



# A Look Into CIO Agenda 2025 FutureScape Predictions

An Exclusive Look Into Four Future  
Technology Trends CIOs Should Consider





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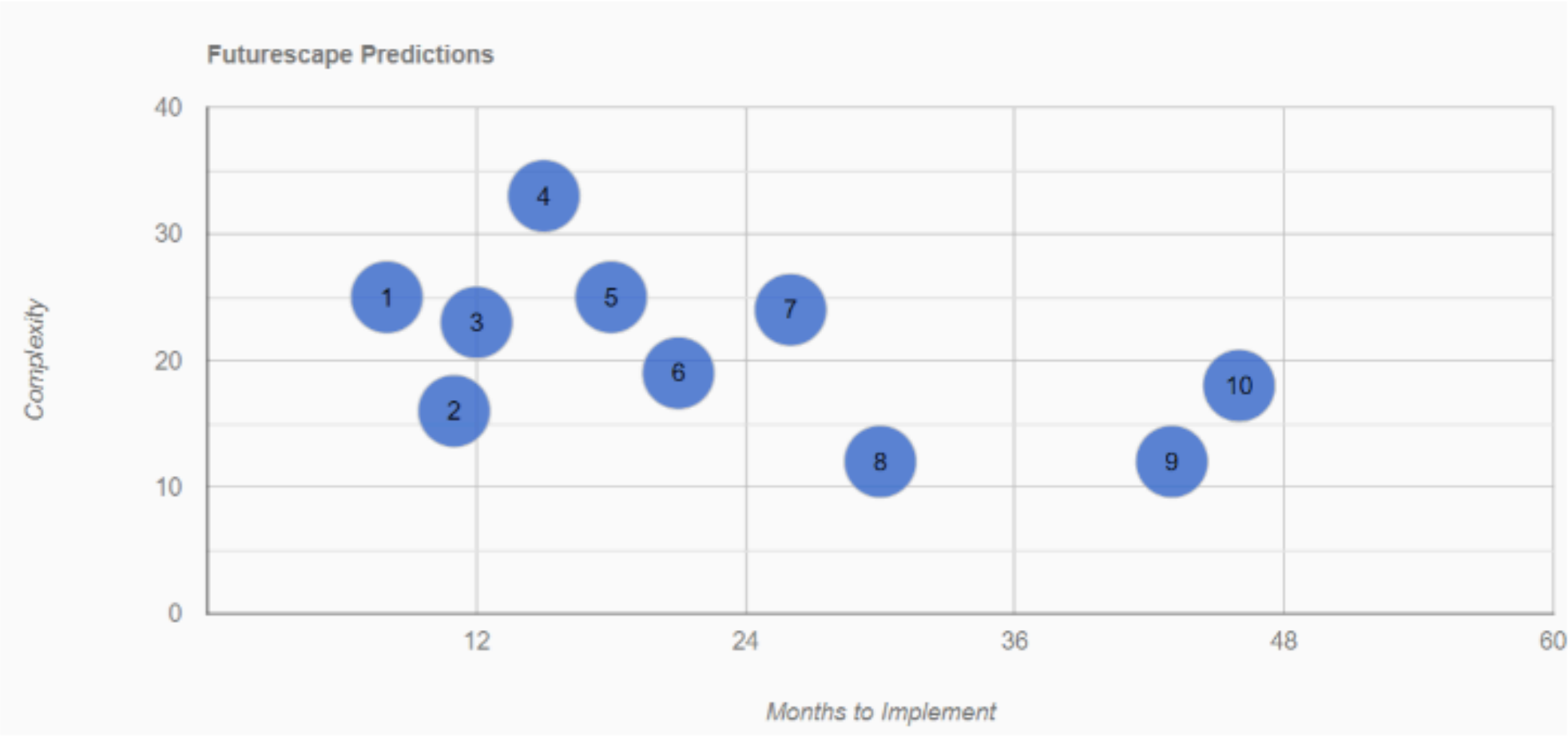


# About FutureScape Predictions

IDC FutureScape reports are used to shape enterprise IT strategy and planning by providing a basic framework for evaluating IT initiatives in terms of their value to business strategy now and in the foreseeable future.

IDC's FutureScapes are comprised of a set of predictions designed to identify a range of pending issues that CIOs and senior technology professionals will confront within the typical five-year business planning cycle. Each prediction is assessed on the basis of its complexity, organizational impact, and time frame to expected mainstream adoption.

# IDC FutureScape: Worldwide CIO Agenda 2025 Predictions



Source: IDC, 2024

*Note: Marker number refers only to the order the prediction appears in the report and does not indicate rank or importance, unless otherwise noted in the Executive Summary.*

*\*The FutureScape report delves into all 10 predictions outlined in the graphic above. This eBook highlights four of these predictions.\**

These predictions outline significant challenges and opportunities for CIOs, IT teams, and the broader technology landscape. One of the most critical findings is the increasing complexity of regulatory and compliance environments, particularly concerning AI innovation. By 2025, half of G1000 companies will struggle to keep pace with evolving regulations, which could hinder their ability to drive technological advancements. Meanwhile, 85% of organizations will formalize AI risk management policies, aligning governance with business objectives, showcasing how essential it is for CIOs to balance innovation with ethical considerations. These developments signal that CIOs must navigate an increasingly complex regulatory landscape while ensuring AI governance aligns with their broader strategic goals.

