Gatling

2026

ROADMAP

Introducing Continuous Performance Intelligence

Performance failures are no longer a technical inconvenience; they have become a business crisis.

When applications slow down, revenue disappears, customers leave, and regulators take notice. Yet in most organizations, performance is still treated as an engineering concern: buried in dashboards that leadership never sees, managed reactively after incidents occur, and disconnected from the decisions that shape the business.

This whitepaper introduces Continuous Performance Intelligence (CPI), Gatling's strategic framework for transforming how organizations think about, manage, and govern the performance of their digital systems.

Built on four interlocking pillars, CPI moves performance out of the engineering silo and into the domain of organizational leadership.

The urgency is clear. Only 48% of digital initiatives enterprise-wide meet or exceed their business outcome targets, according to Gartner's 2025 CIO Survey. The organizations beating that average — the ones Gartner calls the 'Digital Vanguard' — share a defining trait: business and technology leaders co-own outcomes. Continuous Performance Intelligence is how that co-ownership becomes operational.

The problem business leaders don't know they own

Every year, organizations invest more in digital transformation. Cloud migrations, platform modernization, AI integration — the ambition grows, and so does the budget. However, the outcomes rarely keep pace.

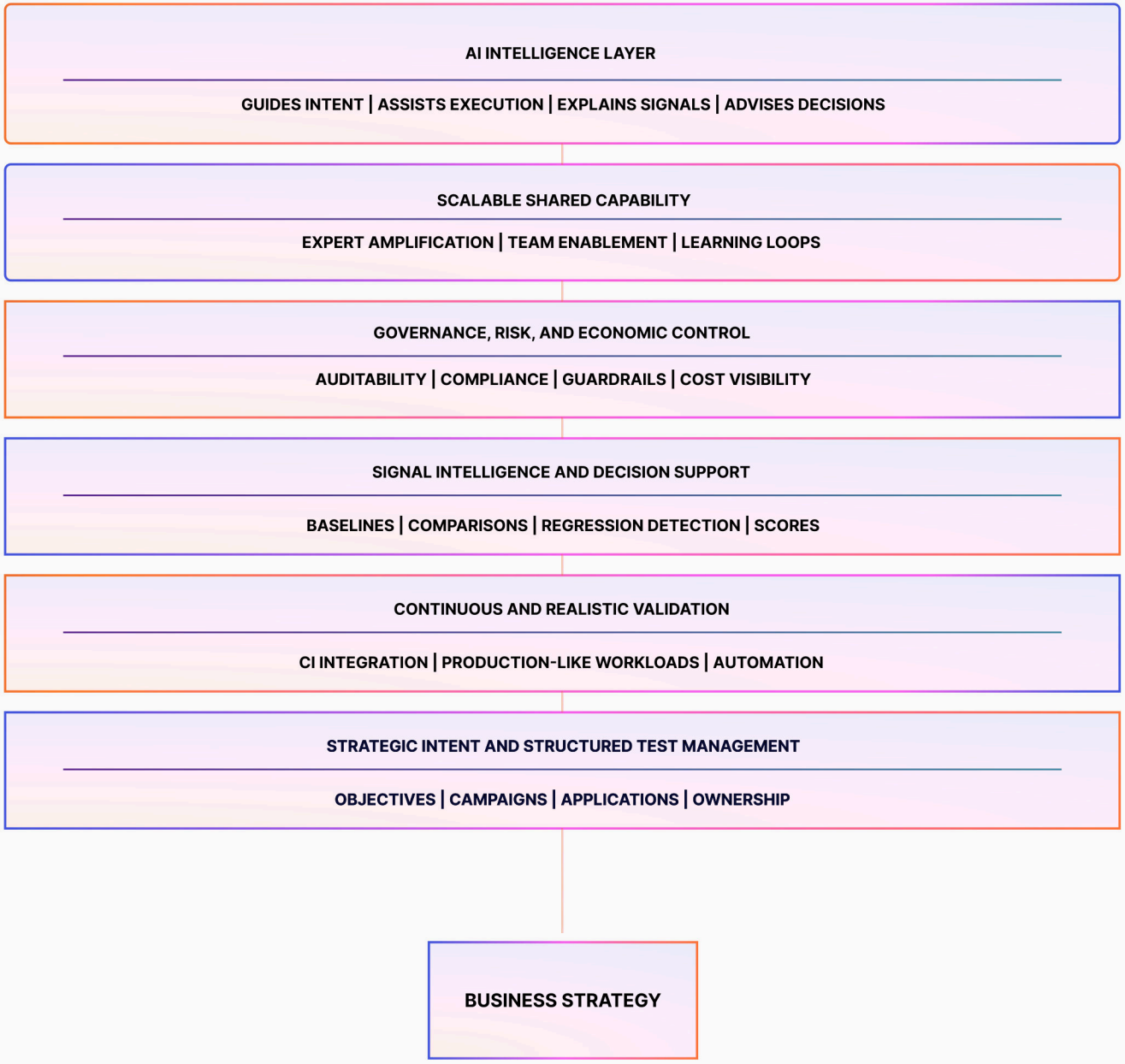
These numbers represent delayed releases, failed deployments, production incidents, and the slow erosion of the customer experience that underpins revenue. The traditional response has been to invest more in testing —more tools, more engineers, more automation. That approach keeps failing because it treats the symptom, not the cause.

