What does a PMO leader look like?

Place in Organization

Sits outside of IT (e.g., strategy, finance) and works across the enterprise

Areas of Expertise

- Applications
- IT Strategy
- Cybersecurity
- Enterprise Architecture
- IT Finance
- Digital Lead
- CIO
- CTO
- CDO

IT PMO Leaders from five years ago who moved out of the PMO have moved into both IT and business leadership roles.

EPMO Leaders from five years ago who moved out of the PMO generally moved into business leadership and consulting roles.

IT PMO Leaders in 2016

- COO
- Enterprise Readiness
- Risk
- Learning & Development
- Product Development
- HR
- Supply Chain
- Sales
- Business Unit
- Consulting
- Law

EPMO Leaders in 2016

- COO
- Enterprise Readiness
- Risk
- Learning & Development
- Product Development
- HR
- Supply Chain
- Sales
- Business Unit
- Consulting
- Law

IT PMO Leaders in 2021

- COO
- IT and Finance
- CIO
- CTO
- CDO
- EPMO
- Consulting
- COO
- Marketing
- CIO
- CTO
- CDO

EPMO Leaders in 2021

- COO
- IT and Finance
- CIO
- CTO
- CDO
- EPMO
- Consulting
- COO
- Marketing
- CIO
- CTO
- CDO

Gain insights from Gartner’s analysis of over 200 PMO and EPMO leaders’ career paths to more effectively plan your own career path and next steps in the rapidly evolving digital business landscape.

69% of IT PMO leaders have spent at least half of their career within project management.

58% of EPMO leaders have spent at least half of their career within project management.

91% of IT PMO leaders have spent at least half of their career in IT.

73% of EPMO leaders have spent at least half of their career outside of IT in roles such as business functions and consulting.

What’s next for PMO leaders?

- 40% of IT PMO leaders
- 30% of IT leaders
- 20% of business leadership, consulting, etc.
- 15% of retired
- 10% of IT C-Suite

- 45% of EPMO leaders
- 40% of business leadership, consulting, etc.
- 15% of retired

Preparation is key when choosing a career path. Learn about the career paths of PMO and EPMO leaders and plan your next steps.

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