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2025

BAYAREACIO ORBIE® AWARDS

The annual BayAreaCIO ORBIE® Awards honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate & Corporate categories will be announced September 26 at DoubleTree by Hilton San Jose.



**FROM THE CHAIR
NICHOLE MEISTER**

Great CIOs Understand
How Connections Drive
Transformation



LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

Shobie Ramakrishnan,
Chief Digital and
Technology Officer, GSK

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BAYAREACIO

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We congratulate Srimi for being
named an ORBIE Awards finalist!



ORBIE Awards 2025 Nominee
Recognized for excellence in technology,
leadership, and driving innovation.

Srimi Tanikella
Chief Information Officer
Penguin Solutions





FROM THE CHAIR

Great CIOs Understand How Connections Drive Transformation

Connections with others facing similar challenges transform ideas into impact, plans into progress, and vision into reality.

BayAreaCIO brings together preeminent Chief Information Officers from Bay Area's largest organizations to strengthen leadership effectiveness, drive innovation, and create business value. Member-led, non-commercial programs foster meaningful professional relationships, enabling collaboration on shared challenges to gain leadership advantage.

Whether you're leading a large corporation or a nonprofit, there's no textbook for how to be great in a

role that changes as rapidly as technology. That's why relationships create superpowers, driving personal and organizational transformation.

The Inspire Leadership Network connects CIOs with over 1,700 lifelong learners across more than 40 chapters. From public and private companies to government, education, healthcare, and nonprofits, we exist to help members navigate and thrive in a uniquely challenging executive role.

The leadership principles that have served CIOs for over 25 years are now available to communities serving CISOs as the Inspire

Leadership Network expands in 2025.

The ORBIE® Awards recognizes the great leadership of CIOs in Bay Area. On behalf of BayAreaCIO, I congratulate the nominees and finalists for their remarkable achievements. A special thank you to the sponsors and underwriters for their foresight in making the Bay Area ORBIE® Awards possible.

With the right connections and relationships, transformation is not only possible—it's happening today, as evidenced by the finalists you will meet throughout this special section.



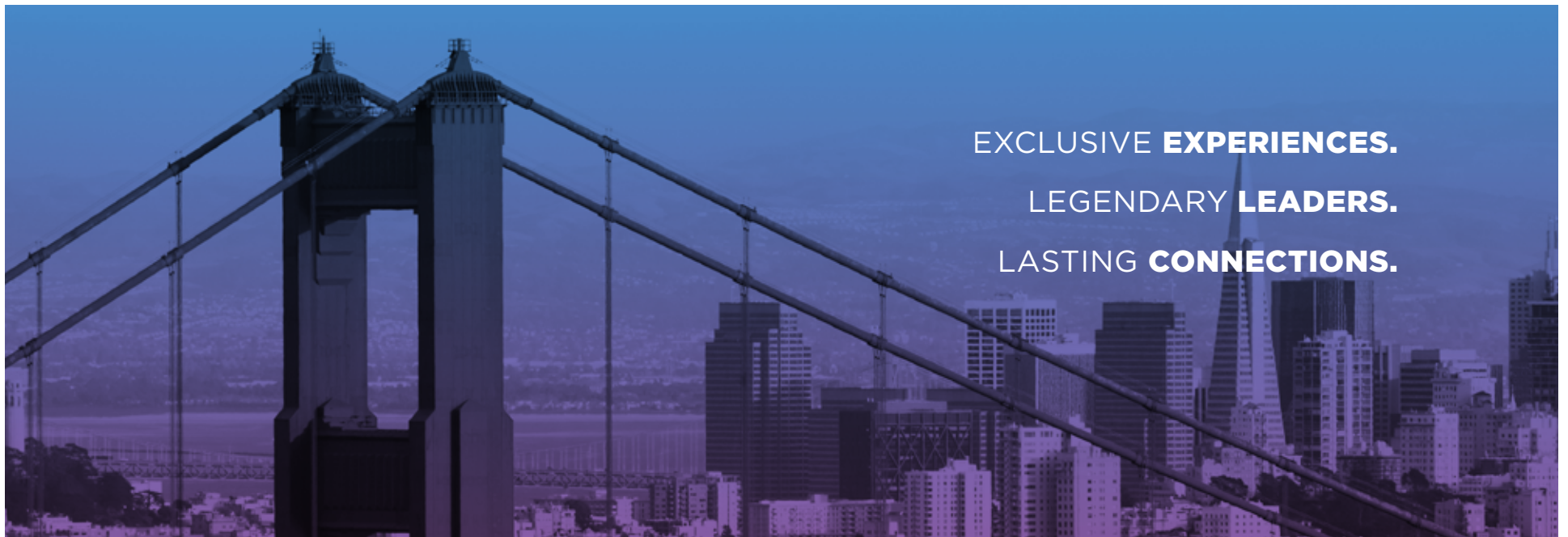
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nichole Meister".