The real problem is not that teams run too few tests. It is that performance data never reaches the people who need it most: the leaders making decisions about risk, release, investment, and customer experience.

When engineering teams say 'I don't know what to test,' 'I don't know what to do with the results,' or 'I don't know how to convince the business,' they are not questioning load testing. They are questioning its value. They are right to question it — because in most organizations, performance testing is optimized for execution, not for decision-making.

That is the gap Continuous Performance Intelligence is designed to close. Not by running more tests, but by making performance data legible, actionable, and shared across the entire organization.

The continuous performance intelligence operating model



INTENT DRIVES VALIDATION → VALIDATION PRODUCES SIGNALS → SIGNALS SUPPORT DECISIONS → GOVERNANCE BUILDS TRUST → SHARED CAPABILITY SCALES ADOPTION

What is continuous performance intelligence?

Continuous Performance Intelligence is a strategic framework and a category of purpose-built tooling that transforms load testing from a technical activity into an organizational capability.

The shift from load testing to continuous performance intelligence mirrors transformations that have already occurred in adjacent domains. Financial reporting became continuous with real-time dashboards. Security evolved from periodic audits to continuous monitoring. Customer experience moved from annual surveys to always-on measurement.

Performance intelligence is the next stage in performance testing. Where traditional load testing asks 'How does the system perform under load?', continuous performance intelligence asks a broader set of questions:

SIX QUESTIONS ABOUT PERFORMANCE BUSINESS LEADERS SHOULD BE ASKING

Do we have documented performance commitments for our most business-critical systems? Who owns them?

When a performance test is run, who decides what the results mean — and what action to take?

How does performance data currently reach leadership? Is it reactive (incident reports) or proactive (continuous reporting)?

If our primary customer-facing system degraded by 20% tonight, how quickly would we know? Who would be notified first?

Are we measuring coverage of our performance testing — not just whether tests pass, but whether the right things are being tested at the right frequency?

As we invest in AI-assisted development, what is our process for validating that AI-generated code performs as intended under real-world conditions?

More than engineering questions, these are governance questions and they belong on the agenda of business leaders, not just QA teams. This framework rests on four pillars. Each addresses a specific failure mode in how organizations currently manage performance risk.

Together, they create the conditions for performance to be anticipated rather than reacted to, and for responsibility to be shared rather than centralized.

If the answers are unclear — or if they belong exclusively to engineers — the organization has a performance intelligence gap. That gap is manageable. But closing it requires a deliberate decision to start.

Performance methodology: from running tests to defining intent

The first pillar is the most foundational. Before any test is run, before any metric is collected, an organization must answer a deceptively simple question: what are we actually trying to protect?

Most teams cannot answer this clearly. Tests exist because they have always existed. Scenarios were written by someone who has since left. Load is generated because the tool needs a target. Without intent, performance testing is a ritual rather than a risk management practice.

Performance methodology means structuring testing around explicit business objectives. It means defining Service Level Objectives (SLOs) — the thresholds below which performance becomes a business problem, not just a technical one.

It means organizing tests into campaigns with clear purposes: what risk does this test reduce? What decision does it inform?

> **93%**
>
> **OF NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ACKNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE NO VISIBILITY INTO APPLICATION PERFORMANCE RISK — GARTNER CIO SURVEY 2025.**

For business leaders, this pillar delivers two things currently missing in most organizations. First, a shared language between engineering and leadership, one where 'our checkout service must respond within 300ms for 99% of requests at peak load' is as legible to product and commercial leaders as it is to developers.

Second, a structured governance model where testing is organized around business domains, not individual test runs that disappear into a log.

