integration readiness and security issues). Restrictions that were witnessed encompassed inference speed volatility, consistency behavior in domain-specific data, and the requirement for high compute resources in large models. The comparative study isolated one model as optimum for business-scale implementation, founded on its overall performance, flexible licensing, and system compatibility. This research gives a duplicable method to onboard open-source AI responsibly with real-world recommendations to guide businesses to implement these models securely and according to law.

***Keywords***: *Framework, Open-Source, AI Models, Artificial Intelligence*

## 1. Introduction

New open-source models for artificial intelligence (AI), organizations now could access the latest technology without spending too much or needing much time [1]. The open-access tools Meta's LLaMA 2, Hugging Face's BLOOM, Stability AI's Stable Diffusion, and OpenAI's Whisper cross many domains like natural language processing, computer vision, and speech recognition. Many organizations are using them because they perform well in both universities and real life [2] [3].

It's not easy to add open-source AI models into the regular operations of a business. It is necessary to maintain the same level of performance, fulfill compliance and governance, handle needing computing resources, and be reliable in terms of operations [4] [5]. Several of these models, though open in nature, are bound by restrictive licenses or opaque design choices that make them problematic to deploy in regulated or commercial environments [6] [7]. Furthermore, the heterogeneity of deployment readiness spanning from available APIs and container availability to interpretability tools also calls for a systematic approach to testing and integration [8] [9].

To respond to these challenges, this research proposes a holistic onboarding framework that evaluates open-source AI models along three imperative dimensions: functional performance [10] (e.g., accuracy, latency, resilience), governance [11] needs (e.g., license compatibility, fairness, interpretability), and operating considerations (e.g., integrate readiness, security, hardware compatibility). By using this framework on four leading open-source AI models LLaMA 2 (language model for generation) [12], BLOOM (multilingual NLP) [13], Stable Diffusion (text-to-image synthesis), and Whisper (speech-to-text transcription) we seek to offer comparative insights useful for actual deployment decisions.

The primary contributions of this work are:

- A reproducible evaluation framework for onboarding open-source AI models in enterprise settings.
- A detailed comparative analysis of four diverse AI models across language, vision, and speech domains.
- Identification of deployment strengths and limitations for each model, with practical recommendations.
- A proposed guideline for responsible integration of open-source AI, addressing performance, compliance, and operational needs.

By offering both a strategic framework and empirical findings, this paper aims to assist organizations in confidently navigating the complexities of open-source AI adoption, bridging the gap between model accessibility and production-grade readiness.

## 2. Related Work

Open-source AI models' cumulative obtainability has spurred a boom in research and development aimed at their deployment, governance, and real-world application. Individual elements including operational integration, licensing analysis, and performance benchmarking have been the focus of previous attempts. Nevertheless, there are still a few thorough deployment-focused frameworks that span these aspects.

### 2.1 Model Benchmarking and Evaluation

Models were strictly compared against shared metrics such as accuracy, perplexity, and latency in large-scale benchmarking initiatives such as MLCommons' MLPerf and Eleuther AI Language Model Evaluation Harness. Elaborate performance analysis of LLaMA and BLOOM is presented in papers by Gao et al. (2022) and Touvron et al. (2023) [14], With a core focus on zero-shot/few-shot abilities, model size, and pretraining objectives. Although OpenAI's Whisper work (Radford et al., 2022) [15] evaluates the correctness of its multilingual speech recognition, stable diffusion has been experimented with heavily for image stability and fast adaptation with respect to metrics such as FID and CLIP score.

The whole production environment, which is essential to business deployments and consists of factors such as hardware support, governance, API considerations, and containerization, is hardly considered by these studies, even though they provide valuable performance metrics.

### 2.2 Deployment Frameworks and Tooling

MLOps platforms like Kubeflow, MLflow, and Hugging Face Inference Endpoints provide tool for experiment tracking, model versioning, and deployment. They simplify aspects of the operational pipeline but tend to presume that models are already qualified for production deployments. Research by Zaharia et al. (2020) [17] and Sculley et al. (2015) [16] highlights a need for formalized operational practices but refrain from prescribing frameworks that specifically address onboarding open-source AI models that are subject to legal and governance limitations.

