

AGENDA

The Future of IT & Cybersecurity CIO & CISO Think Tank

SPEAKERS



Vinod Kushawaha
VP Data Governance
[Bank of Hope](#)



Rakesh Mekala
Data Product
Management
(Principal - Chief
Data Office)
[DIRECTV](#)



Erin Boyd
Chief Digital
Commercial
Transformation
Officer
[The AES Corporation](#)



Ray Austad
Head of Operational
Risk Management
[Farmers Insurance](#)



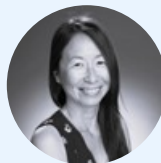
Joshua Bailey
Sr. Manager,
Analytics
[CVS Health](#)



Alvin Joseph
CIO
[Orora](#)



Blake Gillan
Director of DTC
Technology
[Merchsource](#)



Anja Dang
Head of Global
Analytics & AI
Strategy
[Herbalife Nutrition](#)



Michael Burroughs
Global Head of IT
(CISO)
[BioMarin
Pharmaceutical Inc](#)



Duan Peng
Former SVP Global
Data & AI
[Warner Bros.
Discovery](#)



Feroz Merchhiya
CIO & CISO
[City of Santa Monica](#)



Jennifer Krolikowski
CIO
[Space Systems
Command](#)



Jamil Badrudeen
VP - AI & Financial
Engineering
[State Street](#)



Jeff Urnaza
Vice President
Systems Engineering
[Fortinet](#)



Micah Resley
Director IT &
Facilities
[Robbins Brothers
Fine Jewelers](#)



Karl Escarcha
Assoc Director of
Inventory Control &
Master Data
[Dr. Squatch](#)



Dr. Chris Pierson
CEO and Founder
[BlackCloak](#)



Winter Richard
Owner
[RJW Consulting](#)



Jivko Varlakov
Sr. Manager
DevSecOps & AI
Security
Hilton Worldwide



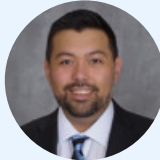
Josh Orenstein
CTO
Lindeman &
Associates



Eduardo Angeles
EVP, Infrastructure &
Cyber Security
Hispanic Scholarship
Fund



Tin Zaw
Director Tech
Enablement
Verizon



Chris Garlington
Director, Enterprise
Compliance
The Walt Disney Co



Atul Mehta
Enterprise Data
Architect
Oaktree



Stephen Alford
CIO/CSO
Worldwide
Environmental
Products



David Williamson
CIO
Abzena

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June 05, 2025

Pacific Time

Registration

8:30 AM-9:00 AM

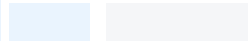
CHAIR PANELISTS



Morning Networking

9:00 AM-9:30 AM

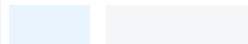
CHAIR PANELISTS



Opening Remarks

9:30 AM-9:40 AM

CHAIR PANELISTS



VISION VOICES KEYNOTE

9:40 AM-10:05 AM

Bridging the Gap: Mastering the Art of Business-Technology Harmony

Bridging the gap between business and technology is not easy and requires discipline and balance between technology, people, and business. For so many organizations today, technology is the business. Technology needs to be understood as a critical enabler in every part of the organization from the front line to the back office. It creates new value by crunching data to deliver new insights, it spurs innovation, and it disrupts traditional business models.

For business and technology leaders alike, new actions and behavioral changes can help their organizations make this shift. CIOs and CISOs must take responsibility for problems, they should convey that when technology fails, many people typically share responsibility.

CHAIR PANELISTS

KEYNOTE


10:10 AM-10:35 AM

Simplifying Security: Understanding SASE Fundamentals

Join us as we demystify Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) and its foundational components, which have significantly transformed the cybersecurity landscape since Gartner first introduced the concept nearly five years ago. Jeff will guide you through the evolution from traditional network security to SASE, offering a clear breakdown of key concepts such as Security Service Edge (SSE), single-vendor SASE, and Unified SASE. As SASE continues to reshape security strategies for enterprises globally, understanding these components is crucial for evaluating and selecting the right solution for your organization amidst the surrounding hype.

Discover practical ways to streamline your security strategy and enhance your defenses in today's complex hybrid work environment. Learn how to leverage SASE to ensure consistent security across distributed locations, secure cloud applications, and robust protection of data in an increasingly dynamic cloud ecosystem. This keynote will equip you with the insights and strategies needed to adapt to modern security challenges and optimize your security posture effectively.

CHAIR PANELISTS



Jeff Urnaza
Vice President
Systems Engineering
Fortinet

Coffee Break

10:35 AM-10:55 AM

CHAIR PANELISTS

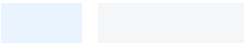
VISION VOICES

10:55 AM-11:10 AM

Data Revolution Leadership: CIOs at the Helm of Modernization for Strategic Value

This session explores the pivotal role of CIOs in modernizing data to unlock its full value. In the contemporary digital landscape, data stands as a strategic asset, and CIOs are at the forefront of harnessing its potential. The abstract emphasizes the CIO's responsibility in implementing cutting-edge technologies and data management strategies that go beyond mere storage, enabling organizations to derive actionable insights. By adopting innovative approaches, such as advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and cloud solutions, CIOs can transform data into a valuable resource, driving efficiency, innovation, and informed decision-making across the enterprise. The discussion delves into the evolving responsibilities of CIOs in leading the charge towards data modernization, ensuring organizations remain competitive and agile in an increasingly data-centric world.

