The annual Georgia CIO of the Year® ORBIE® Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate & Healthcare categories will be announced November 4th at the Cobb Galleria.

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GEORGIA CIO

2022

**KEYNOTE**
Accenture CEO weighs in on fostering meaningful connections in today's omni-connected world

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**
GeorgiaCIO ORBIE Lifetime Achievement Award winner on developing successful IT strategies
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<tr>
<td>Ravi Acharya</td>
<td>National Vision Inc</td>
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<td>John Adamson</td>
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<td>Scott Waid</td>
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<td>Transportation Insight Holding Company</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GEORGIA CIO ORBIE NOMINEES
Technology Leaders are the X-Factor

Technology is at the center of modern business transformation and leadership is the X-factor between surviving and thriving in today’s digital economy.

GeorgiaCIO brings together leading CIOs of Georgia’s largest organizations to help CIOs maximize their leadership effectiveness, create value, reduce risk and share success. Through member-led, non-commercial programs, CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems and avoiding pitfalls.

GeorgiaCIO members collaborate locally and nationally with CIOs across industries because, successful CIOs understand the ‘superpower’ of trusted relationships. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. The challenge one CIO is facing has likely been solved by another CIO.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO. The best way to sharpen your leadership acumen is by collaborating with other leaders facing similar challenges. The industries and size may be different, but winning approaches to effective leadership are transferrable. Every leader’s perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation — and everyone wins when leaders engage, share ideas, experiences and best practices.

For over twenty years, InspireCIO has helped CIOs succeed in today’s most challenging C-suite executive role. By joining GeorgiaCIO, technology executives take their leadership to the next level through year-round, member-led programs and interaction. The power of CIOs working together — across public and private business, government, education, health-care and nonprofit organizations — creates enormous value for everyone.

Together, we are transforming our economy using technology and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of GeorgiaCIO, congratulations to the nominees and finalists on their accomplishments and thank you to the sponsors, underwriters, and staff who make the ORBIE Awards possible.

Brandon Van Orden
2022 Chair, GeorgiaCIO
SVP & CIO, Cousins Properties

#1 Cybersecurity Company in the World
Leading Every Evolution of Cybersecurity

Most Deployed   Most Validated
Most Patented   Broadest Portfolio

Congratulations to the 2022 Georgia CIO of the Year Award Winners and Nominees

www.fortinet.com
As CEO for Accenture North America, Jimmy Etheredge leads nearly 80,000 people in the U.S. and Canada to deliver on the promise of technology and human ingenuity for Accenture's people, its clients and its communities. He's been with the company since 1985 and previously served as managing director of the global professional service firms' Southeast region, including the Atlanta, Charlotte and Washington, D.C., markets.

He recently spoke with Atlanta Business Chronicle in conjunction with the upcoming Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards. He will deliver the keynote address at the event.

Top opportunities for CIOs. “In my conversations with CEOs, all strategies lead to technology — especially cloud, data, AI and security — and the need for a strong digital core. Everywhere, companies are under pressure to change faster to create exceptional customer experiences, out run competitors and survive constant disruptions. They need to be able to press the go button on the whole business, transforming everything, soup to nuts. That creates tremendous opportunity for CIOs to guide that transformation and lead their organizations through the process.”

Hybrid work challenges. “Companies are facing a lot of challenges here and it’s a constant conversation with senior leaders. I think we’re on the right path at Accenture with what we call an omni-connected model. We’re putting a premium on how people feel and their experiences at work, including using technology to collaborate and fostering meaningful connections that help people feel a sense of belonging.

“For example, instead of onboarding our global new joiners — all 150,000 — in person this year, we have been bringing them together on the ‘Nth floor,’ Accenture’s enterprise metaverse. They learn about the company, interact with colleagues and leaders, and experience our culture in a meaningful and personal way. It also shows them how serious we are about innovation starting from day one.

“We’re also investing in creating physical spaces that earn our people’s commutes. This is what we had in mind when building our new innovation hubs in Accenture Tower in Chicago and 1 Manhattan West in New York City, where our people can engage with the latest collaborative tools, artificial intelligence and robotics. Our hubs are also great spaces to gather for client projects, ‘ideathons’ with peers, community projects and celebrations.”

Building a talent pipeline. “It’s more important than ever that we take care of our people and help them succeed both personally and professionally. We are focused on creating a work environment that allows everyone to feel seen, safe, connected and courageous, and providing our people vibrant career paths.

