

Ushering the Corporate Finance Revolution with Claude

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≡ Forbes

Are You A Stressed-Out CFO? Don't Worry, You're Not Alone

Sally Percy Contributor 0



So what do CFOs have to feel stressed about? Well, plenty as it happens. Setting aside all the routine pressures that they have faced for some time - year end, month end, presenting to the board, meeting investors, the prospect of the auditors uncovering an enormous fraud etc. - the fast-changing world in which we live today is inflicting extra burdens upon them.

For starters, they are increasingly expected to make something meaningful out of all the large volumes of data that are swishing around organizations - and this is a challenge that is going to become even greater in future. Research firm IDC predicts that the world will be churning out 163 trillion gigabytes of data annually by 2025. Apparently it will be down to CFOs - with the help of their data scientist colleagues - to turn much of this ocean of data into insights that the board can base its strategic decision-making on. As if the quantity of data did not present enough of a challenge on its own, there is also the quality to consider and the fact that if it's misinterpreted, the board could end up making some very poor decisions as a result.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Corporate CFOs are going through their own 'Great Resignation'

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Ian Thomas @BYIANTHOMAS WATCH LIVE

KEY POINTS

- The average tenure of a chief financial officer at a North American company is around 5 years, a steady decline compared to even just a few years ago.
- The CFO role is seeing a growing number of responsibilities and demands, which can cause more friction in the C-suite and lead finance chiefs to seek out new roles to use their skill sets.



After inflation set in and the threat of recession looms large, chief financial officers are feeling the pressure.

Up until about a year ago, chief financial officers had more room to breathe. Shoppers were finally let out of the pandemic lockdown to roam and open their wallets like never before, and low interest rates made it far easier to justify expensive investments.

After inflation set in, the role has become rather stressful-possibly more than ever before. Investment has dried up, and a vague but serious threat of a recession threatens to put an end to bumper revenues. Growth in the U.S. economy is slowing. Manufacturing output fell in December, and the Fed continues to hike interest rates without mercy.

Less than a third of top CFOs recently surveyed by Deloitte in November consider it a good time for greater risk-taking, and 41% are pessimistic about their companies' financial prospects. Soon, the modern CFO may no longer be a creative copilot to the CEO but a penny-pinching jobsworth.







The Toughest Challenges CFOs Will Face in 2023

Kristina Russo | CPA, MBA, Author

September 19, 2022



Role of the CFO: the Old & the New

The 10 Biggest Challenges for CFOs

When looking at what will keep CFOs awake at night in 2023, tough challenges come from all corners of their jobs. Here are ten of the most troublesome challenges:

1. Talent acquisition and retention

Finding people with the right skills to staff their departments is a critical challenge for CFOs. As their roles and requirements have broadened, the skills CFOs need from their staff have also changed.

2. Unify disparate data

CFOs will need to finally address the challenges posed by legacy data in 2023. The nimbleness demanded from businesses in 2022 amplified the need for current, accurate data to support decision-making. Unifying data for analysis eliminates pulling it from disconnected databases and spreadsheets. At the same time, a single data source also increases the speed of reporting and reduces the inefficiency and errors inherent in manual processes.

Accenture has found that 76% of CFOs believe unifying disparate data is vital to achieving business objectives. Another important dimension in the disparate data challenge is the need for CFOs to ensure company financial statements are accurate and auditable.

CFOs urgently need a trustworthy, intelligent, knowledgeable, domain expert: a 24X7, blazingly fast copilot







TECHNOLOGY



AL-DRIVEN AUTOMATION

72% of Business Leaders Want Al Adoption Within 3 Years: Weekly Stat

New data suggests that leaders are highly interested in AI but must plan around the risks associated with adoption.