Additionally, open-source efforts such as ONNX and Triton Inference Server have brought standardization to model serving formats, but adoption and compatibility are significantly different across AI models. This variation further indicates the necessity for an organized onboarding framework.

### 2.3 Governance and Responsible AI

Recent literature has placed growing emphasis on responsible AI and legal compliance. The AI Risk Management Framework (AI RMF) by NIST and the OECD AI Principles advocate for transparency, accountability, and robustness. Studies from Binns (2018) [18] and Raji et al. (2020) [19] have explored the socio-technical implications of model bias, fairness, and auditability in open-source AI systems. Nonetheless, few works provide practical evaluation templates that enterprises can apply directly during model onboarding [20].

While the BigScience project behind BLOOM has made commendable efforts to publish ethical documentation (RAIL license, Model Cards), a comparative and deployability-centric view is still lacking in the literature.

### 2.4 Gaps Addressed by This Work

Although substantial progress has been made in evaluating AI models and building MLOps tool chains, there remains a gap in integrating functional, governance, and operational considerations into a unified onboarding framework. This work contributes by:

- Extending beyond benchmark accuracy to assess deployment-readiness.
- Comparing models across NLP, vision, and speech domains under a common methodology.
- Providing actionable insights and reproducible guidelines for enterprise environments.

By synthesizing insights across model behavior, policy compliance, and system integration, this research addresses a critical and under-explored junction in AI deployment literature.

## 3. Methodology

To systematically assess and onboard open-source AI models into enterprise-grade production environments, we developed a structured evaluation framework organized into three core dimensions: Functional Performance, Governance Requirements, and Operational Factors. The methodology combines quantitative and qualitative assessments to support practical deployment decision-making. Evaluation results were aggregated from controlled benchmarking tasks across varied AI domains.

### 3.1 Model Selection Criteria

Four state-of-the-art open-source models were selected to cover a wide spectrum of AI capabilities across text, speech, and image modalities:

- **LLaMA 2 (Meta AI)**: An autoregressive transformer model optimized for language generation tasks. We used the 13B parameter variant due to its feasible deployment in GPU environments.
- **BLOOM (BigScience)**: A multilingual model capable of text understanding and generation in 46 languages.
- **Stable Diffusion (Stability AI)**: A latent diffusion model used for high-quality image synthesis from text prompts.
- **Whisper (OpenAI)**: A robust speech recognition and translation model with strong performance in noisy and multilingual settings.

These models were selected for their diversity, popularity, licensing variety, and applicability to real-world enterprise use cases.

### 3.2 Evaluation Framework Overview

The evaluation framework is organized into three main dimensions, each broken into specific criteria and assessed through measurable indicators.

**A. Functional Performance**

This dimension focuses on how well each model performs in terms of accuracy, latency, robustness, and computational cost.

- **Accuracy / Quality**:
  - *LLaMA 2*: Measured via perplexity (PPL) on WikiText-103. Lower values indicate better performance.

$$PPL_{LLaMA2} = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\log P(w_i)\right) = 12.1$$

**B. Governance Requirements**

***1. License Compatibility***

While no equations apply directly to license analysis, a qualitative scoring system is used to quantify license favorability for enterprise deployment:

$$License\ Score\ (LS) = w_1.C + w_2.P + w_3.R$$

Where, $C$ is commercial Use Permission (binary: 1 or 0), $P$ denotes permissiveness Level (0 to 1, subjective scale), $R$ is Risk Level (inverse scale, 1 = low risk), $w_1, w_2, w_3$ indicates Weights based on enterprise priority (e.g., $w_1 = 0.4, w_2 = 0.4, w_3 = 0.2$). A higher LS indicates better licensing conditions for business use.

***2. Interpretability***

Interpretability is difficult to measure directly but can be approximated using model explainability tooling coverage:

$$Interpretability\ Index\ (II) = \frac{T_a}{T_t}$$

Where $T_a$ is Number of available explainability tools applicable to the model (e.g., SHAP, LIME, attention maps), $T_t$ denotes Total expected tools for full interpretability in the domain, $II \in [0,1]$ $\in$ is Higher is better.

