

Data and AI leaders are navigating a shifting landscape shaped by growing board scrutiny, operational pressure, rapid AI adoption, and increasingly complex, interconnected data ecosystems. As the mandate of the CDAO expands, leaders are no longer just custodians of data infrastructure; they're being called on to shape business strategy, demonstrate measurable value, and turn data and AI into a lasting competpauitive edge for their organizations.

Designed for: Chief Data Officers · Chief Analytics Officers · Chief Data & AI Officers · Chief AI Officers · Heads/VPs/Directors of Data, Analytics and AI

LEADERSHIP & THE CDAO MANDATE	BOARD COMMUNICATION & ROI	TALENT, SKILLS & WORKFORCE	DATA STRATEGY, GOVERNANCE, RISK & COST

WHAT'S NEW IN 2026

- Two focused afternoon roundtable tracks: The Money Track and The People & Trust Track
- Ask Me Anything: Speakers take questions from the room on talent, value, career risk and the realities of leading through budget pressures.
- The New Risk Agenda: A cross-functional panel on AI-powered fraud, deepfakes and incident readiness, featuring data, security, risk and business leaders
- Lessons from AI programmes and who owns the return: Candid conversations on the readiness gates, kill criteria, workflow redesign behind AI initiatives, failure and success stories.
- Governance That Works in Production

When & Where: **December 2, 2026 · The Highland Dallas, Curio Collection by Hilton,** 5300 E Mockingbird Lane

*Questions about the programme? Conference Producer **Emilia Malaj** · emilia.malaj@coriniumgroup.com*

Confirmed Speakers

Joe Constantine, EVP, Chief Strategy & Technology Officer – **ERICSSON AMERICAS**
Vijay Gandra, Global Chief Data Officer – **ACRISURE**
Sachin Ghumre, Senior Vice President, Enterprise Applications & Corporate Functions CIO **— MCKESSON**
Priya Narayan, Managing Director of Technology – **SOUTHWEST AIRLINES**
Yahia Zemoura, Senior Vice President, Director of Enterprise Data & Analytics **– HILLTOP HOLDINGS**
Shahran Haider, Deputy Chief Data Officer – **NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS**
Bo Gu, Director of Data Science & Generative AI – **AT&T**
Karthik Ilangovan, Vice President, Data Analytics and AI/ML – **MODE GLOBAL**

Tom Krusch, Vice President, Transformation **– AT&T**
Rajendra Elumalai, *Vice President and Principal Engineer* – **U.S. BANK**
Shuchi Agrawal, Head of AI Execution – **SMBC GROUP**
Tufan Arikan, Head of AI & Innovation – **AIMBRIDGE HOSPITALITY**
Srinivasa Murthy, *VP, Lead Engineer* — **U.S. BANK**

Mohan Krishna Mannava, *Head of Data Analytics and Business Intelligence* **-Texas Health Resources**

Paul Dorasil, Head of Data and AI - **DECA Dental Group**

Naga Mrunal, Lead Engineer - **Humana**

Tejas Shinge, Director, Head of Analytics – **GAINSCO**
Deeksha Yennam, *Director Data Science* **– WALMART**
Prabhu Govindaraju, *Head of Data & AI Strategy* – **ALLY CONSUMER AUTO**
Devdas Gupta, Senior Manager, Software Development & Engineering Lead **– CHARLES SCHWAB**
Nidhi Singh, Lead Data Engineer- **State Public Health Data**
Ishita Malhotra, Data Science and Analytics Manager – **GOLDMAN SACHS**
Jayant Kumawat, AI Solutions and Platform Lead – **PEPSICO**
Harvey Castro, Advisior to the CEO - **Phantom Space**
Satyam Mittal, Machine Learning Engineer – **CHEWY**
Erum Manzoor, CEO and Co-Founder - **BOX Motorsports**
Terry Dorsey, *Senior Data & AI Evangelist* —**DENODO**

Jason Klein, Director of Marketing –**ALTERYX**
Niraj Vora, *Principal Sales Engineer, Enterprise* — **FIVETRAN**

CDAO Dallas Programme · December 2, 2026

8:00-8:50	*Registration and Coffee in the Exhibition Area*
8:50-9:00	*Chairperson's Opening Remarks and Icebreaker* Erum Manzoor, CEO and Co-Founder - **BOX Motorsports**

9:00-9:30 **PANEL**

Who Owns the Return on Data & AI? What Gets Funded, What Gets Cut, and What You Promise the Board

- Who should own the return on AI, and how do you make that ownership stick before 2027 budgets lock?
- What do you promise a board that expects AI value reporting as standard, and how do you survive that promise twelve months later?
- What separates a scalable use case from an expensive pilot, and who has the authority to stop an initiative that underperforms?

