

AGENDA

The Future of IT & Cybersecurity

CIO & CISO Think Tank

SPEAKERS



Brian Greenberg

CIO
RHR International



Peter-John Byrnes

Manager, IT
Infrastructure &
Security
Above Lending



Michael LaRue

Deputy Director of
Software Delivery &
Data
University of Illinois
Chicago



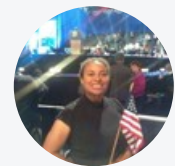
David Evans

Group Data
Protection Officer
Alter Domus



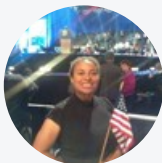
Russ Felker

CTO
MegaCorp Logistics



April Welch

AVP, Strategic
Initiatives
Illinois Institute of
Technology



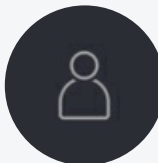
April Welch

AVP, Strategic
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Illinois Institute of
Technology



Kevin Steele

CIO
Feeding America



Sid Chakravarty

VP Performance
Insights (Analytics)
Financial Service
Industry Leader



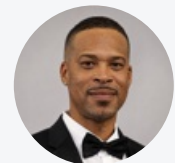
John Hummel

CTO
Community Unit
School District 300



Elizabeth Johnson

Global Director,
Data Integrity &
Strategic
Governance
Ipsos



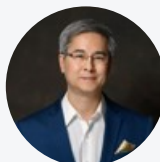
Charles Wiggins

Founder & CEO
AlterEnable



Vijay Jakka

Global Data & AI
Practice Leader
Sankhya



George Wang

CMO
Peterson Technology
Partners



Pete Nicoletti

Global CISO,
Americas
Check Point



Kevin Dattolico

CEO, Americas
Syntax



Sugato Bose

Chief Enterprise
Architect
Medline Industries



Sandeep Nema

Head of Enterprise
Architecture /
Director
Cook County



John Barnett
Lead Enterprise Architect
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association



Wendy Betts
CISO
Rotary International



Ram Tyagi
CIO
Government Industry



Shawn Surber
Solutions Engineering Director
Island



Oded Hareven
Co-Founder & CEO
Akeyless Security



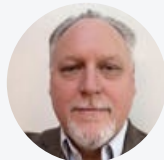
Amir Shavitt
Head of Research
Zafran Security



Yael Gomez
Fractional CIO / CTO | Former
Walgreens Boots Alliance



Shirley Mui-Lyles
Principal Consultant
Optimus Risk Management, LLC



Todd Walker
Senior Network and Security Engineer
Fortinet



Ross Esguerra
Former Director Cloud & Systems Engineering
Hyatt Hotels Corporation



Jeff Wolniakowski
CIO
Sage Equity Partners



Michael Allen
Head of Technology and Product
Morningstar



Grant Ecker
Chief Architect / VP of Enterprise Architecture
ECOLAB



Easwaran Nadhan
Chief Quantum Ambassador
QuantaCyber



Sid Chakravarty
VP, Advanced Modeling and Forecasting
Synchrony



Naimish Shah
CIO
Fastmore Logistics

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April 09, 2026

Central Time

Registration

8:30 AM-9:00 AM

Morning Networking

9:00 AM-9:30 AM

Opening Remarks

9:30 AM-9:40 AM

KEYNOTE

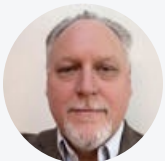
9:40 AM-10:05 AM

SASE in 2026: An Enterprise Roadmap for Scalable, and Converged Networking and Security

Enterprises are at a pivotal moment in their security and networking evolution. Hybrid work is permanent, cloud and SaaS adoption continue to accelerate, and AI-driven threats are increasing both in speed and sophistication. As users, applications, and data move beyond the traditional perimeter, enterprises must deliver consistent security and optimized access—everywhere—without increasing operational complexity.

This keynote explores how Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) provides a unified, architecture-driven approach to converging networking and security. Attendees will gain a practical roadmap for evolving toward a scalable SASE strategy in 2026—one that strengthens identity-centric controls, simplifies operations, reduces architectural sprawl, and enables enterprises to modernize incrementally while protecting existing investments.

