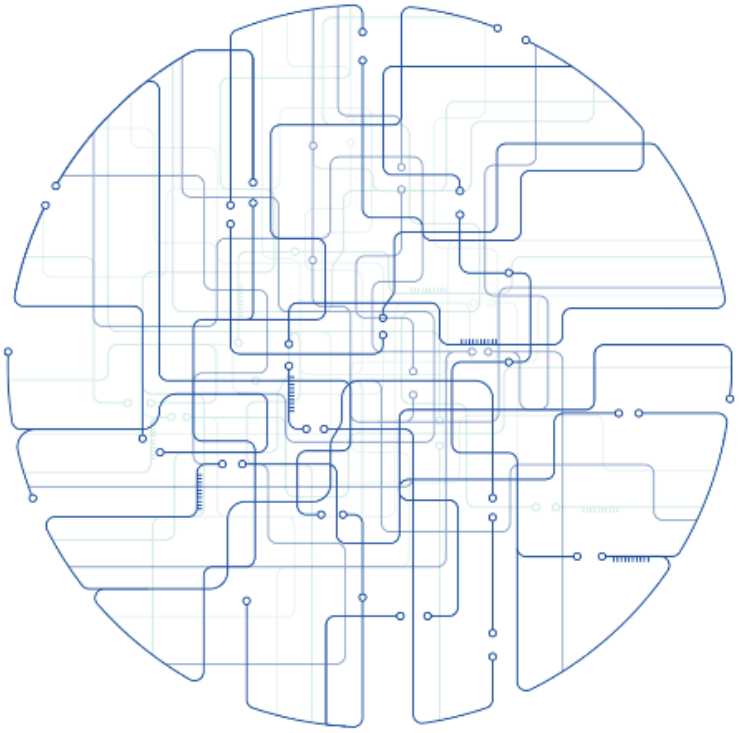


Governance Framework of the

# Office of the Chief Information Officer

**2026-2030**

# OCIO Governance Framework

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# 1. Introduction

Following the definition of the role and mandate of the CERN Chief Information Officer (CIO), an Office of the CIO has been established to provide the people and processes needed to support its execution. In line with a federated CIO model, the Office is intentionally small and focuses on coordinating transversal computing-related activities across the Laboratory, while responsibility for operational service delivery remains within the departments and experiments. The Office operates in a matrix mode, with staff embedded in departments contributing part of their time to implementing the CIO's mandate.

# 2. Committee Structure

As part of delivering the CIO mandate, a set of CIO Community for Collaboration and Communication (C4) committees has been established. These bring together members of the Office of the CIO and representatives from across the organisation, and are structured around a central steering committee supported by a number of technical committees. The model follows principles of inclusion and efficiency: some existing committees will be streamlined or closed, with the objective of focusing effort, avoiding duplication, and ensuring that the resulting structure delivers clear value to the Laboratory.

## 2.1. Programme and Technical Committees

The C4 Programme and Technical Committees provide analysis and recommendations to the Steering Committee on areas beyond delegated decision-making authority. The C4 Technical Committee provides transversal guidance across CERN in the domain of the CIO responsibilities not covered by other specialised CIO community programme and technical committees, supported by ad-hoc focused task forces as necessary.

Members assess options based on expertise and departmental impact, and follow up to support implementation. For example, if a review recommends consolidating collaborative editing platforms on Confluence, members coordinate with their departments to plan effort, align with decisions, and guide users or approve justified exceptions.

Committees consist of part-time subject-matter experts from relevant CERN departments. Chairs are nominated by the CIO, potentially in consultation with impacted departments, while member nomination follows each committee's terms of reference in the CIO document repository.

All committees report to the C4 Steering Committee, producing at least one annual report covering studies, delegated decisions, and outstanding actions.

