

NEWYORKCIO ORBIE AWARDS

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The annual NewYorkCIO 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 November 14 at Ziegfeld Ballroom."



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Great CIOs Understand How Connections Drive Transformation

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

NewYorkCIO brings together preeminent Chief Information Officers from New York'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,

"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."

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 New York. On behalf of NewYorkCIO, 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 New York 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,

Shane Brauner
2025 Chair, NewYorkCIO
Executive Vice President and
CIO at Schrödinger



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CIO Leadership ORBIE Award Recipient | JOHN REPKO

Do what you said you would do

A Conversation with Leadership Award Recipient
John Repko, EVP & Global Chief Information Officer (ret.), AIG



John Repko is a globally recognized business and technology leader who retired in 2024 after serving 28 consecutive years as a Global Chief Information Officer. He now leads a Business & Technology Advisory practice that supports public companies, private equity, and venture-backed organizations with strategic guidance across digital transformation, cybersecurity, technology governance, and operational excellence.

An award-winning CIO and Qualified Financial Expert (QFE), John has served as Chief Information Officer for five public companies, combining deep technology and financial acumen with a proven ability to lead enterprise-wide transformation. His experience spans digital modernization, mergers and acquisitions, Six Sigma, spinoffs, and strategic finance. Having managed multicultural teams and operations in more than 80 countries, he brings a global perspective to leadership, governance, and innovation.

Most recently, John was Senior Advisor to the CEO and Chairman of American International Group (AIG) after five years as Executive Vice President and Global CIO. At AIG, he co-led the company's \$1 billion digital transformation initiative, AIG 200, led the overhaul of global cybersecurity, and executed a \$200 million IT separation of AIG Life & Retirement. He also co-led the company's COVID-19 response and modernization of its technology infrastructure.

Before AIG, John was Global CIO at Johnson Controls (JCI), where he oversaw a worldwide technology team and chaired the JCI Digital Policy Board. He played a pivotal role in the merger of JCI and Tyco International, where he had previously led enterprise transformation and technology turnaround initiatives as Global CIO. Earlier, he held CIO roles at Covance and SES S.A. and began his career as a CPA at Ernst & Young.

John has been a trusted advisor to Boards and C-suites on cybersecurity, technology strategy, and digital transformation. He has served on several boards, including BioClinica, Blackboard Insurance, and the JCI Foundation, and is currently a Business Fellow at Villanova University's School of Business.

A recognized industry thought leader, John has been named to the CIO Hall of Fame, Top 25 CIOs in Financial Services, and Insurance CIO Outlook's Top 10 Life Insurance CIOs.

He holds an MBA in Information Technology from Drexel University and a BS in Accounting from Villanova University, along with certifications as a CPA (inactive), Certified Six Sigma Master Black Belt, and Enterprise Certified NetWare Engineer.

John Repko's path to becoming a CIO was unconventional. He started as a CPA before pivoting to IT. Over a 40-year career, he served as CIO at five public companies. Now semi-retired, Repko mentors CIOs, teaches at Villanova, and continues to speak publicly on digital transformation and cybersecurity.

As the 2025 ORBIE CIO Leadership Award Winner, Repko recently shared his thoughts on what makes a good leader and what CIOs can expect in the future.

Can you tell us about your background?

Repko: I started as a CPA at EY and then went to GE where I worked for 14 years, first in accounting and then in IT. In 1997, I became a divisional CIO at GE Capital's Americom division which was sold to SES where I served as CIO. I've also held CIO positions at Tyco, Johnson Controls, Covance, and AIG, the global insurance and financial services firm. Today, I'm still very active in the technology community by doing advisory work for Private Equity companies.

How did you get interested in technology?

Repko: I was on the accounting/finance track at GE Capital, but I wasn't passionate about that career path. About the same time, I started my MBA at Drexel University where I focused on IT. I was also a technology hobbyist. I bought my first PC in 1987 and taught myself a lot. I asked to join the IT team at GE and was told I had to start at the bottom. So, I did and spent nine months on the help desk. From there, I kept getting promoted. One of the best moves I made was volunteering to support GE's Six Sigma initiative. I became a "master black belt" and coached other executives. That helped lead to my appointment as CIO at GE Americom. For a non-IT guy, I was happy about that.