SPEAKER



Todd Walker

Senior Network and
Security Engineer
Fortinet

PANEL

10:10 AM-10:55 AM

Chief Architect Network: Designing Adaptive Enterprises in the Future Age of Emerging Technologies

Emerging technologies are no longer isolated innovations, they are converging forces reshaping the enterprise core. From agentic AI and quantum computing to edge intelligence, composable architectures, and post-quantum security, today’s Chief Architects are redefining how organizations design for resilience, speed, and scale.

This high-impact panel brings together leading Chief Architects to explore how enterprise architecture must evolve to support autonomous systems, real-time data ecosystems, and cloud-native platforms—without compromising governance, interoperability, or long-term sustainability. The discussion will move beyond hype to focus on practical design patterns, modernization strategies, and architectural principles that enable innovation at scale.

CHAIR



John Barnett
Lead Enterprise Architect
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

PANELISTS



Sandeep Nema
Head of Enterprise Architecture / Director
Cook County



Jeff Wolniakowski
CIO
Sage Equity Partners



Easwaran Nadhan
Chief Quantum Ambassador
QuantaCyber

Coffee Break

10:55 AM-11:15 AM

Responsible AI Enablement: Balancing Innovation, Governance, and Control in the Enterprise

CIOs face increasing pressure to deliver on the promise of generative AI while maintaining strong governance, visibility, and compliance. As browser-based AI tools proliferate across the workforce, the challenge has shifted from adoption to responsible enablement. Employees are integrating AI into workflows to achieve new efficiencies, but often through unapproved or unmanaged applications that expose the enterprise to data leakage and compliance risks.

In this session, CIOs and IT decision-makers will learn how to strike the right balance between productivity and control. This session will explore the operational, security, and compliance implications of “Shadow AI,” reveal how sensitive data finds its way out of the enterprise and into unauthorized AI tools, and share strategies for establishing policies that unlock AI's potential safely. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of how to maintain governance and visibility while empowering their organizations to capture the full business value of AI.

SPEAKER



Shawn Surber

Solutions
Engineering
Director
Island

FIRESIDE CHAT

11:45 AM-12:20 PM

Know and address your AI Project risks before an incident!

Most companies are rushing headlong into AI projects. The BOD and Executives would rather get a speeding ticket than a parking ticket! They demand the ROI, efficiencies, and competitive advantages that are obtained with a well-planned and executed AI Project. In this fireside chat, a long-time AI expert will describe the phases of AI adoption and the risks encountered, as well as the various AI Risk Frameworks that can be used to identify risks that your project will encounter. Next, he will dive into countermeasures that are necessary to prevent the next AI-enabled security event. Multiple resources will be shared that you can use immediately.

CHAIR



Shirley Mui-Lyles

Principal Consultant
Optimus Risk Management, LLC

SPEAKERS



Pete Nicoletti

Global CISO,
Americas
Check Point



David Evans

Group Data
Protection Officer
Alter Domus

PANEL

12:25 PM-1:10 PM

Beyond Transformation: Building Digital Foundations That Last

As organizations move beyond the initial wave of digital transformation, many face a new challenge: sustaining progress without burning out. This panel explores what comes after transformation - how to build digital foundations that endure.

CHAIR



Ross Esguerra

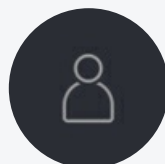
Former Director
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Sid Chakravarty

VP Performance
Insights (Analytics)
Financial Service
Industry Leader



Vijay Jakka

Global Data & AI
Practice Leader
Sankhya

Lunch & Networking

1:10 PM-2:00 PM

PANEL

2:00 PM-2:45 PM

Securing the Rise of Agentic AI: Trust, Control, and Resilience in Autonomous Systems

As agentic AI systems evolve from experimental tools to enterprise-grade digital workers—capable of making decisions, taking actions, and adapting in real time—they introduce a new paradigm of both possibility and risk. Unlike traditional automation, agentic AI operates with greater autonomy, raising urgent questions for security leaders: How do we ensure control? How do we manage risk when systems learn, act, and adapt independently?