When this pillar is in place, leaders can ask 'Are we meeting our performance commitments?' and receive a concrete, data-backed answer.

> In Gatling Enterprise Edition, this takes shape through Campaigns (coming in 2026) — structured test programs organized around a specific goal or application domain — and Projects, which group campaigns into application-level governance. SLOs are defined directly in the platform, turning subjective pass/fail judgments into explicit, measurable commitments. Performance stops being something engineering does in the background. It becomes something the organization is accountable for.

Decision enablement: from metrics to actionable direction

The second pillar addresses one of the most persistent failures in performance testing: organizations that run excellent tests, collect comprehensive data, and still ship incidents — because no one knows what the results mean, or what to do next.

Keep in mind that data without interpretation is noise. Dashboards without owners are decoration. Metrics without thresholds are observations without conclusions. The gap between 'we have data' and 'we made a decision' is where most performance value is lost.

Decision enablement means converting performance signals into clear direction. This requires three things working in concert: observability context that connects test results to real system behavior, analysis that surfaces what actually matters in a sea of metrics, and a performance score — a single aggregated indicator that tells leadership, at a glance, whether objectives are being met.

$2.41 TRILLION

THAT'S THE COST OF POOR SOFTWARE QUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES ONLY

For business leaders, this pillar answers the question that currently goes unanswered: 'Should we ship?' Not as a gut call, not as an engineering judgment made in isolation, but as a documented, evidence-based decision.

Organizations that implement this pillar find that the conversation between engineering and leadership changes fundamentally. **Instead of 'the tests passed' or 'the tests failed,' the conversation becomes: 'here is our performance position, here is the risk, here is the recommended course of action.'**

> Gatling Enterprise Edition delivers data without noise. APM integrations with tools like Datadog, Dynatrace, InfluxDB, New Relic, and OpenTelemetry pull observability context directly into test results, so engineers aren't switching between systems to understand what happened. AI-powered results analysis highlights the signals that matter and suggests next steps in plain language. And Campaign and Project Scores (coming in 2026)aggregate performance data into a single indicator — one that a CTO or VP of Engineering can read without a briefing, and act on without a debate.

Shared capability: from engineering activity to organizational governance

As systems evolve, performance tests must evolve with them. Every architectural change—whether a new service, a modified payload, a different scaling strategy, or a shift to event-driven communication—introduces new performance characteristics.

Without systematic updates, simulations become brittle artifacts that reflect yesterday's design instead of today's risk profile. AI-assisted tooling helps teams keep tests current by identifying mismatches between simulations and recent changes, suggesting updates and highlighting coverage gaps as architectures grow.

Instead of rewriting scripts from scratch, teams can iteratively refine them, keeping performance tests relevant without turning maintenance into a full-time job.

> **48%**
>
> **SHARE OF ENTERPRISE DIGITAL INITIATIVES THAT MEET OR EXCEED THEIR BUSINESS OUTCOME TARGETS — GARTNER CIO SURVEY 2025.**

Shared Capability means making performance visible beyond engineering — creating the dashboards, reporting structures, and governance mechanisms that allow leadership, product, and commercial teams to engage with performance data without needing to understand its mechanics.

This is not about asking non-technical leaders to understand load testing mechanics. Instead, it is about giving them the information they need to do their jobs: govern risk, allocate investment, and hold engineering accountable for outcomes that matter to the business. That way, performance sits alongside revenue, customer, and operational data in the dashboards leadership already uses.

For business leaders, this pillar is what transforms performance from a technical activity into a leadership responsibility and creates the conditions for the kind of co-ownership that defines companies in the digital vanguard.

> Gatling Enterprise builds this infrastructure into the platform. The Usage Dashboard gives engineering leaders visibility into adoption, engagement, and coverage across the organization — so performance culture becomes measurable, not assumed. Automated Reports at the campaign and project level deliver performance summaries to the right stakeholders on a regular cadence, without requiring anyone to pull data manually.

AI as a continuous companion: from assistance to intelligence

The fourth pillar is what makes the other three scalable. Performance expertise is scarce. The knowledge required to define meaningful test strategies, interpret complex results, and advise on architectural risk under load is deep, specialized, and unevenly distributed across organizations. Most teams simply do not have enough of it.

AI as a Continuous Companion does not replace that expertise. It amplifies it, making it accessible to teams that do not have a dedicated performance engineer, and dramatically more productive for the teams that do.

