

# 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.



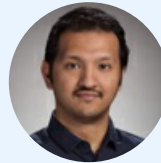
**Mubeen Ahmed**  
VP, Platform  
Engineering  
Gartner



**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



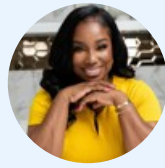
**Rameshwar  
Balanagu**  
Chief Enterprise  
Architect  
UNFI



**Gertrude Van Horn**  
SVP Information  
Systems  
Cien.ai



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SVP Information  
Systems  
Cien.ai



**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



**Fern Johnson**  
Former CTO  
Former PepsiCo

#### PANELISTS



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**Gertrude Van Horn**  
SVP Information  
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

### PANELISTS



**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?

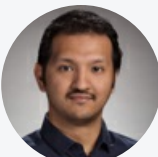
This panel will explore the security implications of deploying agentic AI across business operations—from data privacy and decision integrity to real-time threat mitigation and adversarial AI risks. We'll dive into the intersection of governance, identity management, and AI observability, and how CISOs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

### CHAIR



**Jodi Watkins**  
President  
GTN Solutions

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Akeyless Security



**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.

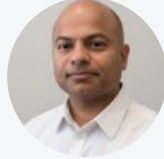
This high-impact panel brings together leading Chief Architects to explore how enterprise architecture must evolve to support autonomous systems, real-time data ecosystems, and cloud-native platforms—without compromising governance, interoperability, or long-term sustainability. The discussion will move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

### CHAIR



**Martin Bliss**  
Global Chief of  
Architecture (former)  
Hilti Group

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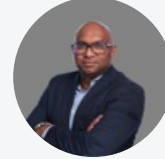
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**Prerna Kandhari**  
SVP, Head of Data  
Engineering  
Rocket



**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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GTN Solutions

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Managing Director  
Gznite Governance  
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**Dalia Powers**  
Former CIO  
Humana



**Venu Vidyashankar**  
Sr Director, Data &  
Analytics  
Global Payments.

## Networking Break

3:35 PM-3:50 PM

### PANEL

3:50 PM-4:25 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



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

#### PANELISTS



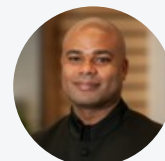
**Georgeo  
Pulikkathara**  
CIO & CISO at iMerit  
Technology /  
Colonel, Cyber  
Operations.  
[United States Army](#)



**Mike Madero**  
VP Information  
Security  
[Mr. Cooper](#)



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



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

## Closing Remarks & Raffle Giveaway

4:25 PM-4:30 PM

## Cocktail Reception

4:30 PM-5:30 PM

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