Nichole Meister

2025 Chair, BayAreaCIO

Divisional Vice President Information Technology, Abbott



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LEGENDARY **LEADERS.**
LASTING **CONNECTIONS.**



AUGUST 4-6, 2026 | BAY AREA

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2025 LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Shobie Ramakrishnan

**BayAreaCIO ORBIE
Leadership Award recipient:**
GSK's Shobie Ramakrishnan

By The Business Journals Content Studio

Shobie Ramakrishnan joined the GLT in 2021 when she was appointed Chief Digital and Technology Officer.

She joined GSK in 2018 and has deep and broad experience in both biotech and hi-tech companies and, most recently, has led Digital and Technology for GSK's Global Commercial organization, transforming the company's capabilities in digital, data and analytics and playing a pivotal role in establishing a more agile commercial operating model.

Ramakrishnan is the recipient of this year's Leadership Award as part of the BayAreaCIO ORBIE Awards held Sept. 26 at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Jose. The ORBIE Awards honors

CIOs who drive innovation and transformation at leading organizations.

Before joining GSK, Ramakrishnan held senior technology leadership roles in organizations including AstraZeneca, Salesforce, Genentech and Roche.

She is a non-executive director at Deliveroo.

She is board member emeritus at SustainableIT.org and was formerly a member of the board of directors at Remediant.

Ramakrishnan holds a bachelor's degree in electronics engineering from Vellore Institute of Technology, University of Madras, India.

"She joined GSK in 2018 and has deep and broad experience in both biotech and hi-tech companies and, most recently, has led Digital and Technology for GSK's Global Commercial organization, transforming the company's capabilities in digital, data and analytics and playing a pivotal role in establishing a more agile commercial operating model."

Congratulations to the 2025 Bay Area CIO of the Year® Award winners and nominees.

Comcast Business has been a proud sponsor of the ORBIE® Awards for 9 years, supporting global enterprises with a full suite of advanced technology and secure networking solutions.

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COMCAST
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INSPIRE
ORBIE
AWARDS

Congratulations to Nishit Sahay

and his fellow
2025 Bay Area
CIO ORBIE
of the Year
Award Finalists.

www.marvell.com



2025 BayAreaCIO
ORBIE Awards
FINALIST

Congratulations, Carrie Rasmussen!

We're proud to celebrate our Chief Digital Officer on her recognition as a finalist for the 2025 Bay Area CIO Orbie Awards.

Carrie, your leadership, vision, and innovation inspires us all.

dayforce



SUPER GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER \$10 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Venky Rangachari

CIO HPE Networking,
Hewlett Packard Enterprise



Venky is a senior information technology executive with experience in large transformations associated with M&A, IT Applications, AI & Cyber security. Venky has leadership experience with large and high growth companies HPE, Reuters, Wyndham, Anaplan, and Exodus communications, amongst others. Venky is currently the CIO, HPE Networking at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, a Fortune 100 company operating in 170+ countries worldwide. Venky is leading transformation to build the best networking company on the planet. He works closely with the executive leadership for HPE Networking on Transformation initiatives.

SUCCESS STORY

At HPE Venky led the lead to cash transformation of HPE Networking which is a combination of Aruba and Juniper networks into a single business unit.



Ashish Sarkar

EVP & CIO,
Owens & Minor Inc.



Snehashish Sarkar is a transformational leader with over 20 years of experience in enterprise and technology information systems. He serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Owens & Minor, where he leverages technology to enhance competitive advantages for customers and patients. Experience includes CIO at Varian, a Siemens Healthineers Company, Deloitte Consulting LLP, Wipro Technologies, and holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering with Distinction from Nagpur University in India.

SUCCESS STORY

I joined Owens and Minor in late 2022, and we've undergone a significant transformation. Our strategy focuses on four pillars: 1. Talent Transformation: Insourced 650 employees, cutting costs by \$20 million and reducing attrition to 6-10%. 2. Fixing the Foundation: Consolidated data centers, telecom, and call solutions, saving \$15 million. 3. Consolidating Applications: Many platform consolidation programs are underway. 4. Data and AI: Migrated data to Snowflake and implemented AI, saving \$30 million in FY2024. Overall, we've reduced our operational costs by \$40 million. Several significant programs are underway that will have a profound impact on the company's outcome.



Cynthia Stoddard

SVP & CIO,
Adobe



As Adobe's Chief Information Officer, Cynthia oversees Adobe Technology Services, spearheading Adobe's global IT strategy for delivering mission-critical services and operations. Prior to Adobe, Cynthia led global IT at NetApp and Safeway. A CIO Hall of Fame inductee, Cynthia was recently awarded Chief's 2024 Leadership Award and Forbes' 2024 CIO Next Award. Under her leadership, ATS earned CIO.com's CIO 100 Award in 2017, 2018, 2023, 2024, and 2025 for technology innovation and business value delivery.

