



IDC FutureScape

Worldwide Digital Business and AI
Transformation 2025 Predictions



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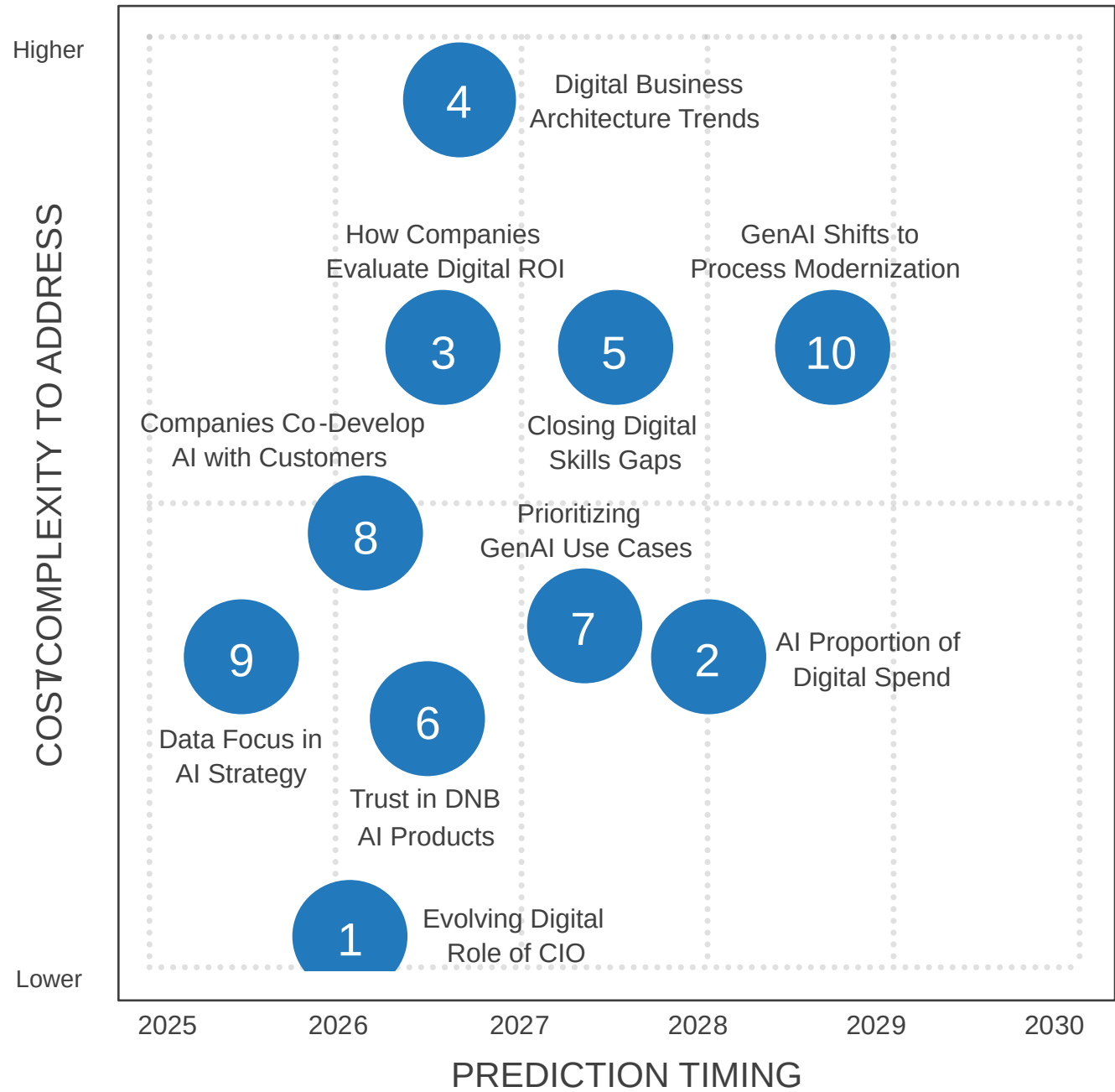
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About FutureScape

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 Digital Business and AI Transformation 2025 Predictions



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

FUTURESCAPE RESEARCH: [IDC FutureScape: Worldwide Digital Business and AI Transformation 2025 Predictions](#)

New digital business is not happening without AI.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has taken on heightened importance for C-Suite executives since the launch of ChatGPT and the rise of GenAI as an enterprise-level technology two years ago. Planned investment in all types of AI is rising at levels much faster than overall digital technology investment. Strategies at leading digital business organizations are focusing heavily on AI, so much so that AI transformation and Digital Business are locked at the hip.

