Pre-Symposium Proceedings of the 20th Annual Chief Data Officer & Information Quality (CDOIQ) Symposium

as of July 15, 2026

Editors:
Yang W. Lee, PhD
Richard Y. Wang, PhD

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Welcome to CDOIQ Symposium

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The Proceedings of the previous Chief Data Officer and Information Quality (CDOIQ) Symposium and other information about the Symposium are available at: **https://2026cdoiq.org/**. The session recordings will be stored on the CDOIQ YouTube Channel as permanent record. Please subscribe to the CDOIQ channel so you can receive immediate notifications as we upload new videos.

The 20th Annual Chief Data Officer & Information Quality (CDOIQ) Symposium



DIRECTOR

Yang Lee
Chair, Supply Chain and Information Management Group
Founding Faculty Director, MS in Business Analytics
Associate Professor, Information Management and Analytics
Northeastern University



CO-DIRECTOR

Richard Wang
Former professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Professor Emeritus, U. of Arkansas, Little Rock
Former Deputy CDO, Pentagon
Former CDO State of Arkansas

Master of Ceremonies



Carl Gerber
CDO Strategic Advisor
CDOIQ Senior Fellow



Mark Johnson
Chief Growth Officer & Executive Oversight
Leader for the Data & Analytics
CoStrategix

Carl Gerber

CDO Strategic Advisor, CDOIQ Senior Fellow

Carl Gerber is a visionary C-suite executive, former Big Four Chief Data Officer (CDO), and strategic advisor with extensive experience in modernizing large, complex, enterprise-wide data, content and analytics landscapes. Carl specializes in helping organizations modernize their data ecosystems to serve as a secure, AI-ready foundation. Carl brings invaluable expertise in digital transformation, AI & data governance, data privacy and operational risk management to his clients. Carl is active in the data and analytics industry as a Chief Data Officer and Information Quality (CDOIQ) Program Senior Fellow, World Leaders in Data and AI (wlda.tech) founding member and The University of California San Diego SPARKAI program (sparkai.network). Carl's industry recognition includes: dataIQ 100 Most Influential People in Data (2024), World Leaders in Data and AI (WLDA) Ally of the Year (2023), two-time CIO 100 Innovation Award recipient (2014, 2015) and The Data Warehouse Institute (TDWI) Best Practices Award (2014). Carl honorably served as a Captain, Communications & Computer officer in the United States Air Force, Tactical Air Command, where he led the development of a mission readiness (KPI) Executive Information System (EIS) for the Commander and staff.

Mark Johnson

Chief Growth Officer & Executive Oversight Leader for the Data & Analytics, CoStrategix

Mark Johnson is the Chief Growth Officer & Executive Oversight Leader for the Data & Analytics at CoStrategix. Mark's career spans an impressive array of technical, management, and executive leadership roles, making him exceptionally equipped to drive growth and innovation within organizations. His strategic vision, genuine enthusiasm, and understanding of organizational change management, data, and AI make him a sought-after advisor. Demonstrating his entrepreneurial spirit, Mark has twice founded and expanded national technology consulting businesses. He is a Senior Fellow at the CDOIQ Symposium, the largest and longest-running conference for data leaders. He is also a co-founder of the CDO Magazine building a community of data leaders globally to share ideas and best practices.

CDOIQ TEAM



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Kevin Petrie



Elena Alikhachkina

TRACK E



Alba Aleman



Sloane Bailey

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SESSION 1
Welcome

Welcome and Opening Remarks



Dr. Richard Y. Wang
Founder and Executive Director
Chief Data Officer &
Information Quality Program



Dr. Stuart E. Madnick
Professor & Founding Director
Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan (CAMS)

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Dr. Richard Y. Wang

Founder and Executive Director, Chief Data Officer & Information Quality Program

Richard Y. Wang is Director of the Chief Data Officer and Information Quality (CDOIQ) Program. He is a pioneer and leader in the research and practice of Chief Data Officer (CDO). Dr. Wang has significant credentials across government, industry, and academia. He conceived and chaired the Inaugural MIT-Army CDO Forum, and established the CDO Forum as an annual event at MIT. In addition, he has been chairing the Annual MIT CDOIQ Symposium since 2007. Dr. Wang was a professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management for almost a decade. From 2005-2009, he was appointed as a Visiting University Professor of Information Quality, University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is an Honorary Professor at Xi'An Jiao Tong University, China.

Dr. Wang has put the term Information Quality on the intellectual map with myriad publications. In 1996, Prof. Wang organized the premier International Conference on Information Quality, which he has served as the general conference chair and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Dr. Wang's books on information quality include Journey to Data Quality (MIT Press, 2006), Information Quality: Advances in Management Information Systems (M.E. Sharpe, 2005), Introduction to Information Quality (MITIQ Publications, 2005), Data Quality (Kluwer Academic, 2001), and Quality Information and Knowledge (Prentice Hall, 1999).

Prof. Wang has been instrumental in the establishment of the Ph.D. and Master of Science in Information Quality degree program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Stuart Madnick IQ Best Paper Award for the International Conference on Information Quality, the comprehensive IQ Ph.D. dissertations website, and the Donald Ballou & Harry Pazer IQ Ph.D. Dissertation Award.

Dr. Wang is the recipient of the 2005 DAMA International Achievement Award. Previous recipients of this award include Codd for inventing the Relational Data model and Chen for the Entity Relationship model.

In 2005, he received a certificate of appreciation from the Director of Central Intelligence and a thank you letter from the Director of National Intelligence. From 2009-2011, Dr. Wang served as the Deputy CDO and Chief Data Quality Officer of the U.S. Army, for which he received letters of appreciation from the Army's Chief Information Officer, and the CIO at the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He received a Ph.D. in Information Technology from the MIT Sloan School of Management in 1985.

Dr. Stuart E. Madnick

Professor & Founding Director, Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan (CAMS)

Dr. Stuart E. Madnick is the John Norris Maguire (1960) Professor of Information Technology, Emeritus, in the Sloan School of Management and Professor of Engineering Systems in the School of Engineering, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He has been a faculty member at MIT since 1972 and have served as the head of MIT's Information Technologies Group for more than 25 years. Dr. Madnick holds degrees in Electrical Engineering (B.S. and M.S.), Management (M.S.), and Computer Science (Ph.D.) from MIT. In addition, he has been a visiting professor at about a dozen other universities.

His involvement in cybersecurity research goes back to 1979 when he co-authored the book Computer Security, one of the first books on this subject. In 2014, he founded the research group Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan (CAMS), formerly the Interdisciplinary Consortium for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity.

He has broad expertise in software engineering, data bases, and Internet/Web technologies, as well as their applications to businesses and other large organizations and is reflected in more than 400 papers and other publications.

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In addition to his research and development work in academia, he has extensive experience in the development of information systems for industry, such as a key designer and developer of projects including IBM's VM/370, IBM's Script/370, and Lockheed's DIALOG. He also co-founded several high-tech firms and currently owns the 14th-century Langley Castle Hotel in England.

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SESSION 2
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Plenary Keynote



Dr. Stuart E. Madnick
Professor & Founding Director
Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan (CAMS)

Dr. Stuart E. Madnick

Professor & Founding Director, Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan (CAMS)

Dr. Stuart E. Madnick is the John Norris Maguire (1960) Professor of Information Technology, Emeritus, in the Sloan School of Management and Professor of Engineering Systems in the School of Engineering, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He has been a faculty member at MIT since 1972 and have served as the head of MIT's Information Technologies Group for more than 25 years. Dr. Madnick holds degrees in Electrical Engineering (B.S. and M.S.), Management (M.S.), and Computer Science (Ph.D.) from MIT. In addition, he has been a visiting professor at about a dozen other universities.

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3-A

PRESENTATION

Preparing Enterprises for Agentic AI, What CDO's Must Redesign Now

Speaker

Amit Shivpuja, Walmart

Abstract

Agentic AI is advancing faster than most enterprises are structurally prepared for. Hence, CDOs face a critical inflection point: redesign foundational elements of data, governance, and literacy, or risk systems that behave unpredictably at scale. I am looking to present a readiness framework that integrates data products, contextual governance, and human-centered accountability to support emerging agentic capabilities. Participants will learn how to modernize governance without adding friction, operationalize responsible AI across complex organizations, and build adaptive foundations that enable safe, scalable innovation in the next era of enterprise AI.

Biography

Amit Shivpuja

Director of Data Product and AI Enablement
Walmart



Amit Shivpuja is a senior Data and AI executive known for architecting enterprise-scale transformation across complex global organizations. He leads the design of data products, governance systems, and AI-enablement capabilities that help enterprises make confident, high-quality decisions at scale.

Amit's work integrates systems thinking, contextual governance, and human-centered accountability to prepare organizations for the next era of agentic and autonomous AI. He has shaped enterprise Data and AI strategy across Fortune 50 environments, advised executives in retail, fintech, and automotive sectors, and built global teams that deliver measurable business impact.

He is the author of *The Data & AI Compass*, a framework adopted by leaders seeking clarity in an increasingly complex AI landscape. Amit also serves as a UN Representative to the AWWG at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), contributing to emerging conversations on global governance and responsible AI.

Recognized internationally for his work, Amit's mission is to help organizations build adaptive, trustworthy, and scalable AI ecosystems that accelerate innovation while strengthening accountability.

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PRESENTATION

Value = Data + Capabilities: A Field Guide to Product-Led Data Platforms

Speaker

Amin Venjara, ADP

Abstract

Internal teams don't buy platforms—they adopt them to ship outcomes faster with less friction. This talk is a practical field guide to running your data platform as a product. We'll start with a Value Architecture—Value = Data + Capabilities—and how anchoring every investment to a real use case prevented over-engineering. Then we'll walk through a four-part measurement framework for data platform success: Maturity (platform readiness), Efficiency (hub vs. spoke spend), Adoption (active users), Satisfaction (NPS). We'll share how a company-wide DataDay and quarterly release demos created pull from developers and analysts. Finally, as a concrete pattern, we'll walk through the evolution of our Enterprise Graph capability: from use-case definition and development to value-delivery and scale.

Biography

Amin Venjara
Chief Data Officer
ADP



TBD

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3-C

PANEL DISCUSSION

Data Quality's Invisible Foe: FEAR

Moderator

Kim Herrington, Forrester Research

Panelists

Tammy Baker, Nexus Data Fooundations LLC; Danette McGilvray, Granite Falls Consulting; C. Lwanga Yonke, Padouk Consulting, LLC; Dan Everett, Insightful Research; Dora Boussias, DoraB Global

Abstract

Fear can quietly undermine data quality efforts by discouraging transparency and honest discussion of mistakes. This panel will explore how fear of blame or failure leads to hidden data problems and stalled initiatives. Backed by Forrester research and other key sources and interviews, our panel will share key outcomes of our panel's ongoing fear/DQ workgroup sessions and summarize what causes fears and how they impact your data quality programs. Most importantly, you'll learn leadership strategies to build psychological safety to create a culture of inquiry where tough data issues can be openly addressed, ultimately improving trust and data quality outcomes.

Biography

Kim Herrington

Senior Analyst – Data Leadership, Org. & Culture
Forrester Research



Kim covers data literacy, leadership, and culture at Forrester, helping organizations drive insight-driven decision-making and navigate AI adoption with trust and rigor. She is a nationally recognized data literacy advocate and community builder.

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Tammy Baker

Principal
Nexus Data Foundations LLC



Tammy Baker is a data strategy and governance advisor who helps organizations create trusted, decision-ready data ecosystems. She brings cross industry leadership experience designing governance operating models, improving data quality, and guiding organizations through the cultural change needed to elevate trust in data. Tammy holds CDMP, PMP, and ADQ credentials and is co-leading the Fear study group focused on data quality and organizational culture.

Danette McGilvray

President & Principal
Granite Falls Consulting



Danette is an internationally respected expert in data quality and governance, and author of Executing Data Quality Projects: Ten Steps to Quality Data and Trusted Information™.

C. Lwanga Yonke

Founder & President
Padouk Consulting



Lwanga is a leadership consultant focusing on data quality, governance, and culture. He leverages 30+ years of experience delivering breakthrough results in various business, data and IT roles.

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Dan Everett

Technology Strategist
Insightful Research



Dan is a strategist with 25+ years of experience helping organizations align data and analytics with business outcomes. His work blends technical depth with behavioral psychology and leadership alignment.

Dora Boussias

Executive Advisor & Keynote Speaker
DoraB Global



Dora Boussias helps leaders navigate AI-driven change with clarity, confidence, and sound judgment when decisions carry real consequences. She brings 30 years of enterprise leadership experience across data, AI, and transformation, including leading enterprise-scale initiatives at GE, Stryker, and Prudential.

Her work focuses on decision quality, leadership judgment, and trust under pressure, helping leaders translate data, AI, and talent investments into credible decisions and sustained impact. Dora is the creator of SOAR with Confidence®, a leadership development platform grounded in real-world leadership and execution.

An AI100 Innovation Leader and 2x Global Data Power Woman, Dora is known for turning complexity into clarity and confident action.

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SESSION
3-D

PRESENTATION

Data Modernization, Ontology & Data Products - Rethinking the Interaction Model for Business & IT

Speaker

Danielle Beringer, KPMG LLP

Abstract

Use of ontologies & data products are driving value delivery and deeper collaboration between business stakeholders, knowledge workers and technology teams. Join us for a speed round of industry use cases & client stories, demonstrating how the enablement of these capabilities and GenAI pointed at core data management practices is driving innovation & reshaping the interaction model.

Biography

Danielle Beringer

Principal, Advisory, Tech and Data Strategy
KPMG LLP



TBD

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TBD

Speaker **Mark Sutera**

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Biography

Mark Sutera
TBD
TBD



TBD

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4-A

PANEL DISCUSSION

AI in Financial Services: What's Actually Working (and What Isn't)

Moderator

Nachiket Mehta, The Hartford

Panelists

Aniruddha (Andy) Ghosal, JPMorganChase; Narayanan Nair, Farm Credit Services of America

Abstract

AI adoption in financial services has accelerated rapidly, fueled by advances in Gen AI and increasing pressure to deliver business value. Yet, many organizations remain caught between ambitious AI strategies and the realities of execution - data readiness challenges, regulatory constraints, and limited enterprise-wide adoption.

This panel brings together industry leaders to share candid insights on what is truly working in AI today. The discussion will explore how organizations are translating AI strategy into measurable outcomes, what "AI-ready data" means in practice, and how firms are balancing innovation with governance and risk management.

From unstructured data and AI-driven decisioning to adoption challenges and operating models, this session will provide a practical, experience-driven perspective on building and scaling AI in a regulated environment.

Biography

Nachiket Mehta

VP of AI & Data Engineering
The Hartford



Nachiket Mehta is VP of AI & Data Engineering at The Hartford, where he leads customer data and AI strategy, platforms, and transformation initiatives. He is a seasoned data and AI executive with over two decades of experience driving large-scale digital, analytics, and AI transformations across complex enterprise environments.

Prior to The Hartford, Nachiket served as Head of Data and Analytics Engineering for Global Operations and Enterprise at Wayfair, where he played a key role in cloud migration, supply chain optimization, and the adoption of data mesh and federated governance at scale. Earlier in his career, he co-founded a FoodTech marketplace, led customer data platform (CDP) products and solutions, and delivered data-driven transformation programs for Fortune 500 organizations.

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Nachiket is known for building high-impact, cloud-native data platforms and leading cultural transformation to embed data and AI into business decision-making. He has spearheaded GenAI initiatives grounded in strong data foundations that have improved productivity, accelerated decision-making, and enhanced customer outcomes. He regularly partners with C-suite leaders and boards to position data and AI as a durable competitive advantage.

He holds an MBA from Purdue University, an MS in Computer Science from Northeastern University, and a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology. Nachiket also serves as an advisor to startups, is a guest lecturer at Northeastern University, hosts a podcast, and actively contributes to nonprofit and community initiatives.

Aniruddha (Andy) Ghosal

VP, Product Management
JPMorganChase



Aniruddha (Andy) Ghosal is a VP leading AI Governance at JPMorgan Chase, based in New York City. He brings over 15 years of experience spanning product management, data science, and consulting, with a focus on enterprise AI and governance.

Previously, he led products for data discovery and classification platforms, scaling adoption to more than 1,000 enterprise customers and improving accuracy through AI-driven approaches.

Andy is an inventor on multiple patents in data privacy and AI and holds an MBA from Cornell University.

Narayanan Nair

Senior Vice President and Chief Data Officer
Farm Credit Services of America



Narayanan Nair is Senior Vice President and Chief Data Officer at Farm Credit Services of America, also serving AgCountry Farm Credit Services and Frontier Farm Credit, where he leads the enterprise data and artificial intelligence teams for a $70-billion agricultural financial services organization.

In this role, Narayanan is accountable for establishing data and AI as strategic enterprise capabilities that enable growth, operational efficiency, and superior customer experience. He leads a broad portfolio encompassing data architecture, engineering, integration, business intelligence, governance, and operations, and heads the organization's artificial intelligence strategy and execution. His focus is on scaling AI responsibly embedding it into business processes,

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decision-making, and products while ensuring strong governance, security, and ethical use.

Narayanan brings deep experience at the intersection of technology, business, and operations, with a career spanning financial services, transportation, and digital banking. He has led multiple large-scale data transformations, modernized analytics platforms, strengthened enterprise data governance, and built high-performing teams that consistently translate data and AI investments into measurable business outcomes. His leadership is distinguished by an ability to bridge executive strategy with practical execution, aligning modern data platforms and AI capabilities to real business needs.

He is widely recognized for fostering a strong data culture, developing future-ready talent, and partnering closely with executive leadership to position data and artificial intelligence as durable competitive advantages for the organization and the customers it serves.

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SESSION
4-B

PRESENTATION

TBD

Speaker **TBD**

Abstract TBD

Biography

TBD

TBD
TBD



TBD

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SESSION
4-C

PRESENTATION

The CDO in the Age of Generative AI: Lead the Asset—or Lose the Mandate

Speaker

Mark Ramsey, Ramsey International LLC

Abstract

Generative AI has done what decades of analytics initiatives could not: it has exposed who truly owns—and understands—the most valuable asset in the enterprise. In the age of GenAI, data is no longer a back-office capability; it is the raw material of intelligence itself.

In this session, Mark Ramsey draws on his 40 years in data and analytics, including his experience as Chief Data Officer at Samsung and GlaxoSmithKline, to discuss how Generative AI is a reckoning moment for the CDO role. Organizations are discovering—often painfully—that GenAI cannot succeed without trusted, well-architected, and well-governed data. Yet many data leaders remain positioned as stewards rather than strategic owners.

Mark will challenge CDOs to rethink their mandate: from governing data to commanding it, from enabling analytics to shaping enterprise intelligence. He will explore why GenAI shifts power toward those who control data foundations, what this means for operating models and executive influence, and how CDOs can either step into a defining leadership role—or watch it pass to someone else.

Biography

Mark Ramsey

Managing Partner
Ramsey International LLC



Dr. Mark Ramsey is a globally recognized authority in modern data platforms, large-scale analytics architecture, and the strategic application of Generative AI. With over 35 years of experience, Mark has designed, delivered, and optimized some of the world's most impactful enterprise data platforms, enabling organizations to accelerate innovation and unlock transformative business value. As Managing Partner of Ramsey International, Mark leads the design and deployment of advanced data and AI solutions for global enterprises seeking to maximize the potential of their data assets. He is renowned for his expertise in architecting and operationalizing modern, hybrid multi-cloud data platforms that support analytics, machine learning, and the latest advances in Generative AI.

Mark's leadership was instrumental in the rapid delivery of AbbVie's award-winning ARCH (AbbVie Research Convergence Hub) platform, a modern, cloud-based data ecosystem developed by Mark and the RI team. This platform broke down silos and doubled R&D productivity by accelerating drug discovery and clinical innovation. Recognized by Bio-IT World for its innovative practices, ARCH exemplifies Mark's ability to deliver production-grade, scalable platforms that drive measurable impact in highly regulated, data-intensive industries. Additionally, Mark and the RI team have worked with more than half of the Top 10 pharmaceutical organizations in the design and delivery of their large-scale modern data platforms, and have also worked with organizations in finance, insurance, telco, retail, healthcare, and government.

Previously, Mark served as the first R&D Chief Data & Analytics Officer at GlaxoSmithKline, where he architected the R&D Information Platform (RDIP) as a cornerstone of GSK's data-driven strategy. As the inaugural Chief Data Officer for Samsung Telecommunications America, he led the development of large-scale analytics solutions to drive business growth. At IBM, Mark spearheaded the global Business Analytics & Optimization business, scaling it to over $1 billion in annual revenue across 150 countries. A prolific inventor, Mark holds 28 patents in data analytics, optimization, and AI, including foundational work on integrating data mining with parallel relational databases and advanced analytics for user behavior monitoring. He is a trusted advisor to CDOs and technology leaders navigating the rapidly evolving landscape of Generative AI and enterprise data strategy.

Mark holds a Ph.D. in Applied Computer Science, a Master's in Computer & Information Security, and a Bachelor's in Computer Science. His technical depth, visionary leadership, and proven track record in delivering large-scale, modern data platforms make him one of the most sought-after experts in the field today.

In 2005, he received a certificate of appreciation from the Director of Central Intelligence and a thank you letter from the Director of National Intelligence. From 2009-2011, Dr. Wang served as the Deputy CDO and Chief Data Quality Officer of the U.S. Army, for which he received letters of appreciation from the Army's Chief Information Officer, and the CIO at the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He received a Ph.D. in Information Technology from the MIT Sloan School of Management in 1985.

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SESSION
4-D

PRESENTATION

The Missing Layer: Context Intelligence for Agentic AI

Speaker

Ansh Kanwar, Reltio

Abstract

Context has become the defining requirement for enterprise AI—yet what a contextual layer actually requires remains unclear. That ambiguity is the real barrier to scaling agentic AI. Ansh Kanwar, Chief Product Officer at Reltio, makes the case for Context Intelligence as an architectural capability with distinct and interconnected components. Join this session for a clear framework to evaluate the capabilities your organization needs—and a path to move forward.

Biography

Ansh Kanwar
Chief Product Officer
Reltio



Ansh Kanwar is Chief Product Officer (CPO) overseeing Reltio's global software engineering, product management, and technology operations. Ansh has extensive experience in product management, software development, product marketing, security, cloud computing, and technology operations.