SUCCESS STORY

I led the creation of Adobe's Data-Driven Operating Model (DDOM), transforming fragmented data into a unified architecture with over six trillion rows. We consolidated metrics into 40 KPIs tied to 15 core business drivers, enabling real-time insights and a holistic customer view. This shift improved agility, empowered personalized experiences, and accelerated decision-making. More than a technical upgrade, DDOM sparked a cultural transformation—aligning teams around clarity, speed, and data-driven action. It continues to empower employees to quickly derive insights that improve business outcomes and drive strategic value across the organization.



Sesh Tirumala

CIO,
Western Digital



Sesh Tirumala is CIO of Western Digital, leading IT, Cybersecurity, and Enterprise Data & Analytics. With over 30 years of experience, he drives digital transformation and innovation to enable business growth, streamline operations, and elevate customer and employee experiences. He previously held CIO roles at PagerDuty, Anaplan, and Cisco. Sesh holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, India.

SUCCESS STORY

Sesh led the end-to-end IT separation of Western Digital into two independent, high-performing companies. This was an extraordinary achievement completed under budget, ahead of schedule, and without business disruption. The 18-month effort required global coordination across hundreds of systems, a complex multi-ERP environment, and critical infrastructure. We plan to exit TSAs within 12 months, far ahead of industry norms. Sesh's leadership ensured operational continuity while redefining IT's role as a strategic enabler. This separation stands as a landmark moment in the company's history and a testament to vision, collaboration, and execution at scale.



John Wrenn

CIO,
Flex



John Wrenn is Interim Chief Information Officer at Flex, where he leads a global IT organization supporting over 148,000 employees across 100 locations. With more than 25 years of experience, he drives digital transformation, operational efficiency, and innovation. John is known for his collaborative leadership style, focus on measurable business value, and commitment to talent development. His initiatives have delivered significant cost savings, improved margin performance, and enhanced enterprise agility.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my CIO leadership, we've delivered transformative outcomes across IT. Our Variance Management tool improved visibility across 1,000 customers and 100 factories, contributing to a double-digit operating profit. We migrated a major share of our global data center apps to AWS, boosting performance and agility. Pulse Analytics now tracks 120+ metrics used by 6,000+ professionals and integrates data from 20,000 suppliers. In manufacturing, data connectivity to robotic automation rose by 15%. We also launched a startup innovation program with eight VC partners to integrate emerging technologies aligned with strategic priorities.

GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Chau Banks

CIO & Chief Data Officer,
The Clorox Company



Chau Banks is the Senior Vice President and Chief Information and Data Officer at The Clorox Company, driving transformative digital strategies since 2020. Known for leadership in CPG, retail, and omni-channel growth, Chau has also held technology leadership roles at Revlon, New York & Co., and global firms like Coach. A passionate mentor and board member, she embodies innovation and inclusion, reshaping businesses and delivering seamless consumer experiences across industries.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership at The Clorox Company, I transformed IT into the Enterprise Data and Tech (EDT) organization, guided by the mantra “Lead with Data, Enable through Technology.” With a global team of 200+ employees and partners, we are fostering innovation through “Equip, Enable, Empower” guiding principles. I orchestrated a multi-year Digital Transformation strategy to modernize our tech stack, deliver integrated commercial and consumer capabilities, and future-proof operations. These initiatives have positioned our organization as a leader in data-driven innovation, reflecting our commitment to excellence and driving transformative change across the enterprise and beyond.



Sameer Hassan

Chief Technology & Digital Officer,
Williams-Sonoma Inc.

WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.



Rani Johnson

CIO,
Workday



Rani Johnson is Workday's CIO. She oversees global Information Technology, with responsibility for the internal deployment of both third-party tools and Workday products. Prior to Workday, Rani served as CIO at Cloud Software Group, CIO at TIBCO, CIO of SolarWinds, and CIO at the Lower Colorado River Authority. Rani began her career intern at NASA Johnson Space Center and holds degrees in electrical and general engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and Spelman College.

SUCCESS STORY

Spearheaded Workday's Everyday AI program, significantly boosting Workday's AI fluency and achieving a 79% adoption rate of AI tools, including Google Gemini, Slack AI, and others. This initiative demystified AI by providing accessible tools and training, encouraging daily experimentation, and utilizing “EverydayAI Champions” to showcase real-world applications across business functions. Also established an AI Strategy function and an AI Executive Advisory Board to identify, prioritize, and fund high-impact AI use cases, resulting in over 80+ deployments and a projected \$60 million in annual ROI. Additionally, Workday's Business Technology team enhanced security by implementing zero trust and strengthening identity governance.



