

DECEMBER 2, 2026 | THE HIGHLAND DALLAS

CDAO Dallas

 Connecting you to what's next in data & AI

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 competitive 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
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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.
- Lesson 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**

Sachin Ghumre, Senior Vice President, Enterprise Applications & Corporate Functions CIO – **MCKESSON**

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**
Karthik Ilangovan, Vice President, Data Analytics and AI/ML – **MODE GLOBAL**
Tom Krusch, Vice President, Transformation – **AT&T**
Srinivasa Murth, Vice President, Lead Engineer – **U.S. BANK**
Tejas Shinge, Director, Head of Analytics – **GAINSCO**
Thrushna Matharasi, *Director of Engineering, Data and AI/ML* – **SOLERA HOLDINGS**
Deeksha Yennam, *Director Data Science* – **WALMART**
Prabhu Govindaraju, *Head of Data & AI Strategy* – **ALLY CONSUMER AUTO**
Bo Gu, Director of Data Science & Generative AI – **AT&T**
Devdas Gupta, Senior Manager, Software Development & Engineering Lead – **CHARLES SCHWAB**
Ishita Malhotra, Data Science and Analytics Manager – **GOLDMAN SACHS**
Jayant Kumawat, AI Solutions and Platform Lead – **PEPSICO**
Satyam Mittal, Machine Learning Engineer – **CHEWY**

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

9:00-9:30	PANEL Who Owns the Return on AI? What Gets Funded, What Gets Killed, 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 2026 teach the leaders who still got funded, and what should you renegotiate about your own mandate now? Bo Gu, <i>Director of Data Science & Generative AI</i> — AT&T Tufan Arikan, <i>Head of AI and Innovation</i> — AIMBRIDGE HOSPITALITY Moderated by: Yahia Zemoura, <i>Senior Vice President - Director, Enterprise Data and Analytics</i> — HILLTOP HOLDINGS
9:30-10:00	KEYNOTE Presented by Denodo Senior Representative — DENODO
10:00-10:30	CASE STUDY Twelve Agentic AI Solutions in One Year: What Worked and What Did Not Walk through twelve agentic AI solutions built in one year: which scaled, which stalled, and why.

- The numbers: cost, adoption and measured results for the ones that worked.
- What failed, and the stop decisions and readiness gates behind it.
- What to put in place before your next agent ships.

Sachin Ghumre, *Senior Vice President, Enterprise Applications & Corporate Functions CIO* — **MCKESSON**

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

The AI Value Proof Point: One Decision, One Metric, One Outcome

A ten-minute, evidence-led case: one deployed system, its full cost, the baseline, the outcome and the lesson learned.

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 and AI Function for the Year Ahead

- What is working at your scale, and what did you get wrong the first time?
- Who owns AI in your organization, is that settled, and what happens to the data leader's remit if it is not?
- What does the analytics function become when the business asks its questions through AI rather than through your team — which roles disappear, which appear, and what do you stop owning?
- How do you close that team gap, and which dashboards, reports and BI processes do you retire on the way?

Karthik Ilangovan, *Vice President, Data Analytics and AI/ML* — **MODE GLOBAL**

Yahia Zemoura, *Senior Vice President - Director, Enterprise Data and Analytics* — **HILLTOP HOLDINGS**

Tejas Shinge, *Director, Head of Analytics* — **GAINSCO**

Moderated by: Priya Narayan, *Managing Director of Technology* — **SOUTHWEST AIRLINES**

11:40-12:00 **KEYNOTE**

Readiness Gates: When Is Data Fit for AI?

- Walk through a live readiness-gate system that grades data before AI is allowed to touch it.
- Insight into the quality and governance thresholds - and their measured effect on agent behaviour and error rates.
- Get the numbers: implementation cost and results after 12 months in production.
- How to build a readiness investment case a board will fund.

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 do you use the NIST AI Risk Management Framework as the spine of that evidence?
- How do you convert AI principles, inventories and risk assessments into controls that run automatically across systems and agents, and which one do you automate first?
- How do data, technology, security, risk, legal and privacy teams operate a single, proportionate governance model across Texas law, the EU AI Act and sector rules without tripling the workload?
- What must be in place before 2027 audit, board and regulatory scrutiny, what can safely wait, and who signs off on each?

