

AGENDA

The Future of IT & Cybersecurity CIO & CISO Think Tank

SPEAKERS



Sue Bergamo
Partner
Cyber Scale



Melissa Ouari
VP and CISO
Money Management
International



Wes Kusmaul
CIO
Authenticity Institute



Stanley Egbor
Director U.S.
Technology
Transformation &
Risk
Sun Life Financial



Jennifer Kinne
Director, AI Risk &
Governance
Harvard University



Nitin Chawla
Sr Director,
Enterprise
Architecture
Schneider Electric



Jim Haynie
CIO/CISO
New England IT
Security Consortium



Rahul Parikh
Head of Security
Engineering,
Architecture, and
Operations
Zinnia



Quinton Jones
Information Systems
Security Officer
NIH



Anatoly Podstrelov
Global Head of IT
and Security
EDETEK Inc.



Charlotte Edwards
VP Operations
Cyberwolf Inc.



Michael Hilborn
Director, Platform
Engineering &
Operations
Harvard Business
School Online



Hugo Huang
Director, Public
Cloud Alliance
Canonical



Tulika Biswas
Director, Enterprise
Portfolio
Management &
Execution
Mapfre



Ben Sherman
Field Technical
Officer
Fortinet



Naith Faruque
Head of Enterprise
Security &
Infrastructure & IT
Operations
Genetix
Biotherapeutics



Harish Mekerira
VP, Platform
Engineering
Clean Harbors



Michael Meyer
vCISO
Highlight
Technologies



Nirva Fereshetian
CIO
CBT Architects

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May 05, 2026

Eastern Time

Registration

8:30 AM-9:15 AM

Morning Networking

9:15 AM-10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

10:00 AM-10:10 AM

KEYNOTE

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

10:10 AM-10:35 AM

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.

PANELISTS



Ben Sherman
Field Technical
Officer
Fortinet

KEYNOTE PANEL

10:40 AM-11:25 AM

From AI Hype to Enterprise Impact: The Missing Role of Human Intelligence

Despite significant investment in AI, many organizations are struggling to translate experimentation into measurable business outcomes. The challenge is less about the technology itself and more about how it is integrated with human decision-making, leadership, and organizational readiness.

This panel will explore why AI initiatives often stall after initial pilots and what it takes to scale them effectively across the enterprise. The discussion will focus on the balance between artificial intelligence and human intelligence, highlighting the importance of governance, business context, and leadership in driving real impact.

Panelists will share practical perspectives on embedding AI into workflows, avoiding the pitfalls of automating broken processes, and building the foundational capabilities required for scale. The session will provide executives with a clear lens on how to align technology, people, and risk management to turn AI into sustained business value.

PANELISTS



Harish Mekerira
VP, Platform
Engineering
Clean Harbors



Nitin Chawla
Sr Director,
Enterprise
Architecture
Schneider Electric

Coffee Break

11:25 AM-11:45 AM

FIRESIDE CHAT

11:45 AM-12:20 PM

Mental Fatigue, Burnout & the Human Risk Factor in Technology and Cybersecurity

Technology and Cybersecurity isn't just a technical challenge it's a human one. With mounting pressure, 24/7 threats, and increasing accountability, today's workforce is under immense stress. This leadership roundtable explores the intersection of mental wellness, organizational resilience, and insider risk. Topics include burnout detection, human error trends, building psychologically safe teams, and fostering a culture where security isn't just enforced but owned. Learn how executives are rethinking workforce sustainability in security, with practical strategies for retention, performance, and mental clarity at every level

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Quinton Jones
Information Systems
Security Officer
NIH

DISRUPTOR

12:25 PM-12:40 PM

The Silent Breach: How cognitive bias fuels executive cyber risk

Every leader is human, and that's exactly what makes them vulnerable. In this keynote, Charlotte Edwards, VP operations at Cyberwolf, shows how unconscious cognitive biases quietly make CEOs and board members far more vulnerable than we often realize.

Based on 100+ real-world exposure scans for high-profile leaders, Charlotte shares how optimism, authority and fast decision-making creates security gaps, and what CISOs can do to close them without adding friction.

A human look at the blind spots that matter most, and how to turn them into stronger protection.

PANELISTS



Charlotte Edwards
VP Operations
Cyberwolf Inc.

Lunch & Networking

12:40 PM-1:40 PM

FIRESIDE CHAT

1:40 PM-2:15 PM

The Future of Cyber Resilience: Winning in a World of Constant Threats

In an era of escalating cyber threats, evolving attack surfaces, and accelerated digital transformation, traditional security models are no longer enough. This keynote will explore what it means to build cyber resilience in today's complex environment—where speed, adaptability, and business alignment are paramount. From securing hybrid and multi-cloud environments to integrating AI-driven threat intelligence, we'll examine how leaders can future-proof their security strategies while enabling innovation. Learn how to shift from reactive defense to proactive resilience, ensuring your organization can not only withstand but thrive amid disruption.

CHAIR



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PANEL

2:20 PM-3:05 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 Boston, 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, Boston'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.

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Nirva Fereshtian
CIO
CBT Architects

Networking Break

3:05 PM-3:25 PM

PANEL

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

3:25 PM-4:10 PM

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.

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Authenticity Institute



Stanley Egbor
Director U.S.
Technology
Transformation &
Risk
Sun Life Financial

Closing Remarks & Raffle Giveaway

4:15 PM-4:25 PM

Cocktail Reception

4:30 PM-5:30 PM

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