Over the last 23 years, he has held numerous senior technical and management roles, including at Citrix Systems, where he served as Vice President, Technology Operations, and LogMeIn, where he served as Chief Technology Officer, and General Manager, Products and Technology at Onapsis. Ansh is a public speaker and loves discussing Data Unification and Management, AI in Data, Data Products, the Ethical use of Data, and building at scale SaaS products. He has a Bachelor's in Computer Engineering from Delhi University, an MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. He lives in Cambridge, MA.

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SESSION
4-E

PRESENTATION

Scaling AI: From Research Collaboration to Enterprise Value

Speaker

Graham Rong, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (ILP); Simon Nip, AUO Display Plus America

Abstract

How can organizations move beyond AI experimentation to achieve enterprise-wide transformation?

Join Graham Rong of MIT and Simon Nip of AUO Display Plus America for an engaging fireside chat exploring how collaboration between industry and MIT can accelerate AI innovation and create measurable business value. Drawing on real-world MIT–industry collaborations and enterprise AI deployments, the discussion will examine how leading organizations identify high-impact AI opportunities, build effective research and innovation partnerships, develop AI-ready talent, and successfully scale AI from pilot projects to enterprise-wide implementation.

Attendees will gain practical insights into the strategies, governance models, and organizational capabilities required to deploy AI at scale, navigate change management, and translate emerging technologies into sustainable competitive advantage. Whether your organization is beginning its AI journey or expanding successful pilots across the enterprise, this session will provide actionable ideas for turning collaboration into lasting business impact.

Biography

Graham Rong

Director, Corporate Relations
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (ILP)



Dr. Rong is a Director of MIT Corporate Relations. He manages the interactions and relationships between the research at MIT and companies worldwide to help them stay abreast of the latest developments in technology and business practices.

Previously, Dr. Rong founded IKA, LLC. He has led corporate development and product innovation, and provided strategic advices to companies in corporate strategy, IT leadership, digital transformation, AI, enterprise content management, and customer relationship. He held senior roles in Harte-Hanks and Vignette

Corporation. He held an EU postdoctoral research fellowship in the University of Edinburgh in Scotland where he started global collaborative research.

Dr. Rong is on the board of multiple organizations, including MIT Sloan Alumni Association of Boston from 2009 to 2012. He chaired MIT Sloan CIO Symposium from 2009-2011. He is a senior expert invited by international organizations.

Dr. Rong holds a M.B.A. in global and innovation leadership from the MIT Sloan School of Management and Ph.D in numerical computing from University of Guelph in Canada.

Simon Nip

President
AUO Display Plus America



Simon Nip serves as President of AUO Display Plus America, guiding the company's strategic vision since its founding. He is instrumental in shaping the organization's strategy, focusing on innovation, ecosystem partnerships, and growth driven by technology collaboration and acquisitions.

Simon's career bridges high-tech leadership and financial services, giving him a unique perspective on business building and scaling. Since 2010, he has held senior executive roles at leading technology companies in Boston. Prior to entering the tech sector, Simon established his career in investment banking and asset management with major international firms. He later leveraged this experience as an entrepreneur, successfully starting and incubating multiple ventures across international markets.

Simon holds an MBA with High Honors from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business..

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SESSION
5-A

PRESENTATION

From Zero to Product, Accelerating Data Strategy

Speaker

Kris Mork, Leidos

Abstract

A primary responsibility for any Chief Data Officer is delivering on the organization's data strategy. In this talk I will describe the diamond model of strategy development we used to engage with business leadership, establish strategic priorities, and deliver robust data products. Using this model, we crafted a data strategy and operating model, developed a reference architecture, deployed a modernized platform, and delivered incremental business value inside of 12 months. I will share techniques for building trust and maintaining momentum in a rapidly diversifying business environment. I will conclude with lessons learned integrated internal development teams with external contract resources.

Biography

Kris Mork

Chief Data Officer
Leidos



Dr Kris Mork has served as Chief Data Officer for Leidos since August 2024. Prior to that role, they were the Director of Data Governance for Guidehouse. They spent the bulk of their career at MITRE and Noblis leading innovation activities related to all aspects of biomedical data management: genomics to healthcare delivery to public health. Dr Mork received their PhD from the University of Washington, Seattle in 2005. They reside in Sterling, VA with their husband and wife—outside of work they enjoy role-playing games, fencing, and live music.

SESSION
5-B

PRESENTATION

Your AI Confidently Gives You Incorrect Answers... Because It Has No CONTEXT

Speaker

Arvind Murali, iOPEX Technologies

Abstract

For years, Data & AI leaders have invested in data quality, governance, MDM, and catalogs—yet AI continues to fail where it matters most: **accuracy, trust, and real-world decisions**. Why? Because we've been solving for pipelines, not for understanding. Industry data shows that **70–85% of AI projects fail due to data-related issues**, and as many as **87% never make it into production**, largely because the data lacks reliability and context . The uncomfortable truth is this: **AI doesn't fail because of bad models—it fails because it lacks context.** Without shared definitions of entities, meaning, and lineage, AI doesn't "know" your business—it guesses. And when AI guesses at scale, it doesn't just create errors—it operationalizes confusion.

For Data & AI leaders, this is now a **board-level mandate**. As organizations move into agentic AI—where systems act, not just analyze—**bad context doesn't just produce wrong answers, it drives wrong actions at scale** . This session reframes the solution as **SYSTEMS OF CONTEXT powered by a multi-agent data management framework**—where **agentic data stewardship, agentic data quality, and metadata/lineage agents** continuously enrich, validate, and connect enterprise data in real time. MDM defines identity, catalogs provide meaning, lineage ensures trust—and **data management agents operationalize all three as an intelligent, self-healing pipeline**. Because the future isn't just governed data—it's **context-aware, agent-driven data ecosystems**. And in that world, the winners won't have the best AI models… they'll have the best **context orchestration layer behind them**.

Biography

Arvind Murali
Sr. Vice President
iOPEX Technologies



Arvind is a seasoned Data & AI executive with over two decades of experience helping global enterprises transform how they operate, compete, and scale using data. He sits at the intersection of **data strategy, Agentic AI innovation, MDM & DG, and business**

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transformation, with a strong focus on moving organizations from experimentation to **production-grade, outcome-driven AI**.

At iOPEX, he leads a global Data & AI team focused on delivering **agentic AI and enterprise data modernization** for service and revenue operations domains. He assists organizations embed intelligence directly into their workflows. His work aligns closely with the evolving CDO mandate—shifting from managing data assets to **delivering measurable business value through AI-powered data ecosystems**.

Arvind is widely recognized for his thought leadership in areas such as:

- **Agentic AI and autonomous enterprise design**
- **Modern DG in AI-native architectures**
- **MDM and DQ at scale**
- **Bridging C-suite strategy with execution through data**

Arvind also runs a renowned podcast called Smarchitect Shortcast where he invites top leaders in Data & AI space to contribute to thought leadership. In a world where data, AI, and decision-making are converging in real time, Arvind brings a pragmatic yet visionary perspective on how organizations can **operationalize AI responsibly, govern it effectively, and scale it for business impact.**

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SESSION
5-C

PRESENTATION

Leading Enterprise AI: The Future of Leadership, Talent, and Transformation

Speakers

Douglas Laney & Michael Butts, Burtch Works

Abstract

As AI reshapes every industry, organizations are realizing that technology alone is not enough to drive transformation. Success increasingly depends on leadership, workforce strategy, and the ability to build AI-ready organizations. In this session, Michael Butts, CEO of **Burtch Works**, joins renowned data and analytics strategist Doug Laney to discuss how enterprise leaders are redefining executive roles, modernizing workforce models, and scaling AI capabilities across the business. Attendees will gain practical insights into AI leadership, organizational transformation, talent strategy, and what separates successful AI adopters from organizations struggling to create lasting business value.

Biography

Douglas Laney

Data, Analytics and AI Advisor, Researcher, and Author



Douglas Laney is a renowned thought leader and advisor on data, analytics, and AI strategy. He is a best-selling author, as well as a featured speaker and business school professor. Laney has been recognised repeatedly as a top-50 global expert on data-related topics and is a three-time Gartner annual thought leadership award recipient. He originated the discipline of infonomics – recognising and treating data as an actual economic asset. Laney continues to focus on helping organisations and their leadership innovate with and optimise the value of their data assets.

Michael Butts

Chief Executive Officer
Burtch Works



Michael Butts is the Chief Executive Officer of Burtch Works, a leading AI executive search, workforce mobilization, and consulting firm specializing in Artificial Intelligence, Data, Analytics, and Engineering. Under his leadership, the firm has become a trusted partner to Fortune 100 companies, private equity firms, venture

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backed startups, and global enterprises seeking to accelerate AI transformation and build world-class leadership teams.

Michael advises Boards, CEOs, private equity sponsors, and institutional investors on executive leadership strategy, workforce modernization, and enterprise value creation. His work focuses heavily on the placement of transformational leaders, including Chief AI Officers (CAIOs), Chief Data Officers (CDOs), Chief Analytics Officers (CAOs), and senior AI and technology executives. He also helps organizations scale AI, data, and engineering capabilities through executive search, contract staffing, fractional leadership, and outcome-based consulting solutions.

With more than 25 years of experience across talent, consulting, and workforce strategy, Michael has led thousands of senior-level engagements and is widely trusted on high-impact executive appointments where leadership quality directly influences growth, innovation, operational transformation, and investment outcomes. He is especially active within the private equity ecosystem, advising portfolio companies and operating partners on AI leadership, organizational design, and value creation initiatives.

In addition to leading Burtch Works, Michael serves as an Instructor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where he teaches within the Chief AI Officer executive education program focused on enterprise AI transformation, strategic leadership, and operational execution in the age of agentic AI. He is also an Instructor at the University of Chicago Data Science Institute, where he teaches graduate students within the Master's program on topics related to AI leadership, modern AI operating models, enterprise transformation, and the future of intelligent work.

A recognized thought leader and keynote speaker on AI transformation, leadership, and the future of work, Michael's insights have been featured in publications including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, The Economist, CNBC, Chicago Tribune, and CDO Magazine. He is an active member of organizations including the Forbes Technology Council, Staffing Industry Analysts, and Young Presidents' Organization (YPO).

Under Michael's leadership, Burtch Works has built a culture centered on innovation, intellectual curiosity, accountability, and servant leadership. The firm has earned national recognition as one of Forbes' Best Recruiting Firms and has been named to the Inc. 5000 list of America's fastest-growing private companies for multiple consecutive years.

Outside of work, Michael lives in the Chicagoland area with his wife and three children. He enjoys running, golfing, snowboarding, fishing, and spending time outdoors with his family. A lifelong

> learner, he is an avid reader and podcast enthusiast with a strong interest in leadership, technology, human potential, and the evolving relationship between AI and society.

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SESSION
5-D

PRESENTATION

CDO Insights 2026

Speakers **Nick Dobbins, Informatica by Salesforce; Dr. Adita Karkera, Deloitte Government & Public Services**

Abstract TBD

Biography

Nick Dobbins

VP Solutions Engineer
Informatica by Salesforce



TBD

Dr. Adita Karkera

Chief Data Officer
Deloitte Government & Public Services



Dr. Adita Karkera has over 25 years of experience and a proven record of successes implementing data and AI strategies, policies, and technology to solve business problems. Karkera currently serves as the Chief Data Officer for Deloitte Government & Public Services. Previously, Karkera served as the Deputy Chief Data Officer for the State of Arkansas, pioneering a data-driven culture in the state. She has been nationally recognized by GovTech, StateScoop, World Leaders in Data & AI, and others for her exemplary work. She has also served on many industry boards and forums and continues to strive for efficiencies in public service. Dr. Karkera also serves as Adjunct Faculty at Carnegie Mellon University.

SESSION
5-E

PRESENTATION

From Data Lakes to Agentic Enterprises: Governing Real-Time, Model-Native Data Ecosystems

Speaker

Stewart Bond, IDC

Abstract

As AI systems become increasingly agentic, capable of reasoning, acting, and governing data autonomously, the enterprise data landscape is undergoing a profound shift. Foundational models are evolving into the analytical layer itself, blurring the lines between data, application, and intelligence. Traditional warehouses and lakehouses are converging into model-lakes, where data preparation, inference, and decision automation are unified.

At the same time, event-driven architectures are redefining the role of data as a live, continuously observable asset. In this new model-native paradigm, governance is no longer about control points and committees, it becomes intent orchestration, built on trust, real-time visibility, and autonomous compliance.

This session will explore how Chief Data Officers can lead this transition by modernizing architectures for real-time responsiveness, embedding AI into governance and policy, and preparing their data ecosystems for an era when "data is the application." Drawing on 2025–2026 IDC research, the discussion will illustrate a practical path from today's federated data models to tomorrow's agentic enterprise.

Biography

Stewart Bond

Research Vice President
IDC



Stewart Bond is Vice President of IDC's Data Intelligence and Integration Software service. Mr. Bond's core research coverage includes watching emerging trends that are shaping and changing data movement, ingestion, transformation, mastering, cleansing and consumption in the AI era. Having worked in the IT industry for over 30 years, from early experience in database and application development, through solution design and deployment, to strategic architectural consulting, Stewart has worked through some significant

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changes in the IT industry. His depth of field experience coupled with market insight gives him a unique perspective, valued by his customers and peers. Mr. Bond has led numerous research projects and publications and is recognized as a primary driver behind establishing the data intelligence market category. Prior to becoming a market and industry analyst in 2011, Stewart spent 10 years with IBM as a master certified IT architect, consulting on information management and middleware strategies, and delivering integration solutions to customers around the globe.

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Speaker **TBD**

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Biography

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TBD



TBD

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SESSION
6-B

PRESENTATION

Proven Under Pressure: Federal CDOs, AI, and What 2026 Demands

Speaker

Nick Hart and Taka Ariga, Data Foundation; Daniel Morgan, US Department of Transportation

Abstract

The headlines said federal data leadership was in freefall last year. The Data Foundation's 2025 Federal CDO Survey — the only longitudinal study of its kind, conducted with Deloitte — tells a different story: resilience. Despite workforce reductions, a new administration, and expanding AI responsibilities, CDOs reported increased mission success. AI adoption jumped from 67% to 78% in a single year; 30% of CDOs now simultaneously serve as CAIOs. But the work ahead is real. OPEN Government Data Act deadlines — including new metadata standards — arrive in 2026. This session examines what the data shows, and what it demands.

Biography

Nick Hart

President and CEO
Data Foundation



Nick Hart is President and CEO of the Data Foundation, the nonpartisan research and advocacy organization behind the annual Survey of Federal Chief Data Officers — the only longitudinal study of its kind. He has worked with officials across multiple administrations and with Congress to advance the Evidence Act, the OPEN Government Data Act, and the broader federal data policy agenda. His work sits at the intersection of data infrastructure, evidence-based policymaking, and the governance frameworks that make responsible AI possible. He is a frequent source for national media on federal data and AI policy and speaks from direct, ongoing engagement with the federal CDO community.

Taka Ariga

Senior Director for Data Policy
Data Foundation



Taka Ariga is the Senior Director of the Data Foundation's Center for Data Policy and the founder of Sol Imagination, an AI advisory firm. In prior roles, he served as the Chief Data Officer and Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and as the first Chief Data Scientist at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), where he also directed the GAO's Innovation Lab. Earlier in his career, Ariga held executive roles at Deloitte, Ernst & Young, and Booz Allen Hamilton.

Daniel Morgan

Chief Product & Technology Officer
US Department of Transportation



Daniel Morgan is the Chief Product and Technology Officer for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) and United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

In this role, Daniel leads a digital factory delivering enterprise-wide products and capabilities while defining and executing DOT's product strategy and roadmap. Additionally, he works closely with stakeholders to ensure IT investments directly support mission outcomes, emphasizing practical, user-centered solutions and outcome-driven technology adoption to promote efficient, mission-focused agency operations.

Daniel began his federal career in 2014 as the inaugural Vice-Chair of the Federal Chief Data, before assuming the mantle of DOT's first Chief Data Officer. In both positions, he helped establish data as a strategic asset, building processes and tools that fostered a culture of informed, data-driven decision-making. Before joining DOT, he spent 15+ years as a management consultant in IT governance, enterprise architecture, human capital planning, and supply chain strategy & operations.

Daniel holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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SESSION
6-C

PRESENTATION

Crossing the GenAI Divide: Rescuing Failing AI Pilots with "AI-Ready" Data and Illuminating the Dark Data Within

Speaker

Carl Gerber

Abstract

As organizations heavily invest in Generative AI to transform their business, a staggering 95% of pilots fail to reach production and deliver ROI. Why? This "GenAI Divide" is driven by rigid workflows, a lack of contextual learning, and, most critically, the absence of AI-ready data.

In this session, we will explore the chasm between AI experimentation and enterprise deployment. Attendees will learn the core tenets of becoming truly "AI-ready" through robust governance, zero-data copy, and semantic layering. Furthermore, we will uncover strategies to illuminate "dark data" for new insights while mitigating risk by eliminating redundant, obsolete, and trivial (ROT) data.

Biography

Carl Gerber
CDO Strategic Advisor
CDOIQ



Carl Gerber is a visionary C-suite executive, former Big Four Chief Data Officer (CDO), and strategic advisor with extensive experience in modernizing large, complex, enterprise-wide data, content and analytics landscapes. Carl specializes in helping organizations modernize their data ecosystems to serve as a secure, AI-ready foundation. Carl brings invaluable expertise in digital transformation, AI & data governance, data privacy and operational risk management to his clients.

Carl is active in the data and analytics industry as a Chief Data Officer and Information Quality (CDOIQ) Program Senior Fellow, World Leaders in Data and AI (wlda.tech) founding member and The University of California San Diego SPARKAI program (sparkai.network).

Carl's industry recognition includes: dataIQ 100 Most Influential People in Data (2024), World Leaders in Data and AI (WLDA) Ally of the Year (2023), two-time CIO 100 Innovation Award recipient

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(2014, 2015) and The Data Warehouse Institute (TDWI) Best Practices Award (2014).

Carl honorably served as a Captain, Communications & Computer officer in the United States Air Force, Tactical Air Command, where he led the development of a mission readiness (KPI) Executive Information System (EIS) for the Commander and staff.

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SESSION
6-D

PRESENTATION

Validation at Scale: How Governed Agentic AI Unlocks Data Trust Through Testing, Monitoring, and Reconciliation

Speakers

Matt Agee & Jonathan Agee, Validatar

Abstract

Data teams are at very different points in their AI journey — some are already building agentic workflows and running into hard questions about governance, centralization, and organizational fit; others are still waiting for approval. The challenges look different from where each organization stands, but the solution is the same: a governed, centralized platform powered by agentic AI processes, validating data at scale with documented, transparent results leading to data trust.

For organizations running complex reconciliation projects, managing ongoing data quality monitoring, or validating data across a migration, the stakes of getting this wrong are high. Ungoverned automation creates the illusion of coverage without the auditability, consistency, or human oversight that regulated industries and data governance programs actually require.

In this session, Jonathan Agee and Matt Agee walk through how the Validatar platform puts governed agentic AI into practice — using metadata-driven test generation to automatically profile and scale validation across thousands of tables, automated source-to-target reconciliation to verify data integrity across systems, native integration with data catalogs to keep quality aligned with your governance framework, and continuous monitoring across development, QA, and production environments. Drawing on real-world implementations across insurance, healthcare, and financial services — including one organization that validated 2,300 tables in a single week and another that uncovered 12 previously undetected critical defects across 20,000 columns — they'll share a practical framework you can bring back and apply immediately.

Takeaways:

- Why governance must be designed into agentic AI workflows from the start — not added after something breaks
- How metadata-driven agentic automation scales testing and reconciliation without sacrificing auditability
- What a governed monitoring framework looks like across development, QA, and production

- How to build the case internally for governed AI automation of data quality validation with data governance and compliance stakeholders
- Real metrics from regulated-industry organizations applying this approach at scale

Biography

Matt Agee

VP of Product
Validatar



Matt Agee is VP of Product at Validatar, where he leads product strategy and drives technical solution development for some of the most complex data quality implementations in regulated industries. With deep expertise in data architecture, automated testing frameworks, and cloud data platforms, Matt works closely with engineering and data teams to design governed agentic workflows that scale across thousands of tables without sacrificing auditability or control. He brings both technical depth and real-world implementation experience to the question of what it actually takes to trust your data at scale.

Jonathan Agee

Chief Executive Officer
Validatar



Jonathan Agee is an accomplished data and analytics leader with a passion for data-driven innovation. Jonathan's expertise lies in seeing the big picture and understanding how diverse technologies work together to make a cohesive solution. Prior to founding Validatar, a pioneering platform for Data Quality Assurance, he led numerous data teams and projects, developing a deep understanding of data management complexities and solutions. Jonathan is passionate about automation and gets excited every time there is an opportunity for data to unlock innovative business models and generate unprecedented value. Born and raised in Oaxaca, Mexico, Jonathan now resides in Dallas, TX with his lovely wife and family. His passions extend beyond the tech world, finding joy in RC planes, nurturing his pandemic garden, and relishing tacos al pastor.

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SESSION
6-E

PRESENTATION

The Human Algorithm: People, Policy, and Decisions in an AI Era

Speaker

Barbara Cohn, Xentity Corporation

Abstract

AI and data are transforming how organizations understand the world, yet the most effective decisions come from the partnership of people and technology. In order to drive high-impact decisions, it is critical that organizations leverage data insights while grounding them in human judgment, interpretation, and organizational context to drive meaningful outcomes. We'll examine why a practical data strategy and architecture roadmap is essential for enabling responsible AI, advancing decision-intelligence maturity, and ensuring insights are actionable, regardless of where an organization is in its data journey. AI doesn't replace strategy, it raises the stakes. Drawing on public policy and leadership experience, this session shows how organizations can build trust, strengthen collaboration, and turn analytics into real-world decisions that matter.

Biography

Barbara Cohn

Senior Consultant, Chief Data Officer
Xentity Corporation



Barbara is a Senior Consultant and Chief Data Officer with Xentity Corporation, and former Chief Data Officer of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the first Chief Data Officer of New York State. As CDO of New York State, she introduced Quality by Design as the foundation for NYS Open Data, earning national and international recognition for excellence in data quality and governance.

