Search for the Chief Information Officer
Harvard Business School
Boston, Massachusetts

THE SEARCH

Harvard Business School (HBS) seeks a Chief Information Officer who will help define how the institution transforms amidst all the opportunities and risks in the technological waves here and coming.

Technology is no longer simply an operational function. It has become an institutional capability that shapes teaching, research, learning, administration, and engagement with alumni and the global business community. The next CIO will help HBS determine how technologies such as artificial intelligence, enterprise data, digital platforms, and emerging capabilities become enduring strategic assets for the School and how the School models their deployment for higher education and for business more broadly.

The successful candidate will inherit an exceptional technology organization and an institution with a long history of innovation. The opportunity is not to build innovation from scratch, but to connect, align, and amplify innovation already occurring across HBS IT, HBS Online, Executive Education, faculty initiatives, Harvard University IT (HUIT), and the School's innovation organizations.

This CIO will help Harvard Business School answer a defining question for the coming decade: **How should technology shape the future of research, teaching, learning?**

Success will require a leader who is equally comfortable shaping enterprise strategy, advising senior leadership, building organizational alignment, and helping diverse stakeholders navigate an increasingly technology-enabled future.

Harvard Business School has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national search firm, to assist in this important search. All inquiries, applications, and nominations for this opportunity should be directed in confidence to the University or search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

Harvard Business School, located on a 40-acre campus in Boston, was founded in 1908 as part of Harvard University. It is among the world's most trusted sources of management education and thought leadership. For more than a century, the School's faculty has combined a passion for teaching with rigorous research conducted alongside practitioners at world-leading organizations to educate leaders who make a difference in the world. Through a dynamic ecosystem of research, learning, and entrepreneurship that includes MBA, Doctoral, Executive Education, and Online programs, as well as numerous initiatives, centers, institutes, and labs, Harvard Business School fosters bold new ideas and collaborative learning networks that shape the future of business.

HBS Key Metrics

HBS is a vibrant and dynamic learning environment that enrolls thousands of students across its programs. In 2025, 1,878 students were enrolled in the MBA program, 127 in the Doctoral program, 12,256 in the Executive Education program, and 38,917 in the online program. HBS is home to 263 full-time faculty 2,192 full-time staff. HBS enjoys a strong financial position. At fiscal year-end 2025, the School’s endowment stood at $5.79 billion. That same fiscal year, operating revenues were $1.13 billion and operating expenses were $1.07 billion.

Leadership

Dean Srikant Datar

Srikant M. Datar became the 11th dean of Harvard Business School on January 1, 2021. Srikant M. Datar - Faculty & Research - Harvard Business School

During his tenure at the School, he has served as Senior Associate Dean for University Affairs (including Faculty Chair of the Harvard Innovation Lab), for Research, for Executive Education, for Faculty Development, and for Faculty Recruiting.

Datar has taught MBA and executive education classes in design thinking, innovation, big data, and strategy implementation. Before joining the HBS faculty he held appointments at both Carnegie Mellon University and Stanford University, where he received the George Leland Bach Award for Excellence in the Classroom and the Distinguished Teaching Award, respectively.

Datar serves on the Board of Directors of ICF International, Novartis AG, Stryker Corporation, and T-Mobile US, and has worked with many corporations on consulting and field-based projects. He is a member of the American Accounting Association and the Institute of Management Accountants. He has served on the editorial board of several journals and presented his research to academic and executive audiences in North America, South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Harvard Business School Information Technology (HBS IT) is a nimble, innovative, strategic partner that crafts, delivers, and supports the pioneering technology solutions that connect, enable, manage and inspire the HBS community to educate leaders who make a difference in the world. The HBS IT team is made up of 250 staff and has an operating budget of $77 Million.

HBS IT's strategy is to build a secure, intelligent digital institution that empowers the HBS community with trusted data, integrated platforms, actionable insights, and emerging AI capabilities. More information about HBS IT's strategy can be found on their website.

ROLE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

The chief information officer serves as Harvard Business School's senior technology executive and principal advisor on enterprise technology strategy, digital innovation, and institutional technology investment.

Key responsibilities include:

- Develop and communicate the School's long-term enterprise technology strategy.
- Advise the dean and senior leadership on emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, enterprise data, technology investment, and institutional risk.
- Lead enterprise planning for technology, AI, and digital capabilities.
- Strengthen governance that improves enterprise decision-making while preserving and enhancing organizational agility.
- Foster collaboration across HBS IT, HBS Online, Executive Education, HUIT, faculty initiatives, and innovation organizations.
- Help successful innovations become sustainable institutional capabilities.
- Position HBS IT as a trusted strategic advisor to academic and administrative leadership.
- Develop organizational capability, leadership talent, and a culture of innovation across HBS IT.
- Represent HBS nationally and internationally as a leader in higher education technology.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Technology now influences nearly every dimension of Harvard Business School's mission. Artificial intelligence is transforming teaching, research, operations, and administrative work. Expectations for digital experiences continue to rise. Enterprise data has become a strategic asset. New technologies emerge at an accelerating pace, while cybersecurity and institutional resilience remain foundational responsibilities.

At the same time, technology leadership at HBS is intentionally distributed. Innovation flourishes across HBS IT, HBS Online, Executive Education, HUIT, faculty-led initiatives, and other innovation organizations throughout the School.

