

# **2025 CIO Agenda: Top Priorities and Technology Plans for U.S. Federal Government and Defense**

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## An introduction to the 2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey

**2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey:** This survey tracked how senior IT leaders worldwide prioritize strategic business, technical and management objectives. It was conducted online from 1 May through 28 June 2024.

The survey includes respondents who lead an IT function, with a total of 3,186 CIOs and technology executives participating, including 49 from U.S. federal government and defense organizations. The survey participants are representative of various geographies, revenue bands and industry sectors, including both public and private organizations.

**Disclaimer:** The results of the survey do not represent global findings or the market as a whole but reflect the sentiments of the respondents and companies surveyed.



## Use Gartner research to quickly get up to speed with peer CIOs' priorities

This research gives CIOs and technology leaders the essential information to identify technology spending trends and digital investment objectives for 2025, including:

- **Expected changes in technology investments and deployment**
- **CIO priorities during vendor selection**
- **Critical outcomes of digital technology investments**
- **Top CIO focus areas for 2025**
- **CIO reporting lines**

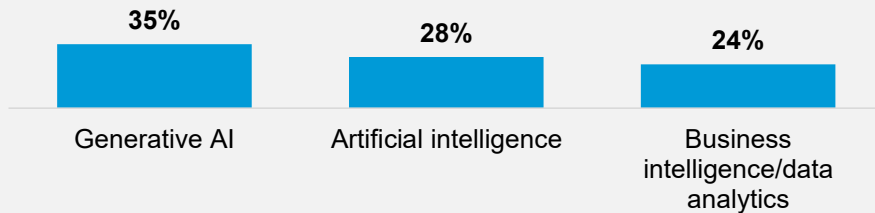
Use these slides to inform your executive leadership's key priorities or revisit your IT function's strategic plans.



# Expected changes in technology investments

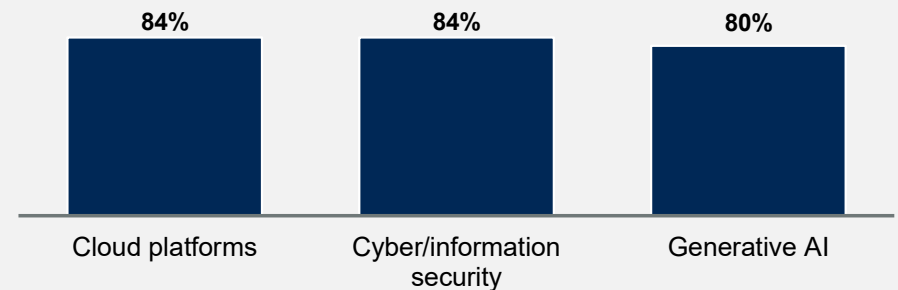
## Biggest expected change in investment

Mean percent budget change expected in 2025



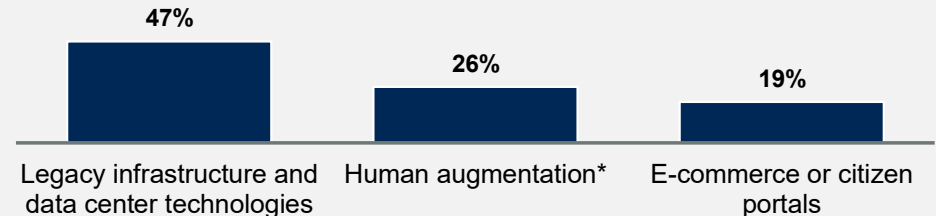
## Top 3 technologies with planned investment **increases**

