

The Mission-Driven CDO

Insights from the 2023 Survey of Federal Chief Data Officers (CDOs)

In the fall of 2023, federal department-, agency-, and bureau-level CDOs and Statistical Officers completed a [survey](#) developed by the Data Foundation and Deloitte to understand the evolving CDO role and CDO community needs. The insights below are based on the results of this survey, which is the fourth annual of its kind.

CDOs are...

Catalysts

for AI adoption and innovation within their organization.

- **55%** of CDOs already use basic or advanced AI and **95%** intend to adopt new AI technologies for their organizations in the next year.
- The **2023 Executive Order** establishing the Chief AI Officer (CAIO) role will increase the expansion of AI throughout all organizations.

CDOs will be critical partners to CAIOs, aligning all cross-functional areas of their organization to strategic AI initiatives.

Champions

of data literacy and culture in the workforce to keep pace with emerging technology.

- Well-trained talent specializing in the intersection of data, AI, and industry is cited by **60%** of CDOs as a key resource needed to effectively carry out their missions.
- Beyond foundational data knowledge, **75%** of CDOs believe their roles also influence the organization's data culture, encouraging data professionals to value data and use it ethically and responsibly.

Data literacy programs can position their organization's staff for success and boost data-driven decisions.

Strategists

aligning data governance and equitable practices to the organization's mission.

- CDOs are supporting their organization's mission by maximizing the value of their organization's data, supporting a data community, and leading the development of data policies and processes.
- CDOs are expanding data-driven decision making, improving data infrastructure and data quality (i.e., demographic representation in data), and promoting inclusivity in the workplace and in staffing.

CDOs are responsible for orienting their organization towards equitable and data-centered approaches that serve their mission and the public.

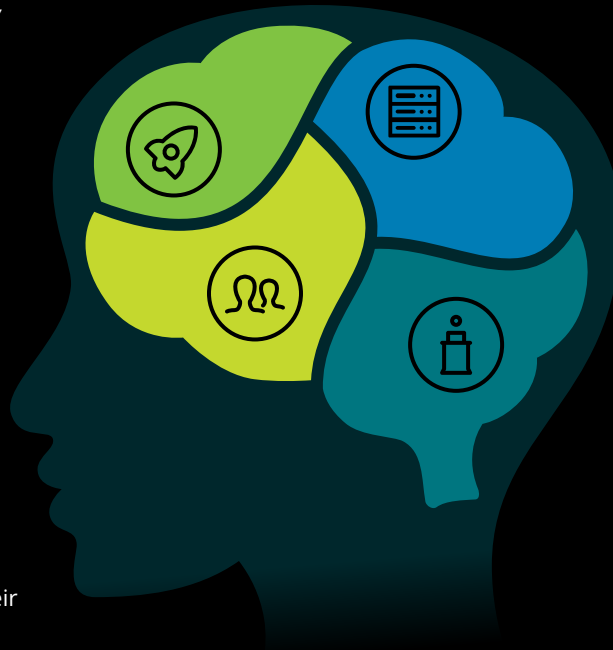
Operators

of shared data agendas and evolving needs of their organizations.

- **52%** of CDOs work with a host of C-Suite leaders, with **60%** of CDOs naming CIOs as the leader they collaborate with most frequently. In 2023, more CDOs (**55%**) experienced challenges reporting up to CIOs than in 2022 (**34%**).

- CDOs cite funding, authority, and staffing constraints as the top three barriers hindering mission success. CDOs also provided an array of additional barriers, indicating that each organization faces unique challenges.

With the advent of the new CAIO position, it is even more crucial for CDOs to establish shared agendas across leaders. Despite differences among organizations, the key to success is that each organization's structure and resources empowers the CDO office to achieve their data goals and mission requirements.



Contact Us

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