StackGen

AIDEN AGENTIC OS CHEAT SHEET SERIES · VOL. 2

Build vs. Buy Cheat Sheet

What every technical buyer needs to know before building an AI SRE + DevOps platform in-house.

THE REAL QUESTION | Burden | Governance | Auditability | Maintenance | Time-to-value

NO TOKEN COST

1. The Real Question

Scored 1 (light) to 5 (heavy) – burden and complexity, not LLM spend.

BUILD — AVG. BURDEN 4.8/5

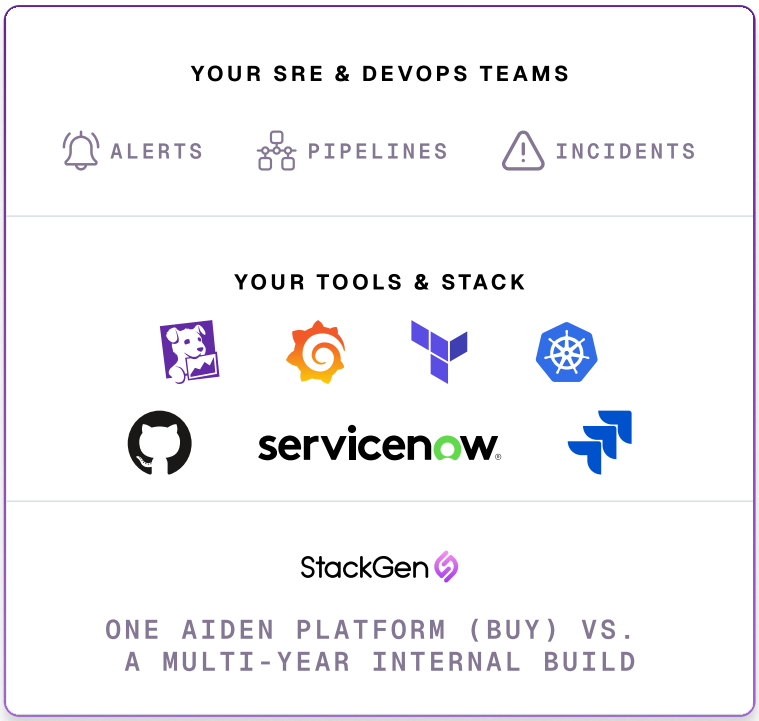
- ✕ Integration complexity – 5
- ✕ Security / Governance complexity – 5
- ✕ Auditability burden – 4
- ✕ Maintenance burden – 5
- ✕ Time-to-value risk – 5

BUY (AIDEN) — AVG. BURDEN 1.8/5

- ✓ Integration complexity – 2
- ✓ Security/Governance complexity – 2
- ✓ Auditability burden – 1
- ✓ Maintenance burden – 2
- ✓ Time-to-value risk – 2

2. Mental Model

One platform, two domains. Build the foundation once – buy overlays your current stack.



Single subscription serves both domains • foundation shared, not rebuilt twice.

3. Cost – 3-Year Delta (Illustrative Model)

Combined build shares one foundation (~70% reuse) – building separately costs more.

METRIC	SRE ONLY	DEVOPS ONLY	COMBINED
Build – 3yr total	$1.83M	$3.80M	$4.35M
Buy (Aiden) – 3yr total	$0.78M	$0.88M	$0.92M
3yr delta (Build – Buy)	$1.05M	$2.92M	$3.43M

4. Timeline & Headcount

METRIC	SRE ONLY	DEVOPS ONLY	COMBINED
Weeks to production – Build	39	52	52
Weeks to production – Buy	~10	~12	~12
Build peak internal FTE	4.0	8.0	8.0
Build ongoing internal FTE	2.0	3.0	3.6

5. Customer Validation

> "StackGen's estimation about build versus buy was spot on – it was exactly what I thought."

Sr. Architect
Fortune 50 Technology Company

TALK TRACK

"You can build parts of this – that's not the real question. It's whether your team spends its time on your operational problems, or on the AI platform layer underneath them."

ai.stackgen.com/app/sre

FULL PLATFORM — BOOK A DEMO

One control plane. Every agent. Every LLM. Identity, policy, context, cost, audit — unified.

stackgen.com/demo