Additionally, the research underscores the need for CIOs to prioritize both addressing technical debt and implementing responsible AI solutions. By 2025, 40% of CIOs will focus on reducing technical debt, leveraging enterprise initiatives for competitive advantage. However, many organizations will continue to struggle with AI's experimental phase, highlighting a lack of clear ROI. By 2026, most CIOs will implement strategic road maps for responsible AI, which will maximize benefits while mitigating risks across their operations. This signals a shift from experimental AI to enterprise-level applications, requiring focused leadership and investment in scalable AI solutions.



PREDICTION 1

50%

In 2025, 50% of the G1000 will struggle with divergent regulatory changes and rapidly evolving compliance standards, challenging their ability to adapt to market conditions and drive AI innovation.

IT Impact	Guidance
Implementing new technologies such as AI will be delayed in multi-jurisdiction environments as CIOs evaluate the legal risks tied to different regulatory frameworks. Different versions of a new digital capability may be required to comply with varying regulations across jurisdictions.	Understand the legal requirements and constraints for digital services in every jurisdiction where the enterprise operates. IDC’s Worldwide Digital Regulations and Policy Radar can provide guidance.
IT departments will need to allocate more resources to meet diverse and evolving regulatory requirements, diverting budget and focus from innovation and operational improvements.	Implement a broad data governance framework to manage personally identifiable information (PII), which is central to many laws and regulations, across key jurisdictions.
	Establish cross-functional teams to track regulatory changes and adjust systems and processes to meet new compliance demands.

PREDICTION 2

85%

By 2025, 85% of organizations will be formalizing policies and oversight to address AI risks (e.g., ethical, brand, PII), aligning AI governance with strategic business goals.

IT Impact	Guidance
The push for rapid AI adoption and leverage of AI capabilities can lead to shortcuts in governance, as teams prioritize speed over adherence to ethical and compliance standards.	Develop a clear governance structure that aligns AI model design and deployment with corporate values and regulatory requirements.
Legacy systems and outdated data sources can create “black box” scenarios, making it difficult to identify and address potential biases in AI decision-making.	Emphasize data governance protocols that promote transparency regarding data sources, profiling, and performance tracking.
The growing need for AI governance will require upskilling existing IT staff or hiring new talent proficient in AI ethics, governance, and risk management frameworks.	Collaborate with legal, compliance, and risk teams to verify AI systems meet legal and ethical standards, while fostering alignment between IT and business functions to integrate AI initiatives with strategic goals.

PREDICTION 3

**40%** Responding to the drag of technical debt, 40% of CIOs in 2025 will drive enterprise initiatives in high-impact areas to remediate technical debt for competitive advantage.

IT Impact	Guidance
IT leaders will need to prioritize quantifying and understanding technical debt's financial and operational costs.	Make understanding and quantifying technical debt a foundational IT discipline for all leaders, in support of effective communications and risk reduction focus.
Remediation of technical debt will be embedded in both strategic and digital road maps to enable faster execution of strategic goals.	Continuously inspect investment strategies and road maps to identify and develop opportunities to remediate real and emerging debt issues.
IT teams will increasingly focus on deliberately avoiding the creation of new technical debt while ensuring quality and speed in development.	Manage the next-generation architecture and life cycle planning based on best practice disciplines to avoid or prevent creation of new technical debt issues and risks.

PREDICTION 4

**33%** In 2026, over one-third of organizations will be stuck in the experimental, point-solution phase of AI experimentation, requiring a shift of focus to enterprise use-cases to deliver ROI.

IT Impact	Guidance
Organizations stuck in the experimentation phase may face delayed ROI on AI initiatives as they struggle to transition from POC to full production.	Promote responsible AI use at scale by implementing robust AI governance frameworks that address ethical considerations, data privacy, and regulatory compliance.
Scaling AI solutions will require seamless integration with existing IT infrastructure, legacy systems, and data architectures, which may present technical challenges and increase complexity.	Establish an AI center of excellence to centralize expertise, share best practices, and coordinate cross-functional teams to accelerate AI deployment and maintain consistency across projects.
The transition to enterprise AI will increase the demand for highly specialized talent and could create a potential skills gap.	Foster strong collaboration between IT and LOB teams to align AI initiatives with enterprise goals and ensure that operational use cases drive meaningful ROI.

## In Conclusion

As technology continues to reshape business strategies, CIOs are at a pivotal point. Positioned at the intersection of technology and business, they are uniquely equipped to guide their organizations through these challenges and opportunities. The role of the CIO is expanding: Those who can successfully combine strategic leadership with versatility across industries will be better positioned to steer their organizations toward sustained growth and success amid these shifts.

This eBook was written from research and findings from the IDC research report, *IDC FutureScape: Worldwide CIO Agenda 2025 Predictions*. **To learn more about predictions that CIOs need to consider related to sustainability, cybersecurity, digital innovation, and closing the digital skills gap, the full FutureScape research report explores these key topics and provides strategic guidance.**

IDC clients have access to this FutureScape research report, along with unlimited access to all IDC research produced. If you're interested in subscribing to IDC's research, click the button below.

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