## 2.2. C4 Steering Committee

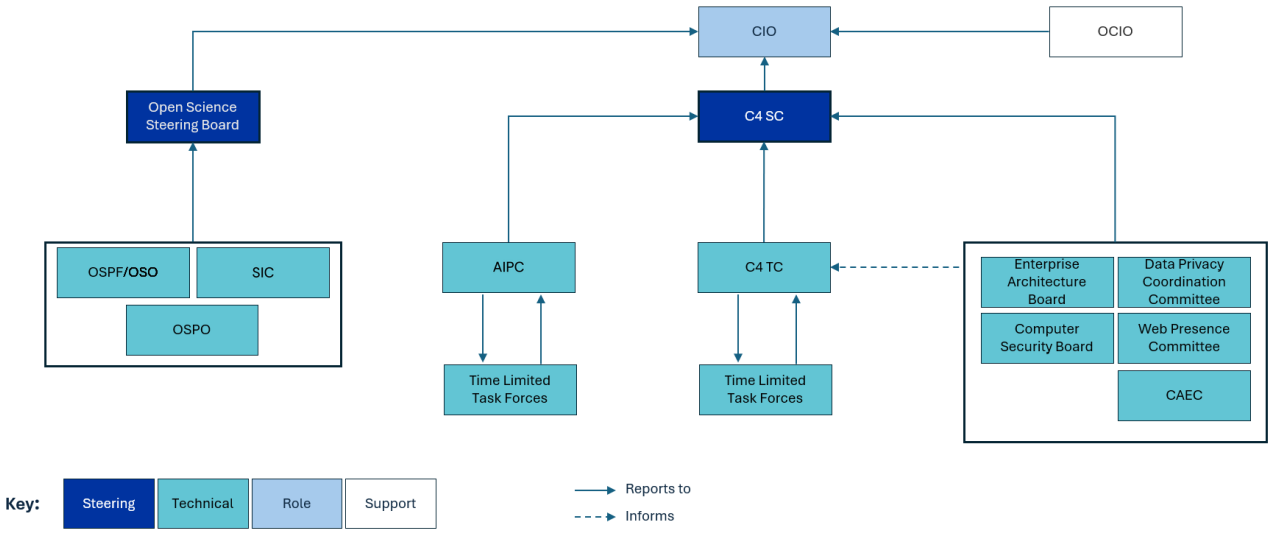
The C4 Steering Committee is responsible for decisions on computing strategy, budget, staffing, and serving as the final arbiter when a technical committee cannot reach consensus.

Membership is generally at the sector or department head level, as resource decisions will be taken, though some units may appoint an alternative representative if interests are aligned.

Typically, decisions are based on recommendations from technical committees. However, items of strategic importance may also be raised directly to the Steering Committee through its Chair.

# 3. Committee Inventory

The overall structure of the CIO community committees is:




The steering committee inventory is as follows:

| COMMITTEE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| C4 Steering Committee | Decision-making body for transversal digital activities across CERN which are in the domain of the CIO responsibilities. |
| Open Science Steering Board (OSSB) | Fulfills the role of ensuring institutional coherence, accountability, and alignment with CERN's scientific mission and digital strategy by providing high-level oversight and strategic direction for Open Science at CERN. |

Some committees such as the Web Governance Committee are merged into the C4 Steering Committee as agreed with the extended directorate in 2025. The STEPS committees have been replaced by the C4 SC and TC.

