

Clean or Messy?

What Does a CIO's Desk Say about Them?

Some CIOs' desks look like a bomb may have gone off, but they claim they can find what they need. Others think their desks are certainly cluttered, but organized enough. And others still, find their desks to be perfectly neat and clean – filing away anything they're not currently working on.

But what does the appearance of a CIO's desk say about them and their objectives and challenges at work? **Read on to find out!**

MESSY CIOs

Their desks are a disaster, but they can find what they need.

ORGANIZED CHAOS CIOs

Their desks are cluttered, but fairly organized.

TIDY CIOs

Their desks are neat and clean.

The Messier the Desk, the Harder it is to Convey the Value of IT



70% of **MESSY CIOs** agree it is challenging to convey the value of IT to business stakeholders.

That number decreases as the desks get cleaner...

64% ORGANIZED CHAOS
57% TIDY

Organized CIOs Communicate with the Board More Often



"I'm communicating with my organization's board & execs more often than I did two years ago..."

NEARLY 80% OF **TIDY CIOs** AGREE

3/4 OF ORGANIZED CHAOS CIOs AGREE

LESS THAN HALF (48%) OF **MESSY CIOs** AGREE

Is a CIO More Open-Minded if their Desk is a Mess?



MESSY CIOs are more likely to increase spend with emerging tech companies

59% vs. **TIDY CIOs: 43%**

Recruitment & Retention

Recruiting IT talent is a challenge for CIOs regardless of their desk status



Agree recruiting IT talent is a top challenge at their organization:

59% **TIDY CIOs**

73% **ORGANIZED CHAOS CIOs**

56% **MESSY CIOs**

But retaining IT talent is no problem for Messy CIOs



Agree retaining IT talent is a top challenge at their organization:

60% **TIDY CIOs**

67% **ORGANIZED CHAOS CIOs**

38% **MESSY CIOs**

* Does having a messy desk mean a CIO is more fun to work for?

Does the way a CIO maintains his/her desk really affect the perception of IT, communication with business stakeholders, vendor spending or recruitment/retention efforts? Maybe, maybe not. But the next time you see a CIO's workspace—messy or clean—you'll wonder, "Just what does that mean?"

To view more from this study, visit www.idgenterprise.com/report/cio-magazine-tech-poll-it-economic-outlook-may-2015

Source: CIO IT Economic Outlook Study, 2015

Directional results only, as surprisingly, there were only 27 Messy CIOs.



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