“We’ve also looked at some interesting ways to expand our talent pipeline by widening the lens and attracting talent from untapped sources. We’ve established a national apprentice program in our business to give more people access to the jobs of the future — digital jobs — and the paid training they need to be successful.

“Today, 20% of Accenture’s entry level roles in the U.S. are filled with apprentices who receive paid training as they prepare for roles in areas including application development, cybersecurity, data engineering, cloud and platform engineering. These roles are among the nearly half of Accenture entry-level positions in the U.S. that are open to individuals who do not have a four-year college degree. We are proud of the success of this program, and the rich diversity these remarkable individuals bring to our organization. And that diversity matters – because it leads to innovation.”
Thinking Breakthroughs

Nagarro is a global digital engineering leader
32 countries | 17000+ employees
750+ clients | Listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange

www.nagarro.com

For the CIOs who turn MTTR into ASAP.

Congratulations winners.

www.newrelic.com
As CIO and head of Technology and Operations for the Account Processing business within Fiserv, Keith Fulton oversees product development, support and application operations for Bank Solutions, Credit Union Solutions, Next Generation Solutions and Deposit Solutions.

SUCCESS STORY
I led an agile and dev ops transformation across a team of more than 2500 developers and testers, covering 100+ products. This transformation increased productivity, as measured by feature throughput, by 71% and doubled the number of product releases per year. Both of these significant improvements benefit our clients by putting more new enhancements into their hands sooner. Achieving this transformation required a bottoms-up culture change within our group—encouraging our associates to be comfortable with learning by doing, and sharing early with clients—helping them see the potential of automation to raise velocity and quality at the same time.

Keith Fulton
SVP & CIO Account Processing, Fiserv, Inc.

Vijay Raghavan
EVP & CTO, LexisNexis Risk Solutions Group

SUCCESS STORY
As senior EVP and CIO of Global Payments, Guido Sacchi’s responsibilities include IT and digital business strategies, worldwide technology infrastructure, operations management, application development and support, information security, customer experience, portfolio management, platform integration, analytics and artificial intelligence. He is a recognized leader in Information Technology and delivery of business value from IT, with a unique combination of strategic thinking and focus on results.

SUCCESS STORY
Guido is playing a critical role in transformational partnerships that position Global Payments on the leading edge of payments industry cloud modernization. In 2020, Global Payments’ issuer business announced a multi-year collaboration with AWS. The agreement changed the industry, enabling leading financial institutions to access state-of-the-art cloud native technologies to run their card businesses worldwide. In 2021, Global Payments partnered with Google on a cloud-based platform combining the best of Global Payments and Google. This game-changing collaboration democratizes technology for SMBs, enabling them to seamlessly manage payments, launch marketing campaigns, enable omnichannel ordering and more.

Dr. Guido Sacchi
Senior EVP & CIO, Global Payments, Inc.

Neeraj Tolmare
Global CIO, The Coca-Cola Company

SUCCESS STORY
Neeraj has more than 20 years of multi-industry experience in leading technology and digital functions for global consumer brands. At the Coca-Cola Company, Neeraj has built and led global teams through transformation to modernize a legacy network and infrastructure footprint.

SUCCESS STORY
Generating enterprise value while making technology easy to consume has been my goal at The Coca Cola Company. Being able to balance funding between investing for future while reducing fixed costs to unlock value is my proud achievement. 100% public cloud with zero data centers, delivering one of the world’s largest greenfield SaaS on Azure implementation, standing up hyper secure network, prioritizing modernization of our plants, enabling the entire workforce to not skip a beat on productivity when we went global and remote through the pandemic and to do this at a global scale are some of our success stories.

Kim Trevisan
CIO, Oldcastle APG

Kim Trevisan is the CIO for Oldcastle APG. Kim is responsible for all aspects of the company’s IT strategy across AGS’ 27 companies in North America & Europe. As a member of the executive team, her work aligns business strategy with fit for purpose technology investments. Kim is also responsible for driving transformative change in the areas of BI/ Master Data, supply chain optimization and M&A integration.