While serving in the NYC Mayor's Office under Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Barbara advanced HHS Connect, a cutting-edge data initiative that eliminated barriers to data sharing across health and human services and enabled a more holistic, client-centered approach to improving client outcomes. The initiative became a national model for cross-agency interoperability, influencing how jurisdictions design and deliver integrated human services.

At CDOT, under Barbara's leadership, the organization advanced an enterprise data strategy that included standing up a cloud environment

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and a data science workbench, driving innovation in the operational use of real-time data and analytics across the organization. She championed geospatial intelligence initiatives, strengthening the use of location-based data to enhance situational awareness and operational insight across the transportation system. Together, these capabilities brought together dashboards, visualizations, and broader analytics platforms to enhance data literacy and strengthen data-driven decision-making across the organization.

Barbara has held senior leadership roles across New York State and New York City administrations, working in Governors' and Mayors' offices across multiple sectors. She has advised federal agencies on data strategy and data maturity models. She has been recognized by Government Technology Magazine as one of its Top 25 Doers, Dreamers & Drivers and by CDO Magazine as a Global Data Power Woman.

Barbara is a leader in advancing human-centered decision intelligence and cross-agency data ecosystems that improve decision-making in complex public sector environments. Her work focuses on improving how organizations make trusted decisions in an increasingly AI-driven environment. Her approach emphasizes understanding organizational maturity, listening to stakeholders, and aligning data efforts with business priorities to lead with impact and deliver measurable outcomes.

Barbara holds a Juris Doctor degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

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SESSION
7-A

PRESENTATION

Trusted Data Score: Turning Data Governance into Measurable Trust

Speaker

William "Bill" Snider, Nationwide

Abstract

As Nationwide accelerates its use of AI, analytics, and digital experiences, leaders need a clear, actionable view of how much they can trust the data behind critical decisions. This session introduces **Trusted Data Score,** a unified scoring framework designed to quantify the confidence and usability of our most important data assets.

We will walk through the core traits that power the score — **metadata curation, ownership, quality, protection, and (soon) observability** — and how they come together to provide a single, transparent measure of data trust across Tier 1 and Tier 2 structured data assets. Attendees will see how the score underpins a **Trusted Data Dashboard**, enabling leaders to quickly identify red/yellow/green areas, focus data investments where they matter most, and promote accountability through visible, measurable outcomes.

The discussion will also preview our roadmap: expanding into unstructured data, incorporating advanced data quality and observability metrics, and continuously refining thresholds as capabilities mature. Participants will leave with a practical view of how a governed, measurable approach to data trust can de-risk AI and analytics initiatives while improving the speed and confidence of data-driven decisions.

Biography

William "Bill" Snider

Associate Vice President, Enterprise Data Office
Nationwide



Bill Snider is a technology executive with a broad background across diverse technology domains. As a 25+ year associate at Nationwide, his career has grown from entry level customer service associate to an influential technology executive. He leads with high-energy and a can-do approach. With corporate leadership roles in Application Development, Cyber/Risk Management, Technology Infrastructure, and Enterprise Data/Analytics, Bill has demonstrated success in driving strong business partnerships, durable solutions, and a focus on process maturity, risk management, and technology capability.

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Bill has led technology departments both locally and from afar. with roles and teams based in Ohio, Arizona, and Southern California. He has led scaled agile model implementations, built mobile claims solutions, and delivered a significant digital pharmacy partnership between Nationwide and a major US retailer. As a member of the Nationwide Pet Insurance executive leadership team, he helped lead that business unit from $450M in annual revenue in 2018 to nearly $800M in annual revenue by 2021. At the same time, enrollment of pet insurance policies increased from 700K to over 1 million, fulfilling the mission to protect the lives and health of more pets.

He currently is the Data Strategy, Practices, and Risk Mgt leader for Nationwide, where he leads the Enterprise Data Risk Management function and sponsors the development, execution, and governance of standard data practices. Recent accomplishments include the introduction of many new data capabilities across Nationwide and a significant improvement in the way Nationwide defines, discovers, and manages Data Risks.

Bill is active in his community, serving on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations. As the President of his Parish School Board, he led a successful search for a new Principal and led the team in the creation of a multi-year strategic plan. He has also served as the Treasurer of a local non-profit youth organization, was a member-at-large of his Parish Finance Council and has served as a Precinct Election Official for Franklin County, OH in multiple state and national elections.

Bill graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and has completed his master's in business administration. He also guest-lectures on Data Strategy and Business Intelligence at Ohio University.

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SESSION
7-B

PRESENTATION

How Data, AI and Security Converge to Transform the Modern Company

Speaker

Tom Mazzaferro, Cyera

Abstract

As organizations accelerate the adoption of AI and agent-driven automation, the traditional boundaries between data management, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity are rapidly dissolving. The modern enterprise is no longer operating with separate data, AI, and security strategies. Instead, these domains are converging into a unified control plane that governs how data is accessed, how AI systems are trained and deployed, and how sensitive information is protected across hybrid environments.

This session explores how leading organizations are re-architecting their operating models to treat data, AI, and security as an integrated strategic capability rather than siloed functions. Attendees will learn how enterprises are securing AI transformation by ensuring data is AI-ready, governing how AI models and agents interact with enterprise data, and implementing real-time controls to prevent data leakage, model abuse, and regulatory exposure.

The presentation will outline practical frameworks for building an enterprise architecture that aligns data governance, AI enablement, and cybersecurity into a single operating model. It will also highlight emerging risks introduced by AI agents, autonomous systems, and generative platforms, and how organizations can implement policy, visibility, and runtime protections to mitigate those risks while accelerating innovation.

Executives will walk away with a clear blueprint for enabling AI-driven transformation while maintaining enterprise-grade security, regulatory compliance, and trust across the organization.

Key Takeaways

• Why Data, AI, and Security must converge to enable safe enterprise AI transformation
• The architectural shift from siloed governance to a unified AI control plane
• New risks introduced by generative AI and autonomous agents and how to mitigate them
• Practical frameworks for governing AI-ready data and securing enterprise AI adoption

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• How leading enterprises are operationalizing this convergence to drive business value while reducing risk

Biography

Tom Mazzaferro

Chief Data Officer
Cyera



Tom Mazzaferro is an executive recognized globally for pioneering advancements in AI, data, and digital transformation across leading banks and fintech organizations. With a career spanning executive leadership roles at Cyera, Truist, Western Union, HSBC, and JPMorgan Chase, he has directed multi-billion-dollar strategies that fuse innovation with operational discipline to deliver sustained competitive advantage.

As Chief Data, AI & Analytics Officer at Truist, Thomas oversaw a $400M P&L and 2,000+ IT professionals, driving enterprise-wide AI, cloud, automation and data strategies that unlocked billions in capital efficiencies and won the 2025 American Banker Innovation of the Year award. At Western Union, he scaled the digital business from $500M to $900M, launched five digital banks across Europe and Latin America, and modernized global platforms serving 200+ countries. His tenure at HSBC and JPMorgan Chase was marked by transformative AI deployments, regulatory remediation, and capital optimization initiatives that strengthened financial resilience and customer engagement.

Named as a Top 100 CDO 4 years in a row, a Top 100 Chief AI Officer in 2025, Tom blends board-level governance, with hands-on technology leadership. He is committed to shaping the future of AI and technology through responsible AI adoption, scalable data ecosystems, and breakthrough digital products.

SESSION
7-C

PANEL DISCUSSION

Swarm Intelligence in the Enterprise: From Orchestration to Organizational Impact and the Future of Work

Moderator

Stephen Gatchell, Ortecha

Panelists

Dr. Hema Seshadri, Akamai Technologies; Kishore Aradhya, Frontdoor Inc.; Craig Brabec, Brabec Consulting Group

Abstract

This panel is intended for data, analytics, digital, and business leaders who are moving beyond experimentation with AI and beginning to confront the enterprise implications of autonomous, coordinated agent environments. Rather than focusing only on technology, the discussion centers on the practical and strategic consequences of implementation.

Panelists will examine how swarm intelligence may reshape organizational design, alter decision rights, change the mix of human and machine work, and create new demands for governance, skills, and measurement. Because the format is deliberately constructed around differing viewpoints, attendees will gain a more realistic understanding of both the promise and the tension of this transition.

Learning Objectives

Attendees will be able to:

- Distinguish between AI, agents, and agentic systems in an enterprise context.
- Identify the major people, process, and governance implications of implementing swarm intelligence.
- Evaluate competing perspectives on workforce impact, including augmentation, redesign, and displacement.
- Recognize the emerging skill sets and leadership capabilities needed in autonomous AI environments.
- Apply practical ways to measure the business and organizational impact of swarm intelligence initiatives.

Key Discussion Topics

- Defining AI, agents, and agentic systems in business terms
- Swarm intelligence as an enterprise operating model
- Human augmentation versus job displacement
- Changes to roles, decision-making, and accountability
- Skills needed for leaders, practitioners, and teams
- Measuring impact across productivity, trust, quality, and resilience
- Governance and culture in environments where systems act, not just advise

Why This Session Matters

Many enterprise discussions about AI remain focused on technical capability or narrow productivity gains. This panel addresses the broader reality: once autonomous agents begin coordinating and acting across business processes, the organization itself changes. This is the conversation leaders need to have now, before adoption decisions outpace organizational readiness.

Biography

Stephen Gatchell

Partner and Head of AI Strategy
Ortecha



Throughout my career, I've gained a unique perspective on data and AI by working in three distinct roles: as an enterprise practitioner leading global teams in data, analytics, governance, and AI; as an advisor helping hundreds of organizations modernize their data foundations and adopt new technologies; and now as a consulting partner delivering practical, scalable, outcome-oriented solutions. This combination of hands-on experience, enterprise breadth, and consulting expertise enables me to help clients move beyond buzzwords and achieve real business value from data and AI.

Unlike many consultants who focus on theory, I've lived the operational realities of enterprise data navigating governance complexities, observability challenges, investment justification, and the pressure to deliver measurable results. I've been accountable for strategies, platforms, governance, automation, AI products, and organizational transformation. My work spans advising CxOs across privacy, data, and security, as well as business leaders who need actionable answers rather than abstract frameworks. I've guided companies in untangling legacy environments, adopting automation, and aligning data and AI initiatives with business outcomes.

At Ortecha, I bring this depth of experience to help organizations move from complexity to clarity, unify fragmented data efforts, transition from siloed experntation to sustainable AI adoption, and evolve from manual processes to automated, observable, and reliable

ecosystems. My mission is simple: make data and AI work for real people and real businesses.

Dr. Hema Seshadri

Principal Consulting AI & Data Engineer
Akamai Technologies



Dr. Hema Seshadri is a distinguished AI, data and analytics leader currently serving as Principal Consulting AI & Data Engineer at Akamai Technologies. In this capacity she shapes

global data and AI strategy and architects next-generation data and AI ecosystems. Her multifaceted career spans from pioneering drug discovery-as the co-inventor of the cancer treatment Rezurock, to holding key leadership roles at Dell EMC.

As a Principal Investigator, Dr. Seshadri currently leads the "Internet of AI Agents" research project in collaboration with MIT and Cisco. An accomplished author and educator, she penned Analytics for Business Success and serves as an Adjunct Professor of Analytics and Applied AI at Northeastern University. Deeply committed to social impact, she mentors through the Akamai

STEM Foundation and serves on a local non-profit's technology board, expertly bridging the gap between complex engineering and transformative business intelligence.

Kishore Aradhya

Data & AI initiatives Lead
Frontdoor Inc.



Kishore Aradhya leads Data & AI initiatives at Frontdoor Inc., a multi-billion-dollar home warranty technology company. He brings over twenty years of senior leadership experience, having worked at organizations such as Stanley Black & Decker, Bose, Adobe, edX/MIT, Staples, and Monster. His expertise encompasses enterprise data platforms, machine learning, and GenAI/LLM applications.

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Craig Brabec

Founder
Brabec Consulting Group



Craig Brabec is founder and principal of Brabec Consulting Group, a boutique advisory firm helping senior leaders navigate data and AI strategy, operating models, and organizational design. He brings more than 25 years of executive leadership across McDonald's, McKesson, Caterpillar, Ford, and Best Buy, including serving as Chief Data and Analytics Officer at four Fortune 100 companies — building enterprise data and AI organizations from the ground up and aligning them with core business operations at scale.

Craig is an instructor at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College, teaching in executive education programs for the Chief Data and AI Officer, and has trained senior military and government leaders through the U.S. Army's Data-Driven Leaders program. He serves on the CDO Magazine Global Editorial Board and has been recognized as Data Innovator of the Year and a three-time DataIQ Top 10 Most Influential Data Leader, with his work featured in The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, and MIT Sloan Management Review. He is a Navy veteran and lives in Novi, Michigan.

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SESSION
7-D

PRESENTATION

From Active Metadata to Agentic AI: Building Context for Autonomous Execution

Speaker

Nandagopal Jayaram, CoStrategix

Abstract

Enterprises have spent decades mastering the "plumbing" of data - integrating, governing, and certifying information for reporting and analytics. But AI agents require something more: context.

They need the situational awareness, business logic, semantic relationships, and decision frameworks that humans naturally apply every day. Without this contextual foundation, AI remains limited to prediction and conversation - producing hallucinations, weak decisions, and unreliable automation.

This session introduces the Contextual Intelligence Layer - the critical bridge between enterprise data, large language models, and trustworthy autonomous execution. By combining Knowledge Graphs, Semantic Layers, and Active Metadata, organizations can create true Digital Twins of their business - transforming passive copilots into reliable, agentic systems capable of real decision support and action.

Learn how leading enterprises are moving beyond static data catalogs and flat vector embeddings to build AI systems grounded in business meaning, operational trust, and contextual intelligence.

Biography

Nandagopal Jayaram

Chief Executive Officer
CoStrategix



Nan Jayaram is the founder and CEO of CoStrategix, a strategy-led digital and data transformation services firm that helps organizations transform to stay competitive in today's digital world. Nan's strength is applying technology to achieve new revenue streams or operational efficiencies. He loves to stay on the leading edge of all things related to digital transformation, data and analytics, artificial intelligence, and the cloud. Nan defines his mission as tapping into the collective curiosity of employees and partners to create new possibilities for clients, communities, and each other.

SESSION
7-E

PRESENTATION

The AI Fuel: Modern Data Sharing Strategies

Moderator **Dr. Adita Karkera, Deloitte Government & Public Services**

Panelists **Karthik Yajurvedi, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, NYS Information Technology Office; Scott Gausland**

Abstract

This panel will explore how Chief Data and AI Officers can accelerate organizational AI success by fostering cross-agency data sharing and dismantling entrenched institutional silos. Discussion topics will include balancing automated governance with seamless data utility, utilizing modern architectures like data meshes and secure clean rooms, and establishing the trusted frameworks necessary to rapidly scale collaborative AI outcomes.

Biography

Dr. Adita Karkera

Chief Data Officer
Deloitte Government & Public Services



With over 22 years of industry experience, Adita Karkera, Ph.D., serves as the Chief Data Officer for Deloitte Consulting LLP's Government and Public Services. She leads the data strategy to foster value creation from the firm's data and ensuring trust. She also serves as a leader in the Deloitte AI Institute for Government, providing strategic advice to government clients. Previously, Dr. Karkera served as the Deputy CDO for the State of Arkansas, pioneering a data-driven culture. She established the state's first CDO office and served on Governor Hutchinson's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Board.

Dr. Karkera devotes herself to empowering women in data and AI through formal and informal mentorship programs. She is a founding member of Women Leaders in Data & AI (WLDA) and is the inaugural Chapter Lead for the Federal Government Chapter for Women in Data. She is also an editorial board member of CDO Magazine, a board member for Women in Data and Data Leadership Collaborative. In 2023, CDO Magazine named her a Global Data Power Woman and a Leading Data Consultant. She has been nationally recognized by Women in IT, GovTech, and StateScoop 50 for her exemplary contributions to the industry.

Karthik Yajurvedi

Assistant Secretary and Chief Data Officer
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Karthik Yajurvedi serves as Chief Data Officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts within the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS). He leads enterprise data and analytics strategy for over 40,000 internal stakeholders and millions of residents. His work centers on building data products, advancing data governance and literacy, and accelerating responsible AI and generative AI adoption across state government. Prior to state government, Karthik held senior leadership roles at State Street and Fidelity Investments. He holds an MBA from Babson College and a B.E. from Mysore University, and mentors graduate finance students at Babson College.

Eleonore Fournier-Tombs

Chief AI Officer
NYS Information Technology Office



Dr. Eleonore Fournier-Tombs serves as Chief AI Officer for New York State, overseeing AI deployment and governance across 51 Executive Agencies serving nearly 20 million residents. She brings more than 15 years of global AI, data governance, and digital transformation experience — most recently as Head of Anticipatory Action and Innovation at United Nations University, where she founded the UN's first AI policy research lab. Her current work focuses on generative AI deployment, enterprise AI governance aligned with the EU AI Act and NIST frameworks, and expanding AI literacy across New York's 130,000-person state workforce.

Scott Gausland

Chief Data and Analytics Officer
Rhode Island Department of Administration



Scott Gausland serves as Rhode Island's first Chief Data and Analytics Officer within the Department of Administration's Division of Enterprise Technology Strategy and Services. Appointed in 2024 under Governor McKee's Executive Order 24-06, he leads the Data, Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence, developing the state's AI vision and policy, building federated interagency data systems, and establishing statewide data governance frameworks. Previously, Gausland spent more than two decades at the Rhode Island Department of Education, where he built the state's first student ID system and education data warehouse before being promoted to

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> Director of Data & Technology Services. He holds a degree from Bryant University.

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SESSION
8-A

PANEL DISCUSSION

AI/ML for Biologics

Moderator **Uma Sridharan, AbbVie**

Panelists **Nisha Paliwal, Michail Vlysidis and Davide Tavella, AbbVie**

Abstract

AI is transforming the way we work across industries and verticals. Yet, many regulated industry struggle with fragmented tools, inconsistent infrastructure, and steep learning curve. This talk will focus on a unified approach and strategy for AI use across the biologics drug development lifecycle starting from drug discovery, research and development to commercialization. With integrated access to diverse datasets, examples and use cases of AI in biologics to progress faster through gates, reduce human error and quantify benefits for the business.

Biography

Uma Sridharan

Director
AbbVie



Uma Sridharan serves as the site IT leader for Business Technology Solutions at AbbVie in the New England area. As part of the site leadership team, she supports cross-functional digital and technology needs for manufacturing and QC labs. She joined the company in Nov 2023 and lives in the MetroWest Boston area.

Prior to joining AbbVie, Uma has worked in a number of cross-functional leadership roles with BD, Cytiva and GE Healthcare. During her 20+ years of experience, Uma has progressed through global roles in multiple functions and locations and managed critical product launches and delivery of new data engineering capabilities.

Uma is known for her innovative and results-oriented approach and has worked in multiple global locations. Uma also supports and mentors' young engineers through the Asian Resource Group(ARG)as well as Society of Women Engineers(SWE)

Uma received her executive MBA from Columbia Business School and an electrical engineering degree from National Institute of Technology, Suratkal, India.

Michail Vlysidis

Principal Engineer, Information Research
AbbVie



Dr. Michail Vlysidis is leading the biologics data science and informatics at AbbVie's scientific IT organization. His work spans the full biologics pipeline - from early discovery through preclinical development - translating complex scientific challenges into practical software and AI solutions.

With over a decade of experience bridging science and technology, he's particularly drawn to the potential of new AI technologies in biologics research, and is actively driving digital transformation and AI automation efforts at AbbVie. He's known for building teams that have the freedom to explore and the discipline to deliver.

Nisha Paliwal

Vice President, Data & AI
AbbVie



Nisha Paliwal is an author, visionary technologist, life long learner, and mother to two beautiful girls, with a mission to bring human-centered thinking to everything she does. She has been a relentless advocate for leveraging technology and data insights to create true business value for more than 20 years.

Born in Rudrapur, India, Nisha was a disruptor from a young age, displaying an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. Her deep curiosity led her to the human sciences where she thrived, earning a Master's degree in microbiology. Her enthusiasm and intelligence put her on the path to becoming a brilliant scientist. While being lauded in her field, Nisha's passion wasn't science—but discovery.

She began exploring the digital space, eventually teaching herself C# programming. Nisha immersed herself deeper and deeper into the world of technology and never looked back. Maintaining her authentic roots as a heart-centered, curious-minded, life-long learner, she achieved much success in the tech space.

From entrepreneur, to CTO, to serving as an admired senior technology leader for top financial institutions for the past 20 years, Nisha has indeed cemented her place in the tech space. She now seeks to elevate and empower others by serving as a coach and mentor to emerging technology leaders.

With a passion for introducing young girls to the fascinating world of technology, she also supports several STEM-focused non profits, with a long-term vision of bringing more women into the ranks of technology leadership.

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Nisha is currently working on different ways of generating value from data & AI, most notably in the healthcare, finance & non-profit sector. Specifically, she is seeking to build a scalable platform for mentoring women, and she is also exploring new ways of leveraging AI to scale diversity, inclusion, and belonging objectives.

Her perseverance, outspoken nature, and philosophy of learning, unlearning, and relearning, have forced some of the top technologists in the industry to truly examine the real business value they are creating with data.

While Nisha speaks to the importance of technology advancements, she is also working to raise awareness on how human values need to be preserved. She believes that the legacy we will leave our children is still to be invented..

Davide Tavella

Senior Scientist II
AbbVie



Davide Tavella is a dedicated scientist passionate about transforming antibody discovery by integrating structural biology with artificial intelligence and machine learning. With extensive experience in antibody engineering and development, he specializes in harnessing data-driven approaches to optimize antibody properties, enhance therapeutic potential, and streamline the design-to-discovery pipeline.

He brings expertise in developing user-friendly front-end tools and scalable back-end systems that enable seamless deployment of AI/ML models, accelerating scientific discovery and empowering researchers in the life sciences.

SESSION
8-B

PRESENTATION

TBD

Speaker **TBD**

Abstract TBD

Biography

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TBD

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SESSION
8-C

PRESENTATION

Agentic AI Governance

Speaker

Sunil Soares, Tavro AI

Abstract

Autonomous and semi-autonomous AI agents are transforming how businesses operate—taking on tasks, making decisions, and interacting with systems and users with minimal human input. These agentic systems promise major gains in innovation, productivity, and ROI. At the same time, they introduce new layers of complexity in transparency, accountability, ethics, and compliance. As organizations adopt these technologies, the ability to govern them effectively is critical to managing risk and building trust.