Jeff McKibben

CIO,
Ultra Clean Technology



Jeff McKibben joined UCT in 2021 as CIO, bringing over 30 years of global IT leadership in high-tech manufacturing. He has deep expertise in international M&A, product development, supply chains, and organizational growth. Previously, he was CIO at ON Semiconductor and held various global IT roles at Hewlett Packard. He holds an M.S. in Management Information Systems from the University of Arizona and a B.S. in International Relations from Georgetown University.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2023, war broke out just as UCT was deploying SAP S/4 Hana to a business unit headquartered in Israel but spans 11 countries. To ensure business continuity, we immediately migrated legacy systems, including an AS/400, to the cloud. The SAP project faced unprecedented logistical challenges, business complexity not previously encountered, and a 12-day hot war with Iran just before the July go-live. Despite these obstacles, the result has been our best SAP deployment so far. The entire IT organization mobilized, along with our business partners, to safeguard operations while laying the foundation for future scalability and modernization.



Nishit Sahay

CIO,
Marvell



Nishit Sahay is the Chief Information Officer at Marvell Technology, responsible for leading digital transformation, enterprise AI, and the company's Data Office. He oversees the modernization of Marvell's technology infrastructure and drives data-driven decision-making across the organization. Nishit joined Marvell from Maxim Integrated, where he led high-impact transformation programs that enhanced operational efficiency. He holds master's degrees from UC Berkeley and The Wharton School, and a bachelor's in Electronics Engineering from Nagpur University.

SUCCESS STORY

As CIO, I lead with a blend of operational discipline and innovation agility. I bring a private equity mindset to scale efficiently and a venture capital approach to experiment, learn, and prioritize what delivers impact. My journey from engineer to CIO has reinforced that sustainable transformation depends on empowered teams, strong business alignment, and deep trust. At Marvell, we have reshaped how IT drives outcomes, from modernizing product development to enabling data-driven decisions and enterprise platforms. Success means delivering measurable value while creating an environment where technology and people advance together.

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$1.5 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Datta Junnarkar

CIO, Maritime,
Boeing



Datta Junnarkar is CIO of Boeing's E&S division, where he leads global IT strategy, operations, cybersecurity, innovation, M&A, and Customer experience. With over 25 years of experience spanning startups to Fortune 50 companies, he has driven transformation across industries. Datta is known for aligning technology with outcomes, modernizing operations, and building high-performing teams. He is also co-founded three technology startups and a recognized leader in digital innovation and business impact.

SUCCESS STORY

After joining Boeing through the acquisition of Liquid Robotics, I led the transformation of our division's IT landscape. I unified legacy systems, established IT shared services, and drove modernization across cloud, cybersecurity, and enterprise applications. By embedding AI, automation, and data analytics into product design, manufacturing, and support, we unlocked new revenue streams and enhanced operational resilience. I'm proud to have built a culture of innovation, trust, and agility—where IT is seen not just as a service provider, but as a strategic driver of business growth and mission success.



Michael Makstman

City CIO & Executive
Director, Dept. of
Technology, City & County of
San Francisco



Michael Makstman serves as San Francisco's Chief Information Officer, leading the Department of Technology in delivering secure, innovative, and equitable technology solutions citywide. Previously the City's Chief Information Security Officer, Michael established San Francisco's Office of Cybersecurity. Recognized nationally as a top 25 technology leader by Government Technology Magazine, he co-founded the Coalition of City CISOs. Michael passionately champions digital equity initiatives, cybersecurity resilience, and responsible adoption of emerging technologies.

SUCCESS STORY

San Francisco's dedicated Department of Technology team launched the transformative "Fiber to Housing" initiative, delivering free, true high-speed internet (up to 1GB) to over 20,000 affordable housing units—benefiting approximately 50,000 residents citywide. This groundbreaking digital equity effort particularly supports multi-generational households and our most vulnerable communities, significantly enhancing access to remote education, employment opportunities, telehealth, and essential city services. Annually, this initiative provides around \$15 million in economic and social value, bridging the digital divide and empowering tens of thousands of San Franciscans with equitable connectivity and full participation in today's digital economy.



Carrie Rasmussen

CDO,
Dayforce



Carrie Rasmussen is EVP & Chief Digital Officer at Dayforce, leading global Digital Transformation. She oversees systems, tools, and processes that power the business, including Cybersecurity, IT, Enterprise Data Analytics, Procurement, and Enterprise Risk. Carrie brings extensive leadership experience from technology leadership roles at Save Mart Companies, Safeway, and Albertsons before joining Dayforce in 2021. She holds degrees from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

SUCCESS STORY

Carrie Rasmussen didn't plan on a career in technology—but she built one by embracing opportunity. With roots in agriculture and an early interest in science, she shifted to business and tech after a professor saw her potential beyond the microscope. Her career has grown alongside the evolution of software, cloud, mobile, and now AI. As Executive Vice President and Chief Digital Officer at Dayforce, Carrie leads with authenticity and purpose. She credits her success to the support of her family and a strong network of women CIOs who encouraged her to lead boldly and grow with intention.