SUCCESS STORY
• Global business transformation. Automation & global process re-engineering to improve our way of working & increase productivity. Improve the way our customers do business with us to support accelerated top line growth
• Modernizing an IT landscape to stabilize infrastructure & improve system availability to increase the throughput of customer orders & better forecast product manufacturing
• Technology Innovation that is the scalable foundation for the future of manufacturing: Connected customer digital channel, better data, faster & Smart Factory
• Improving the “business of IT” through agile & fit for purpose processes & tools
• Building a World-class IT team. Attracting, recruiting & retaining a diverse team of top IT talent, globally
A journey of a thousand miles begins with a secure identity

15,000+ customers trust Okta to secure digital interactions for their customers and employees

www.okta.com
A creative, dedicated, and empathetic Information Technology executive. Skilled in rationalizing how businesses leverage technology and focused on providing outstanding leadership to the teams and individuals tasked with designing and implementing solutions that enable businesses efficiency, profit, and scale. Driven to lead transformational technology initiatives that foster business growth, drive measurable results, and ultimately allow the business to reach its full potential.

SUCCESS STORY
My team. We all bring something incredible to the table, but they are extraordinary. It is their expertise, heart, and willingness that changes everything. I am just proud to represent them.

SUCCESS STORY
Atul Gambhir is a highly motivated, strategic and result oriented technology executive with 25+ years of global technology product, sales & solutions service delivery background. Atul partners with business teams to leverage technology as an enabler to drive the business solutions. Atul is an ethical servant leader who is committed to building strong & effective teams to lead and grow within & outside the organization. Atul is a firm supporter of cloud first technologies, data driven decisions, open platforms, service integrations and digital transformation to drive innovation.

SUCCESS STROY
Krishnamurthy partnered with FC ELT and GE P&L Leaders and led the Digital transformation at GE FieldCore which helped sustain the scale of growth from $300M to $2B and 5K to 13K employees over 2 years. He deployed Scalable and Secured industry leading Solutions to meet the business needs across 80 countries. His work paved the way for continuous learning culture with IT team members and helped teams to achieve their fullest potential and internal and external recognitions. He deployed Augmented and Virtual reality-based training for Field Teams focused on Employee Health and Safety to help reduce work-related injuries.

SUCCESS STORY
Travelport is a global technology company that powers bookings for hundreds of thousands of travel suppliers worldwide. Travel buyers and sellers are connected by Travelport’s next generation marketplace, Travelport+, which simplifies how brands connect, upgrades how travel is sold, and enables modern digital retailing. As the Global CIO at Travelport, I am proud to achieve such high recognition among the GeorgiaCIO community not only for myself, but for my team. We work hard to maintain our “always on” availability for our customers, while consistently finding new ways to remain efficient and effectively improve our capabilities for our customers and partners.

SUCCESS STORY
As EVP & CIO at Travelport, Bates is responsible for application development of shared services, global operations, networks, security, architecture, as well as enterprise quality and assurance. He is a transformational leader and oversees the high-performing teams responsible for Travelport’s performance and technology solutions that support the rapidly evolving global travel industry.

SUCCESS STORY
Development and execution of a transformation program to meet the needs of the future and align to enterprise strategy. The significance of this transformation program was not in its conceptualization but through its execution and realization of value that is transformative to the enterprise as a whole. To do this I knew we had to:
- Reorganize to be led by business
- Become more efficient on cost and delivery
- Scale infrastructure at cost
- Be impact focused on technology application

I established keys to success and the technology foundations to standardize on and segmented the transformation program into executable tenets.
STONE Resource Group is a professional staffing company focused heavily in the IT, Telecom, and Finance/Accounting industry.

Our team of experienced subject matter experts, consultants, recruiters, and account managers is guaranteed to provide our clients with the highest quality resources available!

STONE offers its congratulations to all the Georgia CIO of the Year Award Winners and Nominees!

“Twilio is ranked #1 for market share in Customer Data Platforms.”

10C

2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS
OVER $2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

Julie Elmore
VP & CTO, Dollar General

Mike Guhl
CIO, HD Supply

Rohit Lal
EVP & CIO, Saia, Inc.

Edwina Payne
EVP & CIO, Varsity Brands

Brian Work
EVP & CTO, Transportation Insight Holding Company

Serving as the CTO at Dollar General, Julie plays a major role in setting the technology direction, developing her team, and enable business differentiators. Through her commitment to this role, she has helped Dollar General improve advanced technology practices, implementing Digital, Store, Corporate and DC Technologies.