How has your perspective on technology evolved?

Repko: I've always embraced technology, but I've become more cautious, especially with the

emergence of AI and the growing sophistication of hackers. The same tools we use to do good are also being used to do bad things by hackers. Cybersecurity has become the number one concern for corporate boards. As CIO, risk management was a huge part of my job.

How are companies using AI?

Repko: We're still in the early stages. Companies are using AI in less than mission-critical processes. There's a real risk with AI hallucinations, where the system invents factually incorrect information. That's why AI is being applied cautiously.

"I've always embraced technology, but I've become more cautious, especially with the emergence of AI and the growing sophistication of hackers. The same tools we use to do good are also being used to do bad things by hackers."

Where is AI headed?

Repko: What is proving to be productive is the highly skilled white-collar worker who knows how to use AI. We call it the "human in the middle" model. A knowledge worker applies critical thinking to interpret AI output. I tell my college students that they have to learn how to use AI. It will take some people's jobs, but those with strong communication and critical

thinking skills who know how to use AI will be in demand.

What is your leadership style?

Repko: I've managed thousands of people. I'm hands-on, very operational, intuitive and a critical thinker. I would ask questions the team couldn't answer and expect them to find the answer. People used to say I was "omnipresent." I've also heavily focused on leadership development and have helped about 75 people become CIOs. One lesson I emphasize: Follow through matters. Don't sign up for things you can't deliver. Do what you say you'll do.

How has the role of the CIO changed?

Repko: When I started in tech, most CIOs did not report to the CEO. Today, if you're not reporting to the CEO, something is wrong. In the last five years, we've had an explosion of tech titles and now several tech executives often sit on the executive team, including the chief analytics officer and chief AI officer. In 2025, the average CIO job is a little smaller but more strategic.

What is your advice to CIOs or aspiring CIOs?

Repko: Be a team player. Support the other tech executives in the board room. Work to make them successful. Be humble. Embrace new technologies and collaborate with your peers. The entire executive committee needs to work together to move the business forward.

What does the ORBIE award mean to you?

Repko: I'm truly humbled and honored. Honestly, I was pleased that some of the finalists have worked for me over the years. That makes this recognition even more special.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Repko: My early years as an accountant were invaluable. CIOs manage massive budgets and having an eagle eye for numbers has helped me my entire career.



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MARCO ARGENTI
CIO, Goldman Sachs

Marco Argenti is the chief information officer of Goldman Sachs, having joined the firm as a partner in 2019. Previously, he served as vice president of technology at Amazon Web Services and spent several years at Nokia Corp. as senior vice president and global head of developer experience and marketplace. Earlier, he was a board member and CEO of Dada S.p.A., and board member, executive vice president of strategy development and chief technology officer of Microforum Inc.

Success Story: We built and deployed the GS AI Platform which provides access to the latest LLMs usually within 1-2 weeks of their release in a safe and secure way and enables the genAI tools we provide our people like the GS AI Assistant which is available to all of our 46,000+ employees and is seeing over one million prompts per month. This approach has allowed us to achieve meaningful efficiency gains and to introduce agentic AI into our systems. This is just the beginning of our AI journey and allows us to continue to scale AI solutions.



BOB BASTIAN
Chief Information and Technology Officer, Global Retirement and Insurance, Prudential Financial

Bob Bastian is chief information and technology officer for Prudential's Global Retirement and Insurance businesses, driving innovation and scalability across 12 countries. He leads cross-functional teams delivering solutions and integrating advanced AI capabilities, positioning Prudential as a technology leader. Bastian is a board member of Prudential Holdings of Japan, Stevens Institute of Technology President's Leadership Council, and the Salvation Army of New Jersey. He also serves as chair of the LIMRA CIO Council.

