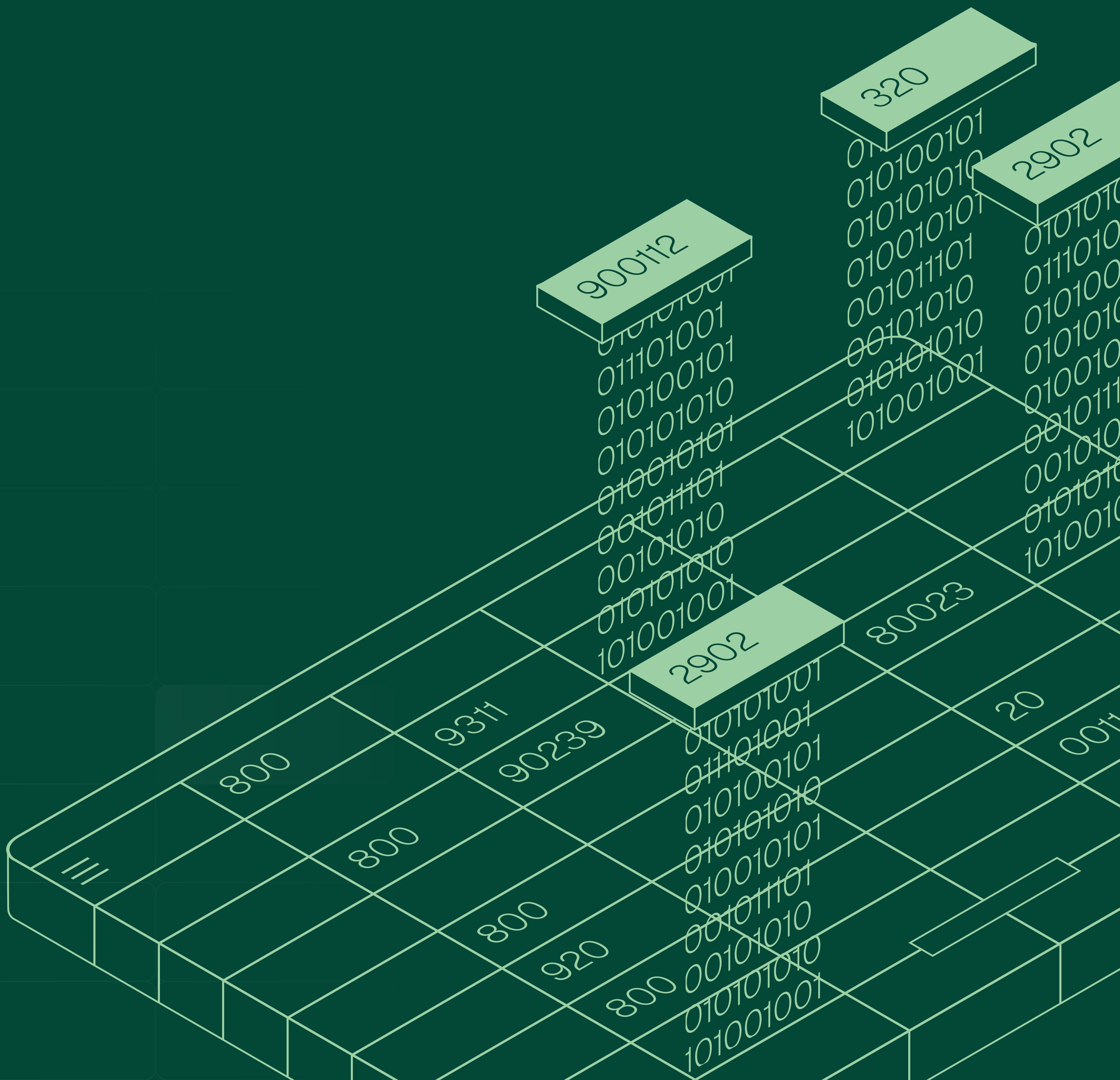# From Excel to AI.

Your guide to making the shift for lease accounting.

Rewriting the script.
An introduction to leases.

Countless organizations, from the world's largest enterprises to SMBs, use a spreadsheet solution like Microsoft Excel to handle all — or a part of — their lease accounting. Clearly, Excel is here to stay in any accounting team's toolkit. But what's changing?

It's a good question.