This session addresses the following topics:

- Governance challenges and implications related to the deployment of agentic AI systems.
- Global AI regulations, including the EU AI Act and U.S. sector-specific laws.
- Agentic metadata management including lineage to source data.
- Clarify organizational roles and responsibilities for AI governance, including the function of a Chief AI Officer.

Biography

Sunil Soares
Co-Founder & CEO
Tavro AI



Sunil Soares is the Co-Founder & CEO of Tavro AI focused on Agent Risk Management. He is the author of 13 books on AI & Data Governance. Prior to this role, Sunil was the Founder and CEO of Information Asset focused on Data Governance. Sunil has an MBA in Finance from the University of Chicago.

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SESSION
8-D

PRESENTATION

Swarm Intelligence in the Enterprise: Building the Semantic Foundation for Safe, Measurable AI Execution

Speakers

Stephen Gatchell and Matt McQueen, Ortecha

Abstract

If the previous session of Swarm Intelligence in the Enterprise: From Orchestration to Organizational Impact and the Future of Work addresses the organizational and leadership questions raised by swarm intelligence, this session addresses the implementation challenge underneath them: how to create an enterprise foundation that allows AI systems to operate with trust, traceability, and control. As organizations move from experimentation to execution, the central issue is no longer just model performance. It is whether AI systems can act on data that is structured, governed, explainable, and aligned to how the business actually works.

This session introduces a practical approach for building that foundation through semantic modeling and enterprise ontology. Using a live demonstration format, the session will show how to construct the T-box ontology that defines core business concepts, relationships, and constraints; how to build a transformation model that maps how data moves, changes, and connects across the enterprise; and how to populate the A-box so that data is grounded in those structures and tied to valid business meaning. Together, these elements create a model-driven environment that enables AI agents and enterprise users to interact with data in ways that are both powerful and controlled.

The session will highlight why this matters for enterprise AI execution. By grounding AI in a formal ontology and transformation-aware model, organizations can reduce hallucinations, prevent invalid inferences, and ensure that systems do not invent relationships that do not exist in the underlying business context. At the same time, this structure makes enterprise data more accessible to non-technical teams, allowing business users to query information in intuitive ways without needing to understand the complexity of the source systems or transformations beneath it.

Attendees will leave with a practical understanding of how semantic models, ontologies, and governed data relationships can create the execution layer required for swarm intelligence: one where AI systems operate with greater trust, transparency, and business alignment.

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Biography

Stephen Gatchell

Partner and Head of AI Strategy
Ortecha



Throughout my career, I've gained a unique perspective on data and AI by working in three distinct roles: as an enterprise practitioner leading global teams in data, analytics, governance, and AI; as an advisor helping hundreds of organizations modernize their data foundations and adopt new technologies; and now as a consulting partner delivering practical, scalable, outcome-oriented solutions. This combination of hands-on experience, enterprise breadth, and consulting expertise enables me to help clients move beyond buzzwords and achieve real business value from data and AI.

Unlike many consultants who focus on theory, I've lived the operational realities of enterprise data navigating governance complexities, observability challenges, investment justification, and the pressure to deliver measurable results. I've been accountable for strategies, platforms, governance, automation, AI products, and organizational transformation. My work spans advising CxOs across privacy, data, and security, as well as business leaders who need actionable answers rather than abstract frameworks. I've guided companies in untangling legacy environments, adopting automation, and aligning data and AI initiatives with business outcomes.

At Ortecha, I bring this depth of experience to help organizations move from complexity to clarity, unify fragmented data efforts, transition from siloed experimentation to sustainable AI adoption, and evolve from manual processes to automated, observable, and reliable ecosystems. My mission is simple: make data and AI work for real people and real businesses.

Matt McQueen

Principal Consultant
Ortecha



Matt McQueen is a Data & AI Strategist specializing in modern data management, knowledge curation, and enterprise data strategy. He helps organizations establish trusted data foundations that enable scalable analytics, effective governance, and AI adoption, particularly in complex, highly regulated environments.

Matt has deep expertise in the DCAM framework and supports organizations through capability assessments, operating model design, and the development of practical roadmaps that translate data strategy into implementable outcomes. His approach emphasizes

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pragmatic, artifact-driven methods that connect governance, data quality, and knowledge management to measurable business value.

In addition to client delivery, Matt develops reusable methodologies and accelerator assets that standardize best practices across teams and engagements. As a certified DCAM educator, he also trains data professionals in modern data management, helping organizations align governance, analytics, and emerging AI capabilities.

SESSION
8-E

PANEL DISCUSSION

How Organizations are Currently Governing Data and AI: What's Working and What's Not

Moderator

Azhar Rahman, NC Department of Information Technology

Panelists

Nicole Janeway Bills, Data Strategy Professionals; Dia Adams, Datafolx AI; Fern Halper, AI Foundations Group & TDWI; Lorena van Gestel, Rabobank

Abstract

While most enterprises have years of experience with traditional data governance, generative and agentic AI introduces a new set of challenges including governing unstructured data, managing semantic context, monitoring bias and model behavior, establishing lineage across AI pipelines, and enforcing policies across increasingly autonomous systems. This panel will examine the evolving state of data and AI governance from both a private and public sector perspective including real-world experiences of organizations actively deploying governance frameworks to support AI initiatives. Panelists will discuss how AI governance extends beyond traditional data governance, what changes with agentic AI systems, and how organizations are adapting data governance programs to support the next wave of enterprise AI.

Biography

Azhar Rahman

State Chief Data Officer
NC Department of Information Technology



Azhar Rahman is a senior data and AI executive with more than 20 years of experience advancing enterprise data governance, analytics, and artificial intelligence across government, banking, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and other highly regulated industries.

He currently serves as the Chief Data Officer for the State of North Carolina, where he leads statewide data strategy, governance, modernization, analytics, and responsible AI initiatives through the North Carolina Department of Information Technology. In this role, he works across state agencies to strengthen data stewardship, improve data sharing, modernize data platforms, and enable trusted use of data and AI to support better public services and decision-making.

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Previously, Azhar served as Enterprise Data Director at AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, where he led enterprise-wide data strategy, governance, architecture, analytics, and AI across the bank and its affiliated institutions. He has also held senior data leadership roles at CVS Health and Citizens Bank, where he built scalable governance programs, led global teams, and delivered measurable improvements in operational efficiency, risk management, and cost optimization.

Azhar specializes in operationalizing trusted data, embedding responsible AI into enterprise workflows, and transforming data governance from a compliance-driven function into a strategic enabler of innovation, growth, and public value. He is the author of Practical Guide to Collibra: Building Active Data Governance and a frequent speaker on data governance, AI strategy, digital transformation, and enterprise modernization.

Nicole Janeway Bills

Founder & CEO
Data Strategy Professionals



Nicole has five years of experience providing training for data-related exams. She offers a proven track record of applying Data Strategy and related disciplines to solve clients' most pressing challenges. She has worked as a Data Scientist and Project Manager for federal and commercial consulting teams, writing 35+ Medium articles along the way. Her business experience includes natural language processing, cloud computing, statistical testing, pricing analysis, ETL processes, and web and application development. She attained recognition from DAMA for a Master-level pass of the CDMP Fundamentals Exam and the Data Quality and Data Governance Specialist Exams.

Dia Adams

Chief Data & Responsible AI Officer
Datafolx AI



Dia Adams brings two decades of data & AI expertise. Her career highlights include serving as Enterprise Data Strategist at the White House, where she led efforts to modernize and standardize federal data management practices, and as Chief Data & AI Officer at Datafolx. She is also the best-selling author of “Winning With AI: A Blueprint for Corporate Leaders” an executive guide for managing AI transformation effectively. Currently, she is the presiding Board Chair at the Washington, DC-based think tank The AI Table—which is dedicated to documenting and disseminating responsible AI policies and practices.

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Fern Halper

Founder, AI Foundations Group
VP of Research, TDWI



Fern Halper, Ph.D., is a nationally recognized expert and thought leader in data, analytics, and artificial intelligence, known for helping organizations understand what it actually takes to succeed with AI in practice. As founder of the AI Foundations Group and VP of Research at TDWI, she works closely with executives and practitioners through research, advisory, and education to cut through hype, build AI literacy, and guide sound decisions around data, governance, and enterprise AI adoption. A widely published author with hundreds of articles and research reports, she is also the author of Data Makes the World Go 'Round: The Data, Tech, and Trust Behind AI Success. Dr. Halper has been named a top thought leader in AI governance, recognized among the top women in BI and analytics, and has received multiple industry honors, including Bell Labs awards and a notable contribution to the literature award for her work in continuous monitoring.

Lorena van Gestel

Area Lead Governance Platform
Rabobank



Lorena van Gestel is Area Lead Governance Platform at Rabobank, responsible for enterprise data & AI governance platforms enforcing compliance with BCBS#239, GDPR, and the EU AI Act. She leads cross-functional teams delivering governance capabilities to 15,000+ unique users on annual basis and focused on operationalizing responsible AI across complex financial ecosystems.

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SESSION
10-A

PRESENTATION

Designing an AI-Ready Data and Developer Platform for Clinical Workflows

Speaker

Cliona Molony, IDEXX

Abstract

A data- and AI-driven framework has been targeted to convert fragmented veterinary clinical records into reliable clinical intelligence. Our framework integrates medical encounter-level context, curated annotations, AI-fueled enrichments with standardized interfaces, advanced AI/ML practices, and automated quality controls. This framework enables wide ranging capabilities such as speech-to-clinical-note, AI extracted patient histories, and medical report automation, - all set to fuel agentic-AI for safer deployment and greater transparency across the systems and tooling in veterinarian daily workflows.

Biography

Cliona Molony

VP R&D, Chief Data Officer & Head of Data Science
IDEXX



Cliona Molony PhD is Vice President and Chief Data Officer at IDEXX, where she leads the Data & AI Center of Excellence, advancing clinically trusted AI across veterinary diagnostics instruments, software, services and data platforms. Her work focuses on delivering production-grade AI embedded in real systems and workflows. Prior to IDEXX, she held senior data and AI leadership roles across biopharma and health technology, spanning computational biomedicines, medical devices, and many global business functions.

SESSION
10-B

PRESENTATION

The Basis for AI Success: How Iron Mountain Built Confidence in Its Data to Fuel Agentic Workflows

Speaker

Jarrett Garcia, Iron Mountain; Anthony Deighton, Tamr

Abstract

Everyone is racing to deploy AI agents, but few organizations stop to ask whether their underlying data can actually support them. In this session, Jarrett Garcia, Director of Enterprise Platform Architecture at Iron Mountain, and Anthony Deighton, Tamr's Chief Executive Officer, explore the critical connection between master data management (MDM) and successful AI adoption.

Drawing on real-world experience, Jarrett will share how Iron Mountain is using AI-native MDM to strengthen its data foundation, and what that's taught them about building organizational trust. The conversation will dig into the practical tensions every data leader faces when AI enters the picture: how to give agents the right access without exposing sensitive information, and how to keep data quality issues from becoming AI mistakes and hallucinations. Attendees will leave with a clear framework for why clean, governed, and trusted data is a prerequisite for AI initiatives and concrete examples of how to get started even with imperfect data.

Biography

Jarrett Garcia

Director of Enterprise Platform Architecture
Iron Mountain



Jarrett Garcia is the Director of Enterprise Platform Architecture at Iron Mountain, driving the strategy for the company's integrations platform and global data ecosystems. A technology transformation leader with over 15 years of experience, Jarrett has spearheaded major cloud migrations and pioneered enterprise-grade AI/ML platforms. Previously, he spent over a decade leading data science and R&D technology teams at Nielsen. His core expertise lies in cloud architecture, data governance, and scaling critical infrastructure for global enterprises.

Anthony Deighton

CEO
Tamr



Anthony Deighton is CEO at Tamr, whose modern AI-native Master Data Management solution allows enterprises to connect and leverage all of their data as a trusted business asset. Prior to Tamr, Anthony was CMO at Celonis and CPO at Qlik, two companies that revolutionized how users consume enterprise data but frequently observed customers frustrated by the quality of that data. Tamr solves this challenge. Anthony holds a bachelor's degree in Math and Economics from Northwestern University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

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SESSION
10-C

PRESENTATION

Achieving and Measuring Value from Artificial Intelligence

Speaker

Thomas Davenport, Babson College/MIT/Stanford

Abstract

Achieving value from artificial intelligence initiatives has become not only important to individual companies, but also to the entire economy. Valuations of AI companies are often described as too high, in part because customer companies don't generate enough value from their products to justify the high valuations. In this presentation Tom Davenport will provide an overview of the value issue, describe how it varies by the type of AI technology involved, and make recommendations for AI value management. He will also present the results of a survey on AI economic value and a maturity model for achieving, aggregating, and reporting on AI value.

Biography

Thomas Davenport

Distinguished Professor
Babson College/MIT/Stanford



Tom Davenport is the President's Distinguished Professor of Information Technology and Management and the Faculty Director of the Metropoulos Institute for Technology and Entrepreneurship at Babson College, a Visiting Professor at the UVA Darden School of Business, a Fellow of the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy, and a Senior Advisor to Deloitte's Chief Data and Analytics Officer program. He pioneered the concept of "competing on analytics" with his best-selling 2006 Harvard Business Review article (and his 2007 book by the same name). He recently co-authored the book is All Hands on Tech: The AI-Powered Citizen Revolution (with Ian Barkin), and he has also co-authored the book Agentic Artificial Intelligence. He has published 26 books and over 300 articles for Harvard Business Review, MIT Sloan Management Review, and many other publications. He writes columns for Forbes, MIT Sloan Management Review, and the Wall Street Journal. He has been

named one of the world's "Top 25 Consultants" by Consulting magazine, one of the top 3 business/technology analysts in the world by Optimize magazine, one of the 100 most influential people in the IT industry by Ziff-Davis magazines, and one of the world's top fifty business school professors by Fortune magazine. He's also been a

LinkedIn Top Voice for both the education and tech sectors.

SESSION
10-D

PRESENTATION

From AI Governance to Production: How to Operationalize AI at Enterprise Scale

Speaker

Lloyd Muttom, Deloitte's Government & Public Services AI & Data practice

Abstract

Most federal agencies successfully launch AI pilots, yet very few transition them into sustained production. The bottleneck isn't the technology it is the operational blueprint. This session delivers a proven, repeatable framework to bridge this gap. We share battle-tested strategies for establishing mature, decentralized delivery systems that empower agencies to rapidly scale AI from ideation to deployment, without sacrificing security or compliance.

Biography

Lloyd Muttom

Associate Vice President
Deloitte's Government & Public Services AI & Data practice



Lloyd Muttom is an Associate Vice President in Deloitte's Government & Public Services AI & Data practice, specializing in data modernization, analytics, cloud transformation, and artificial intelligence solutions for federal agencies. He leads complex programs that help organizations unlock the value of their data through modern platforms, advanced analytics, and AI-driven decision-making. Lloyd is passionate about helping public sector organizations accelerate digital transformation and achieve measurable mission outcomes through innovation and data-driven strategies.

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SESSION
10-E

PRESENTATION

From Scratch to Scale: A Blueprint for Building an Enterprise AI Organization

Speaker

Selim Mimaroglu, Fannie Mae

Abstract

I joined Oracle Energy in 2018 with a mandate to build the AI organization from scratch. Over eight years, I established an AI organization with an AI Center of Excellence and delivered AI and GenAI models into production across regulated industries including energy, water, and construction.

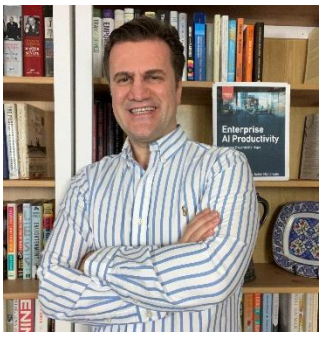
This session covers the end-to-end journey: how I structured the work into five separate processes (research, implementation, deployment, production, and product management), the data foundations required to support each process, and the organizational decisions that moved us from proof of concept to production.

Data leaders and CDOs will walk away with a diagnostic framework to identify where their AI pipeline is stuck and actionable steps to restructure their AI teams for production-grade outcomes. This talk is based on my book Enterprise AI Productivity: Success Beyond the Hype (Oracle Press/Pearson, 2026).

Biography

Selim Mimaroglu

Director of GenAI and Data Science
Fannie Mae



Selim Mimaroglu, PhD, is the author of Enterprise AI Productivity: Success Beyond the Hype (Oracle Press/Pearson, 2026). He built and scaled the AI organization at Oracle Energy from the ground up, establishing an AI Center of Excellence and delivering AI and GenAI models into production across regulated industries including energy, water, and construction. He currently serves as Director of GenAI and Data Science at Fannie Mae, leading AI delivery in one of the most demanding regulatory environments in U.S. financial services. He holds a PhD in Computer Science (AI) from UMass Boston, an MIT Product Management Certificate, and 5 US patents. Before entering industry, he spent over a decade in academia and founded multiple technology ventures.

SESSION
11-A

PRESENTATION

The Agentic Data Contract: Redefining Data Readiness for Autonomous Decision-Making

Speakers

Peter Manta & Chris Pierpan, Informatica by Salesforce

Abstract

In the time it takes to deliver this talk, some company's agents will have autonomously renegotiated contract terms, reallocated budget, and fired a vendor. All based on data sources no one reconciled, supplier history that's incomplete, and information that's two months stale. And they won't know why until it's too late.

Most organizations are deploying agentic AI with no framework for evaluating whether their data can actually support autonomous decision-making. They've asked "Is our data AI-ready?" but that question is too vague. The real question is: "Can our data support an agent making decisions we can't undo?"

This session introduces the Agentic Data Contract, a vendor-agnostic diagnostic framework that gives you the lens to evaluate that question. It flips the frame so rather than treating data quality as the goal, we treat data quality as an input. What actually matters is whether your data enables good autonomous decisions. We'll explore what that requires.

The second half of the session demonstrates how organizations might operationalize this framework through a diagnostic workshop methodology including identifying use cases, applying the pillars contextually, quantifying gaps, and building a roadmap that connects data capabilities to agentic autonomy.

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Biography

Peter Manta

AI Practice Director
Informatica by Salesforce



Peter is an AI and data strategy leader with over 25 years of experience in data management, analytics, and technology. As AI Practice Director at Informatica from Salesforce, he works at the intersection of data architecture and AI deployment, helping organizations build the foundations necessary for trustworthy, decision-grade AI outcomes.

Holding a master's degree in applied mathematics from Cornell University, Peter brings a rigorous, quantitative lens to the practical challenges of AI adoption. That grounding has taken on renewed significance as autonomous agents increasingly act on data without human oversight.

His current work challenges the conventional framing of data quality, arguing that in agentic systems the only measure that matters is its effect on decision quality. He is developing quantitative frameworks to make that relationship concrete, moving the conversation from aspiration to evidence.

His work reflects a career spent bridging mathematical rigor and enterprise practice, with a consistent focus on how organizations can build the data discipline that modern AI demands.

Chris Pierpan

Global Leader, Communities of Practice
Informatica by Salesforce



Chris Pierpan is a seasoned leader with over 20 years of experience driving growth and delivering consistent results in both startup and corporate environments. As the global leader of Informatica's Communities of Practice, Chris is responsible for leading a senior team of AI and data experts supporting and driving go-to-market strategy across Informatica's platform and services. Today more than ever, solid, recognized data management services that ensure data readiness for agents is where Informatica delivers value for its customers. Prior to this role, Chris led Global Presales for 5 years at Privitar, a startup in data access and privacy management, which was acquired by Informatica in 2023.

SESSION
11-B

PRESENTATION

From Noise to Clarity: Turning Unstructured Enterprise Data into AI-Ready Context

Speakers

Or Zabludowski, Flexor; Yashaswi Vemuganti, Scotiabank

Abstract

In today's rapidly changing world, enterprises are racing to embed AI agents and agentic applications. While technology is ripe, trust is still lacking. AI agents hallucinate, provide inaccurate outputs and are inconsistent when used across the enterprise.

80-90% of the organization's most critical knowledge: customer intent, operational risk signals, competitive intelligence, compliance requirements, and strategic context, lives in unstructured formats: emails, calls, PDFs, reports, contracts, meeting notes, and internal documents. This data can be used to provide valuable context for AI, but it is messy, non-standardized and impossible for AI agents to use reliably, without the right technologies and processes that make it AI-ready.

In this session, Or Zabludowski, Flexor's CEO, will unpack why enterprise context is the defining challenge of enterprise AI, and what it takes to turn unstructured data into context for AI, to empower your teams and AI agents to make the right decision, every time.

This session will cover:

- How to automate pre-processing and context-building, to turn unstructured data into AI-ready information for AI applications that handle customers, operations, and compliance
- What an AI Context Engine consists of, and what are the steps needed to unify, contextualize, standardize, normalize and structure unstructured data, turning it into a trusted knowledge foundation
- How to achieve AI explainability, governance and lineage tracking
- How to create a robust process that works at scale, across use cases, and integrates seamlessly with your existing data stack
- How to keep costs under control and lower TCO by building context once, and using it across the enterprise.

This session will include real-world examples from global enterprises, including customer service agents, operations automation, procurement optimization, and more.

Biography

Or Zabludowski

Co-Founder & CEO
Flexor



Or Zabludowski is Co-founder and CEO of Flexor, bringing more than 15 years of specialized experience in unstructured data management and enterprise-grade systems. Or has built his career solving the fundamental challenge of transforming scattered, messy information such as emails, messages, PDFs and calls into valuable knowledge at scale.

Or led unstructured data teams for over a decade, developing systems that turned fragmented information into critical insights. When the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, Or was selected to spearhead the National COVID Data Team, leading unstructured data analysis that informed critical healthcare decisions during an unprecedented public health crisis.

Or holds an MSc in Biomedical Engineering, where he focused on computational approaches to complex biological systems.

Today, as CEO of Flexor, he enables global enterprises to turn their unstructured data into context for AI with ACE - The AI Context Engine. By unifying, standardizing and contextualizing organizational unstructured data in an automated, unified and systematic way, Or and his team help global organizations deploy AI initiatives with confidence, making AI trustworthy, contextual and business-aware.

Yashaswi Vemuganti

Senior Product Manager, Data Management
Scotiabank



Yashaswi Vemuganti is a product and data management leader who believes the future of enterprise AI will not be won by better models alone, but by better context.