Shahran Haider, *Deputy Chief Data Officer* — **NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS**

Vijay Gandra, *Global Chief Data Officer* — **ACRISURE**

12:30-1:00

PANEL

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

- Where does accountability sit when an AI agent acts?
- When agents do the work, who owns the outcome — and what does your function's headcount and shape look like in 2027 as a result?
- What decisions are you no longer willing to delegate to a machine, and how did you draw that line with your board?
- How can leaders discover, register and govern unapproved AI agents before they create unmanaged risk or duplicate activity?

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

Open Data Infrastructure: Building an AI-Ready Data Foundation

Siloed operating models, inconsistent data quality, and mounting technical debt are the biggest obstacles standing between CIOs and the data-driven outcomes their businesses expect. Open Data Infrastructure (ODI) offers a way through: by separating storage from compute, adopting open standards, and ensuring interoperability across systems, CIOs can consolidate fragmented environments, improve the reliability and availability of enterprise data, and reduce the maintenance burden of legacy point-to-point integrations. The result is a data foundation that's easier to govern, cheaper to run, and flexible enough to support both today's analytics workloads and tomorrow's AI initiatives, without locking the organization into a single vendor's roadmap.

Join us to discuss:

- Building a data foundation that can actually support AI initiatives, not just today's analytics workloads
- Modernizing data infrastructure to eliminate silos and pay down technical debt without disrupting ongoing operations
- Improving data quality and availability as the prerequisite for trustworthy, data-driven decision-making
- Balancing the push for open, interoperable architecture with governance, security, and cost predictability

ROUNDTABLE 3

Reduce, Redeploy or Reskill: Aligning Business, Technology and Culture When AI Changes the Job

- How do you decide between reducing, redeploying and reskilling when AI changes a role, and when do you hire talent versus growing it?
- When several transformation programmes run at once, how do you govern the workforce decisions that cut across them, so a choice in one doesn't undo another?
- What must line up across business, technology and culture for change to stick, and what breaks when one of the three is missing?
- Who owns the decision, what capability do managers need now that they didn't three years ago, and who is building it?

Tom Krusch, Vice President, Transformation — **AT&T**

	Niraj Vora, <i>Principal Sales Engineer, Enterprise</i> — FIVETRAN	
2:40-3:15	ROUNDTABLE 2 What Is the Real Run Cost of AI? - What AI costs to run, looking st inference economics, vendor spend, cost-to-serve. - How to pressure-test the numbers behind your ROI story? - Benchmark cost baselines with peers, off the record. 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? - How to make the case if your board does not yet want it. Ishita Malhotra, <i>Data Science and Analytics Manager</i> — GOLDMAN SACHS Satyam Mittal, <i>Machine Learning Engineer</i> — CHEWY
3:15-3:45	Afternoon Coffee Break and Networking in the Exhibition Area	
3:45-4:10	ASK ME ANYTHING Talent, Value and Career Risk - Put your hardest question to a sitting – SUBMIT HERE. - Insight into budget fights, failed projects, vendor pressure, and career risk. - What skills will matter most in 2027 - and how to win the fight for talent.	
4:10-4:40	PANEL The New Risk Agenda: AI-Powered Fraud, Deepfakes and the Enterprise Response - Where does ownership of AI risk sit - data office, security, or the business? - How to brief the board on a threat model that learns. - What is most critical in the early hours of a deepfake or AI-fraud incident, and how to structure the immediate response. - Assess whether your own agents are now an attack surface, and how to close it. Rajendra Elumalai, <i>Vice President and Principal Engineer</i> — U.S. BANK	
4:40-5:00	CLOSING KEYNOTE Data, AI and the Leadership Challenge Ahead: What You Must Own, Measure and Change Now - What will boards expect from the data and AI function over the next 12 months? - Which foundations, operating-model changes and measurements cannot wait for the next planning cycle? - What should every data leader leave ready to do differently on Monday?	
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		