The reality is that the finance world is constantly changing, not least when it comes to accounting standards. Getting compliant may have been your team's first challenge, but maintaining compliance with ongoing modifications, terminations, etc. etc. is a different story altogether. To top it off, with the recent ASC and IFRS updates, the complexity of compliance has reached a tipping point.

In the face of such challenges, it would be fair to say that Excel has been pushed as far as it can go. In bygone days, operating leases used to be straightforward (straight-line basis, expenses through the income statement… you see the point).

> In Trullion's 2023 survey of finance professionals (ranging from CFOs, controllers, and auditors in a variety of industries), it was found that 61% of respondents spend over 4 hours a day in Excel.

Fast forward to today and things have become a little more complicated. Right-of-use assets and corresponding lease liabilities have had major balance sheet implications. Thus, the question of embedded leases is now more intricate, disclosure requirements are more demanding, and lease modifications can have far-reaching impacts.

But it's not all gloom and doom.

The good news is that technology — in particular automation — can help. In this guide, we'll walk you through how to transition to AI-powered lease accounting software. So you can start letting AI do some of the heavy lifting for you. Curious? Keep scrolling.

Table of innovation.
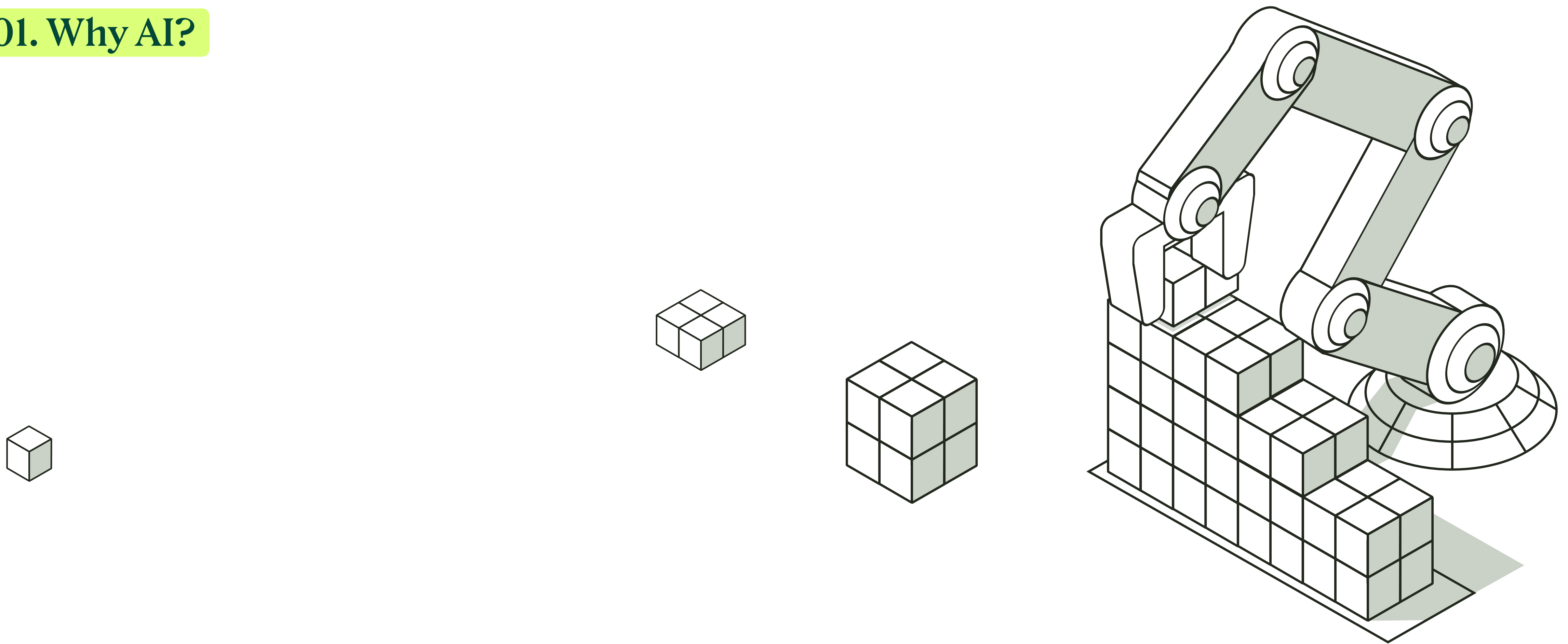
The future of accounting is yours to shape You just need AI.