At the intersection of Data, Analytics, and AI, Yashaswi is focused on one of the most urgent challenges facing enterprises today: connecting the governed world of structured data with the explosive growth of unstructured data. His view is simple: unstructured data without structured context is just noise, and AI without enterprise context is blind.

As Senior Product Manager, Data Management, Yashaswi leads the vision and execution of enterprise catalog capabilities that help organizations discover, trust, and use data across tools, clouds, and teams. He is passionate about evolving the enterprise data catalog into

a true Data and AI context layer, where metadata, governance, lineage, trust signals, and business meaning come together to improve the quality of AI-driven decisions.

With a foundation in computer science and a Rotman MBA, Yashaswi blends technical depth with business clarity. He is equally comfortable discussing metadata models with engineers, governance strategy with data leaders, and AI value creation with executives.

His north star is bold but practical: make trusted data easy to find, safe to use, and powerful enough to make enterprise AI actually work.

SESSION
11-C

PANEL DISCUSSION

The CDO Role: 20 Years Later -- Why Organizations Need a Chief Data, Analytics, & AI Officer

Moderator

Randy Bean, Data & AI Leadership Exchange

Panelists

Chandhu Nair, Lowes; Bhagyesh Phanse, Humana; Caroline Buckley, Ford Motor Company

Abstract

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the CDOIQ Symposium, this will be the 12th annual CDO panel moderated by Randy Bean on the ongoing evolution of the Chief Data Officer role since its inception in the decade of the 2000's. While only 12% of leading firms had appointed a CDO by 2012 when the CDOIQ Symposium was still in its formative years, that number had exploded to 85% by 2025. The CDO role has become ubiquitous, but now will the acceleration of AI advancement reinforce this direction or lead in new directions? A panel of leading CDOs will explore this question and discuss where the CDO role evolves next in an AI future.

Biography

Randy Bean

Founder | CEO
Data & AI Leadership Exchange



Randy Bean has been an advisor to Fortune 1000 organizations on data and AI leadership for 3+ decades. He is a Founder, CEO, Author, Speaker, Senior Advisor, Innovation Fellow, and Board Member.

Randy is the bestselling author of "Fail Fast, Learn Faster: Lessons in Data-Driven Leadership in an Age of Disruption, Big Data, and AI", and a regular contributor to Forbes, Harvard Business Review, and MIT Sloan Management Review on Data & AI leadership. He was previously Founder and CEO of NewVantage Partners (NVP), a data and AI leadership advisory firm to Fortune 1000 clients, which he founded in 2001. NVP was acquired by Wavestone, a Paris-based global consultancy, in 2021. Randy has organized and moderated a Chief Data Officer keynote panel for CDOIQ since 2014 and serves on its advisory board.

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Chandhu Nair
SVP/Data, AI, & Innovation
Lowes



TBD

Bhagyesh Phanse
Chief Data & Analytics Officer
Humana



TBD

Caroline Buckley
Chief Data, AI and Analytics Officer
Ford Motor Company



Caroline Buckley is Chief Data, AI and Analytics Officer at Ford Motor Company, where she leads the strategy and delivery of enterprise data and AI platforms. She also oversees the development and scaling of Ford's highest-impact AI use cases, helping drive measurable business and EBIT outcomes.

Before joining Ford, Caroline held leadership roles at American International Group (AIG) in New York, where she helped establish and scale finance and analytics centers in India, Hungary, and Colombia.

Earlier in her career, she spent a decade with Deloitte Consulting in London and New York, advising global organizations on strategy and operations, technology transformation, organizational design, and advanced analytics.

Originally from the UK near Manchester, Caroline built her career in London and New York before relocating to Michigan in 2017.

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SESSION
11-D

PRESENTATION

MDM Drives Good Business — And Now It Has to Drive AI Too

Speaker

Jonathan Goldberg, Syncari

Abstract

The definition of data management hasn't changed. The velocity, volume, and voracious appetite of AI has. And that gap is where AI initiatives are quietly failing — not because of the model, but because of the master data underneath it.

This session reframes MDM for the AI era. We'll examine what AI pipelines actually demand from master data that traditional architectures were never designed to deliver, and introduce a new vocabulary for thinking about the problem: master context management, agentic MDM, multi-directional sync, and the unified pipeline that makes a shared source of truth possible.

We'll challenge the golden record as the right north star — and replace it with something more powerful. And we'll show why the proliferation of MCP servers is the new data silo problem, and how a single MDM-backed context layer changes the AI reliability equation entirely.

Data officers will leave with a concrete framework and three diagnostic questions to assess whether their MDM program is truly AI-ready.

Three audience takeaways:

1. A diagnostic framework for assessing whether your MDM program can support AI at scale — and where the architecture gaps are most likely hiding
2. A clear model for the shift from master data management to master context management, and why governing meaning matters more than governing fields when AI is the consumer
3. Evidence from organizations that have made this transition — what continuous, multi-directional reconciliation looks like in practice, and how to get there without a rebuild

Biography

Jonathan Goldberg
Product and Data Leader
Syncari



Jonathan Goldberg is a product and data leader at Syncari specializing in master data management and enterprise-scale data solutions. With a career spanning organizations like Target, Best Buy, Albertsons, Thomson Reuters, and Bluestem Brands, he has a proven track record of architecting data and product strategies that turn complex, siloed information into reliable, decision-ready assets.

Jonathan brings rare depth across the full MDM stack — from data modeling and governance to product architecture and operational execution — with a particular focus on helping enterprises unlock the value of their data at scale. At Syncari, he leads initiatives at the intersection of agentic AI and master data, pushing the boundaries of how organizations manage, trust, and activate their most critical data.

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SESSION
11-E

PRESENTATION

Aligning Legacy Data Governance with AI-Era Mandates

Panelists

Martha Dember, Datavail; Gwen Thomas, The Data Governance Institute; John Ladley

Abstract

Hear from three of the pioneers of Data Governance about what has worked, what needs to evolve, and what data leaders should support as Data Governance evolves into the era of AI. This lively panel will provide food for thought for leaders and staff, regardless of the size and maturity of your programs. We'll address:

- "Legacy practices" that have proven successful and shouldn't be dropped;
- Evolving environments and priorities that call for new practices and approaches;
- Competencies and activities that CDOs should prioritize;
- The need for fresh approaches to the human side of data governance.

Biography

Martha Dember

Global Head of AI Governance
Datavail



Accomplished and respected IT executive with over two decades of experience and a unique blend of deep technology and strong people skills that allow her to align business needs with IT capabilities

Expert in directing solutions to complex challenges and leading visionary programs which include AI, Analytics and Data Governance implementations

Credited as one of the founding principles of Data Governance, published the first Data Governance Maturity Model at DAMA Conference in 2004

As the Director of Data Governance, she modernized BI environments and designed the future state architectures

This includes state-of-the-art infrastructure stacks, Data Governance Roadmap, Data Quality and Master Data Management [MDM] roadmap and organizational structure

Certified AIGP via IAPP's AI Governance Professional training

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Gwen Thomas

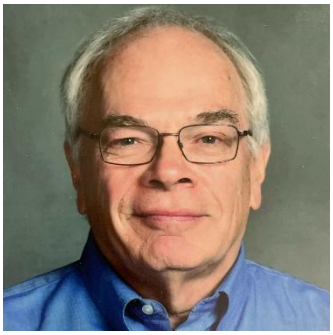
Special Advisor / Founder
The Data Governance Institute



An industry pioneer, Gwen was the primary author of the DGI framework and guidance materials published at DataGovernance.com, influencing hundreds of data programs around the globe. She spent many years providing data management and data governance consulting services before spending 10 years as an in-house data strategist for the World Bank Group's private sector arm. Much of her time there focused on translating between executives, program leaders, data governance teams, lawyers, architects, modelers, policy writers, auditors, and data quality teams. As a Subject Matter Expert for the ADG_BOK (Applied Data Governance Body of Knowledge), and in her new role as Principal Analyst for the DGI (which she founded over 20 years ago), she is helping practitioners contribute new types of value in the current era of Data Governance.

John Ladley

Independent Advisor
Self



John is a semi-retired practitioner and advocate for organization leadership to get sustainable value from information and data. He works with clients as an advocate for data governance and management and as a mentor to organization leadership. John is a best-selling author of “Data Governance: How to Design Deploy and Sustain an Effective Data Governance Program.” His experience is balanced between treating data assets as an essential component of modern business and economies, and the practical solution of business problems. John believes we all need to accept a reality where fundamental organization and society structures need to change. Data an anthropological issue.

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SESSION
12-A

PRESENTATION

Doubling Down on Data Products to Drive the Business

Speakers

Amy Lenander & Christina Egea, Capital One

Abstract

While lots of organizations are building data products, the approach and scope of them varies significantly. This talk will offer a practical guide to building a data products approach where they are at the core of how the business operates. Attendees will hear Capital One's real-world insights on interoperable data product development, definitions and frameworks, the role of talent and the data product manager, and examples of how data products can support analytical and operational use cases at scale.

Biography

Amy Lenander

Chief Data Officer
Capital One



Amy Lenander is Chief Data Officer at Capital One, where she leads the development and delivery of Capital One's data strategy. A Fortune 500 company, Capital One was founded with data in its DNA and serves more than 100 million customers across a broad spectrum of financial products and services. Amy's team builds and manages the data platforms and products that make up Capital One's data ecosystem and drives data management practices across the company.

Since joining Capital One in 2003, Amy has held a variety of business leadership roles. These have included leading the No Hassle Rewards program, strengthening customer advocacy and digital engagement; Head of International and CEO of Capital One UK, leading all aspects of that business; and Head of Capital One's Navigator Platform, which aims to simplify the car buying experience. She is a Fellow of the 2019 class of the Aspen Institute Finance Leaders Fellowship and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. She is also a board member of the non-profit LIFT.

Amy is passionate about developing talent and creating products that make life better for consumers. Born and raised in New Jersey, Amy earned her undergraduate degree in Economics from Harvard University and M.B.A. from Columbia University.

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Christina Egea

SVP, Enterprise Data
Capital One



Christina is a Senior Vice President in Enterprise Data at Capital One, where she leads a team of product and data experts who are responsible for the experiences and capabilities that standardize, protect and operationalize the company's data. Christina and team are focused on building the experiences that ensure data users can easily find, understand, and use trustworthy data from across the company. She joined Capital One in 2016 and received her degree from Vanderbilt University.

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SESSION
12-B

PRESENTATION

Your AI Is Only as Smart as Your Data's Context

Moderator

Mark Johnson, CoStrategix

Panelists

Ken Kaufman, Worthington Enterprises; Steven Nunez, Supply Technologies; Eric Ferguson, Wilson Bank & Trust; Nishit Sadhwani, New York Life; Markus Placzek, ams OSRAM

Abstract

As enterprises race to deploy AI and agentic systems, the real constraint is no longer the model—it's the **lack of context, trust, and governance in the data** that powers it. Passive catalogs and static governance approaches are giving way to **active metadata and data observability**, transforming data into a dynamic semantic intelligence layer capable of automated classification, lineage, labeling, and policy enforcement. But without a well-defined **contextual foundation—where meaning, relationships, and business semantics are understood—AI cannot deliver reliable, secure, or scalable outcomes**.

This panel brings together leaders operating at the intersection of data, governance, and AI to explore how organizations are moving beyond theory to **operationalize context-ready data estates**, enabling agentic automation, reducing manual stewardship, and unlocking trusted, high-impact AI at scale.

Biography

Mark Johnson

Chief Growth Officer & Executive Oversight Leader for Data & Analytics
CoStrategix



Mark Johnson is the Chief Growth Officer & and Executive Oversight Leader for the Data & Analytics at CoStrategix. Mark's career spans an impressive array of technical, management, and executive leadership roles, making him exceptionally equipped to drive growth and innovation within organizations. His strategic vision, genuine enthusiasm, and understanding of organizational change management, data, and AI make him a sought-after advisor. Demonstrating his entrepreneurial spirit, Mark has twice founded and expanded national technology consulting businesses. He is a Senior Fellow at the CDOIQ Symposium, the largest and longest-running conference for data leaders. He is also a co-founder of the CDO Magazine building a community of data leaders globally to share ideas and best practices.

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Ken Kaufman

Sr. Director & CDAO
Worthington Enterprises



Ken Kaufman is an experienced data and technology leader with a proven track record of helping organizations develop and execute enterprise data strategies. As CDAO at Worthington Enterprises, he is passionate about building a data-driven culture and enabling business growth through data, analytics, and AI.

Under Ken's leadership, Worthington Enterprises has modernized its data platform and launched a company-wide Data and AI Literacy program, empowering teams across the organization to leverage data and AI more effectively. He is a strong advocate for translating emerging technologies into practical business value and helping organizations unlock the full potential of their information assets.

Steven Nunez

IT Business Analyst Manager and Head of AI Committee
Supply Technologies



Dr. Steven Nunez is the IT Business Analyst Manager and founding Head of the AI Committee at Supply Technologies (ParkOhio Holdings, NASDAQ: PKOH), where he reports directly to the Vice President of IT and leads enterprise program management, PMO-aligned portfolio delivery, a team of business analysts, and the company's enterprise AI governance program. Previously, he served as IT Operations Leader at Google, directing multi-platform IT operations for 25,000+ users and achieving 99.97% customer satisfaction, and as AI Data Center Operations Lead at Meta Platforms, overseeing infrastructure deployments across five hyperscale data center facilities. Nunez holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration from California Pacificatory University and a Doctor of Business Administration in Information Technology from South College, making him the youngest documented individual in the world to hold two doctoral degrees in the information technology discipline. He is currently commencing post-doctoral studies at South College. In addition to his two doctorates, Nunez holds four master's degrees (MBA, MSML, MSITM, MSHR) and a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from Le Moyne College, placing him on an elite list worldwide as the first individual of his age to achieve such a combination of advanced credentials in the information technology discipline. He possesses 25+ industry certifications including PMP, PMI-RMP, PMO-CP, five Google Cloud specializations, and seven CompTIA credentials. A Dominican-American immigrant who arrived in the United States at age 10, Nunez is a bilingual English-Spanish

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professional, an active real estate investor, and a former Professor of Graduate Information Systems at Le Moyne College.

Eric Ferguson

Director Digital & Data Analytics
Wilson Bank & Trust



Global banking executive with 30+ years of leadership experience across data, analytics, AI, digital transformation, and operations. Currently leading Digital, Data & Analytics modernization at Wilson Bank & Trust, including data governance, analytics transformation, AI strategy, and digital growth initiatives. Former leadership roles at Standard Chartered, Bank of America, Bank of Hawaii, and Discover, with international oversight across 30 countries and 3,500+ employees. U.S. patent holder in statistical optimization and MIT Predictive AI graduate. Interested in enterprise AI governance, data strategy, and transformation leadership.

Nishit Sadhwani

Corporate Vice President AI & Data Architecture
New York Life



Nishit Sadhwani is Corporate Vice President of AI & Data Architecture at New York Life Insurance Company, a Fortune 100 company and the largest mutual life insurance company in the United States. He leads the design of enterprise agentic AI platforms and cross-cloud data infrastructure, building systems that make AI trustworthy and production-ready in regulated environments. An active angel investor in 20+ startups, he brings a blend of deep engineering instinct and strategic business perspective to the evolving intersection of data, AI, and enterprise architecture.

Markus Placzek

Head of Data & AI
ams OSRAM



Dr. Markus Placzek is the Head of Data & AI and a member of the IT Management Team at ams OSRAM. As the architect and leader of the company-wide accelerate.AI program, he has successfully transitioned the organization into an AI frontier company, embedding data & AI into the daily workflows of employees through strategic enablement and high-impact projects. Beyond his AI leadership, he directs the global enterprise data management & analytics platforms as well as data governance, providing the

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unified foundation for data excellence and strategic decision-making. With over two decades of experience in the data domain and corporate strategy, he focuses on challenging key processes and leveraging AI to enhance and evolve the company's business models. By bridging the gap between operational heritage and disruptive innovation, he drives measurable business value throughout the organization.

SESSION
12-C

PRESENTATION

Driving Value with Data

Speakers

Ben Roberts, Sarah Roberts, Joseph Updegrove, & David Johnson, KPMG LLP

Abstract

Organizations across all industries are under intense pressure to scale AI, but critical questions remain. Do you have the data required and is it ready to be used? What is required to enable enterprise trusted context? And how does all of this come together to drive value for the organization? Attendees will leave with a concrete understanding of the requirements and actionable steps needed to prep their data for AI consumption, pragmatic insights to accelerate their data product journey, and an understanding of how to deploy AI internally to automate, clean, and prepare their underlying data architecture.

Biography

Ben Roberts

Principal, Advisory, Banking & Financial Services
KPMG LLP



TBD

Sarah Roberts

Managing Director, Advisory, Banking & Financial Services
KPMG LLP



TBD

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Joseph Updegrove

Principal, Advisory, Insurance, Tech and Data Integration
KPMG LLP



TBD

David Johnson

Managing Director, Advisory, Banking & Tech and Data Strategy
KPMG LLP



TBD

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SESSION
12-D

PRESENTATION

From Unstructured Data to Enterprise Enablement: Building the Context Layer That Makes AI Work

Speakers

Or Zabludowski, Flexor; Alan Jacobson; Sanjay Reddy, Vanguard

Abstract

Your organization already holds everything it needs to build AI that is tailored to your enterprise. Most of it just hasn't been unlocked yet.

Earlier this year at GTC, Jensen Huang said the future of agentic AI runs on context. The richest source of that context isn't structured data, it's the 80-90% of organizational knowledge locked in emails, call transcripts, PDFs, and meeting notes - unstructured data. Accumulated over years. Specific to your business. Unlike anything a general-purpose model has ever seen. And very difficult for AI to harness using generic LLMs and RAG.

This session is about how to unlock it. We'll walk through the key building blocks:
Unstructured data unification, Pre-processing, Context-building and Domain intelligence enrichment.

We'll ground each one in a real enterprise use case:

$33M recovered by a large retailer that transformed 140,000+ customer calls and chats into actionable context, identifying drop-offs and enabling real-time intervention.

Millions saved annually inside a $4B procurement operation by making thousands of fragmented PDF contracts readable, connectable, and actionable for their AI agent.

90%+ KPI accuracy achieved across thousands of portfolio companies by a venture capital firm that transformed unstructured CRM data, meeting notes, and decks into a trusted knowledge foundation that correctly identifies ARR, revenue, cash and runway at any point in time.

The opportunity inside your unstructured data is larger than most enterprises have imagined. This session is about what it takes to realize it, and how leading enterprises are paving the way in turning unstructured data into the context AI needs to succeed.

Biography

Or Zabludowski

Co-Founder & CEO
Flexor



Or Zabludowski is Co-founder and CEO of Flexor, bringing more than 15 years of specialized experience in unstructured data management and enterprise-grade systems. Or has built his career solving the fundamental challenge of transforming scattered, messy information such as emails, messages, PDFs and calls into valuable knowledge at scale.

Or led unstructured data teams for over a decade, developing systems that turned fragmented information into critical insights. When the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, Or was selected to spearhead the National COVID Data Team, leading unstructured data analysis that informed critical healthcare decisions during an unprecedented public health crisis.

Or holds an MSc in Biomedical Engineering, where he focused on computational approaches to complex biological systems.

Today, as CEO of Flexor, he enables global enterprises to turn their unstructured data into context for AI with ACE - The AI Context Engine. By unifying, standardizing and contextualizing organizational unstructured data in an automated, unified and systematic way, Or and his team help global organizations deploy AI initiatives with confidence, making AI trustworthy, contextual and business-aware.

Alan Jacobson

Founder, Advisor & ex-CDAO at Alteryx



Alan Jacobson is a globally recognized AI and data analytics innovator, evangelist, strategic advisor and speaker, who has helped thousands of organizations accelerate their digital transformation journeys. His deep expertise in industrial-scale operations and high-growth SaaS is anchored in over 25 years at Ford Motor Company, where he spearheaded the formation of the enterprise data science function, and his tenure as the first Chief Data and Analytics Officer (CDAO) for Alteryx, where he championed data and analytic democratization for millions of users.

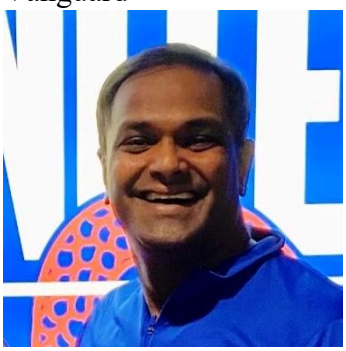
From deploying early foundational AI models on the manufacturing floor to leveraging computer vision in professional motorsports and automating enterprise finance, Alan's initiatives have consistently generated massive monetary returns. Named one of DataIQ's Most Influential Data Scientists in the US, he is a recipient of the

Automotive Hall of Fame Leadership & Excellence Award and serves as an advisor to the National Academy of Engineering.

Today, Alan channels his decades of frontier AI and governance expertise into advising elite, high-performing technology companies, including Worlds, Cyera, MeridianLink, Island and Flexor.

Sanjay Reddy

Chief Architect, Data and Analytics
Vanguard



Sanjay Reddy is the Chief Architect – Data, with experience leading enterprise-scale data modernization, analytics, and AI readiness initiatives. He has spearheaded the delivery of AI-ready structured and unstructured data products, while designing and leading self-service analytics capabilities that empower business users through intuitive platforms. Sanjay also led the implementation of a semantic layer strategy spanning both knowledge graphs, structured and unstructured data platforms, enabling consistent business definitions, data discovery, and AI-ready access to enterprise information.

SESSION
12-E

PRESENTATION

Advancing Data Leadership in Higher Education: Translating Executive Intent into Measurable Impact

Speakers

Olivia Kew, Vanderbilt University & Kappu Ramasubramanian, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Abstract

Research universities operate in complex ecosystems where value is contextual, and impact unfolds over time. In this environment, CDOs must move beyond analytics delivery to translate organizational priorities into institutional direction.

Two university CDOs share complementary leadership operating models. Kappu Ramasubramanian presents her "Dialogue – Data – Direction" framework, connecting data to strategic objectives to shape direction. Olivia Kew introduces her "data journey" approach, guiding stakeholders from early wins to sustained transformation.

The session explores how two CDOs from public and private research universities deploy distinct operating models to demonstrate measurable value in higher education through data and analytics.