Kevin Smith

CIO,
Lyft



Kevin Smith transforms technology organizations into customer-obsessed powerhouses that deliver measurable business outcomes. With 20+ years leading Corporate Engineering and IT at iconic companies like Facebook, Twitch, and Lyft, he consistently converts complex challenges into competitive advantages through strategic automation and operational excellence. His people-first philosophy creates high-performing teams that exceed engagement benchmarks while driving innovation at scale across diverse technology domains.

SUCCESS STORY

I measure transformational technology leadership by creating sustainable competitive advantage through people-first approaches across diverse organizations. My greatest achievement is developing a repeatable methodology that scales across companies—from Facebook to Twitch, to Stripe, to Aurora and Lyft's complex business evolution. This approach delivers exceptional results: 35% increase in profitable deals, over 13,000 hours returned to employees through automation, 91% AI adoption rates, and \$1+ million in strategic cost savings funding innovation. My "Idea-to-Innovation" program transforms execution into measurable delivery while team engagement scores consistently exceed industry benchmarks.



Khaled Tawfik

CIO,
City of San José



Khaled Tawfik serves as the Chief Information Officer for the City of San José, overseeing a diverse civic technology portfolio and the 311 Contact Center in one of the nation's largest cities. He is recognized for leading smart city initiatives that prioritize innovation, artificial intelligence, digital privacy, and equity. As a founding member and Board Chair of the GovAI Coalition, he leads efforts to advance responsible AI adoption across all levels of government.

SUCCESS STORY

Khaled Tawfik led San José's Road Safety Conditions Pilot, funded by a grant from the Toyota Mobility Foundation, to proactively detect hazards using AI-powered object detection. Starting this year, the system will integrate with San José 311 to test real-time reporting and shift from reactive to proactive services. Khaled's team also implemented a data lake supporting the Department of Transportation, while creating the first national road safety dataset for AI training. San José 311, under his direction, is expanding its services to support regional partners, setting the foundation for future regional collaboration for 311 reporting.



Laura Wilt

CDO,
Sutter Health



As Chief Digital Officer, Laura Wilt leads the alignment of innovation, digital tools, technology and analytics across Sutter Health, one of the largest not-for-profit health systems in the U.S. She oversees all aspects of Sutter's unified digital strategy, which is driving outstanding outcomes and experiences for both patients and providers. Wilt earned her bachelor's degree and an MBA from Tulane University and is a Certified Healthcare CIO.

SUCCESS STORY

At Sutter Health, I've led a digital transformation focused on making care more connected, personalized and accessible for the 3.5 million people we serve. We've built a systemwide digital foundation—supporting clinical excellence, enhancing the care experience and enabling new models of care. As a not-for-profit, our work is mission-driven—focused on improving care for our communities in ways that also contribute to the broader healthcare landscape. I've worked to embed that transformation into our culture, fostering innovation through thoughtful experimentation, strategic partnerships and scalable solutions. Together, we're shaping the future of healthcare and redefining how care is delivered.

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$800 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Sanjay Chandra

VP, IT,
Lucid Motors



As Lucid's CIO, Sanjay Chandra leads a global IT organization driving innovation across infrastructure, cybersecurity, data analytics, factory systems, go-to-market systems, and enterprise applications. He has delivered systems that support vehicle production, customer experience, and enterprise growth. Sanjay's leadership philosophy centers on empathy, transparency, and empowerment—building strong partnerships and culture of continuous improvement to enable Lucid's mission of advancing sustainable mobility through cutting-edge electric vehicle technology.

SUCCESS STORY

As the CIO of Lucid Motors, my success story is strongly aligned to the success of the Organization – to its mission of a sustainable future as well as the desire to make EV's accessible to all. As a Leader, my success story is to build an organization grounded in trust and empathy. Trust—so everyone feels secure in who they are and who they work with. Empathy—because we must lead with humanity. By nurturing a culture that is inclusive, trustworthy, and caring, I empower my team to reach new heights and overcome complex challenges.



Laurent Farci

CIO,
.monks



Laurent Farci is CIO at Monks, responsible for global IT strategy and operations. With nearly two decades of experience across consulting, entrepreneurship, and enterprise leadership, he has helped scale the company through over 30 acquisitions and its transition to a publicly listed group. He leads a lean, global team focused on system simplification, automation, and practical AI adoption—making technology a driver of efficiency and business value.

SUCCESS STORY

In just one year, as our company's first-ever CIO, I brought together previously disconnected teams—IT, AI & Automation, Integration & Cloud, and PMO—into one cohesive global organization. We consolidated hundreds of inherited legacy systems into fewer, more effective tools, substantially reducing complexity and costs. Deploying advanced AI and middleware significantly improved efficiency and provided reliable data for better decision-making. Despite a lean team, we successfully met the compliance requirements expected of a publicly listed company. This achievement is about teamwork, overcoming tough integration challenges, and genuinely making our colleagues' daily work simpler and more effective.