Percentage of U.S. federal government respondents



## Top 3 technologies with planned investment **decreases**

Percentage of U.S. federal government respondents



**+0.0%** Average expected change to IT budget

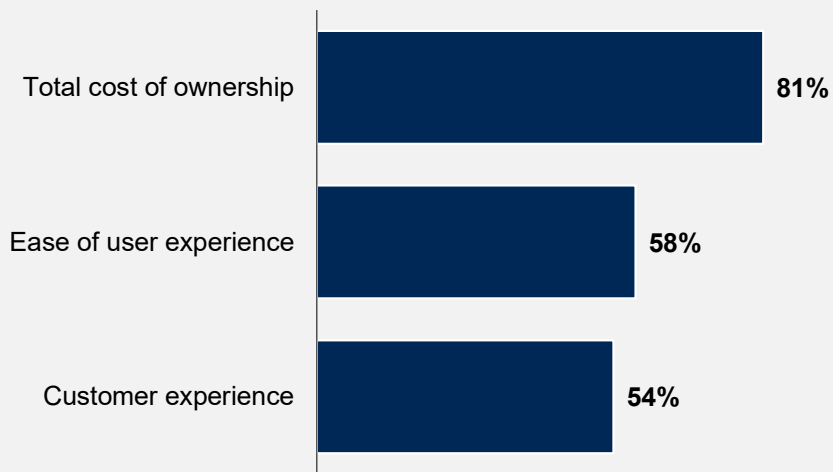
n =38-45; U.S. federal government (including defense) CIOs and technology executives answering  
 Q: For each of these technology areas, by how much will your enterprise increase or decrease funding in 2025 compared with 2024?  
 Q: By what percentage do you expect your enterprise's IT budget to increase or decrease from 2024 to 2025?  
 \*Note: Human augmentation includes augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), immersive technologies.  
 Source: 2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey



# CIO priorities during vendor selection

## Top 3 characteristics considered when selecting commodity/nondifferential technologies

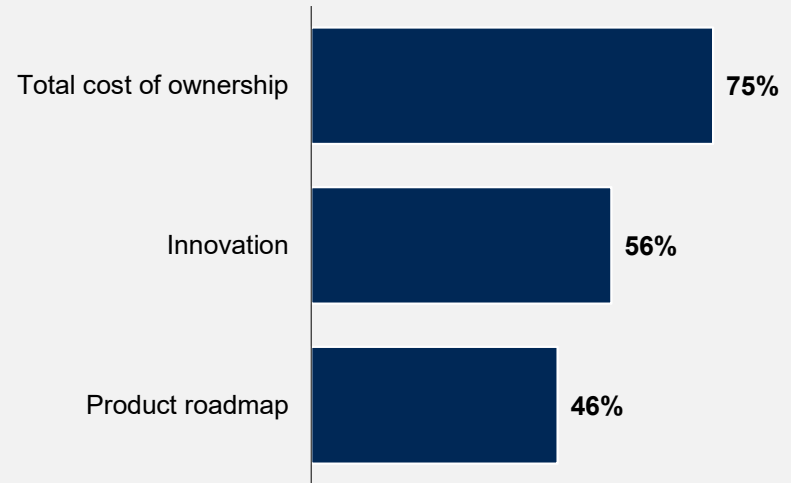
Percentage of U.S. federal government respondents, up to three responses allowed



n = 48; U.S. federal government (including defense) CIOs and technology executives answering  
Q: When selecting global vendors/providers for Commodity/Nondifferential Technologies, what are the three most important characteristics you seek?  
Source: 2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey

## Top 3 characteristics considered when selecting competitive/differential technologies

Percentage of U.S. federal government respondents, up to three responses allowed



n = 48; U.S. federal government (including defense) CIOs and technology executives answering  
Q: When selecting global vendors/providers for Competitive Advantage/Differential Technologies, what are the three most important characteristics you seek?  
Source: 2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey



# State of technology deployment

## Top 3 technologies deployed by 2025

Percentage of U.S. federal government respondents



Low-Code/No-Code  
Development Platform

**71%**



Industry Cloud  
Platform

**69%**



Artificial Intelligence

**58%**

## Top 3 technologies deployed by 2027

Percentage of U.S. federal government respondents



Generative Artificial  
Intelligence

**98%**



Artificial Intelligence

**96%**



Low-Code/No-Code  
Development Platform

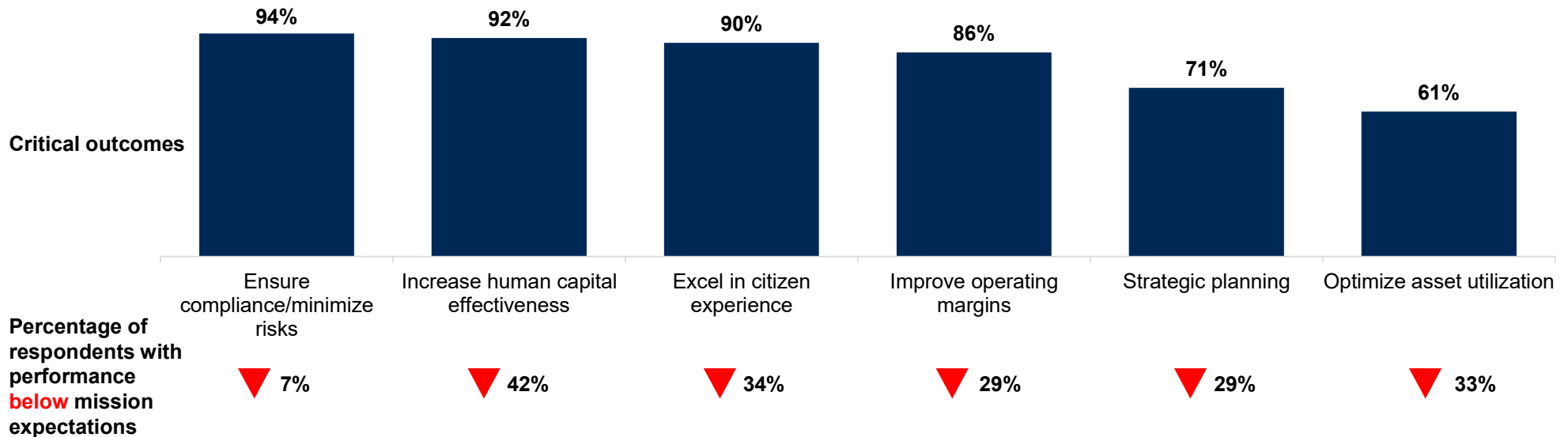
**94%**

n = 48; U.S. federal government (including defense) CIOs and technology executives answering  
Q: What are your enterprise's deployment plans for the following digital technologies?  
Note: While generative AI is a specific type of AI, the survey listed it as a separate category due to increasing interest in it.  
Source: 2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey

# Critical outcomes of digital technology investments

## Critical outcomes of digital technology investments and performance of outcomes against mission expectations

Percentage of U.S. federal respondents, multiple responses allowed



n = 49; U.S. federal government (including defense) CIOs and technology executives answering

Q: Thinking about your enterprise's investments in digital technologies, which types of outcomes are most critical to your enterprise? (Multiple responses allowed)

n varies; U.S. federal government (including defense) CIOs and technology executives to select the given outcome as most critical answering

