Tool: How CTOs and CISOs Can Enable a Secure Digital Future

Published 6 November 2023 - ID G00794265 - 1 min read

By Analyst(s): Ankita Khilare, Samantha Searle, Zachary Smith

Initiatives: Digital Innovation and Enablement Function

Although the CTO and CISO roles are different, they share capabilities. Still, they don't usually work together. This tool provides guidance to CTOs to collaborate with CISOs, balancing assurance and risk capabilities and achieving secure, resilient growth for their organization.

When to Use

Chief technology officers (CTOs) can use this guide to collaborate with chief information security officers (CISOs) when:

- One of the other CxO positions is new or newly appointed
- They want to set up an effective framework for regular collaboration in business activities
- There is a major change in business or security strategy
- Organizations are in the initial stages of developing a cybersecurity program
- Investing in new technologies that could pose a risk to the organization
- Designing new products or improving new ones to avoid introducing security risks into the product

Directions for Use

This tool will help CTOs establish productive and collaborative partnership with CISOs.The guide outlines six steps to kick off CTO-CISO partnership discussions:

- Establish shared priorities
- Identify common challenges that you can tackle together

- Determine activities to collaborate on
- Leverage governance to avoid conflicts
- Define shared outcomes and metrics
- Create action plans and set up regular check-ins

The tool also contains customizable templates with action points that can be used in partnership and strategy discussions. The notes section provides context and instructions for customization where applicable.

Disclaimer: Unless otherwise marked for external use, the items in this Gartner Tool are for internal noncommercial use by the licensed Gartner client. The materials contained in this Tool may not be repackaged or resold. Gartner makes no representations or warranties as to the suitability of this Tool for any particular purpose, and disclaims all liabilities for any damages, whether direct, consequential, incidental or special, arising out of the use of or inability to use this material or the information provided herein.

Spreadsheets published by Gartner may leverage features such as pivot tables and macros that are supported in a Microsoft Windows environment and with Microsoft Excel 2007 or higher.

See Gartner Internet Browser System Requirements for more information.

Recommended by the Authors

Some documents may not be available as part of your current Gartner subscription.

A CTO's Guide to Build the Right Executive Partnerships

Tool: A CTO's Guide to CxO Partnerships: How CTOs and CDAOs Can Build Collaborative Relationships

Case Study: Build CTO Trust Through Increased Transparency (United States Trustees Program)

Quick Answer: What Interpersonal Skills Do I Need to Become a Successful CTO?

Tool: How to Establish a Charter for the Office of the CTO

© 2023 Gartner, Inc. and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Gartner is a registered trademark of Gartner, Inc. and its affiliates. This publication may not be reproduced or distributed in any form without Gartner's prior written permission. It consists of the opinions of Gartner's research organization, which should not be construed as statements of fact. While the information contained in this publication has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, Gartner disclaims all warranties as to the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of such information. Although Gartner research may address legal and financial issues, Gartner does not provide legal or investment advice and its research should not be construed or used as such. Your access and use of this publication are governed by Gartner's Usage Policy. Gartner prides itself on its reputation for independence and objectivity. Its research is produced independently by its research organization without input or influence from any third party. For further information, see "Guiding Principles on Independence and Objectivity." Gartner research may not be used as input into or for the training or development of generative artificial intelligence, machine learning, algorithms, software, or related technologies.