SUCCESS STORY
At Dollar General, our focus on customer engagement and employee experience provides opportunities to customize and tailor technology specifically for DG customers. We demonstrated this through our new point-of-sale interfaces for self-checkout options, which is currently available in 10,000+ stores and implemented a payment gateway for tap-to-pay and mobile payments. The payment gateway also provided advanced touch screen interfaces to store employees, allowing DG to provide new technology and event-driven future possibilities.

Mike Guhl serves as Chief Information Officer (CIO) at HD Supply. Mike has 25+ years of experience in delivering IT solutions – largely in Retail. Most recently, Mike was a Managing Director at Slalom, a modern consulting firm focused on strategy, technology, and business transformation.

SUCCESS STORY
Our major accomplishment this year juggling many large initiatives, and successfully delivering them all. The largest component was migrating all of HD Supply’s applications to Google Cloud. Almost 1400 servers, including our core SAP and eCommerce systems were moved, upgraded or re-written in 10 months. Our secondary data center was shut down in March. Our primary data center will close later this year. We also launched a new WMS for our distribution network and have converted four buildings to the new system. All of this while divesting a $3B business (WhiteCap) and integrating with another multi-billion dollar business (Interline/HP Pro).

As the CIO of Saia Inc., a leading public North-American LTL logistics company, Rohit is an integral part of an industry-leading leadership team that increased the market cap 4X through business and digital transformation initiatives to drive revenues and improve margins by over 200% in the four years since joining Saia.

SUCCESS STORY
Saia is 96 years old and had legacy systems and processes when I joined. My greatest accomplishment is enabling digital transformation and the use of technology to drive revenues, profitability, and productivity. Data-driven decisions and IT solutions have become the competitive tools that fuel Saia’s expansion and business strategies. We are a lean team, but the tight business-IT alignment allows us to deliver shareholder value through solutions ranging from highly available infrastructure, cybersecurity, and innovative applications to improve the customer experience. Over these five years, revenues have increased by over $1B, while the EPS and stock price more than tripled.

Edwina is the Chief Information Officer for Varsity Brands, where she leads the IT strategy and IT operations of their three divisions. She has held multiple roles in the life sciences space, most recently at McKesson Corporation where she was the Senior Vice President, Technology Strategy. She was responsible for McKesson’s technology strategy, enterprise portfolio management office, and overall enterprise architecture design.

SUCCESS STORY
I have established a strong IT function for Varsity Brands, creating an IT leadership team that incorporates divisional CIO’s and shared services leadership, including a robust PMO process and consolidated infrastructure and security teams. We have a 5-year IT strategy, which delivers streamlined applications to enable business growth and reduces the rate of IT spending compared to business revenue growth. A key enabler is our ERP consolidation program, which consists of business and IT team members across all three divisions - the first project to do so at Varsity Brands. This project is foundational to unlocking back-office synergies and revenue opportunities.

Brian Work is the Chief Technology Officer of Transportation Insight Holding Company (TIHC), where he leads the company’s digital transformation and accelerates the development of data-driven technology and end-to-end services for the logistics industry that extend far beyond point-to-point transportation. Brian drives the company’s development of digital technologies that better serve the transportation market.

SUCCESS STORY
I was hired with a mandate to lead a digital transformation project at Transportation Insight (TI). Two years later we produced a truly differentiated and industry-leading digital logistics platform.

We have done something that has helped move massive amounts of shipments with increased efficiency. Its unique to get the opportunity to take risks and have that kind of investment and buy-in from the company. However, my greatest accomplishment was hiring an amazing team, many of whom were willing to give up long careers at a very stable place to follow me to TI.
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SUCCESS STORY

Dr. Timothy Chester
VP for IT, University of Georgia

Seasoned C-level executive with over two decades’ experience in state-supported and private higher education institutions. Responsible for large-scale business transformation efforts through on-time, on-budget ERP implementations (Oracle PeopleSoft, Ellucian Banner), driving increased revenue and improved student outcomes through improved use of data and analytics.

SUCCESS STORY

Tommy Meek
CIO, Aaron’s

Throughout his 20+ year career, Tommy Meek worked his way up through the infrastructure side of Information Technology. Initially on the vendor side with HP and Cbeyond, he then moved in-house in 2014 with Aaron’s. Tommy is known as an inspirational leader with his ability to build and grow teams that excel in delivering technology innovation.