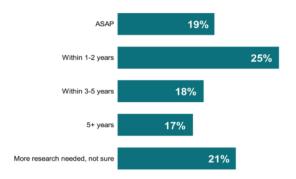
By Adam Zaki | May 31, 2023

2. Develop an Al Timeline

Whether it's ChatGPT or the numerous specialized artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots on the market, the latest technological disruption has garnered much attention in finance. The industry is still in its infancy, with companies, big-name investors, and solutions still in the early stages of development.

More than two-thirds (69%) of all executives in the CFO Outlook Survey said they plan on increasing AI use this year. *The Balance's* email poll from April 26 had readers detail their timeline for incorporating AI. While *The Balance* subscribers seem slightly more cautious around AI, the interest in what it can do for corporate finance is high.

What is your timeline for incorporating generative AI into your workflows?

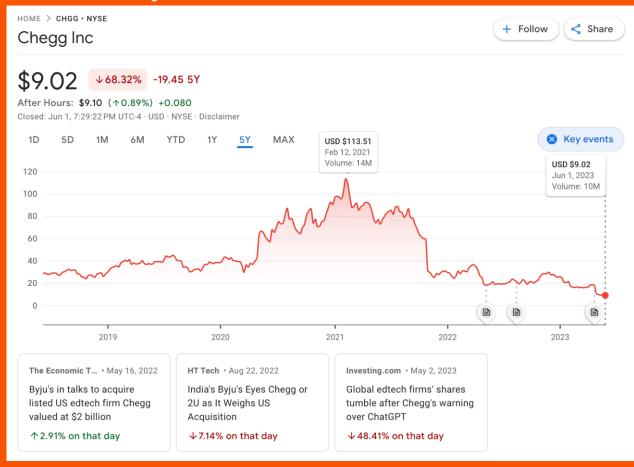


Only one possible answer! KIKU (powered by Claude!)

- Al models developed by domain experts
- Trained on the company's own data
- Enriched with industry and competitor data
- Insightful recommendations from Claude's large context
- Zero waiting for analysts anytime, anywhere access

Demo Context

Chegg, a large EdTech company is facing massing downward pressure on its stock.



In the middle of managing multiple crisis, the CFO has to prep for a crucial upcoming investor meet.

Let's see how Kiku can help

DEMO CASE 1: EMPOWERING WITH UNMATCHED COMMUNICATION EXPERTISE

Demo of communication preparedness



Sample Q&A from Kiku

Investor event preparation



Here are three potential questions growth investors may ask Chegg given recent advancements in large language models like ChatGPT:

- How will ChatGPT and other Al tools impact your business and subscriber growth? Investors will want to understand if and how Al tools like ChatGPT could pose a threat to Chegg's core business model by providing alternative solutions to students' questions.
- What is your strategy to leverage AI to drive growth? Investors will be interested in how Chegg plans to utilize AI, either through partnerships with AI companies or in-house development, to enhance its products, expand content offerings, and attract new subscribers.
- 3. How do you plan to differentiate your offerings from AI tools? Given that AI tools like ChatGPT can provide answers to students' questions, investors will want to understand how Chegg plans to differentiate its products and services to maintain its competitive advantage. This could include aspects like personalized learning, expert answers from verified sources, and a more comprehensive learning platform beyond just question answering.

- Strategic Advantage: Kiku empowers executives to gain a strategic advantage in investor communication by proactively anticipating tough questions, allowing them to respond with finesse and confidence
- Unparalleled Preparedness: With comprehensive research capabilities, Kiku ensures executives are always one step ahead, analyzing news articles, competitor responses, industry trends, and more. Executives are fully prepared and never caught off guard
- Personalized Insights: Kiku serves as a trusted partner, providing tailored guidance based on the investment philosophies of different types of investors. With customized insights, executives gain the ability to effectively address relevant questions and connect with diverse investor audiences

DEMO CASE 2: UNLEASHING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE THROUGH STRATEGIC INSIGHTS



Sample Q&A from Kiku

Competitive analysis



Both companies see opportunities in expanding their content offerings and markets to drive growth.