To start, let's unpack some of the risks of relying on spreadsheets for lease calculations…

- Pulling data from an incorrect cell
- Corruption of a data source
- Mistakes when modifying one element of a sheet
- Complications in linking sheets
- Creating journal entries and disclosures from erroneous spreadsheets

While this list certainly isn't exhaustive, it gives us a sense of the kinds of risks involved — especially while trying to stay compliant with increasingly stringent accounting standards. But how can AI reduce these risks?

Again, it's a good question.

Take a look at the table below, where our accounting wizards compare manual and automated lease accounting in more detail.

From manual to automated

	Manual	Software
Data extraction	High risk, high time investment	Low risk, scales with volume
Modifications	High risk of missing relevant amendments	Low risk, high speed, broad application to all relevant data
Adoption timeline (new regulations)	Risk of ramping up as training all relevant staff takes time. Resource crunch potential	Low risk, immediate deployment to the software. Team remains focused on business implications of the standards
Preparing financial reporting	Resource dependent for accuracy and timeliness	All relevant inputs accessible in real-time for processing to audit ready disclosures and reports
Ongoing compliance	Human error is always a potential risk that increases with volume and complexity	Low risk to continuous compliance, scales with volume and complexity
Multi-currency and Foreign Exchange Calculations	High risk, high time allocation for research and adjustment to each lease before applying updated calculations across workflows	Low risk low touch automated calculation and realtime updates across all required workflows

The benefits are endless

To illustrate the huge potential of AI-powered lease accounting software, let's dive a little deeper into one of these workflows: modifications (which may give you a headache to even think about).

With automated bulk upload and modification detection, you can upload any Excel file, and the software can detect new, changed, and modified leases. The best bit? You can also generate the journal entries, reports, and audit trails required. Not only are you saving time, you're also generating highly accurate reports that will catapult your business to total compliance — with less effort required from your team. Cool, right?

Shooting for the stars

And yet, while the cost–benefit analysis may weigh heavily towards AI, you've probably got a process down and organized. So it's totally understandable that you may have a few burning questions…

- What does this shift look like?
- How do you get started moving towards AI-powered software?
- How can you reduce risk during the actual transition process?

With that in mind, we'll now walk you through the practical steps, and show you how making the shift from Excel to AI-powered accounting software is much easier than you might imagine.

When financial professionals from a range of industries were presented with the choice to automate only one part of their job, more than half chose to automate financial reporting.

