

CIO 100

Symposium & Awards

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Why nominate?

A CIO 100 Award is an acknowledged mark of enterprise excellence in business technology, enhancing your organization's reputation as a leading innovator. It generates positive PR and provides tangible, companywide recognition of the IT organization's hard work and accomplishments.

The CIO 100 award is given to companies rather than individuals, so it is an honor everyone on your staff can take pride in receiving. Executives from the winning companies will be recognized among their peers and colleagues at the annual CIO 100 Symposium & Awards in August 2025. Winning organizations will have access to a Press Release Guide from CIO, including sample copy and quotes from CIO's Editors. The awards also generate coverage on CIO.com, which lists the winning companies and judges.

What do the CIO 100 Awards recognize?

The CIO 100 Awards program celebrates 100 organizations (and the people within them) that are using IT in innovative ways to deliver business value, whether by creating competitive advantage, optimizing business processes, enabling growth, improving relationships with customers or digitally transforming the business.

For example, did your organization:

- Take a risk on an emerging technology or deploy the tried-and-true in a new way?

- Build a better business process or foster closer collaboration with customers, clients or suppliers?
- Find ways to engage more effectively with new or existing customers, enter new markets, create cost efficiencies or increase revenue or profits?

To be selected, applicants must show our external panel of judges not only that they have executed their project well but also that they have done so in uncommon or innovative ways: pioneering a new technology, applying a familiar technology to a new purpose, setting the bar higher for competitors, etc. Most importantly, the winning applications demonstrate measurable business value, not just IT benefits.

Can technology vendors apply for this award?

Yes, but please be aware that this is **not** an award for IT vendors' products. If the outcome of your submitted IT project (i.e., the business benefit) is to produce a technology product or service sold directly to IT buyers, it will be disqualified from consideration. However, if your innovative project produces an **internally** beneficial technology or service (ie, one not designed to be sold to customers), you are welcome to apply for a CIO 100 Award. For example, Adobe earned a CIO 100 award for building an internal Hadoop platform to test business use cases and transform data into insights used by its own IT, marketing, and sales staff.

If you are an IT vendor who would like to nominate a customer or partner for a CIO 100 Award, we strongly advise you to enlist the CIO or IT project leader within the organization you wish to nominate to submit the application. Note that it is your customer who will be named in and honored with the award, rather than your company. The benefit to you is an enhanced relationship with your client and opportunity to honor them with validation from their peers.

Who can nominate?

Technology leaders, directors and executives, other qualified team members, as well as internal or external PR representatives may nominate a company or organization. Technology vendors and their PR representatives are also invited to submit nominations, which can be a great way to recognize your clients and their customers. The nomination must be on behalf of the customer's project/initiative. Technology vendors should not nominate any technology product or service they sell to external customers or clients.

When nominating a vendor's customer:

- You must name the customer as the nominated organization and provide contacts at that organization in the appropriate fields.
- We strongly advise that you engage the CIO and/or top project leaders at that organization in crafting your entry. Make sure the entry is written from the customer's point of view.
- You must sign off on having notified the customer of your entry prior to submitting it.
- The customer will be named on the award if your entry wins.

Is there a fee to nominate?

Yes. The cost to purchase an application is \$50. If you plan to submit multiple projects, you may purchase up to 10 applications at a time. Note that your organization can win only one award in a given year.

What projects are eligible for nomination?

Any US based projects that have produced an internally beneficial technology or service is eligible to be nominated. Projects must have been started no earlier than June 1, 2023; be at least in a pilot stage; and have already delivered early findings/results.

How are the CIO 100 Awards judged?

After an initial review by CIO's editors, the applications are evaluated and scored by two external judges chosen from our panel of more than 50 judges (including industry experts, academics, business executives and former CIOs.) The judging is based solely on the information submitted in this online application. Due to the high volume of applications, we are unable to review any additional materials.

To be selected for a CIO 100 Award, you must demonstrate excellence in the following areas:

- Technology innovation: The extent to which your organization used IT in a new way or enabled new ways of doing business, whether internally or externally.
- Business value delivery: The measurable impact, backed up by supporting data, that your project has had on your organization's business results.

CIO 100 judges rate each application on innovation and business value. Final selections are confirmed by CIO chairs. **All individual scores are kept confidential and will not be released publicly, nor will they be discussed with any applicants.**

What do judges look for in a winning application?

Applications that focus on the business goals and results of the project and provide detailed answers to all questions have a better chance of winning. Applicants must provide data and examples that support their claims of innovation and show exactly how the business value was delivered. The most successful applications are written by the CIO or another business-oriented IT manager, with input from both business stakeholders and technical staff.

Complete, clearly written text about your project, showing:

- Context of the project in the broader business or industry picture (ie, is your company breaking new ground in your industry? Or demonstrably ahead of the pack?)
- Before-and-after descriptions of project impact on the business or within the IT organization
- Candor about the challenges along the way (i.e., problems solved, company cultural changes required, etc.)
- Solid metrics showing clear business value, such as ROI, increased profitability, cost savings or efficiencies, etc. (This specific information can be kept confidential and not published)
- Personality in the writing style that engages, tells a story, shares details in a first-person voice (vs. marketing language and buzzwords)

How does CIO use my information?

The information you provide in your CIO 100 application will be used by CIO for judging the awards and for articles on CIO.com, in our digital magazine or other publicity relating to the CIO 100 Awards.

Application information will be used for editorial purposes only, with the exception of contact information and vendor information, which may be used to market CIO content and programs. In addition, vendors who supported your project may qualify for a solutions award in association with the program. This award is not part of the awards ceremony.

If you have information about your project (such as internal metrics) that you would prefer not be published, but which you would like us to consider as part of your application, please note this in the text box denoting confidential information. Information not labeled in this way will be considered by CIO editors to be publishable.

What are the deadlines and expectations?

The final deadline to submit a CIO100 Award nomination is Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Nominations must be submitted online. Honorees will be notified in March.

Winning organizations may be invited to present at the CIO 100 Symposium & Awards program scheduled for August 2025 at the Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale, AZ.

Additionally, winning organizations will receive up to two complimentary passes to attend the CIO 100 Symposium & Awards (one pass for the designated winner accepting the award and one additional pass for a qualified member for their team. Additional team members will receive the discounted rate of \$495. Each pass is a \$1995 value). The awards will be presented during the gala dinner on the final night of the conference.

How do I apply?

First, you must [purchase a nomination here](#). Once payment is processed, you will receive an email with a link to the CIO 100 application site along with your login information.

Once you have started your application, you can save your work and return as many times as necessary to complete the application. Before you leave the application, remember to click the "Save & Continue" button at the bottom of the form. Do not click the " Submit" button until your application is complete.

What if I have another question?

For questions regarding the CIO 100 awards application or event, please contact awards@cio.com.