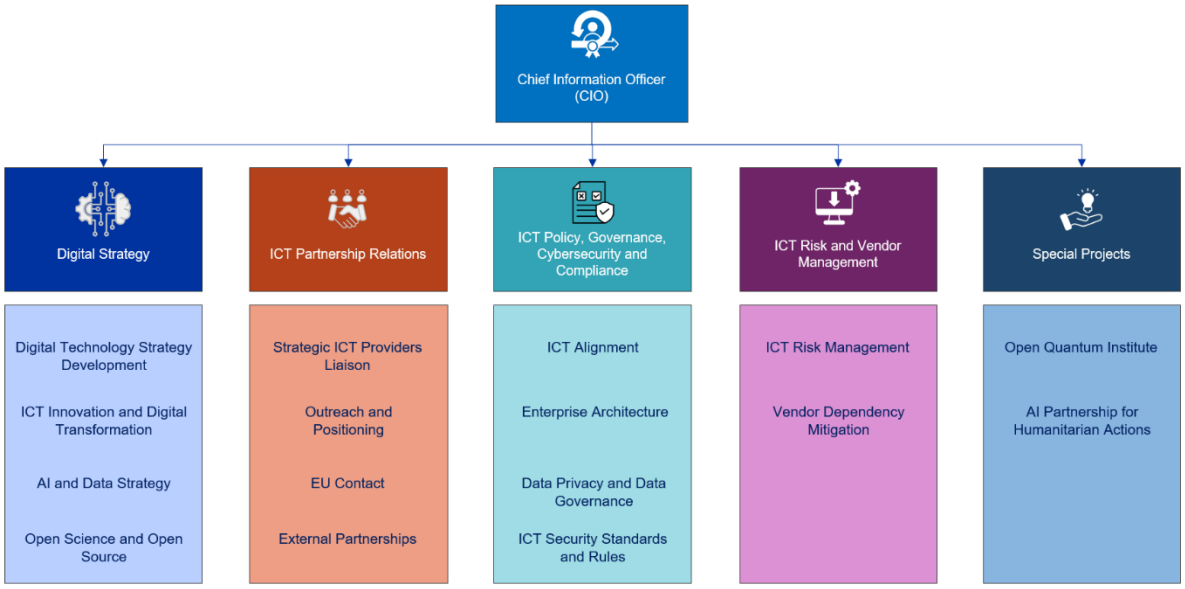
The technical committee inventory is as follows:

| COMMITTEE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| C4 Technical Committee | Consultative body that provides analysis for transversal digital activities across CERN which are in the domain of the CIO responsibilities, not covered by other specialised CIO community technical committees. |

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|---|---|
| Open Science Practitioners Forum (OSPF) | The Open Science Practitioners Forum (OSPF) is CERN's organisation-wide consultative forum for practitioners involved in the implementation of Open Science. |
| Open Source Programme Office (OSPO) | Addresses these needs by acting as a centre of competence for Open Source practices, while preserving CERN's distributed development model and bottom-up innovation culture. |
| AI Programme Committee | Defines CERN-wide initiatives, reference platforms, technical standards, and infrastructure principles for AI systems that rely on shared resources or have cross-sector impact. Oversees the implementation of the AI Strategy across all activities. |
| Enterprise Architecture Board | Framework for the alignment and standards of computing services within which day-to-day work of the departments have freedom to innovate, ensuring CERN's systems integrate well and can evolve sustainably. |
| Data Privacy Coordination Committee | In charge of the coordination of the implementation of OC11 (The processing of personal data at CERN). |
| Computer Security Board | Proposes and reviews new or adapt existing Subsidiary Rules to OC5. |
| Web Presence Committee | Ensures the alignment of CERN's web presence with the organisational strategy, makes recommendations on evolution and ensures a two-way information flow between the central governance and the sectors, departments and experiments. |
| Computer Aided Engineering Committee (CAEC) | CAEC steers the activities concerning tools, processes, methodologies and support for computer-aided mechanical engineering and related fields at CERN. |

# 4. Role Inventory

Roles across the Office of the CIO are divided into functional areas:




Some of the roles are full time but the majority build on the experience and skills gained across CERN to contribute part time to the Office of the CIO. Given the transversal nature of the activities, this investment contributes back to the department providing the effort but also benefits the other parts of the organisation with improved processes, more predictable outcomes and optimisation at a CERN-wide scale.

