

7 Must-Know Insights for Leaders: Enterprise Architecture's Strategic Role in CIO Decision-Making

Today's CIOs face mounting pressures to deliver transformation at speed, reduce costs, and ensure resilience, all while navigating economic uncertainty and relentless change. Yet **only 7% of CIOs feel equipped to make fast, informed decisions**.

Our 2025 research – based on survey responses from 500 CIOs and enterprise architects – reveals why this is happening and outlines **seven must-know insights to empower CIOs** to overcome these challenges.

1

Macro pressures on CIOs are converging

CIOs are grappling with:

- Rapid tech change (66%) – especially AI/automation
- Economic uncertainty (50%)
- Regulatory complexity (48%)
- Rising labor costs (39%)

These force tough trade-offs and heighten the need for greater efficiency and agility.

2

CIO decision speed is a critical gap

93% of CIOs say their organizations cannot make fast, informed decisions. The blockers?

- Fragmented systems
- Poor visibility
- Lack of real-time, trustworthy data

CIOs don't have the information they need when they need it. As a result, they risk deploying incompatible systems, duplicating efforts across teams, and missing critical insights that could drive innovation or cost savings.

3

Visibility and orchestration are the chokepoints

Nearly half of CIOs struggle with:

- Difficulty integrating applications
- Gaining a clear view of the IT/application landscape

Enterprise architects echo these challenges; 49% cite barriers in aggregating and orchestrating data at speed.

4

Enterprise architecture (EA) is a strategic enabler for CIOs – but underleveraged

- **94% of CIOs** view EA as strategic
- Yet, **57% of enterprise architects** say their insights are underused in planning
- **49% of CIOs** report delays in accessing EA insights

Organizations are missing opportunities to drive faster, more informed decisions and unlock the full potential of their EA teams.

5

EA teams need the right tools to support CIOs

- **60% of enterprise architects** say their current tools cannot keep up with CIO expectations.
- **43%** lack the budget for the tools they need to improve orchestration and insight delivery.

Closing these gaps is essential to empowering enterprise architects to deliver the insights that leadership needs at business speed.

6

Investments are needed in a live digital blueprint of the enterprise

- **96% of CIOs** believe a live, centralized, dynamic view of the enterprise landscape improves agility and decision-making – supporting confident change at pace.

Enterprise architects are uniquely positioned to build and maintain this blueprint, enabling organizations to respond to change with confidence and speed.

7

Prioritizing modern integration and real-time data is a must

- Capabilities like real-time **data integration, automated orchestration, and low-code options** delivered via an integration platform as a service (iPaaS) enable enterprise architects to focus on strategic analysis.

This means faster and more informed decisions, improved governance, and enhanced organizational agility.



The cloud-native **OrbusInfinity** platform provides a 'digital blueprint' of the enterprise, empowering CIOs and enterprise architects to drive smarter decisions. Its native iPaaS, **OrbusInfinity Flow**, automates data ingestion, connects third-party systems, and orchestrates workflows, enabling faster decision cycles, better reporting, and strategic transformation at scale.

Ready to explore OrbusInfinity?