Chegg aims to expand through acquisitions and partnerships, while 2U focuses on expanding contents on its edX platform and growing its enterprise channel.

Technology plays a role for both:

 Chegg wants to utilize Ai and ML to improve products, while 2U sees opportunities in leveraging edX platform.

Customer retention and lifetime value differ:

- . Chegg aims to increase student retention and engagement to make students lifelong customers
- 2U wants to leverage edX to drive interest in other parts of its business, specifically enterprise and stackable credentials.

International expansion is a potential opportunity for both, though they differ in approach:

- . Chegg plans to localize offerings by market to grow internationally.
- 2U sees its existing global base of edX learners as an entry point to expand international?

Overall, while both companies see multi-pronged opportunities, Chegg's emphasis seems to be on optimizing its direct-to-consumer model, while 2U aims to leverage its edX platform to drive growth in its broader business. Hope this summary helps! Let me know if you have any other questions.

- Strategic Insights: Gain a competitive edge with Kiku's meticulous analysis, delivering valuable insights on strategies, risks, strengths, and opportunities. Make informed strategic decisions that drive success
- Capitalize on Advantages: Leverage strengths and seize opportunities in the competitive landscape. Kiku identifies and compares advantages, empowering proactive actions that keep companies ahead of their competition
- Maximizing Competitive Edge: Make well-informed decisions with comprehensive competitor insights from Kiku. Maximize your company's competitive edge and confidently navigate the market landscape for sustained success

DEMO CASE 3: DELIVERING INDUSTRY INTELLIGENCE WITH REAL-TIME INSIGHTS



Sample Q&A from Kiku

EdTech insights



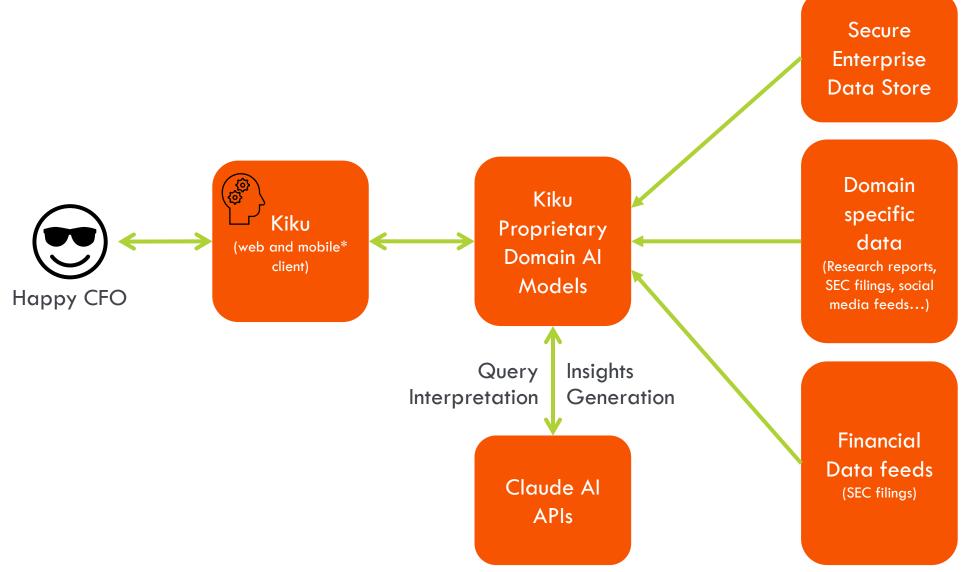
Here are some ways the EdTech industry can effectively respond to the growth of ChatGPT:

- Embrace ChatGPT instead of banning it. Banning it will only frustrate students and educators. Instead, set clear ground rules for its appropriate use in schools and universities.
- Move away from purely content-driven learning platforms and focus more on skills development.
 ChatGPT highlights the need for students to develop critical thinking, reasoning, and other skills that will be valuable in the future workforce.
- Increase oversight and transparency to distinguish between human-created and Al-generated content. This will likely require action from regulators as ChatGPT evolves.
- Warn students that relying too heavily on ChatGPT for assignments will not lead to high grades. They
 still need to put in the effort to develop a deep understanding of concepts.
- Leverage ChatGPT to automate routine tasks like creating study guides and summaries, allowing educators to focus more on personalized and project-based learning approaches.
- Train ChatGPT on your own proprietary content and data to enhance its performance for your specific use cases. This will make your offerings more attractive and personalized.