5%

10%

23%

6%

56%

- Financial Reporting
- Email Updates
- General Data Entry
- Journal Entries
- Slide Decks
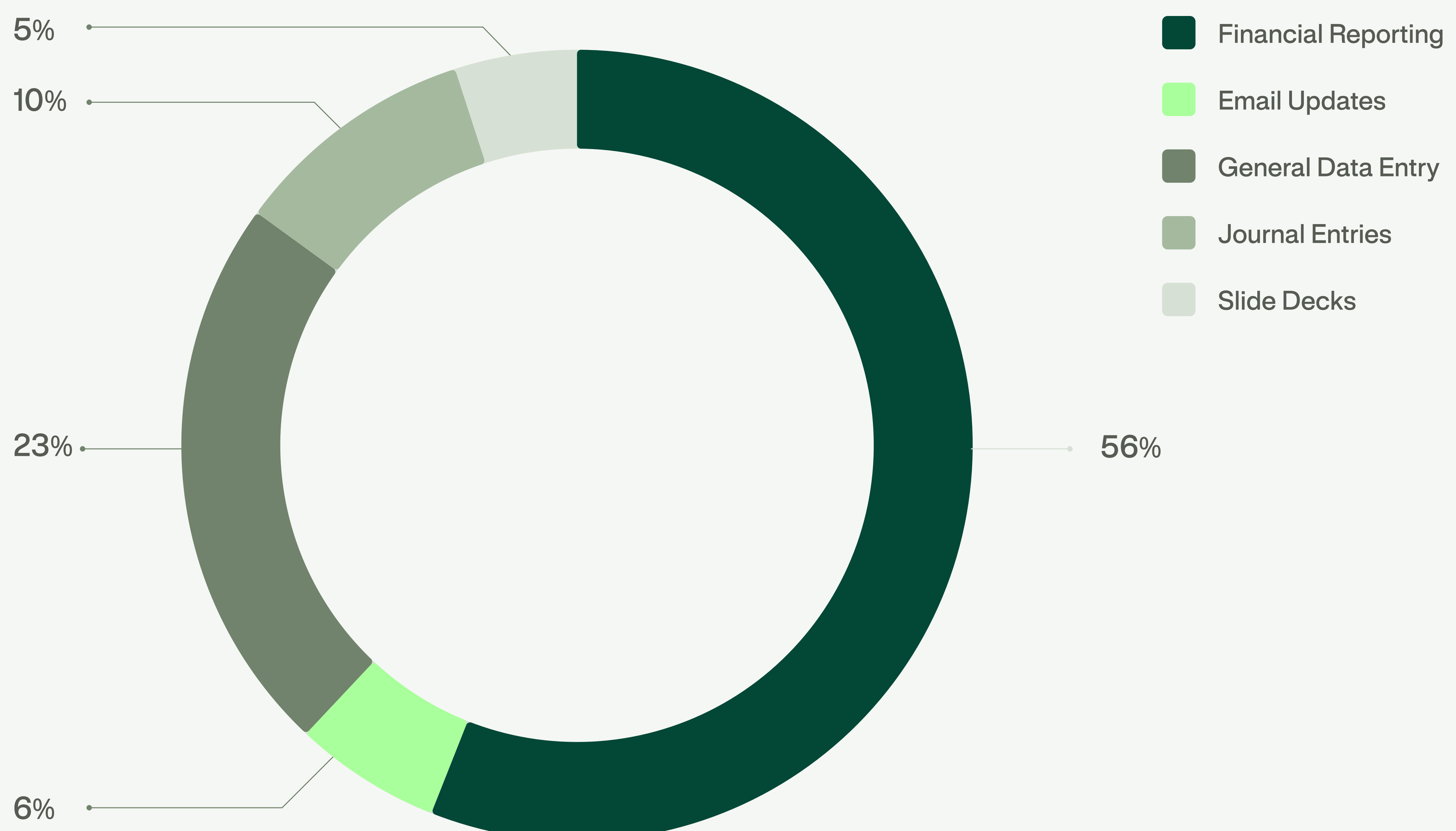
One small step for leases.
# One giant leap for your business.

Like any internal transition for your business, you'll want to set up key milestones — tracking everything along the way. After partnering with hundreds of companies who modernized their lease workflows with our software, we've put together a list of some of the most important milestones. All to help you implement our solution painlessly.

Speak to an onboarding expert
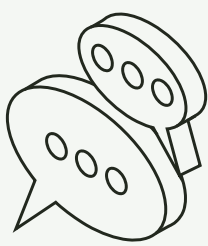
If it's your first time implementing AI-powered lease accounting software, you'll want to make sure your software provider (like Trullion) explains the onboarding process. Make sure to speak to them about everything — from the onboarding timeline to specific lease accounting use cases for your business.

Set up a checklist
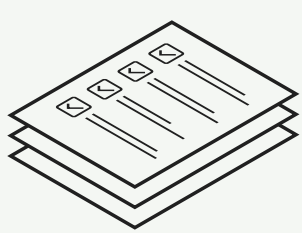
While the specific checklist you create relates to your specific lease accounting workflows, you'll want to include the following steps:

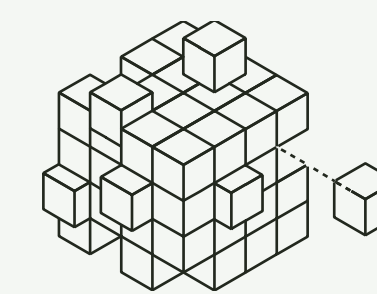| ✓ | Upload files, train your team on the system, set policies, set up users, and configure reports. | 01. |
✓	Understand more advanced requirements and features.	02.
✓	Review journal entry and disclosure reports.	03.
✓	Q&A and hand-off.	04.

Consolidate your leases

Now's the time to gather all your leases in one place (physical contracts, PDFs, and any other form of lease). It's also a great opportunity to look out for any embedded leases that might have been missed, such as contracts with elements that meet the updated definition of a 'lease'.