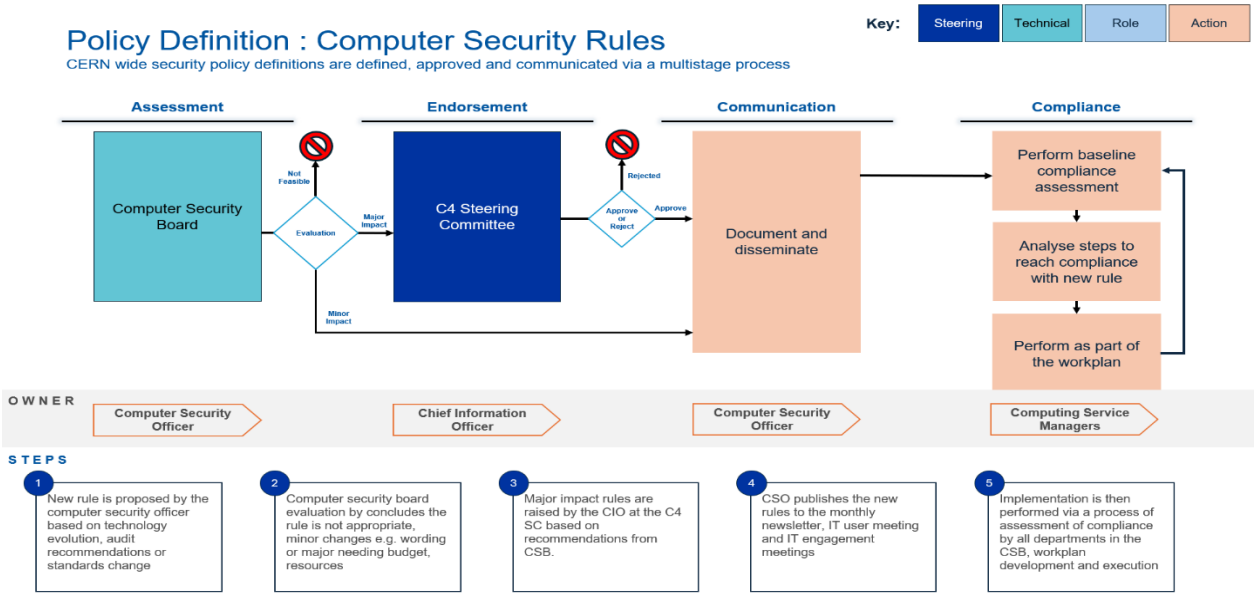
The detailed role descriptions are as follows:

| ROLE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| Chief Information Officer | Strengthens CERN's digital foundations and guiding the Organisation to remain at the forefront of technological innovation. |
| Digital Strategy Lead | Supports the CIO in the development of a technology strategy and roadmap, bringing together voices from across CERN and beyond to ensure digital evolution is both mission-aligned and human-centred. |
| Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) Lead | Coordinates activities in the GRC areas including Data Privacy, Data Governance, Architecture Oversight, Cybersecurity and Vendor Management. |
| Communications and Outreach | Strengthens internal adoption and reinforces CERN's position as a global leader in scientific computing and digital innovation. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Assistant to the Chief Information Officer | Supports the delivery of the Office of the CIO functions and mission. |
| Partnership Manager | Strengthens CERN's visibility and influence in the broader digital ecosystem, cementing CERN's role as both leader and a partner in the future of scientific computing. |
| Open Science Head | Leads a diverse portfolio of activities that aim to accelerate global open science practice in areas such as organizational policy development and coordinating CERN's open science governance. |
| OSPO Chair | Coordinates the activities of the Open Source Program Office. |
| Computer Security Policy Lead | Prepares and maintains ICT security policies for review by the Computer Security Board along with assessing compliance across the organisation. |
| Enterprise Architect | Promotes the use of common platforms, open standards, and shared services to reduce duplication, manage long-term costs, improve staff mobility and safeguard data integrity. |
| Data Governance Officer | Defines a Data Governance Framework composed of policies, processes and tools made available to people that need them and that allows to achieve the level of data quality defined in CERN's Data Strategy. |
| Risk and Vendor Manager | Manages high level relationships with technology vendors and governs ICT and suppliers' risk management, ensuring risks are identified, assessed and mitigated to maintain resilience and compliance across CERN's digital environment. |

# 5. Process Inventory

The processes which involve OCIO members are described below. To illustrate the general format, an example process is included below:




Each flow includes

- The flow from initiation through various committees and actions to completion with potentially exit paths along the way
- The owner at each point who is the responsible role to move the request to the next stage
- The detailed steps to be performed along the way

Further processes will be added as the governance is exercised further.

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