- What did this year teach the leaders who still got funded, and what happens to your mandate if the number you promised turns out wrong?

Bo Gu, *Director of Data Science & Generative AI* — **AT&T**

Paul Dorasil, Head of Data and AI - **DECA Dental Group**
Moderated by: Yahia Zemoura, *Senior Vice President - Director, Enterprise Data and Analytics* — **HILLTOP HOLDINGS**

9:30:10:00 **KEYNOTE**

Agentic AI: We've Built the Pieces. Have We Designed the Whole?

Deploying AI agents is one thing. Building an enterprise architecture that can support hundreds of them is another.

Should teams build their own agents or share reusable capabilities? How can agents access governed enterprise data without duplicating systems? Where does autonomy end and human oversight begin? And how do you keep inference costs, latency and security risks under control?

This session explores the architectural trade-offs behind scaling agentic AI, from context engineering and orchestration to governance, cost optimisation and operational resilience.

The goal: more autonomy, less complexity and an architecture built to deliver value at scale.

Terry Dorsey, *Senior Data & AI Evangelist* —
DENODO

10:00-10:30 **CASE STUDY**

Agentic AI in Production at a Fortune 10 distributor: What Worked, What Stalled and Why

- Lessons from the field: what worked, what stalled and why, in putting Agentic AI solutions into production in one year.
- Pilot versus production: what a successful pilot still lacks, and what an AI Agent must prove before it goes live.
- Governance and connectivity: establishing ownership of the AI Agent, what it is allowed to do, and how to connect it safely to ERP, CRM and other enterprise systems.
- Measuring value: how to set a baseline, drive adoption, and measure cost and productivity gains.

Sachin Ghumre, Former SVP, Enterprise Applications & Corporate Functions CIO —
MCKESSON

10:30-10:40 **SPOTLIGHT SESSION**

One Record, 26 Agencies: Why AI Readiness Starts with Data You Can Defend

Everyone wants AI. But can your data stand up to scrutiny?

When a single government record feeds 26+ agencies, trust, accuracy and accountability aren't optional. Drawing on a real-world state modernization project, this session explores what it takes to build reliable, defensible data foundations that make AI possible.

Key Takeaways:

- One record, 26+ destinations: Making interoperability work at scale without compromising data quality.
- Governance you can prove: Building transparency, traceability and accountability into every step.
- AI starts before the model: Why trustworthy data is the real foundation of AI readiness.

Nidhi Singh, Lead Data Engineer- **State Public Health Data**

10:40-11:10 *Mid-Morning Coffee Break & Networking in the Exhibition Area*

11:10-11:40 **PANEL**

Centralized, Federated or Something Else? Redesigning the Data & Analytics Function for the Year Ahead

- Which operating models are actually working for enterprise data and analytics teams, and where are they falling short?
- How should responsibilities for data strategy, governance, analytics and AI be distributed across the organisation?
- As self-service analytics and AI become more accessible, how is the role of traditional BI and analytics teams evolving?
- What skills, structures and capabilities will data leaders need to build or rethink for 2027?

Moderated by**:** Priya Narayan, Managing Director of Technology – **SOUTHWEST AIRLINES**
Karthik Ilangovan, *Vice President, Data Analytics and AI/ML* — **MODE GLOBAL**
Paul Dorasil, Head of Data and AI - **DECA Dental Group**
Yahia Zemoura, *Senior Vice President - Director, Enterprise Data and Analytics* — **HILLTOP HOLDINGS**
Mohan Krishna Mannava, *Head of Data Analytics and Business Intelligence* **-Texas Health Resources**
Jason Klein, Director of Marketing **-Alteryx**

11:40-12:00 **CASE STUDY**

Balancing AI Innovation, Risk and Responsibility in High-Stakes Environments

- Lessons from deploying AI in the emergency department, where decisions carry real-world consequences.
- Balancing innovation with safety, trust and regulatory compliance.
- Building accountability and human oversight into AI-driven decision-making.
- What data and AI leaders across industries can learn from high-stakes AI implementation.

Harvey Castro, Advisior to the CEO - **Phantom Space**

12:00-12:30 **PANEL**

Governance That Works: What Evidence Would You Hand a Regulator Today?

- If the Texas Attorney General or your auditor asked today, what could you hand over, and how does the NIST AI Risk Management Framework anchor that evidence?
- How do you convert that evidence into controls that run automatically across systems and agents — and how does that work make you faster, not slower?
- What must be in place before 2027 audit, board and regulatory scrutiny, what can safely wait, and who signs off on each?