Sometimes this process involves discussions with other departments — such as product or IT — to explain that any contract could contain a lease element, and therefore to explore if any such contracts were missed (this happens a lot!)

Of course, organizing your contracts is also something you need to do when working manually. The real difference will come when you bulk upload all of this structured and unstructured data, and can find and trace it all easily in one place. Not bad.

Automate, innovate
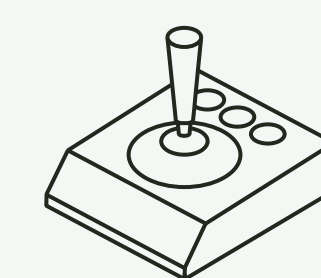
Then comes the fun part. You've chosen software and are ready to automate.
The leading AI-powered lease accounting systems use advanced Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology to "read" leases automatically (e.g. from a PDF document).

The technology does the heavy lifting for you — scanning leases for relevant details such as amounts and dates. It also means that all journal entries can be easily traced back to source (seriously).

Modifications? No stress!
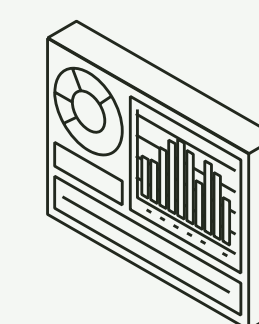
As mentioned, leases can also be bulk uploaded, and any changes can be bulk uploaded again, with modifications picked up and accounted for correctly by the system. With lease modifications being a complex area of lease accounting, this takes away a lot of the headaches associated with meeting compliance with the latest lease standards.

Last checks
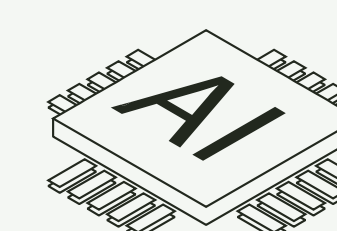
Automated AI-powered lease accounting software has been designed from the ground up to be super easy to add to your system, and maintain. There are no complex and time-consuming migrations, no custom coding needed, and no "expert" that needs to sit in your office for days programming your system.

What's more, AI-powered leasing software is SaaS-based, which means it's easily implemented, automatically updated, and leverages the latest technologies to make your life easier.
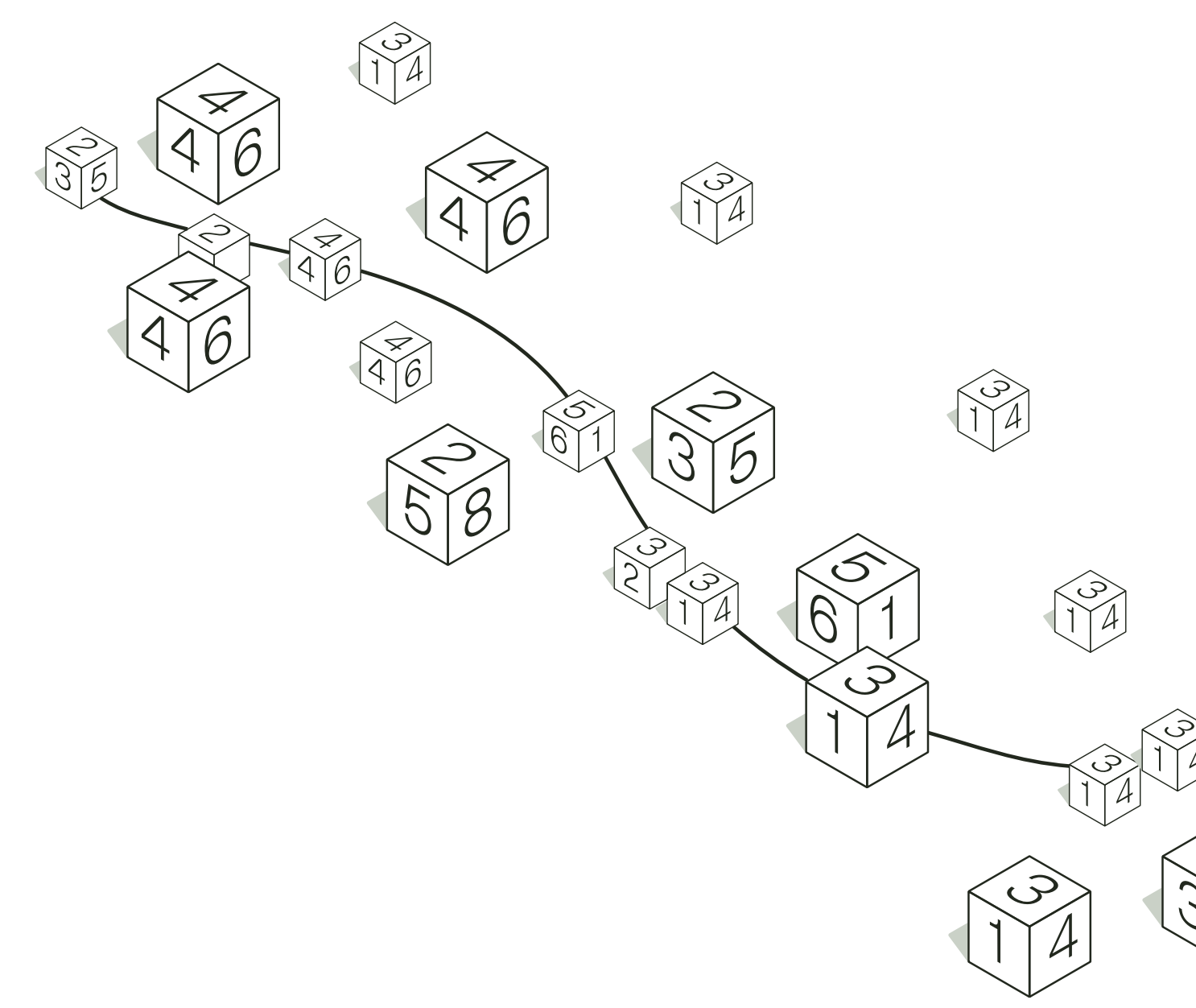
The future in numbers.
A case study.