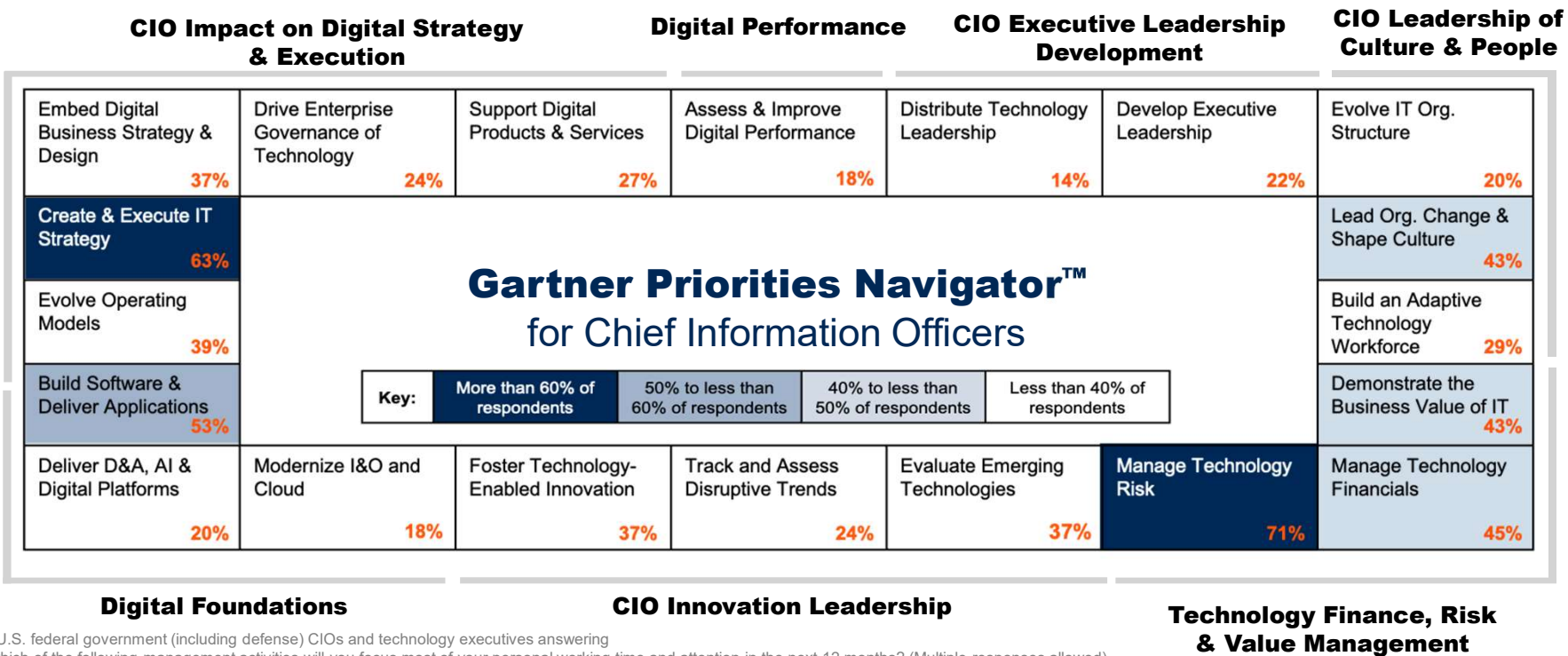
Q: How would your CEO (or head of the enterprise, agency, bureau or department) rate the performance of your enterprise's investments in digital technologies toward the realization of these business outcomes?

