Step 3 of 5 · Top of the vice-president stack

SVP vs EVP

From managing a portfolio to setting the strategy for it. The EVP decides what the business should become; the SVP makes the current version work. This is also the level where the title starts carrying legal and disclosure consequences.

	Senior Vice President CURRENT LEVEL Carries several functions, a region or a large business unit, and trades them against each other.	**Executive Vice President** THE STEP UP Owns a whole division or company-wide function with a P&L large enough to move the enterprise number.
Accountable to	An EVP or a chief officer, for the unit's results.	The President or the CEO, for the division's results.
Scope of accountability	Several functions, a region or a major business unit — frequently with a P&L rather than a budget.	An entire division or global function — material to the number the company reports.
Freedom to act	Shapes the strategy the VPs operate inside, and decides the trade-offs between the units underneath it.	Sets the division's strategy. The C-suite reviews it rather than dictates it.
Type of problem	Decides which systems get invested in and which get starved, on incomplete information.	Decides the envelope itself: which businesses are grown, harvested or exited.
Breadth of management	Manages heterogeneous functions through leaders whose craft they may never have practiced.	Leads through SVPs who each run complete functions or units of their own.
Who must be persuaded	Competing executives who all have a defensible case — and often the Board, for the first time.	Presents to the Board as the owner of a business, and often meets investors and analysts directly.
Money authority	Moves budget and headcount between functions without asking permission.	Allocates capital — proposes acquisitions, closures and multi-year investment.
Time horizon	Two to three years, including capability that does not pay back this year.	Three to five years, and answerable for the business through a full downturn.
Legal & governance standing	Often a designated officer, with authority to sign commitments binding the unit.	Commonly a designated executive officer, which can bring disclosed pay and personal reporting obligations.

The step up what is genuinely new, not just bigger

1. **Capital, not budget**
Budget management becomes capital allocation: what to buy, what to build, what to shut down.

2. **Legal and disclosure exposure**
EVPs are commonly designated executive officers, which can mean disclosed pay and personal reporting obligations.

3. **Succession candidacy**
The EVP slate is where boards look for the next CEO, so the role is judged on trajectory as well as on results.

Where it varies by industry and company size

Not universal
Many companies have no EVP band at all and go SVP straight to President or to the C-suite. Its absence is not a gap in the structure.

Banking, insurance, media, industrials
EVP is a formal and meaningful officer rank in these sectors, usually reserved for division heads.

Technology
EVP barely exists. SVPs typically report directly to the CEO, so an EVP title in tech often signals a hire from another industry.

Under ~5,000 employees
EVP is usually inflation rather than a distinct band — the scope is an SVP's scope with a longer title on it.