



PROFILE

CTO & SVP
Western Digital Corporation

CITATION

Breakthrough contributions to magnetic recording and data storage architectures that support hyperscale cloud platforms, AI workloads, and the world's expanding digital infrastructure



XIAODONG CHE

AAEOY Executive of the Year

Dr. Xiaodong (Carl) Che is Chief Technology Officer at WD and a globally recognized leader in data storage innovation. With more than three decades of experience in the storage industry, he has played a central role in advancing the technologies that power today's cloud computing and artificial intelligence infrastructure.

At WD, Dr. Che leads the company's global technology strategy and innovation roadmap, guiding the development of next-generation storage solutions that support hyperscale cloud platforms, enterprise computing, and AI-driven workloads. Under his leadership, WD has delivered major advancements in magnetic recording technologies, including Ultra Shingled Magnetic Recording (Ultra-SMR), which has significantly improved storage capacity and total cost of ownership for large-scale cloud environments. Today, many hyperscale cloud providers rely on these technologies as foundational storage architectures supporting the rapid growth of global data.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Che held senior engineering leadership positions at HGST (Hitachi Global Storage Technologies), where he led key innovations that helped restore the company's leadership in enterprise storage performance and areal density. His work during the integration of HGST into WD also played a critical role in advancing next-generation technologies such as Heat-Assisted Magnetic Recording (HAMR). Earlier in his career, he held advanced technology roles at Samsung and other industry leaders, contributing to multiple generations of capacity-leading hard drives.

Dr. Che holds more than 50 patents and has authored over 30 technical publications in the field of data storage technologies. He earned his Ph.D. in condensed matter physics from the University of California, San Diego, and completed postdoctoral research at the Center for Magnetic Recording Research.

Beyond his corporate leadership, Dr. Che is deeply committed to advancing the engineering community through mentorship, academic collaboration, and industry engagement, including his role as a founding board member of the Chinese American Information Storage Society (CAISS).