



MVP.DEV · FRACTIONAL CTO PRACTICE

Sample Fractional CTO Monthly Operating Brief

This brief summarizes technical leadership activity, strategic tradeoffs, and recommended executive decisions for the current operating period. It is prepared monthly by your Fractional CTO and intended for review by founders, COOs, and executive sponsors.

Period

June 2025

Prepared by

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Month in Review: What Happened & Why It Matters

A high-level read on the state of delivery, architecture, and vendor relationships over the past 30 days.



Architecture Progress

Microservices decomposition reached 60% completion. The payments domain was successfully extracted, reducing deployment coupling. Outstanding: user-identity service refactor remains blocked pending vendor API documentation from Auth0.



Delivery Velocity

Sprint velocity held at 42 story points average across three squads. Two releases shipped on schedule. One feature — reporting dashboard v2 — slipped by 8 days due to an undocumented dependency on the legacy data warehouse.



Vendor & Tooling

AWS contract renewal initiated. Datadog tier reviewed — current spend is 34% above projected budget. Recommended downgrade to Business tier under evaluation. New CI/CD tooling (GitHub Actions migration) completed for two of four repos.

2

Releases Shipped

On time, no critical rollbacks

60%

Decomposition Done

Microservices migration

34%

Observability
Overspend

Datadog vs. budget

8d

Slip on Dashboard v2

Recovered in sprint buffer

Tradeoffs Requiring Executive Alignment

The following sequencing decisions carry business risk or resource implications that require a clear executive call before engineering proceeds.

Build vs. Buy: Search

Custom Elasticsearch build estimated at 14 weeks. Algolia integration at 3 weeks and \$1,800/mo.

Recommendation: Buy. Timeline savings outweigh long-term cost at current scale.

Mobile: Native vs. PWA

Native iOS/Android requires 2 dedicated engineers for 5 months. PWA covers 80% of use cases in 6 weeks. **Decision needed:** Does Q3 require App Store presence for a key enterprise deal?

Data Platform Timing

Delaying the analytics warehouse migration risks blocking the Q4 reporting feature set entirely. CTO recommends pulling forward 3 weeks of foundational work into the July sprint cycle.

- ❏ **Executive action required:** Mobile platform decision must be confirmed by June 20 to preserve Q3 delivery timelines. CTO will present options with cost/risk breakdown in the upcoming steering call.

Vendor & Systems Risk View

Active risks tracked this period, with current severity and mitigation status.

Risk Item	Severity	Status	Mitigation Action
Auth0 API docs delay — identity refactor blocked	● High	Open	Escalation email sent; interim workaround scoped by engineering lead
Datadog overspend at 134% of budget	● Medium	In Review	Tier downgrade evaluated; sampling strategy being tested in staging
Legacy data warehouse — reporting dependency	● High	In Progress	Migration pulled forward; shadow read layer under development
AWS contract renewal — pricing risk	● Medium	In Negotiation	3-year reserved capacity pricing requested; benchmark vs. GCP underway
Single point of expertise: payments squad	● Medium	Monitoring	Knowledge transfer sessions scheduled; documentation sprint added to backlog

Key Governance Note

Two high-severity items require executive awareness. Neither is in crisis, but both carry delivery consequences if unresolved within 30 days. CTO is actively tracking both weekly.

Risk Posture vs. Last Month

Overall risk posture is **stable but elevated**. One new high-severity item added (data warehouse dependency). One prior medium item (GitHub Actions migration) was resolved and closed this period.

Recommended Next-Month Priorities

Concrete focus areas for delivery, governance, and leadership decisions heading into July.

01

Delivery: Unblock the Identity Refactor

Resolve Auth0 escalation or finalize interim workaround. This is the single highest-leverage technical action to restore full sprint velocity across the platform squad.

03

Cost: Close Datadog Optimization

Approve or reject the Business tier downgrade based on staging test results. Target: return observability spend to within 105% of budget before the next billing cycle.

Next Scheduled Touchpoints

- Steering call: June 19 — roadmap alignment & mobile decision
- CTO office hours: weekly, Thursdays 10–11am ET
- Next monthly brief: July 31

02

Governance: Confirm Mobile Platform Strategy

Executive team to confirm Native vs. PWA direction by June 20. CTO will provide a one-page decision brief with cost, timeline, and enterprise deal implications before the steering call.

04

Leadership: Engineering Knowledge Distribution

Initiate structured knowledge transfer on the payments domain. Reduce key-person concentration risk before any planned team changes or contractor transitions in Q3.

Prepared by MVP.dev

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