What's the next step, you may ask?

Well, it could be starting to think about what you're going to do with all the time that you've saved. Bahamas? Finish that book? It's up to you. But first, let's walk through the process from the eyes of a business like yours that recently implemented our software.

How the transition actually feels: **Taboola case study**

Taboola is a public advertising company with headquarters in New York and 18 offices around the globe. The company's AI-powered platform powers content recommendations for the open web, and are used by websites, devices, and mobile apps to drive monetization and user engagement.

Taboola

The company's lease accounting portfolio consists of approximately 25 leases, including real estate, data centers, and other assets.

Prior to working with Trullion, the Taboola finance team was reporting on leases with Excel.

According to Taboola's VP Finance, Yaron Kaneti, the process was nothing short of a "nightmare". Kaneti describes it as "endless Excel sheets with great manual work. A lot of reviews, going back and forth, checking the numbers, and fine-tuning them. It was a risky process, as well as time-consuming."

The lack of efficiency and the high risk of error was a major pain point for the team, and it was clear that implementing an automated solution was of high importance.

Kaneti shares his and his team's enthusiasm for automating reporting:

> "
>
> The system calculates everything automatically. I very much like the ability to read the contract and to scan it in a way that a lot of information can be identified and flow into the methodology and the formulas in the system. It saves a lot of time... It's efficient as well. So the whole experience from the paperwork that is scanned to the end output, it's a great experience.

Yaron Kaneti
VP Finance, Taboola

Taboola

Trullion is giving Kaneti and the Taboola team peace-of-mind, knowing that their numbers are accurate:

> "
>
> Once you have this type of system, your auditors are relaxed. I'm relaxed. Everyone is relaxed. The risk is low. The analyzing process is very smooth and easy, without deficiency.