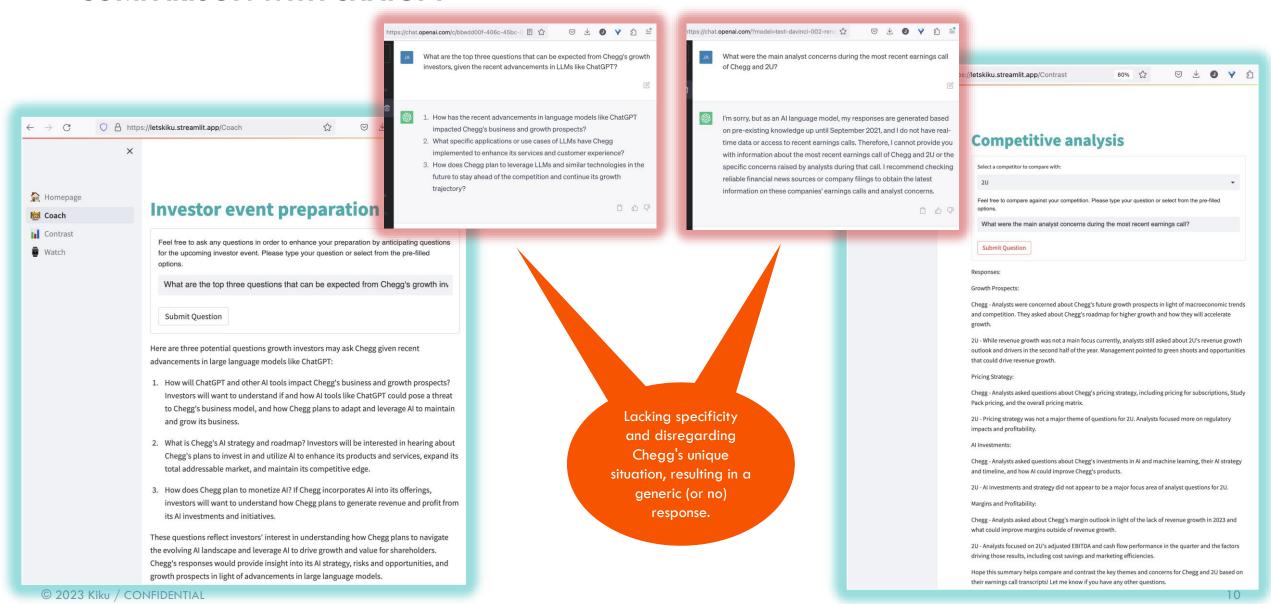
In summary, the EdTech industry should adapt to ChatGPT by integrating it thoughfully into their products and services, while also shifting their focus to developing higher-order skills in students that Al cannot yet match. Clear guidelines, oversight, and warnings about overreliance will also be important.