CHAIR PANELISTS



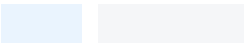
DISRUPTOR

11:15 AM-11:30 AM

Building Cyber Fortitude: CISO Strategies for Resilient Cybersecurity

In the realm of building cyber resilience, organizations confront increased risk exposure amidst bold moves and evolving external challenges. Despite investments in technology and data, risk leaders, including CISOs, express difficulty in keeping pace with the persistent threat of cyber crises. However, in today's business landscape, discussions of digital transformation or reinvention are inseparable from considerations of cybersecurity. Looking ahead, stakeholders, from the board to frontline cybersecurity operations, pose critical questions about resiliency. This includes inquiries about the adequacy of efforts to safeguard the company and its customers in the face of cyber attacks. The focus shifts to identifying opportunities to minimize the impact on business and shareholder value through effective threat response. Embracing cybersecurity as a whole-of-business endeavor, organizations are urged to align themselves with business owners, adapting to changes in the cyber landscape and fortifying resilience against disruptions. Building confidence in the cybersecurity program becomes paramount in navigating the dynamic and challenging cyber landscape effectively.

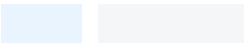
CHAIR PANELISTS



Lunch & Disruptor Showcase

11:30 AM-12:30 PM

CHAIR PANELISTS



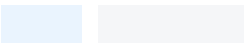
LUNCH & DISRUPTOR SHOWCASE

12:10 PM-12:25 PM

Elevating Agility: The Strategic Imperative for CIOs in Prioritizing Cloud Engineering

In this session, we delve into the imperative for CIOs to prioritize cloud engineering in the contemporary digital landscape. As organizations increasingly rely on cloud computing for operational efficiency and innovation, CIOs play a central role in shaping robust strategies. The session emphasizes the strategic importance of cloud engineering in optimizing infrastructure, ensuring scalability, and fostering agile application development. Attendees will explore practical approaches to resource management, automation, and aligning cloud initiatives with overarching business goals. The discussion navigates the evolving realm of cloud technologies, highlighting how CIOs can strategically prioritize cloud engineering to drive competitiveness and resilience in the dynamic digital ecosystem.

CHAIR PANELISTS



VISION VOICES

12:30 PM-12:45 PM

Navigating the Cyber Frontier: CISO Strategies for Effective Risk Management

In the context of effective cyber risk management, the challenge lies in keeping up with evolving technology, particularly during cloud or technology transformations. The adoption of threat intelligence, GenAI, the metaverse, and machine learning presents both opportunities and challenges, with a need for technology leaders to grasp the security implications. While these technologies enhance cyber risk management, they also offer efficiencies through task automation. Striking a balance between risks and rewards is crucial for gaining trust and staying competitive. Looking forward, organizations must explore innovative approaches to cyber risk management, emphasizing resilience against third-party risks. Collaboration with the leadership team is essential to take an enterprise-wide view of current and future threats, develop action plans, safeguard critical assets, and facilitate quick recovery. Early collaboration with the executive team is encouraged to integrate risk management into transformation strategies and extract maximum benefits from emerging technologies.

CHAIR PANELISTS

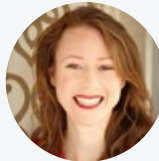
PANEL

12:50 PM-1:35 PM

Strategic Shifts: Reimagining Engineering Talent Deployment and Management in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Unlock insights into the evolving landscape of talent deployment and retention as board expectations drive CIOs and CISOs to rethink traditional IT talent models. Explore the impact of GenAI on coding processes and the software engineering lifecycle, and discover strategies for optimizing talent allocation and headcounts. Gain actionable insights into defining new roles, cultivating essential skills, and charting GenAI-centric career paths to align with organizational goals and stay ahead in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

CHAIR PANELISTS



Erin Boyd
Chief Digital
Commercial
Transformation
Officer
[The AES Corporation](#)

VISION VOICES

1:55 PM-2:10 PM

Data Empowerment: A CISO's Guide to Unlocking Strategic Value Safely

CISOs are challenged to redefine their role not only as guardians of security but also as enablers of responsible and innovative data utilization. This directive emphasizes the importance of striking a balance between data protection and leveraging the full potential of organizational data assets. CISOs must collaborate with stakeholders to establish robust data governance frameworks, ensuring compliance with privacy regulations while facilitating the ethical and strategic use of data. By unlocking the value of data, CISOs contribute to the organization's competitiveness, innovation, and overall digital transformation. This session explores strategies for

CISOs to harness the power of data responsibly, thereby positioning cybersecurity as an integral driver of business success in the data-driven era.