Along with this shift to AI-driven digital business, leading companies are aligning processes and operations to work with and be empowered by emerging technologies as they build their digital architectures. There are challenges to successful digital business and AI transformation, like a shortage of data scientists and AI experts leading to project delays and trust concerns that are putting pressure on companies and their vendors to create Responsible AI policies.

Even in the face of these challenges, CEOs are seeing pressure to deliver digital business results. As companies seek to build AI-fueled digital businesses, they will need to ensure they lay the groundwork organizationally and operationally, while investing in world-class technological capabilities.

Prioritizing AI and Digital Transformation

PREDICTION 1

50%

As digital transformation becomes core to strategy, half of IT leaders will rise as business leaders by 2026, aligning people, operations and business models with digital technologies.

IT Impact	Guidance
<p>Tech leaders must establish a process to regularly evaluate IT infrastructure performance to ensure it supports evolving digital capabilities and continues to meet business requirements.</p> <p>IT will need to work with line-of-business leaders on well-designed and implemented change management programs to encourage and equip employees to integrate digital technologies in their standard operating procedures.</p>	<p>Align tech strategies with overall business objectives for a successful digital transformation program to ensure effective project prioritization, efficient resource utilization and the achievement of long-term goals.</p> <p>Tech and business groups must collaborate to strategize, plan and implement digital initiatives to ensure alignment with functional and organizational goals and secure stakeholder buy-in for successful execution.</p>

PREDICTION 2

3x

AI spending will grow at 3x the rate of overall digital technology spending in the next three years, generating a global economic impact of over \$6.4 trillion by the end of 2027.

IT Impact	Guidance
<p>As CEOs prioritize AI, CIOs and IT leaders need to be educated advisors on where it can provide the most value.</p> <p>IT employees will be required to upskill in data and AI-related technologies.</p> <p>Data teams will be called upon to provide datasets that support AI.</p>	<p>Build education and training programs for both the IT and the business to support greater knowledge of AI technologies, their capabilities, and potential impact on the organization.</p> <p>Identify the areas in which AI can best provide or enhance automation in your business to provide quick wins and support further adoption.</p>

Prioritizing AI and Digital Transformation

PREDICTION 3

70%

70% of organizations will experience digital skills shortages that cause project delays by 2027, slowing AI technology implementations into the following year.

IT Impact	Guidance
<p>CIOs and IT leaders will need to build potential skills-related delays into their project plans.</p> <p>With AI and data scientist skills in high demand in IT centers, and external help through partners and service providers may be necessary for many organizations.</p> <p>AI experts will be highly sought after by competitors, making it difficult to retain top AI talent.</p>	<p>Implement tools and strategies that support AI experts such as guided learning and experiential learning to appeal to new talent.</p> <p>Identify areas where your IT teams can support or upskill to support AI implementations and where external partners are necessary to complete projects.</p> <p>Increase communication between executive leadership, HR, and IT to create realistic strategies and project timelines based on available skillsets.</p>

PREDICTION 4

75%

By 2028, 75% of enterprises that establish an AI platform strategy built on a foundation of connecting processes to broader business functions will achieve enhanced value from their investments.

IT Impact	Guidance
<p>IT must prioritize data management and integrity to ensure the quality of GenAI output.</p> <p>Establishing enterprise scale requires a solid governance foundation and will significantly influence external provider/partner decisions.</p> <p>IT will play a key role in supporting new technologies including those that contribute to an AI foundation enabling the scaled deployment and adoption of AI in the enterprise.</p>	<p>Embrace a mindset shift from productivity and cost savings to growth and innovation benefits from AI and GenAI investments.</p> <p>Design systems and IT infrastructure to be scalable and AI-ready, paving the way for AI-fueled future digital business.</p> <p>Partner with tech providers that have an AI platform that integrates and interoperates with the other important platforms in your enterprise.</p>

IDC's Guidance

Business leaders looking to achieve success in the era of AI-fueled Digital Business should consider the following guidance:

- Align technology strategies with overall business objectives to ensure effective project prioritization, efficient resource utilization, and the achievement of long-term goals.
- Build education and training programs for both IT and business units to support greater knowledge of AI technologies, their capabilities, and potential impact on the organization.
- Establish a dedicated team to build a governance-by-design program involving the CISO to ensure high-quality data, strictly control sensitive data, and track internal data use.
- Appoint an AI orchestrator to steer the AI strategy and develop a comprehensive, enterprise-wide roadmap for GenAI use cases.

This eBook was written from research and findings from the IDC research report, *IDC FutureScape: Worldwide Digital Business and AI Transformation 2025 Predictions*.

To learn more about predictions that help C-suite leaders drive digital growth, the full FutureScape research report explores these key topics and provides strategic guidance.



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- [Worldwide CIO Agenda Predictions](#)
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