Stephen Franchetti

CIO,
Samsara



Stephen Franchetti is the Chief Information Officer at Samsara, where he leads the Business Technology organization driving innovation, scale, and productivity across the company. He played a key role in Samsara's growth to over \$1.5B in ARR and a successful IPO. Prior to Samsara, Stephen was the CIO at Slack and held senior technology leadership roles at Workday and Cisco, with a focus on enterprise systems, AI-driven transformation, and global scale.

SUCCESS STORY

At Samsara, our Business Technology team has redefined what it means to be a strategic enabler of growth. As the company scaled from \$100M to over \$1.5B in ARR and went public, we built the modern, enterprise-grade architecture and tech stack to power that journey. Anticipating the AI shift, we launched an AI Engineering team and deployed SamsaraGPT—now driving 50K+ employee prompts monthly—along with Agentic AI systems that autonomously complete tasks and save thousands of hours. Through our AI Leadership Forum and Champions Network, we've embedded AI company-wide—fueling innovation, scale, and intelligent operations.



Srini Tanikella

CIO,
Penguin Solutions



Srini Tanikella is an accomplished technology executive with over 20 years of experience in IT and business applications. As CIO of Penguin Solutions, he drives value through innovation, transformation, and strategic leadership. A frequent speaker at industry conferences, Srini is recognized as a "Hall of Famer" in the SAP community, holding SAP Mentor status and earning widespread respect for his influence, thought leadership, and long-standing contributions to enterprise technology.

SUCCESS STORY

Penguin Solutions embarked on a bold transformation to unify seven independent entities into one cohesive, digital-first enterprise. I led this end-to-end initiative, integrating operations through SAP ERP and Microsoft 365 on an accelerated timeline. We modernized infrastructure, migrated to the cloud, and elevated team capabilities through focused upskilling. This effort streamlined processes, eliminated redundancies, and significantly improved collaboration, data integration, and decision-making. More than a technology shift, it reshaped our culture—fostering accountability, innovation, and agility. Today, Penguin stands as a digitally mature, AI-ready organization, guided by strategic vision, operational excellence, and a deep commitment to empowering people through change.



Khalid Turk

Chief Healthcare
Information Officer,
County of Santa Clara



Khalid Turk is the Chief Healthcare Information Officer for the County of Santa Clara, leading digital transformation across hospitals, public health, and behavioral health systems. With over 25 years of experience, he is known for delivering mission-critical technology initiatives with clarity, compassion, and results. A proponent of Stoic leadership and digital equity, Khalid founded ExecPresenceOnline, a pro bono platform empowering underrepresented leaders to amplify their impact. He champions innovation grounded in service, strategy, and integrity.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, we successfully integrated a newly acquired hospital into the County of Santa Clara Health System in just 90 days, saving over \$4 million and reducing implementation time by 40%. By using a Minimum Viable Project approach, we ensured a safe, compliant go-live without disrupting patient care. I also launched a systemwide AI upskilling initiative and expanded telehealth to support over 100,000 virtual visits, creating new revenue streams and improving access. I lead with a people-first, outcome-driven mindset to deliver measurable impact across clinical, operational, and digital domains.

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Kim Huffman

CIO,
Workiva



Kim Huffman serves as CIO at Workiva (NYSE:WK), where she leads the global Business Technology organization spanning systems, architecture, data, security and operations. With over 20 years in tech leadership, Kim has built and scaled high-performing teams, led major business transformations, and delivered technology strategies fueling growth and innovation. She is a graduate of USC and a founding member of Firstboard.io, dedicated to advancing representation on corporate boards.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, the team transformed from a reactive IT support team to a proactive Business Technology organization. We are now trusted advisors to our business partners, leveraging technology to drive business value. Our efforts to optimize our technology investments, modernize applications and data capabilities, deploy and leverage AI and automation throughout the organization and a relentless focus on employee experience have driven tangible business results. Specific achieved outcomes include increased revenue growth and sales productivity, improved operational efficiencies and operating margin and fundamental shifts and improvements in employee experience and engagement.



Sumit Johar

CIO,
Blackline Systems, Inc.



Sumit Johar is the Chief Information Officer at BlackLine, where he leads global IT, information security, and enterprise AI strategy. With over 25 years of experience in cloud-first enterprises, Sumit also held CIO roles at Automation Anywhere and MobileIron, and senior leadership positions at TIBCO, Wipro, and Infosys. He is recognized for driving digital transformation and operational excellence. Sumit holds a Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science from the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra.

SUCCESS STORY

When Sumit Johar joined BlackLine as its first CIO, he inherited a fragmented and under-resourced IT landscape. Through visionary leadership, he transformed IT into a strategic force—centralizing governance, embedding AI, and aligning technology with business goals. His initiatives drove revenue growth by enabling modern pricing models and reduced churn through actionable customer insights. He also improved operational efficiency, elevated the customer experience, and strengthened BlackLine's reputation as a technology innovator. Beyond BlackLine, Sumit actively mentors future IT leaders and is a respected voice shaping the future of enterprise technology with integrity, courage, and foresight.