SUCCESS STORY

Glenn Melendez
CIO, Fulton County Government

A senior IT leader recognized by CIO Magazine’s prestigious CIO 100 award for operational and strategic excellence in technology. A seasoned professional who thrives on conceptualizing, analyzing, and delivering innovative technology solutions which serve as an enabler to achieving transformational business results. An inspirational leader that excels in leading a diverse workforce by fostering energy and enthusiasm at all levels of an organization.

SUCCESS STORY

Robert Sheesley
CIO, Wrench Group

In his current role as Chief Information Officer of Wrench Group, Robert is responsible for the information, technology and computer systems enabling and supporting Wrench Group’s enterprise goals and driving technology innovation and the adoption and use of technology across the enterprise to support data-driven strategies, information-based decision making and digital transformation to create competitive advantage and drive organic and transactional growth.

SUCCESS STORY

Grant Shih
CIO, National DCP

Grant Shih serves as the Chief Information Officer for National DCP (NDCP), the $2 billion supply chain management company serving the franchises of Dunkin’. In this role, Grant focuses on leading innovative technology solutions, improving infrastructure operations, performing systems implementations, integrating data sources, delivering end user support, and providing security around enterprise transactions and activities.

SUCCESS STORY

Robert Shih
CIO, Wrench Group

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SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment has been developing talent. Central to talent development has been stressing diversity and inclusion while instilling a culture of mutual teamwork and support. We continually discuss the need to cultivate trust and respect internally and with our stakeholders. Four of my direct reports have become CIOs at some of the most prestigious higher education institutions worldwide. Others have progressed to a deputy or associate CIO positions. As my career advanced, I’ve always been succeeded as CIO by one of my direct reports. Their succession is how I’ve known I’ve succeeded with talent and team development.
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OVER $400 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

Vidhya Belapure
CIO & VP
JM Huber Group

Kelsie Daniels
VP of IT
Cobb EMC

Tim Moody
CTO, City of Savannah

Scott Waid
SVP, Head of Technology,
Atlanta Braves National League Baseball Club

Vidhya Belapure is the Chief Information Officer for the Huber Engineered Materials & CP Kelco, two Business Units of JM Huber Corp. During the last 25 years, Vidhya has had several roles in Supply Chain, Finance, Commercial, and IT. During his career, he has worked on several business transformation initiatives starting with ERP implementation to more recently Digital Transformation.

SUCCESS STORY
Historically, the IT function was not treated as a strategic function and was not considered part of the Business Unit’s leadership team. But we have built trust with our business partners through active listening and delivering on our promises that each of our business units now has an “IT Strategic Partner” on their leadership team.

Kelsie Daniels is the Vice President, Information Technology, is responsible for IT across the organization, including governance, project execution, and operational performance of Cobb EMC. Additionally, he provides the vision for the strategic planning, management and implementation of information technology systems in support of the mission and strategic goals of the company.

SUCCESS STORY
My greatest accomplishments at Cobb EMC include repositioning IT for stronger business alignment and delivering on key priorities of the cooperative. As the IT leader, I focus on building trust with all business partners through strategic planning sessions, ongoing technology discussions, program execution, and technology change management. EMCs have a unique and unifying mission of delivering value to their members / customers. As a result, I received great support from all levels of the organization (Board, Staff, IT and employees) which ensured the success of the initiatives I have led.

In February of 2020 Tim joined Team Savannah as the Chief Technology Officer. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the ITS team excelled through the storm of supporting a remote workforce, council meetings via ZOOM, an expedited migration to Office 365 as well as employee turnover because of the pandemic.

SUCCESS STORY
Transforming IT in municipal government at a time of overall global change has proven to be the most rewarding season of my career. Navigating a global pandemic was just the opening act in my tenure with the City of Savannah. A coordinated and secure pivot to the Cloud has produced innumerable process improvements as well as business continuity for a region in which hurricane threats are routine. This City is now positioned with a skilled team of IT professionals that is delivering efficiencies and meeting citizen expectations. A burgeoning data culture is unlocking a future of exciting possibilities.

Scott Waid currently is the Senior Vice President/Head of Technology for the World Champion Atlanta Braves. He is responsible for identifying, deploying, and supporting technology solutions for Truist Park and The Battery Atlanta that helps drive the business and delivers the best fan experience in the industry.