20-50%

PRODUCTIVITY GAINS FOR INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPERS AND 10% AT TEAM LEVEL FOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT LEVERAGE AI CODING TOOLS ACCORDING TO MCKINSEY RESEARCH.

The scope of that last point matters more than it might appear. **Most performance data today never leaves the engineering team — not because engineers are withholding it, but because translating technical results into business language is time-consuming, difficult, and rarely prioritized.**

AI closes that gap. It means a product leader can understand what a performance test found without scheduling a briefing. It means a CTO can get a summary of where the organization stands on its performance commitments in the time it takes to read an email.

The gap is explained by missing organizational infrastructure — the baselines, quality gates, and continuous measurement systems needed to validate AI-generated code before it reaches production. Continuous Performance Intelligence is precisely that infrastructure.

Organizations investing in AI-assisted development without first establishing performance intelligence risk generating code faster than they can assure its quality. CPI is not just compatible with AI acceleration — it is the prerequisite for realizing AI's full potential without compounding technical debt.

> In Gatling Enterprise Edition, AI is not a chatbot bolted onto a dashboard. It is embedded across the entire performance lifecycle. The AI IDE Assistant helps engineers write and refine test scripts from within their development environment. The AI Campaign Design Assistant (coming in 2026) helps teams define what to test, how to structure it, and what objectives to set — before a single line of code is written. And AI Test Results Analysis surfaces what matters in a complex result set, recommends next steps, and produces plain-language summaries that non-engineers can actually read and use.

What changes when you start with continous performance engineering

Continuous Performance Intelligence is not a tool to deploy or a project to complete. It is an organizational posture; a durable shift in how performance is understood, governed, and used.

When all four pillars are in place, the change is visible at every level of the organization.

FOR THE BOARD AND C-SUITE

- PERFORMANCE BECOMES GOVERNABLE
- COMPANIES GAIN REPORTS AND SIGNALS TO MAKE INFORMED PRODUCT DECISIONS
- PERFORMANCE SCORES REPLACE INCIDENT REPORTS
- INVESTMENT DECISIONS ARE GROUNDED IN EVIDENCE, NOT ENGINEERING INTUITION.

FOR PRODUCT AND COMMERCIAL LEADERS

- PERFORMANCE COMMITMENTS BECOME EXPLICIT AND MEASURABLE.
- SLOS TRANSLATE INTO CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STANDARDS THAT PRODUCT TEAMS CAN OWN AND COMMERCIAL TEAMS CAN COMMUNICATE CONFIDENTLY.
- WHEN PERFORMANCE DEGRADES, THE SIGNAL REACHES THE RIGHT PEOPLE BEFORE IT REACHES CUSTOMERS.

FOR ENGINEERING AND TECH LEADERS

- PERFORMANCE BECOMES A CAPABILITY, NOT A DEPARTMENT
- AI HANDLES THE HEAVY LIFTING, FREEING ENGINEERS TO FOCUS ON THE WORK THAT REQUIRES HUMAN JUDGMENT
- THE CONVERSATION WITH LEADERSHIP SHIFTS FROM EXPLAINING WHAT WENT WRONG TO SHOWING WHAT IS MEASURED, AND WHAT IS BEING DONE

FOR THE ORGANIZATION AS A WHOLE

- PERFORMANCE IS ANTICIPATED INSTEAD OF REACTED TO
- THE DECISION TO SHIP OR NOT IS MADE WITH EVIDENCE, NOT HOPE.
- ORGANIZATIONAL KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED TO MAKE GOOD PERFORMANCE DECISIONS COMPOUNDS OVER TIME, RATHER THAN RESETTING WITH EVERY TEAM CHANGE OR PLATFORM MIGRATION.

