

## Choose the Right Champions

The ideal characteristics of an executive AI champion include:

- ✓ C-Suite executive level or higher
- ✓ Business and domain expert
- ✓ Credible and influential
- ✓ Technically knowledgeable
- ✓ Analytical and data-driven
- ✓ Controls sufficient budget
- ✓ Encourages experimentation
- ✓ Understands and accepts risks
- ✓ Collaborates well with decision-makers across multiple business

### Units

In the realm of AI integration, different leadership roles can contribute significantly to success. Let's break down the roles mentioned:

1. **CEO (Chief Executive Officer):** The CEO sets the overall direction of the company. Their support for AI initiatives is crucial for obtaining resources and ensuring that AI aligns with the company's strategic goals.
2. **CTO (Chief Technology Officer):** The CTO focuses on the technological aspects of the company. They often play a key role in implementing AI strategies and ensuring that the technology infrastructure supports AI development.
3. **CIO (Chief Information Officer):** The CIO manages information technology and systems within the organization. They might oversee data strategies and ensure that AI initiatives align with the organization's broader IT goals.
4. **CDO (Chief Data Officer):** The CDO is responsible for managing and leveraging data assets. Their role in AI initiatives involves ensuring data quality, governance, and ethical usage.
5. **CAO (Chief Analytics Officer):** The CAO is focused on analytics strategies and might be responsible for driving data-driven decision-making processes. In the context of AI, they could oversee analytics projects that leverage AI technologies.

Regarding the need for a Chief AI Officer, it depends on the organization's scale, AI ambitions, and existing leadership structure. A Chief AI Officer could be beneficial in companies heavily reliant on AI, overseeing AI strategy, coordinating AI initiatives across departments, and

ensuring AI ethics and compliance. They might collaborate with other C-suite executives to align AI goals with business objectives.

As for obtaining board-level buy-in, it's crucial for major AI initiatives. The support of the board of directors can secure resources, provide strategic guidance, and ensure that AI efforts align with the company's long-term vision.

Overall, the choice of champions and the need for a Chief AI Officer depend on the company's size, industry, existing leadership structure, and the extent of AI integration envisioned. Each leadership role brings unique perspectives and expertise to the table, contributing to a holistic AI strategy.