This model has produced remarkable creativity and responsiveness. It also creates new opportunities to strengthen enterprise alignment, governance, investment decisions, and long-term institutional coordination.

The next CIO will not centralize innovation. Instead, they will help Harvard Business School become more intentional about how innovation is identified, evaluated, scaled, and sustained—ensuring that independent innovation and enterprise stewardship reinforce rather than compete with one another.

Within this context, the incoming Chief Information Officer will address the following opportunities and challenges:

Establish a Shared Enterprise Technology Vision

The CIO's first responsibility will be helping HBS articulate a clear vision for technology's role in advancing the institution's mission. Working with faculty and institutional leaders, the CIO will define long-term strategic priorities for enterprise technology, artificial intelligence, enterprise data, and digital capabilities while ensuring technology investments align with the School's academic and strategic objectives.

Position AI as an Institutional Capability

Artificial intelligence represents more than a technology initiative. It is rapidly becoming an institutional capability that will influence nearly every aspect of Harvard Business School. The CIO will help the School move beyond isolated AI projects toward a coordinated enterprise approach that encourages innovation while establishing thoughtful governance, responsible adoption, and sustainable organizational capability.

Connect the Innovation Ecosystem

Innovation already exists across HBS. The opportunity is to increase its collective impact. The CIO will strengthen collaboration across HBS IT, HBS Online, Executive Education, HUIT, faculty initiatives, and the School's innovation organizations, helping successful ideas move more effectively from experimentation to enterprise capability. Rather than directing every innovation effort, the CIO will create the conditions that allow innovation to flourish—through shared priorities, stronger partnerships, effective governance, and institutional learning.

Elevate Technology as a Strategic Partner

HBS IT is already recognized for operational excellence and exceptional service. The next CIO will build on that reputation by increasing the organization's strategic contribution to institutional leadership. Technology leaders will be expected not only to deliver outstanding services, but also to help inform decisions about the future of teaching, learning, research, administration, and organizational effectiveness.

Build Institutional Capacity

Technology leadership is ultimately about people. The CIO will strengthen leadership capability throughout HBS IT, cultivate future technology leaders, and foster a culture that values curiosity, collaboration, customer engagement, experimentation, and continuous learning. The CIO will also reinforce design thinking and customer-centered innovation—not simply as methods for technology development, but as institutional disciplines that help Harvard Business School make better decisions, learn more quickly, and continuously improve.

Set the Standard for Organizations

Businesses and other institutions around the world look to HBS for the best advice on how to make the most of technology and how to re-think and re-shape in this era. The CIO will help the School experiment and learn amidst AI so that it can be an exemplar for other organizations doing the same.

The CIO will collaborate with senior leaders at HBS to transform workflows and re-shape work. They will help convey emerging technological and operational strategies to faculty who study the topic. Collectively, they will help share the School's progress more broadly.

Measures of Success

Within the first one to three years, success would likely include:

- A widely understood enterprise technology strategy aligned with Harvard Business School's long-term priorities.
- Mature governance for artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.
- Stronger alignment across the School's technology ecosystem.
- Technology investments that consistently support institutional strategy.
- Greater confidence in enterprise technology decision-making.
- Broader adoption of customer-informed, iterative approaches to innovation.

Ultimately, this CIO's legacy will not be defined by the technologies implemented, but by helping Harvard Business School build an enduring institutional capability—one that enables the School to continually adapt, innovate, and lead in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will be an accomplished technology executive with experience leading enterprise strategy, digital transformation, and organizational change within complex institutions.
They will possess the strategic perspective to help shape institutional direction while maintaining the credibility to engage faculty, administrators, technology professionals, and senior leaders as trusted partners.

Experience should include:

- 15+ years of information technology experience including executive leadership within a complex technology unit.
- Enterprise technology strategy or large-scale digital transformation.
- Artificial intelligence, enterprise data, digital platforms, cybersecurity, and cloud technologies.
- Leadership across decentralized or highly matrixed organizations.
- Building collaboration across multiple organizational units.
- Applying design thinking, customer-centered innovation, or comparable human-centered approaches to enterprise transformation.
- Bachelor's degree in computer science, information systems, business administration, or related field. Advanced degree preferred.

Leadership Capabilities

The successful CIO will demonstrate:

- Enterprise and systems thinking.
- Outstanding strategic judgment.
- Exceptional executive communication.
- The ability to translate complex technology into institutional strategy.
- Strong political and organizational acumen.
- The ability to convene, influence, and build consensus across diverse stakeholder groups.
- Intellectual curiosity and a passion for continuous learning.

The incoming CIO will recognize that their role is not to own every technology initiative, but to help the institution make thoughtful choices about where enterprise leadership creates the greatest value.

Personal Capabilities

The successful candidate will be:

- Curious and intellectually agile.
- Collaborative and genuinely relationship-oriented.
- Confident and humble.
- Comfortable with ambiguity.
- Pragmatic and forward-looking.
- Committed to developing people and organizations.
- Motivated by the opportunity to shape an institution of global significance.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

The salary range for this role is $300,000 to $375,000, commensurate with skills and experience. The position is based on the HBS campus in Boston, MA.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/harvard-business-school/chief-information-officer

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