This panel will explore the security implications of deploying agentic AI across business operations—from data privacy and decision integrity to real-time threat mitigation and adversarial AI risks. We'll dive into the intersection of governance, identity management, and AI observability, and how CISOs can build frameworks that safeguard both the systems and the outcomes.

CHAIR



Yael Gomez

Fractional CIO /
CTO | Former
Walgreens Boots
Alliance

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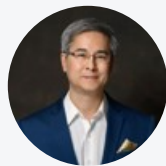
Manager, IT
Infrastructure &
Security
Above Lending

Rearchitecting the Enterprise for Agentic AI: Control, Collaboration, and the Next Frontier of Automation

Agentic AI, autonomous systems that perceive, reason, and act with minimal human intervention is poised to redefine how work gets done. As these intelligent agents move beyond experimentation into enterprise-scale deployments, organizations must prepare to fundamentally rearchitect their digital environments.

This panel will explore how leaders can operationalize agentic AI to drive efficiency, creativity, and strategic advantage while preserving oversight, governance, and trust. Discussion topics will include designing workflows around autonomous decision-making, managing human-agent collaboration, and navigating emerging risks such as bias, security, and operational drift. Join us as we unpack what it truly means to lead in an era of intelligent, action-oriented AI and how to ensure these agents serve both your innovation goals and core business values.

CHAIR



George Wang

CMO
Peterson Technology
Partners

SPEAKERS



Sugato Bose

Chief Enterprise
Architect
Medline Industries



Michael LaRue

Deputy Director of
Software Delivery &
Data
University of Illinois
Chicago



Michael Allen

Head of
Technology and
Product
Morningstar

DISRUPTOR

3:40 PM-3:55 PM

AI Broke Your VM Program. Here Is How to Fix It

Vulnerability exploitation has surged to the top of the initial access vector charts, CVE volumes are at a record high, and AI has collapsed the exploitation window to near zero. Yet most organizations are still running scan-and-patch programs built on CVSS scores that were never designed for this reality. The answer starts with data and context: runtime presence, internet exposure, business criticality, compensating controls, and threat intelligence. These are what separate signal from noise, and the foundation of the shift from traditional VM to Continuous Threat Exposure Management. Built on that foundation, agentic AI is the only answer that matches the scale of the problem, turning a manual, backlogged remediation process into an autonomous operation driven by intelligence.

SPEAKER



Amir Shavitt
Head of Research
Zafran Security

Networking Break

3:55 PM-4:10 PM

The Human Side of Tech: Why Soft Skills Are the Real Superpower

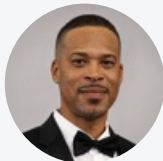
In a world obsessed with digital transformation, AI, and automation, it's easy to forget the power of human connection. But the truth is—technology doesn't lead, people do. As roles evolve and teams become more cross-functional, the ability to listen, influence, adapt, and collaborate has become just as critical as technical expertise.

Today's CIOs, CISOs, and tech leaders are expected not only to drive innovation, but to communicate across departments, manage diverse teams, and navigate uncertainty with empathy and clarity. Emotional intelligence, storytelling, active listening, and resilience are no longer "nice to have"—they're essential for anyone leading in a fast-moving, high-stakes environment.

Nowhere is this leadership shift more relevant than in the US particularly in Chicago, a city built on creativity, reinvention, and cultural diversity. Here, the ability to connect across perspectives isn't just a professional skill—it's a way of life. As tech and business worlds converge, Chicago's unique blend of innovation and human-centered thinking offers the perfect backdrop to explore how soft skills are reshaping the future of leadership.

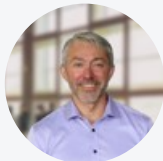
This session dives into why the most successful executives are blending EQ with IQ to inspire trust, build alignment, and drive lasting impact.

CHAIR

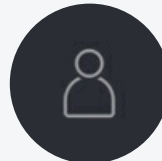


Charles Wiggins
Founder & CEO
AlterEnable

SPEAKERS



Russ Felker
CTO
MegaCorp Logistics



Sid Chakravarty
VP Performance
Insights (Analytics)
Financial Service
Industry Leader

Closing Remarks & Raffle Giveaway

4:40 PM-4:50 PM

Cocktail Reception

4:50 PM-5:30 PM

TOGETHER WITH