Eric Johnson

CIO,
PagerDuty



Eric Johnson is PagerDuty's Chief Information Officer, overseeing IT infrastructure, data and AI strategy, enterprise security, and business applications. Previously, he was CIO at SurveyMonkey, DocuSign, and Talend, and spent 12 years at Informatica leading IT strategy. Eric also advises early-stage companies, is actively involved in the non-profit community and contributes to IT thought leadership. He holds a bachelor's degree in industrial management from California Polytechnic State University.

SUCCESS STORY

There are two recent success stories within the PagerDuty CIO organization - a new automation team and program within the CIO function was started. This was self-funded through budget/vendor efficiencies and delivered 20K FTE hours saved (~\$2M savings) in 6 months across the enterprise. I led the launch of an enterprise GenAI solution, enabling a safe, compliant company-wide solution to drive productivity for all employees. We have 300+ active users daily, 100K questions per month and avg 2 hrs. of time savings / employee per week (135K hrs./yr).



Kris Krishan

Head of IT & Digital
Transformation,



Kris Krishan is the Head of IT and Digital Transformation at Waymo. With over 25 years of global IT leadership experience, Kris has led large-scale digital transformations across public and private tech companies. At Waymo, he drives enterprise innovation, cloud strategy, and GenAI governance to support the company's commercialization and scale. Kris is also a champion of inclusive leadership, psychological safety, and mentoring future technology leaders across the industry.

SUCCESS STORY

As Head of IT and Digital Transformation at Waymo, I've led the Digital Transformation Services (DTS) team in building the enterprise technology foundation that powers Waymo's global expansion. From ERP and supply chain to GenAI, analytics, and secure fleet infrastructure, we've enabled new revenue streams, reduced time-to-market and delivered millions in cost savings. Our scalable playbooks support rapid growth with partners, while our inclusive, high-trust culture has driven strong engagement and leadership development. By aligning technology with business outcomes, DTS has become a strategic driver of innovation, operational excellence, and commercial success at Waymo.



Russ Selken

CTO,
Modesto City Schools



Russ Selken, CTO at Modesto City Schools, brings 28+ years of educational IT leadership. He drives innovation through AI, predictive analytics, and cybersecurity education. Formerly CTO at Twin Rivers and Butte COE, he also led California's K-12 network and national E-rate training. A past chair of the California Teleconnect Fund, he now leads SecureEd, a free K-12 cybersecurity bootcamp. His work advances digital equity, instructional innovation, and cyber resilience across California.

SUCCESS STORY

Under Russ Selken's leadership, Modesto City Schools' IETS division evolved from reactive tech support to a driver of innovation. From 2019–2025, his strategic vision led to over \$12 million in savings, enterprise-level cybersecurity, and the launch of AI-powered tools and analytics. By building staff capacity and enhancing educational partner support, the team transformed IETS into a proactive, data-driven force improving instruction, efficiency, and student outcomes. This success exemplifies how visionary leadership and innovation can reshape an entire district, while ensuring ongoing sustainability.



Mihir Shah

CIO,
Netgear Inc.



Mihir Shah, CIO of NETGEAR, leads global IT strategy, cloud operations, and cybersecurity. With a focus on innovation, he spearheaded initiatives such as a direct-to-consumer platform generating over 10% of consumer retail sales annually and modernized ERP systems with robotic process automation, boosting efficiency. Mihir's leadership in cloud migration and AI-driven customer support has significantly enhanced operational efficiency and customer satisfaction, while his comprehensive cybersecurity strategy has increased customer trust.

SUCCESS STORY

At NETGEAR, IT innovation has driven new revenue streams, cost savings, and enhanced customer satisfaction. Launching a direct-to-consumer platform generated over 10% of our consumer retail sales and expanded our customer base. Migrating to the public cloud reduced infrastructure costs by 25% and improved time-to-market for new initiatives. Modernizing ERP systems and implementing robotic process automation boosted efficiency and reduced manual errors by 40%. Our comprehensive cybersecurity strategy reduced incidents, increasing customer trust.

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AWARDS**Julie Irish**CIO,
Couchbase

Julie Irish brings over 20 years of experience leading business operations, information technology, system implementation, migrations and strategic planning. She currently serves as Senior Vice President and CIO of Couchbase (NASDAQ: BASE), where she drives Couchbase's global IT, Security, and Business Technology team in alignment with the company's key business objectives, making tomorrow better than today.

SUCCESS STORY

As CIO, Julie led enterprise-wide transformation, streamlining operations, improving user experience, and enabling innovation. Her work modernized core platforms, such as Salesforce, enhancing agility and simplifying complexity. Strategic investments in data, AI, and automation unlocked new efficiencies while secure-by-design practices enabled key certifications, opening doors to new customers. She drove measurable improvements in employee engagement and system satisfaction, all while reducing support burden and operational friction. Julie's leadership accelerated business outcomes, improving time to value, and preparing the company to scale.