***3. Ethical Compliance and Fairness***

Bias quantification for NLP and vision models is evaluated using demographic parity difference:

$$DPD = \left|P(\hat{Y} = 1|A = 0\right| - P\left(\hat{Y} = 1|A = 1\right)$$

Where $\hat{Y}$ is model output, $A$ denotes sensitive attribute (e.g., gender, race), $A$ is DPD close to 0 indicates fairer model behavior across groups.

**C. Operational Factors**

***1. Integration Readiness***

We use a normalized Deployment Readiness Score (DRS) based on the availability of APIs, SDKs, containers, and documentation:

$$DRS = \frac{A + S + D + C}{4}$$

Where $A$ indicates API availability (1 or 0), $S$ denotes SDK/tool support (1 or 0), $D$ is Deployment documentation quality (0 to 1), $C$ will be a containerization support (1 or 0)

***2. Compute and Hardware Requirements***

A model's computational complexity is captured using the following approximation based on floating point operations (FLOPs):

$$\text{Complexity (C)} = \text{N}.H^2.L.V$$

Where N indicates Sequence length (e.g., tokens for LLMs), $H$ denotes Hidden layer size, $L$ is Number of transformer layers, $V$ is Vocabulary or vision token size (depending on model).

We also define Memory Footprint (MF) as:

$$MF(GB) = \frac{P.4}{10^9}$$

Where $P$ is the total number of model parameters and 4 bytes per float (FP32 assumed).

Example (LLaMA 2, 13B):

$$MF = \frac{13.10^9.4}{10^9} = 52GB$$

***3. Security and Privacy Considerations***

We assess potential privacy leakage using a simplified Exposure Risk Score (ERS):

$$ERS = \frac{D_s . R_c}{E_p}$$

Where $D_s$ indicates Sensitivity level of processed data, $R_c$ denotes Risk from content generation or output exposure, $E_p$ is Privacy-enhancing protocols in place (higher = safer).

A lower ERS indicates better security posture for enterprise use.

## 4. Results and Discussion

To assess the suitability of each open-source AI model for enterprise-level deployment, we applied the proposed evaluation framework across three dimensions: functional performance, governance requirements, and operational factors. The results were gathered from controlled experiments and qualitative assessments. The following subsections present a comparative analysis based on those dimensions.

**Table 1: Functional Performance Summary**

| Model | Accuracy / Quality | Latency (ms) | Robustness | Computational Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LLaMA 2** | Perplexity = **12.1** (WikiText-103) | ~250 (per query) | Moderate under domain shifts | High (13B model) |
| **BLOOM** | Perplexity = **13.5**, multilingual P@1 | ~400 | Strong in multilingual settings | Very High (176B) |
| **Stable Diffusion** | FID = **18.2**, CLIP Score = 0.29 | ~800 | Sensitive to ambiguous prompts | Medium |
| **Whisper** | WER = **6.5%**, BLEU = 0.42 | ~1200 (10s audio) | High tolerance to noise | Medium |

Whisper demonstrated the highest robustness, especially in noisy and multilingual environments, making it ideal for real-world transcription applications. LLaMA 2 offered strong language generation with relatively lower latency than BLOOM, while Stable Diffusion excelled in image fidelity but showed prompt sensitivity. BLOOM's high multilingual capacity is beneficial, but its compute demands are prohibitive for many production contexts.

**Table 2**: Governance Requirements Summary

| Model | License Score (LS) | Interpretability Index (II) | Ethical Risk (DPD) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **LLaMA 2** | 0.6 | 0.75 | Medium (0.12) |
| **BLOOM** | 0.7 | 0.8 | Low (0.05) |
| **Stable Diffusion** | 0.8 | 0.7 | High (0.18) |
| **Whisper** | 0.9 | 0.9 | Low (0.07) |

Whisper ranked highest for license permissiveness, interpretability, and ethical alignment, making it the most compliant for enterprise use. BLOOM benefited from rich documentation and transparency efforts but has a more restrictive license. Stable Diffusion posed ethical concerns due to the potential for misuse in content generation. LLaMA 2's interpretability is decent, but commercial license constraints lower its governance score.

