



FROM DEFENSE TO OFFENSE HOW THE CIO FUNCTION HAS EVOLVED AND THE NEW SKILLS REQUIRED



BattaliaWinston

THE ROLE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER HAS EVOLVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT YEARS, MOVING FROM A DEFENSIVE POSITION FOCUSED ON MAINTAINING AND SECURING THE COMPANY'S IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND IT OPERATIONS RELIABILITY TO A MORE STRATEGIC AND OFFENSIVE POSITION FOCUSED ON DRIVING INNOVATION, GROWTH, AND COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE. THIS SHIFT HAS REQUIRED CIOs TO DEVELOP NEW SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES TO KEEP PACE WITH THE RAPIDLY CHANGING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT.

Here are some of the key ways in which the CIO function has evolved and the new skills required:

Strategic Planning:

Today's CIOs are expected to play a critical role in shaping the overall business strategy of the organization. They need to be able to align technology investments with business objectives and drive innovation that delivers measurable business value.

Business Acumen:

CIOs need to have a deep understanding of the business, its operations, and its customers. They need to translate business needs into technology requirements and communicate the value of technology investments to the broader organization.

Innovation Management:

CIOs need to be able to identify emerging technologies and trends and determine how they can be leveraged to improve the organization's products, services, and processes. They must be capable of managing innovation initiatives, including ideation, experimentation, and implementation.

Digital Transformation:

CIOs are responsible for leading the digital transformation efforts of the organization. They should be able to identify the opportunities and challenges presented by digital technologies and drive the adoption of digital solutions that enable the organization to compete and win in the marketplace.

Relationship Management:

CIOs need to be able to build strong relationships with key stakeholders across the organization, including business leaders, IT staff, and external vendors. They need to collaborate effectively with these stakeholders to achieve common goals.

Change Management:

CIOs need to be skilled in managing change within the organization. They must be able to lead cultural change efforts that enable the organization to embrace new technologies and ways of working.

In summary, the evolution of the CIO function from a defensive role to a business partner role to grow revenues, profits and marketshare has required CIOs to develop a new set of skills that enable them to drive innovation, digital transformation, and competitive advantage. These skills include strategic planning, business acumen, innovation management, digital transformation, relationship management, and change management.