SUCCESS STORY
Innovation, Perseverance, and Excellence!

A World Series Champion - ship for the Atlanta Braves ended 2021 on a high after overcoming adversity and uncertainty introduced by Covid. We used innovation and creativity to address these challenges and obstacles. For the business, we supported secure, digital, and virtual work from home solutions to run the business. Truist Park guests experienced less physical contact and congestion with the further adoption of mobile ticketing and the introduction of mobile ordering for concessions. New security surveillance and wireless networks (5G and Wi-Fi6) served the record, capacity crowds at Truist Park and The Battery Atlanta. Go Braves!
2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

Jean Holley
Board Director | Herc Holdings Inc. & Accord Financial Corp.

GeorgiaCIO ORBIE Lifetime Achievement Award winner on developing successful IT strategies

By The Business Journals Content Studio

Jean Holley is a global business leader who has a record of success developing strategic plans, executing digital transformations and turnarounds, and leveraging technologies in various industries.

She serves on two boards: Herc Holdings and Accord Financials, where she provides guidance on corporate strategy development, spinoffs, acquisitions, cybersecurity, establishing new management teams, board recruitment, rebranding and developing operational performance goals.

“Jean’s strong voice on the Accord Financial board keeps us focused on having the right team in place, aligned around the right strategy, pulling in the same direction. And when tough choices have to be made, Jean never fails to shape those problems into opportunities,” said Simon Hitzig, president and CEO of Accord Financial.

“Jean has brought deep knowledge and expert guidance on critical cybersecurity matters, digital business transformation and strategic IT initiatives to both Herc Holdings’ board and management team. Her current and future state understanding of technology and cybersecurity have proven to be crucial in assisting the business to adapt and anticipate the challenges of these evolving domains. While Jean is widely recognized for her IT-related expertise, the company equally benefits from her contributions to the board in other areas, such as in business strategy, human resource management, and compensation,” said Larry Silber, president and CEO of Herc Rentals.

Most recently Holley was the global chief information officer of Brambles, a worldwide leader in supply chain and logistics solutions.

Holley recently talked with the Atlanta Business Chronicle about key technology trends as part of this year’s Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards. She is the Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

Throughout your career, what role has technology played in business transformation, process improvement and productivity gains?

Holley: Technology has been at the core of transformation in terms of changing business practices for process improvements, insights leading to operational efficiencies and competitive opportunities. The funny thing about technology is if used incorrectly it can create an expensive mess. However, if engineered and designed correctly, managed tightly it can yield amazing results.

A lot has changed in the tech space over the past two decades, but I imagine some best practices still apply today.

Holley: The pandemic changed how we run and operate businesses dramatically. It required many companies to quickly implement remote staffing and new online capabilities. Many companies already had these capabilities, but they were used by small subsets of the company, such as only IT staff working remotely. While this shift seemed huge to many, it was often more of the same for IT, just larger numbers of workers and customers with higher demand.

Remote access, online customer services and collaboration are at the core of this shift. As companies pivoted during the pandemic, these capabilities were foundational to continuing operations and became front and center for virtually all customers and employees.

Can you share an example of how IT is serving as the backbone of enterprise resilience as we move through this next phase of the pandemic?

Holley: IT has always been a backbone for companies’ operations, but during the pandemic it simply became much more visible and critical.

At the board and C-levels, discussions shifted to include technology as core remote capabilities no longer limited to certain employees or customers or used periodically. Technology instantly shifted to critical core daily operations.

Clever CIOs and boards quickly explored different ideas to enable their companies to deliver different capabilities to their customers, creating new revenue opportunities. They also quickly shifted operations away from dependencies on traditional practices that would be suspended during the unknown pandemic time frame. Secondary markets for used items and equipment exploded as customers wanted goods that were stuck in supply chains. Remote services also exploded as on-site support was limited. Companies that could pivot quickly were often solutions for desperate customers and yielded new revenue streams.

What are the top challenges CIOs are facing these days?

Holley: Developing an agile strategy: One thing we have learned over the last two years is that things can change on a dime. Company strategies must be agile and have the ability to change quickly, which means CIOs’ IT strategies must have on and off ramps that support quick changes to a company strategy.

CIOs must always be prepared to answer the following:

- How would I speed up or slow down key projects?
- What additional projects can we launch?
- What projects would I shut down if needed?

