



**BOARD-LEVEL BRIEFING**

# The anatomy of the digital CEO

## A guide for boards

Boards are searching for digital-first CEOs that are ready to drive transformation. But what should they be looking for in the perfect candidate?



**DIGITAL LITERACY**  
**\$100 trillion**

Digital transformation is expected to add \$100 trillion to the world economy by 2025. (World Economic Forum)

Digital-ready CEOs engage in continual learning and leverage their experience to uncover the opportunities.

**CHANGE MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE**  
**7 years**

The global pandemic has accelerated digital transformation in business by seven years. (McKinsey)

The digital CEO reacts fast and has experience of managing change at speed.

**56%**

### AGILE THINKING

**56%** of CEOs say they will aggressively pursue operational agility over the next three years. (IBM)

Modern leaders champion agile processes to protect their organisations from future disruption.

**CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT**

**21%** of companies believe they've completed their digital transformation. (Forrester)

Successful CEOs know that digital transformation has no end-point: it's a process of continual learning and innovation.

**OPEN OUTLOOK**

**63%** of outperforming CEOs identify partnerships as key to innovation compared to 32% of underperformers. (IBM)

The digital-savvy CEO is always willing to learn from partners, adjacent sectors and competitors too.



### AWARENESS OF CYBERSECURITY

**83%** of global IT teams say digitally-enabled hybrid working is a 'ticking time bomb' for corporate network breaches. (HP Wolf Security)

Today's CEO must understand the threats behind digital transformation as well as the opportunities.

### CONCERN FOR EMPLOYEE WELLBEING

**68%** of senior HR leaders now rate employee well-being and mental health as a top priority. (Future Workplace)

Well balanced digital CEOs today aren't just focused on technology and driving change – they understand that transformation depends on employee wellbeing and a happy and motivated workforce.

**ADAPTABILITY**  
**6.7 times**

CEOs who excel at adapting to a rapidly changing environment are 6.7 times more likely to succeed. (Harvard Business Review)

What's coming next? CEOs who lead transformation are always ready for what's round the corner...

**SMART COLLABORATION WITH THE BOARD**  
**\$2849.7m**

Adoption of digital board portal technology is booming – market size is expected to reach \$2849.7 million by 2026. (IndustryARC)

Digital CEOs use board portals to collaborate virtually with boards and accelerate decision making.



## More resources for boards

It's not just CEOs that are changing – boards are evolving to adapt to digital and reflect new demands. Find out more in our guide to **Board behaviour: 5 new working styles**

[Download now](#)



**SOURCES**

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