Biography

Olivia Kew

Chief Data Officer
Vanderbilt University



Olivia Kew is the inaugural Chief Data Officer at Vanderbilt University. She leads the Office of Data & Strategic Analytics, partnering with leaders across Vanderbilt to deliver value through better use of data.

Olivia came to Vanderbilt in 2019 from the University of Birmingham in England, where she was the Director of Strategic Planning. In that role she led strategy development, annual planning, and business intelligence. She had previously managed special projects and executive communications for the vice-chancellor (president) of the University of Birmingham.

Olivia brings to her role as Chief Data Officer an unusually broad perspective thanks to her international background and her ability to bridge between strategic and technical concepts. She is widely networked internationally. In the UK she served on a governmental advisory group on higher education costing and oversaw training programs for her professional organization. She is now a member of the Global Editorial Board at CDO Magazine, is regularly invited to speak to higher education and technology audiences, and is active in the Nashville technology community.

Olivia began her career working in international development, including in Ukraine supporting better governance, and at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona running international training. She speaks Ukrainian and Russian. She holds a bachelor's in history from Princeton University and an MBA from the University of Leicester in the UK.

Kappu Ramasubramanian

Chief Data Officer and Assistant Vice President
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey



Kappu Ramasubramanian (Kappu Ram) is the inaugural Chief Data Officer and Assistant Vice President at Rutgers University, where she provides strategic leadership and vision to advance data and analytics, enabling the university to leverage data as a strategic asset for decision-making across academic, administrative, and research units.

Prior to Rutgers, she founded Disha Consulting, partnering with higher education institutions and academic medical centers to strengthen data strategy, governance, and analytics. She previously served as Chief Data and Analytics Officer at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and UVA Health System, where she built the data analytics function from the ground up, establishing a scalable, integrated data ecosystem and advancing a data-driven culture.

Kappu also brings experience from the federal and private sectors, with a background in large-scale systems implementation and engineering in complex, mission-focused environments.

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SESSION
13-A

PANEL DISCUSSION

Why Strong Data Management Beats a New Platform, Every Time

Moderator **Caroline Serio, KeyBank**

Panelists **Doug Kanouff, Kevin Eichas, Brendan Sullivan, & Steve Kimmett, KeyBank**

Abstract

Banks rarely struggle because they lack data platforms. They struggle because **data management foundations evolve unevenly**, governance is fragmented, ownership is implied rather than adopted, quality expectations vary, literacy is inconsistent, and the data supply chain is asked to execute without clear rules.

Over the last three years, KeyBank turned bright spots of capabilities into an integrated enterprise data management foundation designed to execute: governance decision rights and forums with defined authority; measurable data quality standards and observation/defect management; enterprise data literacy expectations supported by catalog-driven findability; formalized data product ownership with clear domain accountability; and an enterprise data supply chain—implementation and operations, including master data management—that turns standards into usable, scalable outcomes. This is a strong foundation—and we are still building, strengthening, and scaling.

This 45-minute session is structured as an **executive interview**, led by **Caroline Serio**, Head of Enterprise Data Governance and Enablement, the leader responsible for defining governance expectations, focusing on enterprise-wide people change, and strong risk management. Caroline interviews the leaders accountable for strategic definition and execution:

In addition to the structure being a differentiator, the leadership team worked to obtain buy-in from the start to create partnerships across the business, risk leaders, and the enterprise. The team deliberately spent—and continues to spend—time focused on the people side of change, knowing that adoption, trust, and sustained execution depend less on policy and more on how leaders engage, challenge, and align the organization through each decision.

For leaders navigating constant shifts in regulatory, business, and AI-driven priorities, this session offers a practical perspective: organizations that invest in strong data management foundations *and* a strong leadership culture move faster, with less risk, when change inevitably arrives.

Biography

Caroline Serio

Head of Data and Analytics Governance
KeyBank



Senior leader with 30+ years of experience and 3 years at KeyBank. She leads data and analytics strategy, and governance responsibilities for new policy, standards, controls and metrics & enables the enterprise through structured change management.

Doug Kanouff

Head of Enterprise Data and Information Services
KeyBank



Senior leader with 30+ years of experience and 15 years at KeyBank, where he is accountable for the Enterprise Data Supply Chain, including Master Data Management, and oversees enterprise-wide data implementation and operations.

Kevin Eichas

Head of Commercial & Institutional Data Product
KeyBank



Senior leader with 25 years of experience and 20 years at KeyBank. He leads data product strategy and governance across the Commercial & Institutional banks and oversees foundational data platform supporting Commercial & Institutional data.

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Brendan Sullivan

Head of Data Literacy
KeyBank



Senior leader with 20+ years of experience and 3 years at KeyBank. He leads the Enterprise Data Catalog, enabling associates to easily find and use data, and oversees the curation of customer-sensitive information and customer golden records.

Steve Kimmett

TBD
KeyBank



Leader with 29 years of experience at KeyBank, spanning Loan Operations, Reg Reporting, and IT. He leads the Coverage team within Enterprise Data Quality where he is accountable for expanding DQ rule implementation, both directly within his team and by empowering partners across the bank.

SESSION
13-B

PRESENTATION

TBD

Speaker **TBD**

Abstract TBD

Biography

TBD
TBD
TBD



TBD

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SESSION
13-C

PRESENTATION

Beyond Data-Driven: Why the Future Belongs to the Data Inspired

Speaker

Sebastian Wernicke, Oxera Consulting

Abstract

After a decade of building data lakes, hiring scientists, and democratizing dashboards, most organizations find themselves somewhat "data-frustrated"—excellent at optimizing the status quo, but failing to truly transform their business.

Sebastian Wernicke argues that the barrier isn't technical, but cultural. Organizations must evolve from a data-driven mindset (using data primarily as a scorecard) to a data-inspired state of constant reinvention.

Drawing on his new book, Data Inspired, this session reveals how to break the cycle of incrementalism. Attendees will learn how to build a culture where data doesn't just settle arguments, but challenges core assumptions, fuels bold experiments, and uncovers entirely new business models.

Biography

Sebastian Wernicke
Author and Partner
Oxera Consulting



Sebastian Wernicke, Ph.D., is the author of *Data Inspired* and a Partner at Oxera Consulting, where he leads the data science and AI practice. A leading expert in data strategy and a former Chief Data Scientist, Sebastian has spent two decades guiding global organizations to achieve breakthrough transformation through the power of trusted data and scalable AI.

His ability to make complex technical topics accessible, engaging, and actionable has made him a sought-after speaker and workshop facilitator for leadership teams worldwide. A three-time TED speaker, Sebastian's insights on the intersection of data and human decision-making have reached a global audience of over 5 million viewers.

SESSION
13-D

PRESENTATION

TBD

Speaker **TBD**

Abstract TBD

Biography

TBD

TBD
TBD



TBD

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SESSION
13-E

PANEL DISCUSSION

Synergy of Driving Forces in Data Leadership for the Next Twenty years

Moderator **Richard Wang, CDOIQ Program**

Panelists **Peter Aiken, VCU/Anything Awesome; Nick Hart, Data Foundation; Tony Shaw, DATAVERSITY**

Abstract TBD

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Biography

Richard Wang

Executive Director
CDOIQ Program



Richard Y. Wang is Director of the Chief Data Officer and Information Quality (CDOIQ) Program. He is a pioneer and leader in the research and practice of Chief Data Officer (CDO). Dr. Wang has significant credentials across government, industry, and academia. He conceived and chaired the Inaugural MIT-Army CDO Forum, and established the CDO Forum as an annual event at MIT. In addition, he has been chairing the Annual MIT CDOIQ Symposium since 2007. Dr. Wang was a professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management for almost a decade. From 2005-2009, he was appointed as a Visiting University Professor of Information Quality, University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is an Honorary Professor at Xi'An Jiao Tong University, China.

Dr. Wang has put the term Information Quality on the intellectual map with myriad publications. In 1996, Prof. Wang organized the premier International Conference on Information Quality, which he has served as the general conference chair and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Dr. Wang's books on information quality include Journey to Data Quality (MIT Press, 2006), Information Quality: Advances in Management Information Systems (M.E. Sharpe, 2005), Introduction to Information Quality (MITIQ Publications, 2005), Data Quality (Kluwer Academic, 2001), and Quality Information and Knowledge (Prentice Hall, 1999).

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Prof. Wang has been instrumental in the establishment of the Ph.D. and Master of Science in Information Quality degree program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Stuart Madnick IQ Best Paper Award for the International Conference on Information Quality, the comprehensive IQ Ph.D. dissertations website, and the Donald Ballou & Harry Pazer IQ Ph.D. Dissertation Award.

Dr. Wang is the recipient of the 2005 DAMA International Achievement Award. Previous recipients of this award include Codd for inventing the Relational Data model and Chen for the Entity Relationship model.

In 2005, he received a certificate of appreciation from the Director of Central Intelligence and a thank you letter from the Director of National Intelligence. From 2009-2011, Dr. Wang served as the Deputy CDO and Chief Data Quality Officer of the U.S. Army, for which he received letters of appreciation from the Army's Chief Information Officer, and the CIO at the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He received a Ph.D. in Information Technology from the MIT Sloan School of Management in 1985.

Peter Aiken

Founding Director
VCU/Anything Awesome LLC



Peter Aiken, PhD is an acknowledged Data Management (DM) authority, an Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, President of DAMA International, and Associate Director of the MIT International Society of Chief Data Officers. For more than 35 years, Peter has learned from working with hundreds of data management practices in 30 countries including some of the world's most important. Among his 12 books are the first on CDOs (the case for data leadership), focusing on data monetization, on modern strategic data thinking and objectively specifying what it means to be data literate. International recognition has resulted in an intensive schedule of events worldwide (pre-Covid). Peter also hosts the longest running data management webinar series hosted by our partners at Dataversity. Starting before Google, before data was big, and before data science, Peter has founded several organizations that have helped more than 200 organizations leverage data–specific savings have been measured at more than $1.5B USD. His latest is Anything Awesome.

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Ashley Nelle Davis

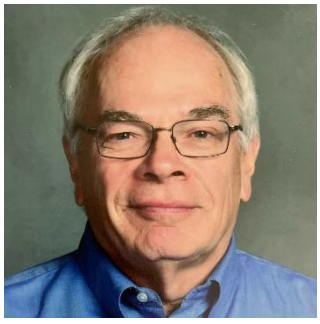
Vice President
Data Foundation



TBD

John Ladley

Independent Advisor
Self



John is a semi-retired practitioner and advocate for organization leadership to get sustainable value from information and data. He works with clients as an advocate for data governance and management and as a mentor to organization leadership. John is a best-selling author of "Data Governance: How to Design Deploy and Sustain an Effective Data Governance Program." His experience is balanced between treating data assets as an essential component of modern business and economies, and the practical solution of business problems. John believes we all need to accept a reality where fundamental organization and society structures need to change. Data an anthropological issue.

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SESSION
14-A

PRESENTATION

Toward Adaptive Data Governance

Speakers

Anthony Mazzarella, AIG

Abstract

Despite nearly a decade of widespread adoption, data governance lacks a unified empirical foundation adequate for the AI era. This presentation draws on a methodologically rigorous cross-industry study of data governance practice — a global survey of 565 respondents (348 valid cases) spanning 46 countries, conducted in partnership with the Enterprise Data Management Association (EDMA). Using inferential statistical modeling, Benjamini–Hochberg FDR multiplicity control, and inverse-probability weighting, the study examines governance structures, practitioner motivations, perceived value, innovation adoption gaps, and organizational effectiveness. Key findings: formal programs are widespread (86.5%) but effectiveness is driven by human coordination, not structural artifacts; perceived value aligns with capability-building goals (culture, literacy, strategy, metadata) rather than compliance; organizations with clear ownership of governance communications report significantly higher value (OR ≈ 4.48); and a ~35-point gap separates familiarity from implementation of innovations like data mesh, fabric, and AI enhanced data quality. The central thesis reframes data governance as an adaptive coordination system, not a static control function — one that must evolve beyond policies and frameworks toward vision-driven operating capability to remain resilient in an AI-accelerated environment.

Biography

Anthony Mazzarella,
VP, Data Management and Governance
AIG



Dr. Anthony Mazzarella is a Data Governance and AI Strategy executive in the Financial Services sector and a researcher whose doctoral work produced a comprehensive study of enterprise data governance practice. His research, conducted in partnership with the Enterprise Data Management Association (EDMA), applies rigorous quantitative methodology to advance both the theory and practice of data governance as a sociotechnical coordination system.

With extensive experience leading data governance programs across complex, regulated enterprises, Dr. Mazzarella bridges the gap between academic rigor and practitioner reality. His work focuses on

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governance resilience, AI readiness, organizational change, and the human and cultural factors that determine whether governance programs sustain value over time.

Dr. Mazzarella holds a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is a recognized speaker on data governance strategy, responsible AI, and the future of Enterprise Information Management.

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SESSION
14-B

PRESENTATION

Data Investments in the AI World – Where are Early-Stage Investors Investing?

Moderator

Alok Prasad, TiE Angels

Panelists

Rick Grinnell, Glasswing Ventures; Shahid Azim, C10 Labs; Jeff Knox, Innospark; Nishkam Prabodh, Venture Guides

Abstract

Data is the Foundation of the new AI Revolution, and the CDO is playing in increasingly central role in it. This panel explores the implications of accessing, consolidating and analyzing the data relevant to the industry and enterprise, to develop the infrastructure and applications that bring competitive value to the enterprise. Investment directions and collaboration with CDOs should lead to be an Innovation Catalyst leading to strategic innovation.

Biography

Alok Prasad

Chairman
TiE Angels



Alok Prasad is the Chairman of TiE Boston Angels, a Board Member of TiE Boston, and Executive Leadership Team Member for TiE Global Angels. He brings 30+ years of early-stage experience as an active investor, operator, and founder, with 4 IPOs, a dozen acquisitions, a few failures, and several work-in-progress companies. He has been building companies in the AI space since 2010.

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Rick Grinnell

Founder and Managing Partner
Glasswing Ventures



Rick Grinnell is Founder and Managing Partner of Glasswing Ventures, focused on investing in AI-native security and enterprise infrastructure. Prior to founding Glasswing, Rick was a Co-founder and Partner at Fairhaven Capital. As an experienced venture capitalist and operator, Rick has invested in some of the most dynamic companies in security, storage, analytics, and SaaS applications during his 26-year tenure. Rick has led investments and/or serves on the Board of Directors of Allure Security, Black Kite, Cydelphi, DTwo, Lambent, Nametag, Realm.Security, Sigma Automate, Trustle, Narrative, Digital Guardian (acquired by HelpSystems), EqualLogic (acquired by Dell), Prelert (acquired by Elastic), Resilient Systems (acquired by IBM), TrackVia (acquired by Primus Capital), and VeloBit (acquired by Western Digital).

Rick also has deep operating experience, having held senior marketing and engineering roles at Adero (acquired by Inktomi), ClearOne Communications (acquired by Gentner Communications, later renamed ClearOne), and PictureTel (acquired by Polycom).

Rick is a member of the Educational Council at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a Venture Capital Advisor at the Rock Center for Entrepreneurship at Harvard Business School (HBS), a Board Member of the MIT Sandbox, an MIT iHQ Mentor, and a frequent judge at MassChallenge. His contributions to the broader community include being on the Board of the Advanced Cyber Security Center, New England's public/private security collaboration, the Board of Advisors at the Museum of Science in Boston, and a former member of the Board of Directors at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts, where he is still active.

Rick has been recognized as one of the most important VCs in Boston by Business Insider and has been honored with the Community Leadership Award by New England Venture Network

Rick holds BS and MS degrees in Electrical Engineering from MIT and an MBA from HBS.

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Shahid Azim

CEO, Managing Partner & Co-Founder
C10 Labs



Shahid Azim is Co-Founder, CEO, and Managing Partner of C10 Labs, an AI venture fund and venture studio based in Cambridge and New York that creates and invests in AI-first companies advancing healthcare, life sciences, energy, enterprise, and advanced industries.

A serial entrepreneur and venture builder, Shahid has founded multiple venture-backed technology companies and now focuses on building the next generation of AI-native startups emerging from leading research institutions and industry. He is passionate about accelerating scientific discovery by bringing together founders, researchers, corporations, and investors to transform breakthrough AI into category-defining companies.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Seattle University, completed postgraduate studies at Harvard University, and holds an MBA as a Sloan Fellow from the MIT Sloan School of Management

Jeff Knox

Principal
Innospark



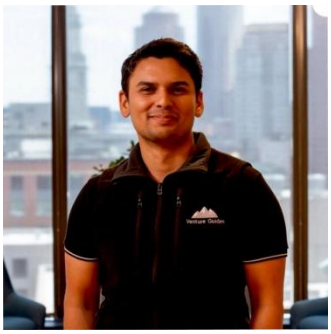
Jeff is a Principal at Innospark focused on applications of computed intelligence that advance biotechnology and other hard sciences, or accelerate their products to scale and impact.

Prior to Innospark, Jeff was a consultant to biopharma and digital health companies, where he advised on the development and commercialization of therapies across a range of modalities and care areas. He is deeply interested in the translation of technology through entrepreneurship and served as Managing Director of the founding Boston chapter of Nucleate, helping to build, educate, and support new biotech venture teams.

He holds a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University and an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Nishkam Prabodh

Senior Principal
Venture Guides



Nishkam Prabodh is a Senior Principal at Venture Guides, an early-stage venture firm focused on cybersecurity, cloud infrastructure, AI, and data software. At VG he invests across cyber, AI-infrastructure, data, and compliance, serves as a board observer to several portfolio companies, and works hands-on with founders on go-to-market, from defining the ideal customer profile and sharpening positioning to sales hiring and keeping product aligned with pipeline.

Venture Guides is built to work differently from the typical venture model. The firm invests from two funds ($216M and $262M) but deliberately stays small and concentrated, backing only about 15 companies per fund so its 25-person team can act as a genuine extension of each founder. The partners have invested and operated in infrastructure and security software for nearly three decades, including building the practice behind early investments in Dynatrace, Rapid7, SolarWinds, Turbonomic, LinkedIn, and DocuSign, and their prior investments have meaningfully outperformed industry benchmarks on both successful exits and billion-dollar outcomes. Roughly 11% of the firm's capital is the team's own money, and every partner was an operator (CEO, CFO, COO) before becoming an investor. That combination of deep domain focus, real skin in the game, and hands-on operating help (what the firm calls "guiding") is what VG believes drives its results.

Before Venture Guides, Nishkam co-founded and was CFO of Remo, and held product and strategy roles at Cipla Health and Kearney. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a B.Tech from IIT Delhi.

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SESSION
14-C

PRESENTATION

People and Data (and, oh yes, AI!)

Speaker

Thomas Redman, Data Quality Solutions

Abstract

People and data, not the technology, are the big barriers to success with AI. But so many programs treat them as afterthoughts. Adding to this, many employees wonder if AI is coming for their jobs. It's no wonder that progress is slow and uncertain.

We've found that the best (and perhaps only) way to deal with these uncertainties is to embrace them head on. First, get everyone involved. This may seem counterintuitive. But think about it for a minute: Almost everyone uses and creates data every day; they need it to do their work; and their efforts make or break transformation.

Second, recognize that "data is a team" sport, and make it easier for people to work together.

Third and most important of all, focus on customers! This presentation illustrates these points via a sequence of career-defining epiphanies, concluding with some observations building the organizational infrastructure to unlock the teamwork needed to make it happen.

Biography

Thomas Redman

The Data Doc, President
Data Quality Solutions



Thomas C. Redman, "The Data Doc," is the founder and President of Data Quality Solutions. He helps companies attack data issues head-on, get the basics right, and empower people. Everything, from AI, to better decisions and smooth operations, depends on high-quality data. His work can be found in *Harvard Business Review, Sloan Management Review* and in his latest book, ***People and Data: Uniting to Transform Your Organization*** (Kogan Page, 2023).

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SESSION
14-D

PRESENTATION

The Hidden Data Problem Blocking AI at Scale

Speaker

Terry Dorsey, Denodo

Abstract

AI has never been easier to build, yet harder than ever to scale.

Why do so many AI initiatives show early promise but struggle to reach production? What's really slowing organizations down behind the scenes?

With each new project, teams are forced to rebuild logic, re-apply governance, and re-validate the data feeding their models. The result is slower delivery, rising costs, inconsistent outcomes, and stalled business impact.

Is the problem really the models—or the data foundation behind them?

This session presents an architectural approach for scaling AI through reusable enterprise capabilities.

Attendees will leave with practical principles for reducing complexity, accelerating delivery, and establishing a trusted, governed foundation for enterprise AI.

Biography

Terry Dorsey

Senior Data Architect and North America's Evangelist
Denodo



Terry Dorsey is a Senior Data Architect and North America's Evangelist for Denodo, a leading provider of Logical Data Management technology powered by data virtualization. With over 30 years of experience in Information Technology, she has played a central role in helping organizations modernize their data infrastructure to support advanced analytics, enterprise integration, and AI-driven outcomes.

Her academic credentials include a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University, a master's in information science from the University of Pittsburgh, and a master's in analytics from Harrisburg University of Science and Technology. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Data Science at Harrisburg University, where her research focuses on the use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for processing unstructured data, leveraging graph theory and graph-based algorithms to enable

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contextual understanding and reasoning. Throughout her career, Terry has led strategic implementations across industries including consumer goods, healthcare, manufacturing, utilities, and defense. She has driven enterprise architecture initiatives, guided AI and ML solution delivery, and helped teams accelerate adoption of self-service analytics while managing operational risk and cost. Her expertise lies in bridging modern data architecture with intelligent systems—using Data Virtualization as a core enabler of best practice design principles—such as abstraction, loose coupling, generalization and separation of concerns—to provide secure, scalable, and efficient access to data across distributed environments. Terry continues to focus on building systems that make data more usable, more explainable, and more aligned to business needs without compromising flexibility or governance.

SESSION
14-E

PRESENTATION

TBD by MIT Sloan

Speaker **Christopher Reichert, MIT SBAA | R-F Consulting**

Abstract TBD

Biography

Christopher Reichert

President | Chief Information Officer
MIT SBAA | R-F Consulting



TBD

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SESSION
15-A

PRESENTATION

Why Most Enterprise Retention Metrics Fail — And What CDOs Must Standardize to Unlock Reliable Growth Analytics

Speaker

Bao Nguyen, Adobe

Abstract

This session would explore:

- How inconsistent definitions of core PLG metrics (e.g.: retention, activation, engagement) undermine executive trust in data
- The role of standardized semantic layers and data governance in driving consistent enterprise reporting
- Practical strategies for aligning analytics engineering, data governance, and business stakeholders

Biography

Bao Nguyen

Senior Analytics Engineer
Adobe



Bao Nguyen is a Senior Analytics Engineer at Adobe, focused on building product analytics systems that translate user behavior into scalable growth strategies.