- Industry Intelligence: Gain a panoramic view of the industry landscape with Kiku, staying informed and ahead of trends. Get the edge in strategic decisionmaking
- Curated Insights for Smart Decisions: Access synthesized information from industry reports, trends, and curated data with Kiku. Empower your decision-making and strategic planning with valuable insights at your fingertips
- Proactive Trend Tracking: Stay ahead of the curve and adapt to market changes with Kiku's trend analysis capabilities. Anticipate shifts in the industry and make informed decisions to stay competitive

KIKU: ARCHITECTURE VISION

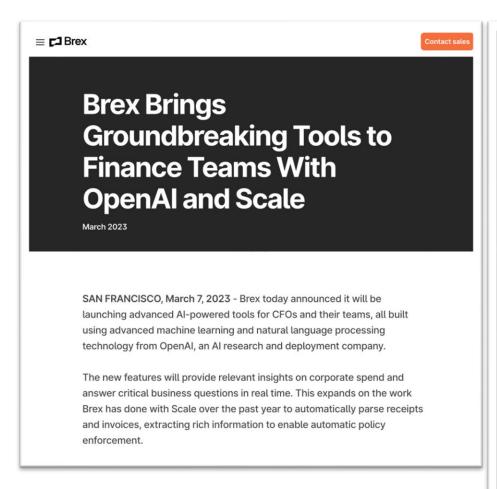


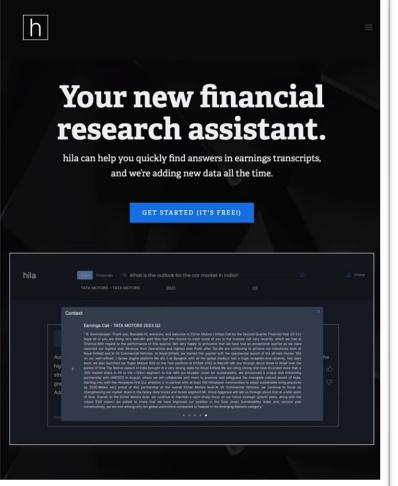
COMPARISON WITH CHATGPT



OTHER PLAYERS

Not customer need focused, force-fitting AI into existing solutions in a very generic way





ADDRESSABLE MARKET

We want to start with a focus on Middle Market companies where CFOs have small departments and can urgently benefit from AI

U.S. MIDDLE MARKET DEFINED



Annual Revenues Range from

\$10MM - \$1B



Accounts for

of All New
Private-Secto



Nearly

200,000 in All Industry Segments and Geographies



5th LARGEST

global economy



\$\$\$ Represents

1/3 of Private Sector
GDP and Employment



85%

of Companies
Are Privately Held



More than

\$10 trillion in annual revenue

TEAM



Paras has over 20 years of advisory and operational experience in consulting, banking and technology companies. His experience included software engineering at Infosys, management consulting at Stern Stewart & Co., investment banking at Mizuho Bank, strategic finance advisory to private equity portfolio companies at Accordion Partners, and Head of Finance at a unicorn Fintech startup.

He partnered with the boards and business leaders in creating sustainable value for companies in a variety of sectors and across geographies.

He has an MBA from the University of Rochester and a BTech in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology - BHU.



Saurabh has over 20 years of experience in leading technology teams across FinTech (Hedge Funds, Energy Trading/Risk Management, Mortgages), Enterprise Productivity, and eCom. During his 8 years at D. E. Shaw, his team carved out the Middle and Back Office Technology infrastructure and spun it off as a SaaS company. During his 6-year stint at Microsoft, he led a product with more than \$500M ARR and led the launch of a brand-new enterprise learning platform.

He was the VP of Product at Quince, a fast-growing silicon valley startup.

He majored in Quantitative Finance during his MBA from the Indian School of Business and holds a BTech in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology - BHU.

Next Steps

Business Development

Grow from Zero-to-One

- Meet with 30-50 senior executives to hone in on the most urgent business needs
- Work closely with early adopters and design partners to rapidly iterate on the solution

System Development

Productionalize the core infrastructure by utilizing Claude APIs and adding features such as

- Enterprise-grade data security, authentication, authorization capabilities
- Integrate with Kiku's ML models for deeper insights
- Gain a deep understanding of the customer journey and develop a user interface that supports features like multi-user collaborative discussions with Al, convenient options to resume conversations, export information, and incorporate ad-hoc documents, among others

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