

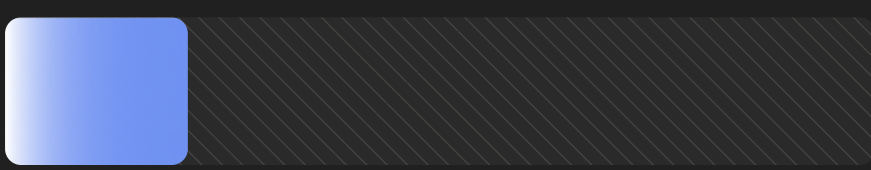
What CIOs are confessing about enterprise AI in 2026

685 global CIOs reveal what AI accountability really means for their jobs in a Dataiku/Harris Poll survey.

CONFESSION #1

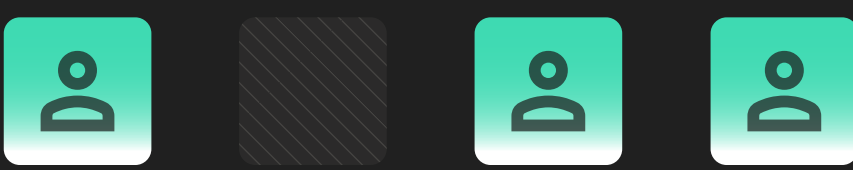
Running AI agents isn’t the same as proving they work

Only **21%**



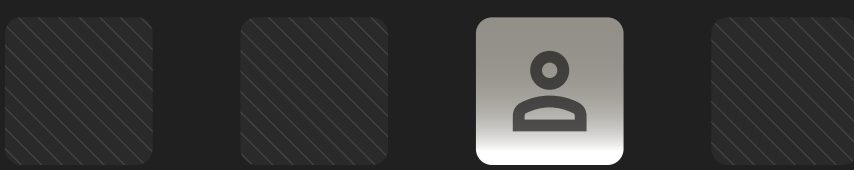
of CIOs say they have full, near-real-time visibility into AI agent and advanced AI workload costs with attribution by business unit, team, or use case.

Nearly **3/4**



(72%) of CIOs can't consistently confirm whether those same agents are delivering the business outcomes they were designed to deliver.

Only **1/4**

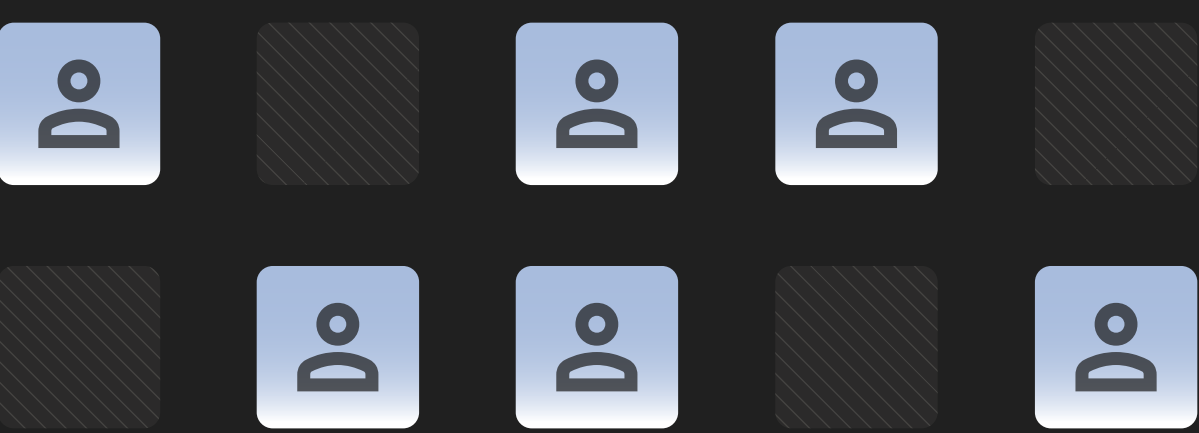


(24%) of CIOs say their organization has mature, highly capable ROI measurement across all or most AI initiatives.

CONFESSION #2

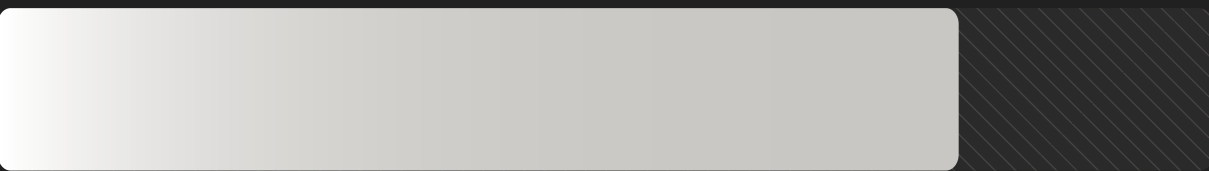
AI agents don’t have to fail to put the business at risk

6 of 10



CIOs say they can’t contain a problematic agent the same day.

79%

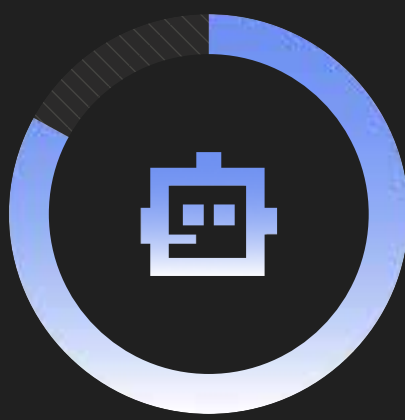


of CIOs confessed they have experienced an AI agent that violated business intent, policy, or expectations while still operating within its technical parameters.

CONFESSION #3

AI agents are multiplying faster than IT can govern them

90% of CIOs say they're confident they have complete tracking of all their agents, yet:



83%

of CIOs admit their companies don't have standardized agent lifecycle management across the organization.



60%

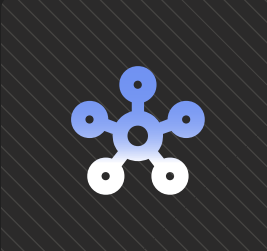
said they lack a central AI governance layer spanning their enterprise apps, tools, and IT environments.



81%

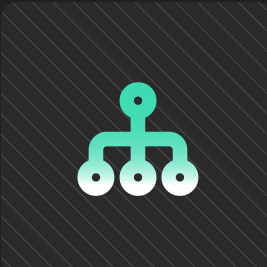
lack complete oversight of agents created entirely outside approved systems or formal channels.

CIOs say primary responsibility for agent failures lies with:



23%

Shared teams



21%

Central IT



20%

Data or AI team



18%

Security, risk, and compliance



13%

Workflow business owner

CONFESSION #4

Agentic AI needs stronger control without greater centralization



39%

of CIOs cite security and compliance concerns as an obstacle to responsible business-led AI.



34%

cite unclear ownership between IT and business teams.



40%

identify security and governance expertise as the biggest talent shortage slowing AI scale.

WHAT’S AT STAKE?

All of this is landing on the CIO's shoulders, and every gap above now carries a career cost.

88%

say their professional reputation or career trajectory will be shaped by their success with AI.

86%

say their CEO has warned them that their job security depends on AI outcomes.

76%

believe their role will be at risk if their company fails to deliver measurable AI gains by the end of 2027.

Read the full “Global AI Confessions Report: CIO Edition 2026” [↗](#)