His work centers on designing data models, metrics, and retention frameworks that enable teams to make faster, more confident decisions. He has supported data initiatives through rapid scaling, helping drive adoption, collaboration workflows, and monetization strategies.

Bao brings a product-first perspective to analytics engineering, combining data modeling, experimentation, and business context to move beyond reporting toward true decision enablement.

Bao is also an active member of the data community, serving as a mentor and speaker on topics including data modeling, analytics engineering, and building reliable data systems.

SESSION
15-B

PRESENTATION

From Reactive to Proactive: How Intuit Credit Karma Solved Data Quality at Scale

Speakers

Puneet Singh and Veenit Shah, Credit Ecosystem

Abstract

Powering financial progress for 140 million members requires data integrity at an immense scale. At Intuit Credit Karma, managing massive datasets across thousands of columns (hundreds of tables) made manual monitoring obsolete. This session explores our transition from reactive firefighting to proactive observability. Built on five pillars—Timeliness, Completeness, Accuracy, Observability, and Governance—we replaced manual effort with AI-driven automation and a centralized Data Asset Registry. We'll detail how we leveraged AI to solve Data Quality at scale and eliminate alert fatigue by creating high-confidence, real-time paging model that empowers the business with trustworthy, actionable data driven insights for critical decisions.

Biography

Puneet Singh
Senior Data Engineer
Credit Ecosystem



12+ years in Data Engineering and Data Quality. Career spanning Teradata, Hadoop/Spark, and cloud-native microservices/streaming pipelines on AWS and GCP — with deep expertise in bureau data pipelines.

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Veenit Shah

Senior Data Engineering Manager
Credit Ecosystem



Data engineering leader with 14+ years spanning individual contributor to Engineering Manager. I currently lead Credit Ecosystem — a core, mission-critical engineering team at Credit Karma. Focused on building high-scale data pipelines and growing high-performing teams.

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SESSION
15-C

PRESENTATION

The Actual Data, Analytics, and AI Practices of High-Performing Organizations

Speakers

Douglas Laney, Data, Analytics and AI advisor, Reseacher, and Author and Joseph Sommer, EY

Abstract

This session shares findings from a global study that compares how organizations actually use data, analytics and AI with how well they perform relative to their peers. The research highlights clear patterns that separate leaders from laggards, including how they govern data as an asset, operationalize analytics at scale, and embed AI into decision-making and data management itself. Rather than focusing on hype or isolated success stories, the study provides an evidence-based map of the practices that consistently correlate with higher strategic, operational and financial performance.

Biography

Douglas Laney

Data, Analytics, and AI advisor, Researcher, and Author



Douglas Laney is a renowned thought leader and advisor on data, analytics, and AI strategy. He is a best-selling author, as well as a featured speaker and business school professor. Laney has been recognised repeatedly as a top-50 global expert on data-related topics and is a three-time Gartner annual thought leadership award recipient. He originated the discipline of infonomics – recognising and treating data as an actual economic asset. Laney continues to focus on helping organisations and their leadership innovate with and optimise the value of their data assets.

Joseph Sommer

Managing Director of AI & Data
EY



Joseph M. Sommer is a Managing Director of AI & Data with over 30 years of experience helping leading financial institutions deploy, govern, protect, and monetize data for competitive advantage. He specializes in structured and unstructured data governance and AI monitoring, enabling CDOs to implement scalable, policy-driven controls for responsible AI adoption. His work includes deploying

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> Copilot and agentic AI at scale, harnessing SharePoint, Databricks, Snowflake, Azure, Purview, Collibra, BigID, Zscaler, Arize, and other data technologies to operationalize knowledge management, data classification, risk controls, and enterprise AI oversight. Joseph also teaches graduate-level Data Science at CUNY Baruch, bringing a practical, executive perspective on driving data value at scale.

SESSION
15-D

PANEL DISCUSSION

Thinking Beyond the Pilot: What it Takes to Scale AI

Moderator **Peter Scherf, Concord**

Panelists **Radha Kuchibhotla, CVS Health; Ashish Nachane, David Yurman; Art Morales, CSL**

Abstract TBD

Biography

Peter Scherf

SVP, Data & AI
Concord



Peter Scherf is an accomplished data and AI leader currently serving as Senior Vice President of Data and AI at Concord. With a robust background in analytics and marketing, Pete has led teams to drive multimillion-dollar profit opportunities through AI transformation. His prior positions include SVP of Data and AI Strategy at Genpact and VP of Analytics and AI at Swire Coca-Cola. Peter has also contributed to various advisory boards and earned an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management in 2022.

Radha Kuchibhotla

Lead Director AI Solutions & Design
CVS Health



Radha Kuchibhotla is an internationally-recognized senior technology and business executive with demonstrated leadership and Big 5 consulting expertise in building and leading high-performance teams across industries. With a background in solving complex business initiatives through digital transformation, security, data, and AI, Radha is currently the Lead Director of AI Solutions & Design at CVS Health and has previously held leadership roles at Hawk Aerospace, Accenture, and NextGen Infrastructure Solutions. Radha has an MBA from Northeastern University.

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Ashish Nachane

VP of Data & AI
David Yurman



Radha Ashish Nachane is a seasoned technology professional with a proven record of delivering end-to-end technology solutions. He has an outstanding ability to capture business processes and transform technology solutions to evolve business functions. He currently leads the Data & AI strategy at David Yurman and has previously held senior leadership roles at Rutgers University, Bed Bath & Beyond, Citi, and MassMutual.

Art Morales

VP, Technology Enabled Science
CSL



Art Morales has spent his career at the intersection of science and technology with a detour through data and AI consulting to bring it all together. As the VP of Technology Enabled Science at CSL, Art leads the R&D's digital organization across the full pipeline from discovery to patients. His past experience includes leadership roles at Genpact, WIRB-Copernicus Group, and Analgesic Solutions. Art has a PhD in Biology from MIT.

SESSION
15-E

PRESENTATION

Evolving IT Leadership: How CDOs Become CIOs and to Build Resilient Organizations

Speakers

Angela Chen, University of Delaware; Vasa Krisnan, Lüt

Abstract

As enterprises navigate accelerating disruption, the role of technology leadership is rapidly changing. This session explores how Chief Data Officers are increasingly stepping into Chief Information Officer roles, bringing a data-first mindset to enterprise strategy, technology modernization, cybersecurity, and operational resilience. Discover how leaders who combine business acumen, innovation, and execution discipline are uniquely positioned to transform organizations, unlock growth, and strengthen adaptability in uncertain times. Gain actionable perspectives on the leadership capabilities required to build future-ready and resilient enterprises.

In this session, Angela Y. Chen, Vice President and Chief Information Officer at a major R1 university, and Vasa Krishnan, Chief Information and Technology Officer at Lüt, share experience-based perspectives on how Chief Data Officers successfully transition into enterprise Chief Information Officer roles to lead resilient, future-ready organizations. Drawing on decades of executive leadership across higher education, financial services, fintech, and consulting, they will discuss how data and analytics leadership can evolve into broader accountability for enterprise technology strategy, cybersecurity, AI readiness, operational resilience, and large-scale systems modernization. Attendees will gain practical insights into the leadership mindset, transformation capabilities, and strategic execution required to build high-performing organizations prepared for continuous change.

Biography

Angela Chen

VP of Data, Chief Information Officer
University of Delaware



Angela Y. Chen is Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer at the University of Delaware, where she leads central and distributed IT, enterprise systems modernization, cybersecurity, campus network, research cyber infrastructure and data management in support of the university's academic, research, and administrative mission. She serves on the President's senior

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leadership team and oversees large-scale technology investments focused on resilience, efficiency, and data-driven decision-making.

With more than 25 years of experience across higher education and financial services, Angela has held senior leadership roles at New York University, Yale University, AIG, Bank of America, and other global organizations. Her career spans data architecture, analytics, enterprise systems, cloud transformation, and organizational leadership. Angela is recognized for building resilient, service-oriented IT organizations and for bridging data leadership with enterprise-wide technology strategy. She has been named to *CDO Magazine's* Leading Tech Executives Impacting U.S. Higher Education list and serves on the NYSERNet Board of Directors.

Vasa Krishnan

Chief Information and Technology Officer
Lüt



Vasa Krishnan is the Chief Information and Technology Officer at Lüt, where he leads Technology, Innovation & Research, Data, AI, Compliance, and Cybersecurity, defining global strategy and execution for a cutting-edge, next-generation payments platform at the forefront of fintech disruption.

Vasa has a distinguished leadership track record, having served in senior executive and strategic consulting leadership roles across premier global financial institutions. His career reflects the evolution from data and analytics leadership into enterprise wide technology leadership bridging the roles of Chief Data Officer and Chief Information Officer to drive integrated, business aligned transformation.

He has driven enterprise scale technology, data, and business transformation, overseeing significant investments and leading global teams across financial services, fintech, and consulting. He has consistently delivered substantial business value through technology and data initiatives, building and leading high-performing global teams from the ground up.

Vasa is recognized for aligning technology and data strategy with business outcomes enabling innovation, accelerating growth, and building resilient, future ready organizations.

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SESSION
17-A

PRESENTATION

Bridging the AI Readiness Gap: From Insight to Implementation

Speaker

Leticia Naqvi, Apple

Abstract

As artificial intelligence continues to transform how organizations operate, many leaders are still struggling to translate experimentation into measurable value. Despite growing investment, AI initiatives often stall between the pilot and production stages due to misaligned strategies, fragmented data infrastructure, and resistance to change. This session presents a practical framework designed to help organizations bridge the gap between AI readiness and implementation. Drawing from ongoing doctoral research and enterprise experience, the discussion focuses on four core pillars: leadership alignment, data maturity, innovation culture, and change management. Together, these pillars form the foundation for sustainable and scalable AI adoption. Attendees will learn how to assess organizational readiness, identify common barriers, and develop a structured roadmap that embeds AI into business processes. The session provides actionable strategies to help data and analytics leaders responsibly and effectively move from conceptual opportunity to operational impact.

Biography

Leticia Naqvi

People Analytics Research Manager
Apple



Leticia Naqvi is a People Analytics Research Manager at Apple and Doctor of Business Administration candidate at City University of Seattle. Her research explores organizational readiness for AI-driven decision support and data-driven transformation. She focuses on bridging strategy, analytics, and governance to help enterprises operationalize responsible AI adoption.

SESSION
17-B

PRESENTATION

Building Trusted AI: Ensuring Data Consistency, Governance, and Information Quality in Distributed Enterprise Systems

Speakers

Hemasundara Reddy Lanka, Publicis Sapient; Harish Vundavalli, Strategic Education, Inc

Abstract

As organizations scale AI and advanced analytics across distributed environments, the quality, consistency, and governance of underlying data become critical determinants of success. Inconsistent data architectures and fragmented governance models can undermine decision intelligence, increase compliance risk, and erode stakeholder trust. This session will explore practical strategies for embedding information quality, data governance, security, and lineage directly into modern distributed systems. Drawing from real-world enterprise experience, the discussion will highlight architectural patterns, governance-by-design approaches, and operational controls that enable trusted AI and sustainable data-driven decision-making at scale.

Biography

Hemasundara Reddy Lanka

Technical Architect
Publicis Sapient



Hemasundara Reddy Lanka is a Technical Architect with over 20 years of experience designing and modernizing enterprise-scale data and AI systems across commercial and federal environments. He specializes in architecting distributed, cloud-native platforms that ensure data consistency, governance, and information quality in complex ecosystems.

His expertise spans enterprise system architecture, data integration frameworks, real-time data pipelines, Master Data Management, and AI-enabled modernization strategies. Hemasundar focuses on building resilient, interoperable architectures that align trusted data foundations with regulatory compliance and intelligent automation goals.

He has led cross-functional engineering teams in delivering scalable, secure platforms that support mission-critical operations and enterprise analytics. At CDOIQ, he shares practical architectural

strategies for building trusted AI through strong governance, system design discipline, and distributed information quality controls.

Harish Vundavalli

Senior Technical Architect
Strategic Education, Inc



Harish Vundavalli is a Senior Technical Architect at Strategic Education, Inc., where he leads the development of enterprise-scale, cloud-native platforms integrating AI, data, and modern architectures to support core business operations. With over 15 years of global experience across India, Australia, and the United States, he specializes in building scalable, resilient, and production-ready systems.

He actively drives AI initiatives within engineering, focusing on practical adoption of emerging technologies while addressing critical challenges in AI security, risk, and governance. His work emphasizes implementing guardrails for trustworthy AI, including model monitoring, data integrity validation, access control, bias detection, and protection against emerging threats such as prompt injection and data leakage, aligning with industry trends toward secure and responsible AI systems.

Prior to this, he worked with enterprises including Petco and Commonwealth Bank of Australia, leading large-scale transformation and integration programs.

Harish also contributes to the research community as a journal reviewer and is currently working on multiple AI-focused research papers under review, reflecting his commitment to bridging academic research with real-world industry applications.

In addition to his industry leadership, Harish actively contributes to academia and the broader innovation ecosystem as a mentor, hackathon judge, and guest speaker, supporting students, early-career professionals, and practitioner communities through technical guidance, evaluation, and knowledge-sharing engagements.

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SESSION
17-C

PANEL DISCUSSION

A Leaders Guide, Accelerate Data & AI Culture for Sustainable Business Value

Moderator

Karan Dhawal, ZS Associates

Panelists

Salema Rice, CDO Today / IntelliCon Global; Gokula Mishra, CDO Magazine; Nisha Paliwal, AbbVie

Abstract

Organizations build data & AI culture as they want to make data driven and AI enabled decisions. Vision for many organizations is to have AI augmentation with high quality fit for purpose data for decision making at all levels.

McKinsey's flagship 2025 report highlights that while 88% of organizations use AI, only 39% report a significant impact on organizations profitability and earnings before interest & taxes.

For decades, organizations treated digital transformation as a procurement exercise with a mindset of "If we build, they will use". Today we are repeating this exact same mistake with artificial intelligence acceleration.

We are caught in a furious, trillion-dollar race to acquire computing power, fine-tune massive foundational models, and hire specialized machine learning engineers.

We will in this session review data & AI culture aspects as a foundational strategy for organizations to consider for solving the AI enabled company results impact issue.

The session is based on a proven VECTR© Framework built on five pillars that helps organizations assess and accelerate their data and AI culture for lasting value generation.

Biography

Karan Dhawal

Data Strategy and Technology Leader
ZS Associates



Karan Dhawal is a visionary technology executive with a distinguished career dedicated to helping global organizations unlock the full potential of their data and AI assets. He brings a wealth of hands-on experience in leading large-scale digital transformations and fostering innovation in complex, data-driven environments.

With a career spanning over two decades, Karan has held senior leadership positions at several Fortune 500 companies, including Chevron, Rockwell Automation, American Family Insurance, Owens Illinois, LabCorp where he has been instrumental in designing and executing enterprise-wide applications, data & AI transformations. As a co-author of the book "A Leader's Guide to Data & AI Culture: Activate Sustainable Business Value" he shares his passion for high impact ROI leveraging AI.

Salema Rice

Chief Executive Officer
CDO Today / IntelliCon Global



Salema Rice is a renowned leader in the data and analytics landscape, currently serving as the trusted executive forum where senior data, AI, and technology innovation leaders convene.

With more than 20 years as a Chief Data & AI Officer, Board Member, and Advisor, Salema has helped Fortune 500 companies drive transformation and business value at the intersection of talent, data and AI.

She previously served as Enterprise CDAO at Accenture, Bain Capital, and Allegis Group. Recognized among the Top 30 Most Inspiring Women in AI, the Top 100 Most Influential Leaders in Data, and the World's Top 200 Business & Technology Innovators, her insights have been featured in CNBC, MSNBC, Forbes, and Gartner.

As a contributor to the book "A Leader's Guide to Data & AI Culture: Activate Sustainable Business Value" she brings in real world case studies to guide long term success for chief data & AI officers and organization.

Gokula Mishra

Strategic Advisor AI, GenAI, & Data Analytics, Founding Editor
CDO Magazine



Gokula is a distinguished executive and recognized thought leader in the fields of Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence. He brings decades of experience in architecting large-scale digital transformations and building data-driven ecosystems for Fortune 500 organizations. With a deep expertise in cloud data platforms, machine learning, and enterprise governance, Gokula has successfully led global teams to deliver measurable business outcomes across various sectors, including manufacturing, retail, and financial services. He is known for his unique ability to simplify complex technical landscapes

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into clear, value-generating strategic roadmaps. As a co-author of the book "A Leader's Guide to Data & AI Culture: Activate Sustainable Business Value" he brings in real world case studies to accelerate company culture for AI.

Nisha Paliwal

Vice President, Data & AI
AbbVie



Nisha Paliwal is an author, visionary technologist, life long learner, and mother to two beautiful girls, with a mission to bring human-centered thinking to everything she does. She has been a relentless advocate for leveraging technology and data insights to create true business value for more than 20 years.

Born in Rudrapur, India, Nisha was a disruptor from a young age, displaying an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. Her deep curiosity led her to the human sciences where she thrived, earning a Master's degree in microbiology. Her enthusiasm and intelligence put her on the path to becoming a brilliant scientist. While being lauded in her field, Nisha's passion wasn't science—but discovery.

She began exploring the digital space, eventually teaching herself C# programming. Nisha immersed herself deeper and deeper into the world of technology and never looked back. Maintaining her authentic roots as a heart-centered, curious-minded, life-long learner, she achieved much success in the tech space.

From entrepreneur, to CTO, to serving as an admired senior technology leader for top financial institutions for the past 20 years, Nisha has indeed cemented her place in the tech space. She now seeks to elevate and empower others by serving as a coach and mentor to emerging technology leaders.

With a passion for introducing young girls to the fascinating world of technology, she also supports several STEM-focused non profits, with a long-term vision of bringing more women into the ranks of technology leadership.

Nisha is currently working on different ways of generating value from data & AI, most notably in the healthcare, finance & non-profit sector. Specifically, she is seeking to build a scalable platform for mentoring women, and she is also exploring new ways of leveraging AI to scale diversity, inclusion, and belonging objectives.

Her perseverance, outspoken nature, and philosophy of learning, unlearning, and relearning, have forced some of the top technologists in the industry to truly examine the real business value they are creating with data.

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> While Nisha speaks to the importance of technology advancements, she is also working to raise awareness on how human values need to be preserved. She believes that the legacy we will leave our children is still to be invented..

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SESSION
17-D

PRESENTATION

AI Oversight in the Boardroom: The Evolving Role of the CDO

Speaker

Elena Alikhachkina, Infofluence.ai

Abstract

As AI moves from experimentation to enterprise infrastructure, boards are demanding greater transparency, accountability, and measurable value. Yet many organizations lack a clear oversight model. This session explores how the CDO's role is evolving from data steward to AI accountability leader. We will examine practical approaches for governing AI risk, aligning AI strategy with enterprise priorities, strengthening regulatory readiness, and building trust across stakeholders. Attendees will leave with a clear framework for structuring AI oversight between the board, executive leadership, and the data organization.

Biography

Elena Alikhachkina

CEO and Board Director
Infofluence.ai



Dr. Elena Alikhachkina is a board advisor and former Fortune 500 Chief Data, Digital, and AI Officer with more than 25 years of global executive leadership experience overseeing AI, digital transformation, and technology-enabled value creation in highly regulated healthcare, life sciences, and consumer health environments. She brings deep expertise in AI governance, digital and data oversight, cybersecurity and data privacy, regulatory compliance, and enterprise risk management across multinational organizations. Elena has held senior executive roles at Roche, Johnson & Johnson, GSK, Danone, Nestlé, News Corp / Dow Jones, and TE Connectivity, where she led and governed large-scale AI, data, and digital programs spanning commercial operations, pharmacy-adjacent retail, supply chains, patient and consumer engagement platforms, and enterprise functions. Across these roles, she advised executive committees and boards on responsible AI adoption, automation, advanced analytics, and digital platform strategy, while ensuring alignment with healthcare regulations, GDPR, and global privacy and security standards. In healthcare and consumer health, Elena has overseen the application of AI and advanced analytics in pharmacovigilance, patient engagement, demand forecasting, pricing and promotion optimization, and operational efficiency. At Roche and Johnson &

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Johnson, she governed multi-billion-dollar digital and data portfolios, establishing enterprise-wide AI governance models, data stewardship frameworks, and risk controls designed to scale innovation while maintaining regulatory and ethical discipline. Her work consistently balanced innovation, patient safety, and compliance. Elena has extensive experience supporting boards through periods of transformation, including oversight of complex cross-border M&A, divestitures, and post-merger integrations across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Her governance background includes supervising technology and data integrations, assessing AI and cyber risk during transactions, and ensuring continuity of controls in regulated environments transitioning to private equity or public ownership structures. She is the founder of InfoFluence.ai, a digital leadership and AI-readiness platform focused on executive and board-level capability building, and the creator of proprietary governance diagnostics, including Digital Leadership IQ™ and the AI Data Readiness Score™, which are used to support board oversight of AI risk, value realization, and organizational readiness. Elena is also the author of AI Oversight: A New Mandate for Corporate Directors and Executives, a practical guide for directors navigating AI accountability, governance structures, and regulatory expectations. Elena currently serves as a board advisor to multiple AI and data technology companies and is a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors. She is a frequent keynote speaker on AI governance, digital trust, and leadership in the AI era, advising directors, regulators, and executives globally. Elena holds advanced degrees in engineering, economics, and data sciences, has completed executive education at Wharton, and is NACD-certified in Corporate Board Directorship. She is based in the New York and Connecticut area, USA.

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SESSION
17-E

PRESENTATION

My Journey with LLMs

Speaker

Michael Stonebraker, MIT / Tamr

Abstract

For the last two years, we have been attempting to use LLMs and agentic AI to query data warehouses using text-to-SQL methodology. On public benchmarks (Spider, Burd) the results are encouraging. However, there are difficulties with real data warehouses, which limit query accuracy to the 30% range, even when the correct tables are given to the system.