Yaron Kaneti
VP Finance, Taboola

Taboola

Since implementing Trullion, the Taboola team has seen a significant improvement in efficiency. According to Kaneti, automating lease accounting with Trullion has saved the company three full working days per person, per quarter. With three team members using the platform, Trullion is saving Taboola 36 full days of work per year.
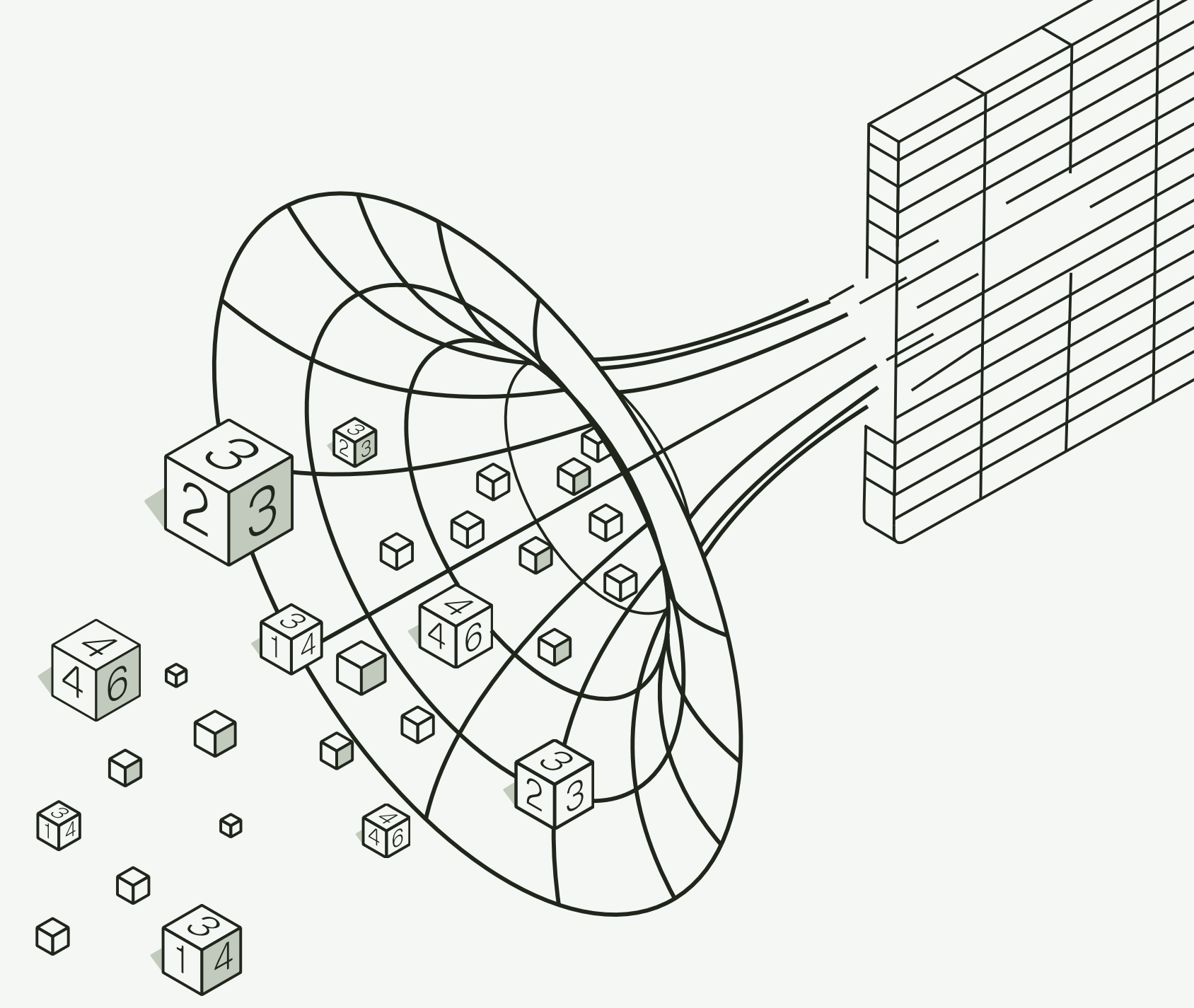
Time to move.
Some final thoughts.

The main thing to take away is that AI-powered lease accounting software is built to make your life far easier, on top of ensuring compliance with the latest accounting standards. As such, making the shift from Excel to AI is designed to be super easy, smooth, and seamless. And with that, the opportunity for your company to take a step into the future becomes a genuine reality.

The next-generation of accounting work.
Meet Trullion.

Trullion is an AI-powered accounting platform that automates repetitive, labor-intensive tasks for CFOs, Accountants, and Auditors — ensuring hassle-free compliance. Our products unify the unstructured and structured worlds of accounting into one secure platform, giving you back your time, with confidence.

For more information   🌐 www.trullion.com   ✉ info@trullion.com