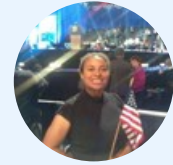


# The Future of IT & Cybersecurity

# 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  
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AVP, Strategic  
Initiatives  
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**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  
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**Wendy Betts**  
CISO  
[Rotary International](#)

**Ram Tyagi**  
CIO  
[City of Aurora](#)

**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**  
VP Chief Enterprise  
Architecture  
ECOLAB

**Easwaran Nadhan**  
Board Chair  
The HDF Group

**Sid Chakravarty**  
VP Performance  
Insights (Analytics)  
Synchrony

**Naimish Shah**  
CIO  
Fastmore Logistics

[Click Here to Register](#)

 **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**

**PANEL**

**Beyond Transformation: Building Digital  
Foundations That Last**

**12:25 PM-1:10 PM**

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

Chair image

**Ross Esguerra**  
Former Director  
Cloud & Systems  
Engineering  
Hyatt Hotels  
Corporation

## PANELISTS

**Kevin Dattolico**  
CEO, Americas  
Syntax

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

**Vijay Jakka**  
Global Data & AI  
Practice Leader  
Sankhya

## 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.

## PANELISTS

**Todd Walker**  
Senior Network and  
Security Engineer  
Fortinet

## 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

### PANELISTS

Placeholder for Chair Image	Placeholder for Panelists	
<b>Shirley Mui-Lyles</b> Principal Consultant Optimus Risk Management, LLC	<b>Pete Nicoletti</b> Global CISO, Americas Check Point	<b>David Evans</b> Group Data Protection Officer Alter Domus

## Coffee Break

10:55 AM-11:15 AM

### FIRESIDE CHAT

2:50 PM-3:25 PM

## 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

### PANELISTS

Placeholder for Chair Image	Placeholder for Panelists		
<b>George Wang</b> CMO Peterson Technology Partners	<b>Sugato Bose</b> Chief Enterprise Architect Medline Industries	<b>Michael LaRue</b> Deputy Director of Software Delivery & Data University of Illinois Chicago	<b>Michael Allen</b> Head of Technology and Product Morningstar

## Lunch & Networking

1:10 PM-2:00 PM

### 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	PANELISTS		
 <b>John Barnett</b> Lead Enterprise Architect Blue Cross Blue Shield Association	 <b>Sandeep Nema</b> Head of Enterprise Architecture / Director Cook County	 <b>Jeff Wolniakowski</b> CIO Sage Equity Partners	 <b>Easwaran Nadhan</b> Board Chair The HDF Group

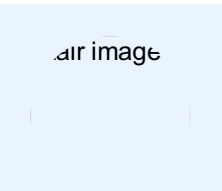
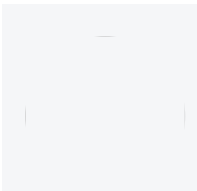
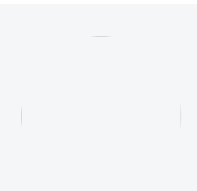
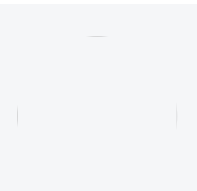
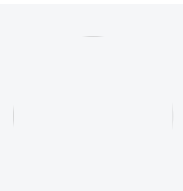
## PANEL

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	PANELISTS			
 <b>Yael Gomez</b> Fractional CIO / CTO I Former Walgreens Boots Alliance	 <b>Ram Tyagi</b> CIO City of Aurora	 <b>Oded Hareven</b> Co-Founder & CEO Akeyless Security	 <b>Wendy Betts</b> CISO Rotary International	 <b>Peter-John Byrnes</b> Manager, IT Infrastructure & Security Above Lending

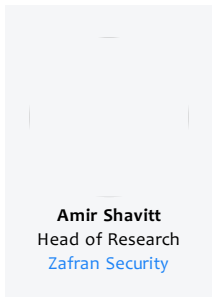
## Networking Break

3:55 PM-4:10 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.

## PANELISTS



Amir Shavitt  
Head of Research  
Zafran Security

## FIRESIDE CHAT

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

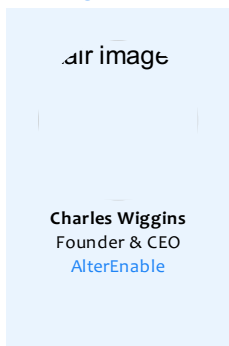
In a world obsessed with digital transformation, AI, and automation, it's easy to forget the power of human connection. But the truth is—technology doesn't lead, people do. As roles evolve and teams become more cross-functional, the ability to listen, influence, adapt, and collaborate has become just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

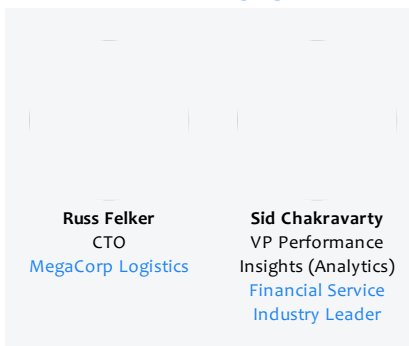
This session dives into why the most successful executives are blending EQ with IQ to inspire trust, build alignment, and drive lasting impact.

## CHAIR



Charles Wiggins  
Founder & CEO  
AlterEnable

## PANELISTS



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

### KEYNOTE

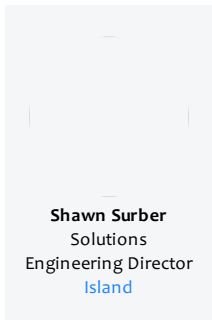
11:15 AM-11:40 AM

## 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.

### PANELISTS



### TOGETHER WITH