I then turn to an alternate agentic AI architecture which has much better accuracy, as well as offering access to multiple data sources.

My group at MIT has also tried agentic AI on data mastering, i.e. integrating multiple, independently constructed data sets. Here, results have been much better, but there are some caveats which make the results somewhat nuanced. I will also explain why rule systems are destined to fail at scale and why deep neural networks are generally avoided. This leaves traditional machine learning as the "last candidate standing".

Biography

Michael Stonebraker

Adjunct Professor / CTO
MIT / Tamr



Michael Stonebraker is an adjunct professor at MIT CSAIL and a database pioneer who specializes in database management systems and data integration. He was awarded the 2014 A.M.Turing Award (known as the "Nobel Prize of computing") by the Association for Computing Machinery for his "fundamental contributions to the concepts and practices underlying modern database systems as well as their practical application through nine start-up companies that he has founded." Stonebraker also co-founded and serves as CTO of Tamr.

SESSION
18-A

PRESENTATION

Driving Business Values with Data and AI: A CEO's Perspective

Speaker

Julia Bardmesser, Data4Real LLC

Abstract

Based on insights from From Data to Dollars, this talk explores how organizations can define, communicate, and deliver business value from their data and AI. Grounded in real-world experience, Julia offers practical, proven approaches to turn data and AI into tangible outcomes that matter.

Biography

Julia Bardmesser
CEO
Data4Real LLC



Julia Bardmesser is a globally recognized authority on data and AI with over two decades of experience driving transformation at institutions like Voya Financial, Deutsche Bank, and Citigroup. As a sought-after keynote speaker, she brings sharp insights and real-world stories that bridge cutting edge technology and business value.

Julia is known for translating complex data challenges into actionable strategies that accelerate growth, sharpen decision-making, and improve operational resilience. Her thought leadership extends from the boardroom into the classroom, as an Adjunct Professor at NYU School of Business, and into the startup world, where she advises high-growth tech ventures.

Named a 2022 WLDA Changemaker in AI and a three-time honoree on CDO Magazine's Global Data Power Women list, Julia consistently inspires audiences to rethink how data and AI can transform their organizations.

SESSION
18-B

PRESENTATION

Modernization of Data Management from Traditional On-Prem Solutions to Cloud-Native Solutions

Speakers

Vinod Surasani, RBC Wealth Management;
Raghuvaran Reddy Kalluri, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)

Abstract

In today's data-driven economy, organizations face the dual challenge of managing massive volumes of data while ensuring its quality, consistency, and accessibility. Cloud modernization of data warehousing platforms, coupled with the evolution of Master Data Management solutions, provides a transformative path toward scalable, intelligent, and agile data ecosystems.

A critical component of successful modernization is the adoption of modern MDM solutions, which unify and govern core business entities such as customers, products, and suppliers. Cloud-based MDM platforms enable consistent, high-quality data across systems while supporting global data stewardship, lineage tracking, and compliance with evolving regulations.

1. Key best practices include implementing data catalogs, role-based access control, serverless compute for cost optimization, and enabling self-service analytics for business users.

2. The topic concludes by looking ahead at trends such as zero-ETL frameworks, AI-augmented MDM, and unified data platforms that combine analytics, governance, and master data into a cohesive cloud-native architecture.

Biography

Vinod Surasani

Sr. Software Engineer MDM
RBC Wealth Management



Vinod Surasani is a Senior Software Engineer with 14 years of experience designing and delivering enterprise applications and data-driven solutions. His expertise spans data analytics, AI/ML integration, cloud-native development, and modernization of data management platforms, with a focus on scalability, performance, and governance. Vinod has led impactful initiatives across finance, healthcare, and technology, helping organizations unlock business value through advanced analytics and automation. He has deep hands-on experience with Master Data Management (MDM), event-driven

architectures, and modern data platforms that enable intelligent decision-making. Passionate about giving back to academia, Vinod serves as an Industry Advisor with Cornell Tech and delivers guest talks at Several Universities, mentoring students on careers and emerging tech. He regularly reviews, speaks, and mentors, sharing practical insights on AI-ready, data-driven enterprises.

Raghuvaran Reddy Kalluri

Lead Developer & Solution Architect
Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)



With 18 years of leadership in Information Technology, Raghuvaran is a distinguished Solution and Data Architect specializing in enterprise-grade data management and Master Data Management (MDM) strategy. Currently serving as a Solution Architect and Data Owner at the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), he sits at the intersection of technical architecture and data accountability, ensuring that complex data ecosystems drive measurable business value.

Raghuvaran has architected and delivered mission-critical, data-driven solutions for global industry leaders and major financial services industries. An Informatica Certified MDM Specialist, his expertise spans the modernization of legacy platforms into scalable, cloud-native environments that support AI/ML integration and high-performance governance.

Raghuvaran's deep experience across the Financial Services, Retail, and Public sectors has made him a specialist in navigating the complexities of Customer, Product, and Location data domains. By bridging the gap between technical MDM implementation and executive-level data strategy, he has helped some of the world's largest organizations unlock the power of event-driven architectures and intelligent decision-making.

SESSION
18-C

PANEL DISCUSSION

AI Data Governance for the Enterprise - Using Data Governance & Risk Management to Protect Your Data

Moderator

Lindy Kresl, Tecnologia

Panelists

Melvina Sparks, EmbraceIT AI; Nate Rain, Informatica by Salesforce; Patty Haines, Data Governance Advisor

Abstract

As artificial intelligence becomes embedded across enterprise operations,the risks associated with poorly governed data grow exponentially. This expert panel discussion explores how AI Data Governance serves as a critical risk management discipline—protecting data integrity, ensuring regulatory compliance, and preserving trust in AI-driven decisions. Panelists will examine how traditional data governance frameworks must evolve to address AI-specific risks such as bias, explainability, data lineage, model accountability, and operational misuse. Through real-world enterprise examples, the discussion will highlight practical strategies for aligning data governance, risk management, and AI innovation—enabling organizations to responsibly scale AI while safeguarding their most valuable asset: data.

Biography

Lindy Kresl

Chief Data Officer
Tecnologia



Linda A. Kresl is a seasoned data and AI executive with more than 25 years of experience leading Data Governance and Analytics solutions across the public and private sectors. She has held professional and management roles with the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Defense, as well as The Boeing Company, Yahoo!, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Nike, and Informatica. From 2001 to 2016, she founded and led a successful consultancy specializing in Artificial Intelligence for Business Strategy, Business Intelligence , Enterprise Data Architecture, and Data Governance strategy. She has expanded her focus exclusively to Artificial Intelligence, earning the MIT Professional Certificate in Artificial Intelligence along with MIT Chief Data Officer and Data Quality certifications. Her work centers on ethical AI implementation, AI-assisted data governance, explainable AI in healthcare, and defense data modernization. Ms.

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Kresl has served on the Board of Directors for DAMA International and IAIDQ and has spoken at the MIT Information Quality Symposium and international standards forums. She is co-author of the book entitled "AI Risk Management for the Enterprise" and currently leads AI-enabled data governance modernization initiatives for a U.S. defense agency.

Melvina Sparks

Principal Consultant – AI Governance & GRC+E
EmbraceIT AI



Melvina Sparks is a data governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) and AI strategy leader with experience across Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 organizations. A U.S. Air Force veteran and trusted business–technical liaison, she translates regulatory, risk, and executive priorities into scalable governance solutions through the implementation of leading eGRC platforms. Her work includes shaping enterprise metadata and sensitive data classification strategies and designing AI-driven proof-of-concepts to automate privacy, PCI-DSS, and risk identification. With a background in enterprise network architecture, Melvina brings a forward-looking, systems-level perspective on governing data and AI at scale.

Nate Rain

DG Expert
Informatica by Salesforce



Nate Rain started his career at Anheuser-Busch hired to prevent the end of the world in Y2K. Data analyst to data modeler to ETL developer to report writer to managing data warehouse projects to managing the data warehouse and BI team. Implemented Data Governance and MDM efforts in multiple organizations. And most recently joined Informatica 5 years ago to help a wider audience base with data challenges.

Patty Haines

Data Governance Advisor



Patty Haines is a senior level consultant providing solutions to customers' information needs for 25 years. Patty possesses a deep expertise in the data realm, specializing in areas of architecture, quality, governance, warehousing, and business intelligence. She adeptly participates in roles ranging from solutions architect and project manager to analyst and mentor, bridging the gap between data solutions and business needs. Patty has experience with government and private industry organizations, including Pillsbury, Eli Lilly, Country Financial, USAA, Software AG, Whelen Engineering, and Treasury Department.

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SESSION
18-D

PRESENTATION

From Chaos to Competitive Edge: Governing Unstructured Data for AI Context

Speaker

Kevin Petrie, BARC US

Abstract

Unstructured data, including emails, documents, images, audio, and so on, holds the critical context that agentic AI needs to deliver results. But most organizations still rely on SQL-era pipelines and controls. This session explores real-world requirements, obstacles, and use cases for making unstructured data AI-ready, based on a recent global survey of data and AI stakeholders. We also identify the practices that leading adopters use to integrate, validate, govern, enrich, and organize metadata for model training and inference. CDOs and data/AI leaders will gain a pragmatic playbook for reducing risk while accelerating AI initiatives based on newfound knowledge of their peers' initiatives.

Biography

Kevin Petrie

VP Research
BARC US



Kevin Petrie is the VP of Research at BARC, where he leads the data management practice and writes about topics such as AI, data integration and data governance. For 30 years Kevin has deciphered what technology means to practitioners, as an industry analyst, instructor, marketer, services leader, and tech journalist.

Kevin built a data analytics services team for EMC Pivotal in the Americas and EMEA, and ran field training at the data integration software provider Attunity (now part of Qlik). A frequent public speaker and co-author of two books about data management, Kevin most loves teaching data and AI leaders about evolving strategies, tools and techniques to capitalize on the value of data.

SESSION
18-E

PANEL DISCUSSION

The Governance Imperative

Moderator

Julia Cherashore, Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business

Panelists

Ryan Day, Conference of State Bank Supervisors; Keith Kennedy, Cognetryx; Troy Leach, Cloud Security Alliance

Abstract

Your AI and Data initiatives need robust governance. This not-to-be-missed session will unpack critical aspects of governance – both data governance and AI governance, and how to realize the synergies from both. It will explore how to achieve trusted data at scale using latest innovations, how to scale AI through data & tech infrastructure, and how to leverage unstructured data governance to improve AI outcomes. The panel will also explore how AI governance is evolving and focus on the critical AI governance capabilities that matter most for real-world AI deployment. Attendees will leave this session with practical takeaways from practitioners they can use immediately.

Biography

Julia Cherashore

Adjunct Professor
Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business



Julia Cherashore is currently Adjunct Professor at Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business, a Senior Fellow at the Data Foundation, and an Advisor to several AI start-ups. She's a 20+ year veteran of the financial services industry, having held progressively senior data roles at Morgan Stanley, Visa and New York State Department of Financial Services (NYS DFS). She was a first-in-role Chief Data Officer (Deputy Superintendent-Data Governance Management) at NYS DFS, with her work recognized with a 'Best of New York' Award for 'Best Workplace Initiative' among NYS government. Previously, she spent 20 years at leading investment banks and financial services firms, including Morgan Stanley, Goldman, Sachs & Co., PwC, Visa, and Moody's across Data, Risk Management, Compliance, Management Consulting, and Operations. Julia is a frequent speaker at prestigious data & AI events, including Reuters Momentum AI, SuperReturn, CDO Vision, Corinium Intelligence, GovTech, BFSI Nexus, and others. She received an MBA from NYU Stern School of Business and dual undergraduate

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degrees in Music and Business Administration from Weber State University.

Ryan Day

Advanced Data Scientist, Office of CDO
Conference of State Bank Supervisors



Ryan Day is an advanced data scientist at the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) and the author of Hands-on APIs for AI and Data Science from O'Reilly Publishing. He previously led the digital services division at the General Services Administration. He holds an AWS Solutions Architect certification and is a member of the National Association of Business Economics

Keith Kennedy

Chief Executive Officer and Founder
Cognetryx



Keith Kennedy is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Cognetryx and a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) with nearly 20 years of experience architecting secure IT solutions for regulated industries. His career spans full-scale datacenter builds and cloud migrations, and he has consulted with executive leadership teams at mid-market and enterprise companies on IT governance, regulatory compliance (HIPAA, HITECH, SEC/FINRA, PCI-DSS, FDA), ERP migrations, disaster recovery, and IT project management. Through years of M&A advisory and technology consulting, Keith has advised companies in regulated industries on improving analytics capabilities for unstructured data and building datacenter compute and storage environments. A lifelong technologist and learner, he holds a BS in Computer Information Systems from Bentley University.

Troy Leach

Chief Strategy Officer
Cloud Security Alliance



Troy Leach has spent much of his career working across cybersecurity standards, data protection, and operational governance, with a focus on advancing responsible technology practices that protect sensitive data while enabling innovation.

As Chief Strategy Officer at the Cloud Security Alliance, Troy contributes to corporate strategy and global engagement while supporting the advancement of CSA's research, education, and open

frameworks for cloud, AI, quantum computing, and other emerging technologies. His work focuses on translating complex technical and regulatory risk into practical guidance for executives, practitioners, and policymakers.

Earlier in his career, while at American Express, Troy helped establish the PCI Security Standards Council, which created global security requirements for payment data and assurance programs to validate implementation. He later served as the Council's Chief Standards Architect and Chief Technology Officer for 15 years.

Troy has advised enterprises, regulators, standards bodies, and security leaders worldwide on cybersecurity assurance, data protection, cloud security, and operational resilience. He holds a Master of Science in Telecommunications and Network Management from Syracuse University.

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SESSION
19-A

PRESENTATION

AI H.O.P.E.
AI for People, Purposes, and a Future worth building

Speakers **Karthik Ravindran, Microsoft**

Abstract

We don't have an AI gap. We have an impact gap.

Companies are pouring money into AI, yet most can't point to real results. Why? Because they started with the technology instead of the people it's meant to serve. In this talk, we will unpack with applied learnings, the less spoken of fundamentals of leading impactful AI transformation, framed as **AI H.O.P.E.**

AI's success or failure hinges on four deceptively simple decisions: putting **humans first**, since AI doesn't transform businesses — people and their purposes do; **optimizing choices** between deterministic and probabilistic intelligence instead of defaulting to AI for everything; treating your compute budget like real money because bad economics kills good innovation — **prizing your tokens**; and **enriching AI with context**, because a model without your history, your people, and your data is just a smart new hire guessing on day one.

The takeaway is a reframe of the question every leader should be asking. Not "how much did we automate?" but "how many people and purposes did we empower to achieve more?" Because the future of AI was never about machines getting smarter — it's about people reaching their full potential. That's a future worth building.

Biography

Karthik Ravindran
General Manager, Worldwide Go-to-Market for Azure Data
Microsoft



Karthik has been with Microsoft for over 25 years, focused on leading data and AI transformation investments for the past 15 years. Karthik has led data teams for Microsoft products and internal business operations, including Microsoft's first internal data office. He led product and engineering for the Microsoft Purview Data Governance solution. In his current role as the GM for Microsoft's Data Platforms GTM, he is responsible for Microsoft's data platforms go-to-market

strategy and field enablement. Karthik is actively engaged in supporting customer engagements for data and AI transformation. He is an active speaker at events and publisher of content on the subject on LinkedIn. Karthik serves as a board member for the EDMC (Enterprise Data Management Council), a vendor neutral organization serving global data leaders. He was recognized as a Top 100 CDOs in the US in 2025 by the CDO Magazine.

SESSION
19-B

PRESENTATION

Why Data Initiatives Fail Before Technology Ever Becomes the Problem

Speaker

Stacie Christensen, H-E-B

Abstract

Most organizations do not struggle with data because of technology. They struggle because of how data is structured, governed, interpreted, and aligned across the business. This session explores why so many data initiatives fail long before tooling becomes the issue, and how organizations can improve usability, decision-making, and operational alignment through clearer ownership, simpler structures, and disciplined data practices. Drawing from real enterprise experience across data, eCommerce, and governance transformation efforts, this session focuses on the organizational realities behind successful data ecosystems.

Biography

Stacie Christensen

Senior Engineering Manager
H-E-B



Stacie Christensen is a senior data and engineering leader with more than 20 years of experience across enterprise technology, data strategy, digital commerce, and organizational transformation.

She specializes in enterprise data strategy, Master Data Management (MDM), Product Information Management (PIM), and data governance, with a focus on helping organizations create scalable and usable data ecosystems that support real-world decision-making.

Stacie currently leads enterprise MDM and PIM initiatives at H-E-B, helping introduce modern data practices and governance frameworks within one of the largest private retailers in the United States.

She is the author of Built on Data, a practical examination of how organizations move from fragmented data environments toward structured, governed, and usable data foundations. Her work focuses on simplifying complexity, improving organizational alignment, and bridging the gap between data theory and operational reality.

Stacie holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics, an MBA from Texas State University, and is currently pursuing her Doctor of Business Administration (DBA).

SESSION
19-C

PRESENTATION

Adopting Metadata-First: The New Data Operating System

Speaker

Larry Shiller, Shiller & Company, Inc.

Abstract

Many organizations regard metadata solely as documentation, which misses out on its superpower. Properly treated, metadata is a disruptive, first-class citizen that serves as the control plane for every data product, policy, and model in your organization.

You'll learn why metadata-first is the new operating system for data-driven enterprises, and why "non-contentful code" is the new north star. See how leading CDOs use metadata to automate governance, accelerate self-service, scale data products and deliver audit-ready, policy-enforced, explainable AI.

Ignore this shift, and your data and AI will scale mistakes faster than it scales value.

Biography

Larry Shiller

President
Shiller & Company, Inc.



Having earned degrees from M.I.T. and Harvard Business School, Larry Shiller is a data strategist, author, and advisor known for helping organizations turn complex data ecosystems into engines of clarity and value. He is the author of Metadata-First: The Future of Data, which argues that metadata is the true foundation and driver of trustworthy analytics, scalable governance, and AI readiness.

Larry has spent more than two decades guiding enterprises through data modernization, metadata transformation, and the shift to product-centric operating models. His work blends technical depth with a practical focus on business outcomes. He has advised Fortune 500 companies, public institutions, and high-growth firms on how to build data capabilities that endure.

A frequent speaker at industry conferences, Larry is recognized for his clear thinking, plain language, and ability to make complex ideas accessible. His mission is simple: help leaders build data systems that people trust and use.

SESSION
19-D

PRESENTATION

Context as the Cornerstone of AI Governance

Speaker

Martha Dember, Datavail

Abstract

As organizations accelerate AI adoption, governance often falters not from weak controls but from missing context. This session reframes AI governance through a context-first lens, emphasizing that trustworthy AI requires high-quality data, clear intent, and organizational guardrails. Attendees will learn how context spans business purpose, risk tolerance, user roles, regulatory obligations, and lifecycle accountability. Practical guidance will show how policies, metadata, classification, human-in-the-loop design, and monitoring build this foundation. Real-world examples will illustrate how insufficient context leads to bias, hallucinations, and compliance risks—and how strong governance enables safe, transparent, and scalable AI value.

Biography

Martha Dember

Global Head of AI Governance
Datavail



Accomplished and respected IT executive with over two decades of experience and a unique blend of deep technology and strong people skills that allow her to align business needs with IT capabilities. Expert in directing solutions to complex challenges and leading visionary programs which include AI, Analytics and Data Governance implementations. Credited as one of the founding principles of Data Governance, published the first Data Governance Maturity Model at DAMA Conference in 2004. As the Director of Data Governance, she modernized BI environments and designed the future state architectures. This includes state-of-the-art infrastructure stacks, Data Governance Roadmap, Data Quality and Master Data Management [MDM] roadmap and organizational structure. Certified AIGP via IAPP's AI Governance Professional training.

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19-E

PRESENTATION

TBD

Speaker **TBD**

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Biography

TBD

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TBD



TBD

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SESSION 20

TOWN HALL MEETING

In this townhall meeting, we will summarize the highlights of the Symposium. Importantly, we would like to solicit your informative feedback for 2026 and take a virtual group photo together. Thank you all for attending the Symposium!

Host

Dr. Richard Wang
Founder and Executive Director
CDOIQ Program

Dr. Richard Y. Wang

Founder and Executive Director
Chief Data Officer & Information Quality Program (CDOIQ)



Richard Y. Wang is Director of the Chief Data Officer and Information Quality (CDOIQ) Program. He is a pioneer and leader in the research and practice of Chief Data Officer (CDO). Dr. Wang has significant credentials across government, industry, and academia. He conceived and chaired the Inaugural MIT-Army CDO Forum, and established the CDO Forum as an annual event at MIT. In addition, he has been chairing the Annual MIT CDOIQ Symposium since 2007. Dr. Wang was a professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management for almost a decade. From 2005-2009, he was appointed as a Visiting University Professor of Information Quality, University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is an Honorary Professor at Xi'An Jiao Tong University, China.

Dr. Wang has put the term Information Quality on the intellectual map with myriad publications. In 1996, Prof. Wang organized the premier International Conference on Information Quality, which he has served as the general conference chair and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Dr. Wang's books on information quality include Journey to Data Quality (MIT Press, 2006), Information Quality: Advances in Management Information Systems (M.E. Sharpe, 2005), Introduction to Information Quality (MITIQ Publications, 2005), Data Quality (Kluwer Academic, 2001), and Quality Information and Knowledge (Prentice Hall, 1999).

Prof. Wang has been instrumental in the establishment of the Ph.D. and Master of Science in Information Quality degree program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Stuart Madnick IQ Best Paper Award for the International Conference on Information Quality, the comprehensive IQ Ph.D. dissertations website, and the Donald Ballou & Harry Pazer IQ Ph.D. Dissertation Award.

Dr. Wang is the recipient of the 2005 DAMA International Achievement Award. Previous recipients of this award include Codd for inventing the Relational Data model and Chen for the Entity Relationship model.

In 2005, he received a certificate of appreciation from the Director of Central Intelligence and a thank you letter from the Director of National Intelligence. From 2009-2011, Dr. Wang served as the Deputy CDO and Chief Data Quality Officer of the U.S. Army, for which he received letters of appreciation from the Army's Chief Information Officer, and the CIO at the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He received a Ph.D. in Information Technology from the MIT Sloan School of Management in 1985.

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