Source: 2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey



# Top areas of CIOs' focus

Percentage of U.S. federal respondents selecting the following as a focus area



**Digital Foundations**

**CIO Innovation Leadership**

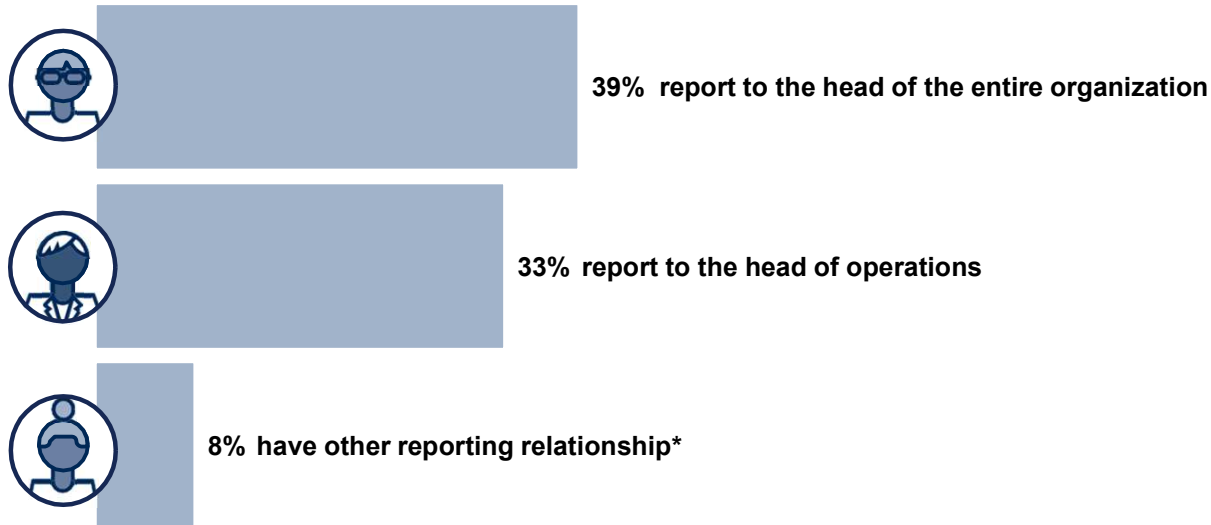
**Technology Finance, Risk & Value Management**

n = 49; U.S. federal government (including defense) CIOs and technology executives answering  
 Q: On which of the following management activities will you focus most of your personal working time and attention in the next 12 months? (Multiple responses allowed)  
 Note: AI = artificial intelligence; D&A = data and analytics; I&O = infrastructure and operations  
 Source: 2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey



## CIOs' reporting lines

Percentage of U.S. federal government respondents reporting to the following roles



n = 49; U.S. federal government (including defense) CIOs and technology executives answering

Q: To whom do you directly report?

\*Note: "other reporting relationship" = not reporting to the CEO, CFO, COO, CDO, the head of a different functional area that provides specialized support and expertise to the rest of the enterprise (enables business units), the head of a Business Unit that is directly involved in revenue generation or directly produces the products/services we sell in the marketplace, or a more senior CIO or CTO.

Source: 2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey



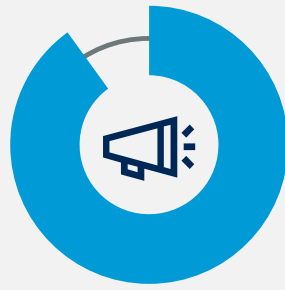
## How CIOs perceive their role

### CIO and technology leaders' views on their role

Percentage of U.S. federal government respondents agreeing with the following statements



**88%** agree that  
“I am confident that the  
CIO role will be an  
influential and rewarding  
role in five years’ time”



**90%** agree that  
“I would recommend a  
CIO career path to others”



**31%** agree that  
“I often think about  
leaving this organization”



**27%** agree that  
“I often think about  
leaving the CIO job”

n = 48; U.S. federal government (including defense) CIOs and technology executives answering

Q: Below you will find various statements that some people have made about their day-to-day work, and their organizations as a whole. We would like to know how much you agree or disagree with each statement in terms of how well it describes you.

Source: 2025 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey



## Take action with Gartner

1

**Benchmark** your technology adoption plans and priorities against your peers' using this research.



2

**Engage** with your executive leadership team to discuss the IT function's key priorities using the provided slides.



3

**Schedule a conversation** with a Gartner expert to further discuss these results.




# Actionable, objective insight

Position your public sector organization for success by exploring these additional complimentary resources and tools for CIOs:



**Webinar**  
How to Prepare for Shifting U.S. Federal Government AI Policy  
Explore 2025 AI policy shifts affecting CIOs.

[Watch Now](#)



**Webinar**  
Government's Role in Getting Digital Identity Right  
Optimize your organization's approach to digital identity.

[Watch Now](#)



**Roadmap**  
The Future of Digital Government Strategy  
Explore actionable insights to prepare for the future.

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**Webinar**  
How Government CIOs Can Make an Impact on Disaster Recovery Response  
Discover strategic disaster recovery insight for government CIOs.

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