Vijay Gandra, *Global Chief Data Officer* — **ACRISURE**
Harvey Castro, Advisior to the CEO - **Phantom Space**
Nidhi Singh, Lead Data Engineer- **State Public Health Data**

Naga Mrunal, Lead Engineer - **Humana**

12:30-1:00 **PANEL**

How Many Agents Are You Running? Data Readiness, Accountability and the New Org Chart

- Are enterprise data foundations ready to support increasingly autonomous AI systems, or are organisations scaling agents on top of unreliable data?
- Who owns the quality, accessibility and governance of the data that AI agents rely on?
- As agents take on analytical and operational tasks, how are responsibilities changing across data, analytics and technology teams?
- Where should human oversight remain essential, and how can leaders maintain visibility and accountability as AI adoption grows?

Moderator: Satyam Mittal, Machine Learning Engineer – **CHEWY**
Jayant Kumawat, *AI Solutions and Platform Lead* — **PEPSICO**
Srinivasa Murthy, *VP, Lead Engineer* — **U.S. BANK**
Deeksha Yennam, *Director Data Science* **– WALMART**

1:00-2:00 *Lunch and Networking in the Exhibition Area*

	THE MONEY TRACK	THE PEOPLE & TRUST TRACK
2:00-2:35	**ROUNDTABLE 1** **The True Cost of Data: Is Your Infrastructure Delivering Value?** Your data stack keeps getting more expensive. Your teams are still fixing broken pipelines. And now AI is adding another layer of cost and complexity. So where is the money actually going? This roundtable puts the economics of data infrastructure under the microscope. From the hidden costs of legacy integrations and manual data pipelines to unpredictable AI workloads and vendor lock-in, we'll explore what's worth keeping, what needs replacing, and where modernisation genuinely pays off. Can open data architecture and automation actually reduce costs while delivering reliable, trusted data, or do they simply move the complexity somewhere else? And how do you modernize without disrupting the systems your business relies on? The real question: are we building infrastructure that delivers value, or just paying more to keep it running? Niraj Vora, *Principal Sales Engineer, Enterprise* — **FIVETRAN**	**ROUNDTABLE 3** **When AI Changes the Job — and the Risks: Is Your Workforce Ready?** • How are AI agents, deepfakes and AI-powered fraud changing the risks employees and organizations face? • What new skills and capabilities do employees need as AI takes over tasks and introduces new security and operational responsibilities? • Where should accountability sit between data, security, technology, HR and business teams as AI becomes embedded in everyday workflows? • How can organizations prepare their workforce to recognize emerging AI threats, respond effectively and embrace innovation without compromising security? Tom Krusch, Vice President, Transformation **– AT&T** Rajendra Elumalai, *Vice President and Principal Engineer* **– U.S. BANK**

2:40-3:15

ROUNDTABLE 2

What Is the Real Run Cost of Your Data & Analytics Stack?

- What does it actually cost to operate your data and analytics ecosystem, from cloud infrastructure and data storage to BI tools, AI workloads and vendor contracts?
- Where are organisations overspending, and which costs are most difficult to track or justify?
- How can data leaders build credible cost baselines and demonstrate ROI across their technology investments?
- What practical steps are organisations taking to optimise spending without compromising data quality, performance or business value?

Devdas Gupta, Senior Manager, Software Development & Engineering Lead **– CHARLES SCHWAB**

ROUNDTABLE 4

What Belongs on the Board's Data and AI Dashboard?

- Decide whether data quality belongs on the board dashboard alongside cyber and financial risk.
- Who reports data quality to the board, on which metrics, and at what cadence?
- Does data quality belong in investor-facing disclosure, not just the board dashboard — and has anyone actually asked your board for that language?

Ishita Malhotra, *Data Science and Analytics Manager* — **GOLDMAN SACHS**

Satyam Mittal, Machine Learning Engineer – **CHEWY**

3:30-4:00 *Afternoon Coffee Break and Networking in the Exhibition Area*

4:00-5:00

PANEL: The Blind Spots Nobody Owns: What Data, AI & Security Teams Discover Too Late

- What improves collaboration between data, technology and security teams, and where do ownership and accountability typically break down?
- How do organisations maintain visibility and control over the hidden risks of AI adoption, including shadow AI, third-party tools, data leakage and access permissions?
- How do you balance the need to accelerate innovation with appropriate governance, security and risk controls without creating unnecessary complexity or friction?
- How do we translate data, AI and cyber risks into business impact, enabling CISOs and CDAOs to communicate effectively with boards and drive informed decisions on investment, risk appetite and accountability?

5:00-5:05 *Chairperson's Closing Remarks*

5:05-6:00 *Networking Drinks Reception and Prize Draw*

END OF SUMMIT - SEE YOU IN 2027