CHAIR PANELISTS

FIRESIDE CHAT

2:15 PM-2:50 PM

The Vulnerable C-Suite: Why Personal Cybersecurity is the New Frontline for CISOs

Businesses and their leadership teams are increasingly being targeted – physically and digitally. Research from The Ponemon Institute shows that 42% of CISOs report attacks targeting executives' personal lives – a number that will only climb as cybercriminals evolve their attack methods.

Cybercriminals are increasingly leveraging executives' personal digital presence as an entry point into corporate networks. Traditional cybersecurity focuses on corporate systems, leaving executives' personal digital lives exposed – creating a significant risk vector for organizations.

This Fireside Chat between Richard and Chris is going to explore the ways that CISOs and CSOs can address this phenomenon to protect leadership, corporate assets, and brand reputation.

PANELISTS



Dr. Chris Pierson
CEO and Founder
BlackCloak



David Williamson
CIO
Abzena

DISRUPTOR

2:55 PM-3:10 PM

Cybersecurity Leadership in the Era of AI and ML: Navigating Innovation and Responsibility

In the dynamic realm of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), CISOs play a pivotal role in leveraging these advancements for enhanced cybersecurity. Strategic integration of AI and ML is essential for bolstering security measures, optimizing decision-making, and driving innovation. CISOs must adopt a comprehensive approach, considering the entire lifecycle of these technologies to ensure both efficiency and ethical use. Establishing robust governance frameworks becomes paramount, addressing biases, ensuring transparency, and minimizing unintended consequences.

Looking ahead, as AI and ML continue to advance, CISOs face evolving challenges and regulatory considerations. Proactive engagement involves staying informed about changing regulations, particularly in areas such as data privacy and ethical AI practices. CISOs should strive for a tech-enabled understanding of AI and ML systems, encompassing deployment, impact, and security measures. This approach positions organizations to navigate the regulatory landscape effectively, ensuring responsible and competitive integration of AI and ML into cybersecurity strategies.

CHAIR PANELISTS

Networking Break

3:10 PM-3:30 PM

CHAIR PANELISTS

Networking Break

3:10 PM-3:30 PM

CHAIR PANELISTS

VISION VOICES

3:30 PM-3:45 PM

Revolutionizing Tomorrow: A Deep Dive into Innovation through Emerging Technologies

In this strategic session designed for Chief Information Officers (CIOs), we delve into the transformative realm of "Innovate through Emerging Tech." As technology stewards, CIOs play a pivotal role in navigating the rapidly evolving landscape of emerging technologies—such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the Internet of Things. The session provides CIOs with actionable insights into leveraging these technologies to drive innovation within their organizations. Attendees will explore practical strategies for implementation, addressing potential challenges, and ensuring ethical considerations in adopting these disruptive technologies. Join us to empower your role as a technology leader and discover how CIOs can strategically leverage emerging tech to propel their organizations into the forefront of innovation.

CHAIR PANELISTS

DISRUPTOR

3:50 PM-4:05 PM

In the Cloud We Trust: Elevating Cybersecurity Leadership Amidst Cloud Advancements

In the era of rapid digital transformation, the surge in cloud adoption has revolutionized business operations, demanding a heightened focus on cloud security. CISOs, as guardians of organizational cybersecurity, are at the forefront of navigating this evolution. This session explores the imperative for CISOs to advance cloud security strategies, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive understanding of cloud infrastructure, data protection, and regulatory compliance. As organizations increasingly migrate to cloud environments, CISOs play a pivotal role in orchestrating security measures that not only defend against cyber threats but also foster innovation. A proactive approach to cloud security involves staying abreast of evolving technologies, anticipating regulatory shifts, and implementing robust governance frameworks. This abstract delves into the multifaceted responsibilities of CISOs in ensuring the security, resilience, and compliance of cloud-based operations, ultimately shaping a secure and agile future for organizations in the cloud-centric landscape.

CHAIR PANELISTS

VISION VOICES

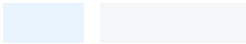
4:10 PM-4:25 PM

Fostering Digital Trailblazers: A Strategic Imperative for CIOs in 2025

Addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by CIOs in the contemporary technological landscape, the imperative to develop transformational leaders takes center stage. The heightened demand for innovation, enterprise-wide transformation, and evolving technology capabilities poses significant hurdles for CIOs, often leading to an overburdened IT department. To navigate this complexity,

the focus shifts towards fostering digital transformation leaders, referred to as digital trailblazers. Gartner highlights leader and manager development as a top priority for HR in 2025, emphasizing the need for CIOs to collaborate with HR in tapping into training and development programs. By cultivating leaders skilled in transformation and change management, CIOs can enhance their department's capacity to oversee initiatives, standardize platforms, and deliver faster results, ultimately reducing friction to change within the organization. Looking ahead to 2025, this strategic approach becomes essential for CIOs seeking to strike the right balance in their digital transformation programs, avoiding the pitfalls of overpromising and under delivering.

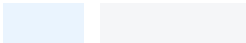
CHAIR PANELISTS



Closing Remarks & Raffle Giveaway

4:25 PM-4:30 PM

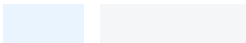
CHAIR PANELISTS



Cocktail Hour

4:30 PM-5:30 PM

CHAIR PANELISTS



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