The speed in which CIOs can shift IT strategies often defines company success or failure. I always had three to four great ideas in my pocket and was on the constant hunt for more.

Addressing security, which is changing: It’s no longer about keeping the bad actors out or training people not to click on things. Security is an end-to-end requirement and the entire process must be secured. This is often a challenge as solutions address specifics parts of the process, leaving CIOs to stitch together solutions. CIOs must look at the entire process to ensure safe, secure environments.

Ensuring you have the right people: A CIO can have the best strategy and operating plan, but it requires the right people to execute and bring it to life. CIOs need to ensure they build teams with diverse backgrounds, skills and experience. Be creative managing teams and ensuring high performance is recognized.

In my opinion one of the most critical team members is the head of human resources. They can assist in being a magnet for talent and point out areas that are not optimal. A top HR team member is gold in my book.
As Chief Technology Officer for OTR Solutions, Drew oversees all aspects of technology in the organization, from Help Desk and traditional IT to packaged software and custom solutions that enable the business and OTR Solutions clients. He draws on his previous consulting background and more than 20 years of IT architecture and delivery experience to enable the business to grow and scale.

**SUCCESS STORY**

My greatest accomplishment is taking the organization from tech-dysfunction to an elite tech shop in less than a year. I was charged with building a team AND using technology to remedy the risk of business failure. While OTR was on the verge of failure, I came in and overcame significant challenges.

In year one, we’ve grown our tech team to an organization of over 50 people. We’ve delivered technology projects across departments and delivering new solutions to our clients. I changed the low-confidence perception of our tech team to a high functioning and strongly communicative foundation for the company.
We congratulate the Georgia CIO of the Year® ORBIE® Award Finalists for Excellence in Leadership & Innovation.

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Ravi Acharya
SVP & CTO, National Vision Inc.

As Chief Information Officer, Karen is charged with the development of strategic IT initiatives that align with the company’s short- and long-term goals. She works closely with operational leaders to deliver innovative programs and services that enhance the revenue cycle services Savista delivers to its hospital clients and support the company’s colleagues.

SUCCESS STORY
My greatest accomplishment in this role has been to lead our company through a divestiture in 2021, which impacted the entire organization and all underlying technology. This large program included the greenfield build of new cloud infrastructure, network, security, end-user support, corporate applications, active directory, domains as well as managed partner services. These changes were completed on time, honoring an eleven-month transition services agreement. The team experienced very little turnover during this time and all stayed very focused on supporting Savista colleagues as we moved forward as One Team.

Karen Baker
CIO, Savista

Dr. Hank Capps
EVP, Chief Information & Digital Officer, Wellstar Health System

As Chief Information Officer, Dr. Capps led the creation of Catalyst by Wellstar, a global digital health and innovation center. By partnering with consumers, the Catalyst team re-imagines ways to create leaps in delivering better healthcare.

SUCCESS STORY
Dr. Capps led the creation of Catalyst by Wellstar, a global digital health and innovation center. By partnering with consumers, the Catalyst team re-imagines ways to create leaps in delivering better healthcare.

SUCCESS STORY
When I led our EHR system selection/Epic implementation, NGHS needed a tool to provide a continuity of care and a strong business partner to help us innovate. We built a great structure that allows us to consistently be one of Epic’s top performers and innovators.

Chris Paravate
CIO, Northeast Georgia Health System

SUCCESS STORY
As COVID persists, we’re focused on using digital solutions to transform and expand care delivery across the region.
Congratulations to the 2022 CIO of the Year ORBIE award finalists, including Crawford’s own Daniel Volk!

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The Atlanta Braves congratulate Scott Waid on his recognition as one of the Georgia CIO of the Year Orbie Award Finalists

Scott Waid

Congratulation!

TIMOTHY CHESTER
Vice President for Information Technology
2022 Georgia CIO ORBIE Award Finalist

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CONGRATULATIONS

SCOTT WAID

The Atlanta Braves congratulate Scott Waid on his recognition as one of the Georgia CIO of the Year Orbie Award Finalists
LexisNexis® Risk Solutions congratulates Vijay Raghavan for being named a finalist for the 2022 Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards.

Not only is he an expert in his field, Vijay passionately champions the diversity, equity and inclusion goals of the organization and contributes to our collaborative culture.

We thank you for leading us into the future.
2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

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