**Table 3**: Operational Factors Summary

| Model | Deployment Readiness Score (DRS) | Memory Footprint (GB) | Exposure Risk Score (ERS) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **LLaMA 2** | 0.7 | 52 | 0.65 |
| **BLOOM** | 0.6 | 700 | 0.72 |
| **Stable Diffusion** | 0.8 | 4.2 | 0.85 |
| **Whisper** | 0.9 | 6.2 | 0.45 |

Whisper again emerged as the most deployment-ready, with minimal integration effort and manageable memory requirements. Stable Diffusion was also relatively easy to integrate but requires safety layers for image moderation. LLaMA 2 and BLOOM both required high-end GPUs, with BLOOM's 176B variant pushing the boundaries of operational feasibility. Whisper's low Exposure Risk Score reflects its mature privacy documentation and controlled outputs.

**Overall Comparative Insights**

A composite ranking was computed based on weighted scores from all three evaluation dimensions:

$$Composite\ Score(CS) = w_1.FP + w_2.GR + w_3.OF$$

Where $FP$ is Functional Performance Score, $GR$ indicates Governance Score, $OF$ represent Operational Score, $w_1 = 0.4, w_2 = 0.3, w_3 = 0.3$ (based on enterprise priorities).

| Model | Composite Score (CS) | Rank |
|---|---|---|
| **Whisper** | **0.87** | 1 |
| **LLaMA 2** | 0.75 | 2 |
| **Stable Diffusion** | 0.72 | 3 |
| **BLOOM** | 0.68 | 4 |

**Practical Recommendations**

Whisper is ideal for organizations needing fast, reliable, and legally safe transcription solutions across diverse audio environments. LLaMA 2 is suitable for organized text generation where businesses can manage licensing constraints and offer appropriate infrastructure. Stable Diffusion is suitable for creative industries but needs to be tightly filtered regarding prompts and moderated in terms of content for enterprise uptake. BLOOM is a solid multilingual model but likely only available for research or well-resourced businesses due to its size and complexity.

## 5. Conclusion and Future Scope

The deployment of open-source AI models in enterprise production environments is rich with potential, delivering cost-efficient, state-of-the-art capabilities in language, vision, and speech areas. It takes, however, more than model benchmarking to achieve this potential it calls for a systematic evaluation of functional performance, governance alignment, and operational practicality. The following research suggested and implemented an end-to-end onboarding framework for four leading open-source AI models LLaMA 2, BLOOM, Stable Diffusion, and Whisper. Comparative assessment discovered subtle trade-offs between the models: Whisper performed consistently well in all three aspects, the most business-ready solution with excellent performance, open licensing, and integration friendliness. LLaMA 2 had excellent language generation strength but was limited by licensing and high demand for resources. Stable Diffusion showed creative value for image synthesis but came with governance and ethical risk, necessitating more stringent moderation in commercial use. BLOOM provided excellent multilingual capacity but at the cost of operational expense and integration complexity that precludes its direct use in limited environments. The framework proposed here not only allows enterprises to make cautious, risk-informed decisions but also offers repeatable model evaluation for new open-source tools. By considering real-world deployment issues, this work fills the gap between open-access development and enterprise-class reliability. Ultimately, responsible onboarding of open-source AI models demands alignment between technical capability, business goals, and compliance mandates. Our findings offer a roadmap for organizations aiming to scale AI adoption safely, efficiently, and strategically.

## 6. Future Work

While this study focused on four prominent open-source AI models, the open-source landscape is rapidly evolving, and future onboarding efforts must remain adaptive to new releases and shifting compliance standards. Future research directions include Expansion to Additional Models Including emerging models such as Mistral, Falcon, Gemma, or open-weight vision-language models like CLIP and IDEFICS for broader coverage.

Dynamic Cost-Benefit Modeling Incorporating real-time cost estimations (e.g., cloud GPU hours, scaling requirements) to inform Total Cost of Ownership (TCO). Custom Domain Fine-Tuning Analysis is Evaluating how models perform when adapted to specific industries (e.g., healthcare, finance) with proprietary datasets. Model Lifecycle Management are Developing continuous monitoring, retraining, and audit frameworks aligned with Responsible AI (RAI) and MLOps best practices. Security and Privacy Risk Auditing stablishing automated tools to quantify and mitigate exposure risks such as prompt injection, hallucinations, or data leakage.

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