

AGENDA

The Future of IT & Cybersecurity

CIO & CISO Think Tank

SPEAKERS



Dalia Powers
Former CIO
Humana



Michelle Foley
SVP, Enterprise Data
Truist



Subash Anbu
VP, IT and CIO
Bemis Manufacturing
Company



George Kanyotu
AVP Global
Infrastructure
Services
GM Financial



Venu Vidyashankar
Sr Director, Data &
Analytics
Global Payments.



Manish Chokshi
Cybersecurity leader
in Digital
transformation
HP Inc.



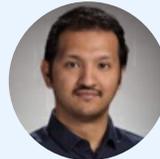
Mubeen Ahmed
VP, Platform
Engineering
Gartner



Eric Poon
Chief Information
and Technology
Officer
Resolute Grid



Mike Madero
VP Information
Security
Mr. Cooper



Manu Cyriac
Head of Digital
Products and
Software Engineering
Harley-Davidson
Motor Company



Martin Bliss
Global Chief of
Architecture (former)
Hilti Group



Srikanth Edula
SVP, Chief Architect
Accommodations
Plus International



Arvind Murali
SVP, Data & AI
IOPEX Technologies



Fern Johnson
Former CTO
Former PepsiCo



Jodi Watkins
President
GTN Solutions



Nick Sims
CIO Advisor | VP-
Level Technology &
Digital
Transformation
NSIMS



Lovelie Moore
BISO
Toyota Financial
Services Corporation



George Pulikkathara
CIO & CISO at iMerit
Technology /
Colonel, Cyber
Operations.
United States Army



Bryan Head
VP of Sales
Scrunch



Nikita Tiffany
EVP
GTN



Harrison Sherwin
Product Education
Specialist
Akeyless Security



Saqib E. Awan
Founder & Managing
Director
Gtm Capital



Benjamin Sabrin
CRO
Arcade



Dennis Oleksyuk
CTO
Aircon AI



Elad Tessler
Co-Founder & CEO
Vero Security



Piyush Patra
Sr. Director, Global
Enterprise
Architecture
CBRE Investment
Management



Prerna Kandhari
SVP, Head of Data
Engineering
Rocket



Jerod Williams
Managing Director
Gznite Governance
Group



**Rameshwar
Balanagu**
Chief Enterprise
Architect
UNFI



Gertrude Van Horn
SVP Information
Systems
Cien.ai



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**Dr. Sharita
Humphrey**
CEO
EcoPower Source Inc.



Ashley Williams
Founder
OwlSagacity



Dorai Babu
Office of the CISO
HP Inc.



**Venugopalan
Vidyashankar**
Sr Director, Cloud
Data & Analytics
Global Payments Inc.

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April 21, 2026

Central Time

PANEL

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

2:00 PM-2:45 PM

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 Dallas, 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, Dallas 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



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Systems
Cien.ai

Lunch & Networking

1:00 PM-2:00 PM

VISION VOICES

From Talent Shortage to Strategic Advantage: Solving the IT Skills Gap at Scale

12:45 PM-1:00 PM

In today's fast-moving digital landscape, organizations are struggling to find, deploy, and retain the right technical talent fast enough to keep pace with transformation initiatives. Skill shortages, rising labor costs, complex global hiring requirements, and slow procurement processes are creating bottlenecks that delay innovation and increase risk.

This session explores how leading organizations are turning talent acquisition into a strategic advantage by leveraging flexible, scalable staffing and managed services models. We'll discuss how to accelerate access to high-quality talent, streamline multi-region workforce management, and reduce operational friction—while maintaining cost efficiency and high service levels. Attendees will gain practical insights into building a more agile, responsive workforce strategy that supports long-term growth and execution at scale.

PANELISTS



Nikita Tiffany
EVP
GTN

PANEL

Embracing Innovation: Best-of-Breed Emerging Technologies from Silicon Valley ... and Beyond!

11:55 AM-12:40 PM

In this strategic session designed for CIOs CISOs and IT Executives, as we dive into the transformative realm of "Innovate through Emerging Tech." As technology stewards, CIOs and CISOs 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 and CISOs 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 and CISOs can strategically leverage emerging tech to propel their organizations into the forefront of innovation. This panel discussion will take you on a journey through the forefront of technological innovation, featuring three visionary solutions poised to revolutionize the digital landscape. These pioneering solutions address pressing challenges faced by organizations worldwide, ranging from permissions management to troubleshooting live applications and system observability.

CHAIR



Saqib E. Awan
Founder & Managing
Director
Gtm Capital

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Bryan Head
VP of Sales
Scrunch



Benjamin Sabrin
CRO
Arcade



Elad Tessler
Co-Founder & CEO
Vero Security

Coffee Break

11:35 AM-11:55 AM

PANEL

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

10:50 AM-11:35 AM

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?

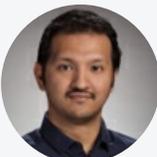
This panel will explore the security implications of deploying agentic AI across business operations—from data privacy and decision integrity to real-time threat mitigation and adversarial AI risks. We'll dive into the intersection of governance, identity management, and AI observability, and how CISOs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

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Dennis Oleksyuk
CTO
Aircon AI

PANEL

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

10:00 AM-10:45 AM

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.

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Global Chief of
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Hilti Group

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Accommodations
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**Rameshwar
Balanagu**
Chief Enterprise
Architect
UNFI

Opening Remarks

9:55 AM-10:00 AM

Morning Networking

9:15 AM-10:00 AM

Registration

8:30 AM-9:15 AM

PANEL

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

2:50 PM-3:35 PM

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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PANEL

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



Nick Sims
CIO Advisor | VP-
Level Technology &
Digital
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[NSIMS](#)

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Pulikkathara**
CIO & CISO at iMerit
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Colonel, Cyber
Operations.
[United States Army](#)



Mike Madero
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[Mr. Cooper](#)



Piyush Patra
Sr. Director, Global
Enterprise
Architecture
[CBRE Investment
Management](#)



Jerod Williams
Managing Director
[Gznite Governance
Group](#)

Closing Remarks & Raffle Giveaway

Cocktail Reception

TOGETHER WITH



AKEYLESS



Axonius



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VERO