From load testing to performance intelligence

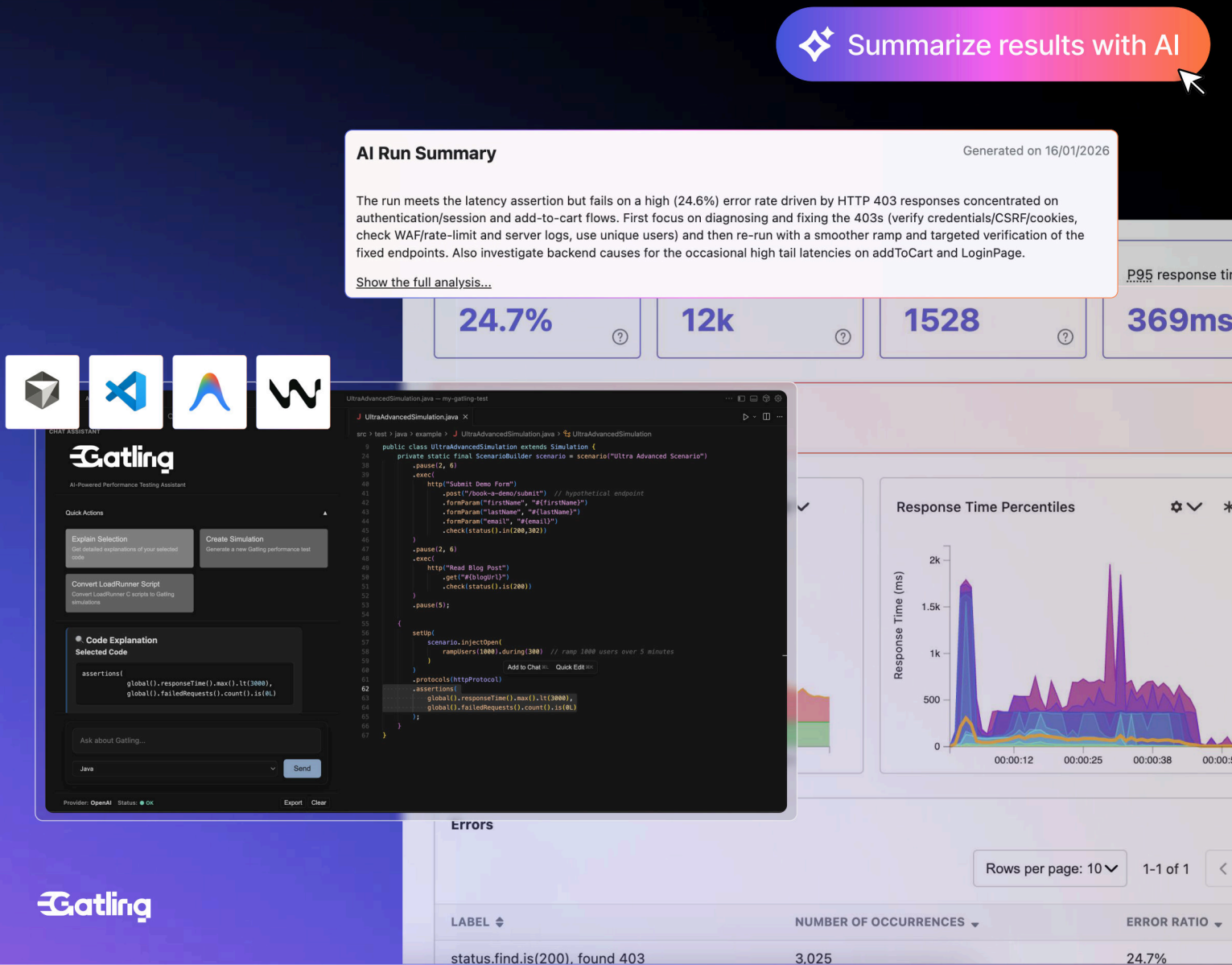
The cost of treating performance as a technical problem has never been higher.

Modern distributed systems are too complex for any single engineer to fully understand. The stakes of getting it wrong — revenue loss, regulatory exposure, reputational damage — have grown with every wave of digital investment.

Continuous Performance Intelligence does not make performance easier. It makes performance governable. It gives business leaders the visibility, the language, and the organizational structures they need to engage with one of the most significant sources of digital risk they currently cannot see.

The four pillars — Performance Methodology, Decision Enablement, Shared Capability, and AI as a Continuous Companion — are not just a roadmap for engineering teams. They act as a blueprint for organizations that want performance to be anticipated rather than reacted to, and leadership to have the confidence to act on what they find.

Execution was phase one of load testing. Intelligence is phase two.



Gatling

Gatling Enterprise is the platform purpose-built to deliver Continuous Performance Intelligence: transforming load testing from a technical activity into an organizational capability that business leaders can govern, product teams can engage with, and engineering teams can scale.

With its powerful open-source and enterprise platforms, Gatling empowers teams to test APIs, microservices, and web apps in real-world conditions.

Trusted by thousands of companies worldwide, Gatling is the performance backbone for development, QA, and DevOps teams building the next generation of software.

Whether you're scaling APIs, migrating to the cloud, or handling flash traffic spikes, Gatling helps you deliver fast, reliable performance.

Ready to impment continous performance intelligence?

See how AI-assisted performance testing can take you to the next level

Talk to an expert ›