**Costa Kladianos**EVP & Head of Technology,
San Francisco 49ers
Football Club

Costa Kladianos is in his fourth season as Executive Vice President, Head of Technology for the San Francisco 49ers. He oversees all business technology functions, including IT, cybersecurity, enterprise applications, and fan-facing innovation. His team supports both gameday and year-round operations for the team and Levi's Stadium. Prior to the 49ers, he led technology for Canlan Sports, the CFL, and Tennis Canada.

SUCCESS STORY

I lead the technology team for the San Francisco 49ers, where we support not just gameday, but the full operations of the team and business year-round. From player and coaching support to stadium operations and front-office systems, our work helps power everything behind the scenes to keep the organization running at the highest level. Our goal is to create an incredible experience for the Faithful while giving the team every possible edge in the pursuit of a Super Bowl.

**Frank Rich**Director, IS/CTO,
Monterey One Water

I'm a seasoned CTO with extensive public sector experience spanning water utilities and municipal government. Currently leading IT and SCADA operations at Monterey One Water, I manage a \$5 million budget while overseeing comprehensive technology modernization initiatives. My expertise encompasses cybersecurity, enterprise systems implementation, strategic planning, and team leadership. A CISM-certified professional with a Business Administration degree from Cal State San Bernardino, I strive to deliver innovative solutions that enhance organizational efficiency and operational excellence.

SUCCESS STORY

Developed a comprehensive 3-year cybersecurity roadmap based on industry-standard frameworks to safeguard critical infrastructure assets and ensure uninterrupted delivery of water solutions throughout the Monterey Peninsula. Successfully executed a complete corporate network modernization initiative, replacing legacy switches and firewalls with next-generation equipment, enhancing organizational technology reliability and security posture. Created a strategic 5-year IT plan through cross-departmental collaboration, identifying over 50 initiatives that align with business process requirements across all organizational units. Consolidated SCADA and IT operations into an integrated department, establishing enhanced support capabilities, operational visibility, strategic planning coordination, and cross-training opportunities for mission-critical functions.

**Jon Roller**CIO, Horsley Bridge
Partners, LLC

As Chief Information Officer at Horsley Bridge, I lead all technology functions for our global PE/VC Fund of Funds, drawing on my background in accounting, finance, and data. I began my career at Harbor Funds in Ohio after earning a Finance degree from Miami University, then moved to California in 1999. Outside work, I enjoy baseball, college football, hiking, and cooking with my wife and two children.

SUCCESS STORY

As CIO of Horsley Bridge Partners, I leverage my finance and data expertise to oversee global technology and information functions. I have driven the firm's digital transformation, leading the shift from on-premises to hybrid-cloud infrastructure and spearheading our first CRM implementation. Since 2009, I have directed the design and evolution of our investment management systems. In 2023, I managed the successful migration of 40 years of investment data to BlackRock's hosted private markets platform, replacing legacy systems. My current focus is advancing cybersecurity and enhancing employee efficiency to support the firm's continued growth.

**Asad Siddiqui**CIO,
LastPass

Asad is an accomplished technology executive with over 20 years of experience scaling high-growth SaaS and security companies. As CIO of LastPass, he leads global technology strategy, driving digital transformation, eCommerce innovation, and Product-Led Growth. His leadership spans roles at Celigo, Asana, LinkedIn, and Zynga, where he consistently bridged business and technology to fuel growth. Asad holds a master's in CS and is known for his transformative leadership, strategic acumen, and commitment to talent development.

SUCCESS STORY

As CIO of LastPass, I led a company-wide transformation of our commerce and customer data platforms, unlocking \$7M in revenue impact in year one. By championing a Product-Led Growth strategy, we streamlined the lead-to-revenue journey, improved trial conversion by 9%, and cut customer acquisition costs by 50%. I also mentored a returning team member into a strategic leadership role, reinforcing my commitment to talent development. These initiatives reflect my belief in technology as a growth engine and people as the catalyst for lasting change.

**Sachin Vaidya**CIO, Heritage Bank of
Commerce

Sachin is a highly accomplished Information Technology Management professional with over 25 years of experience in the financial industry. He currently serves as the Executive Vice President Chief Information Officer for the Heritage Bank of Commerce. He provides the strategic and technology vision for the bank while working to manage and improve complex infrastructure on which the business depends on. He loves to keep abreast of changes in the industry.

SUCCESS STORY

Improving Technological and Client Efficiency Spearheaded the digital transformation initiative, modernizing core banking systems and streamlining operations with automation. Significance: Reduced processing times, enhanced customer experience, and optimized operational costs, positioning the bank as a leader in digital banking. America's Best Banks and America's Most Cybersecure Banks Heritage Bank of Commerce appears on Forbes lists, including "America's Best Banks" (ranked #65 in 2025).

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COSTA KLADIANOS

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