Success Story: I've focused on aligning technology and business strategy to accelerate innovation and scale globally. By bringing diverse teams together, we modernized core systems, launched digital capabilities faster, and improved customer experiences. What I'm most proud of is fostering a culture of accountability and continuous learning. Together, we removed silos, shared best practices, and unlocked growth as one global organization. This shift helps us meet evolving customer needs, strengthen our market position, and deliver on Prudential's purpose: making lives better by solving the financial challenges of our changing world. Real transformation happens when people feel ownership, and that's what we've achieved.



BRIDGET ENGLE
Head of Technology, Wells Fargo

Bridget Engle is head of technology and a member of the Operating Committee at Wells Fargo. She leads a team responsible for modernizing the company's platforms, enhancing the resiliency and cybersecurity of applications and infrastructure, and delivering innovative solutions to customers and across the company. Engle oversees Wells Fargo's digital transformation, including reimagining customer and employee experiences and providing secure, stable 24/7 banking access.

Success Story: As I've taken on new roles, I've been privileged to build a community of talented technologists who followed me. I've very proud of this legacy of followership. These loyal professionals have joined my journey, either because I initiated or they pursued roles in my new organization. I credit my talent philosophy focused on collaborative work driving real innovation and delivering significant business outcomes. Ultimately, people want to add value while doing fun, creative, challenging work that matters. That's the environment I always strive to create, and it has contributed to my ability to have an impact, compete, and win.



GREG MEYERS
Chief Digital and Technology Officer, Bristol Myers Squibb

Gregory S. Meyers is a Fortune 100 healthcare technology executive with global experience driving digital transformation across life sciences, healthcare and agriculture. He has led budgets exceeding \$2 billion, built high-performing teams, and advanced innovation in AI, cybersecurity and compliance. As chief digital and technology officer at Bristol Myers Squibb, he accelerated trials, integrated Celgene, and launched AI platforms. Previously at Syngenta and Biogen, he created digital platforms and data science capabilities.

Success Story: At Bristol Myers Squibb, I am driving enterprise-wide digital transformation across BMS, accelerating R&D, improving our connections to customers and helping the 35,000 people in our charge to be more productive. As a result, we have been able to shave nearly 3 years off of our clinical trials, became the only pharma company to have launched 3 meaningful AI based clinical tools being used widely in clinical practice, and have improved sales 5-6% in areas where our sales teams are now using AI guides.



JEFF SROUR
Worldwide Senior Vice President and CIO, MedTech, Johnson & Johnson Inc.

Jeff Srour is a seasoned business executive with more than 20 years of experience leading digital transformation in healthcare and consumer industries. As CIO of a major MedTech company, he drives innovation, connectivity and personalized engagement across orthopedics, cardiovascular, vision and surgery. Known for his servant leadership, Srour fosters diverse, high-performing teams and builds strategic partnerships. He holds degrees in computer science, cognitive science and an MBA, and is passionate about community service and continuous learning.

Success Story: Under my leadership, the Corporate Business Technology team delivered transformative outcomes, including a centralized, harmonized, and governed financial infrastructure with advanced analytics, addressing a complex landscape across 60+ ERPs. We also modernized legacy systems by launching a self-service pay, time, and attendance platform for over 100,000 employees—significantly improving the user experience.



“Great CIOs understand how connections drive transformation,” said Shane Brauner, NewYorkCIO Chair. “The ORBIE® Awards recognize CIOs who leverage relationships to drive innovation, solve complex challenges, and shape the future of New York.”

Congratulations to the 2025 New York CIO of the Year® Award winners and nominees.

Comcast Business has been a proud sponsor of the ORBIE® Awards for 9 years, and is now supporting businesses in New York with advanced connectivity and secure networking solutions.

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LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS Over \$7 billion annual revenue



SHANKAR ARUMUGAVELU
Executive Vice President, President Global Services, Verizon

Shankar Arumugavelu, president of Verizon Global Services, oversees support functions including IT, digital, data, analytics, AI, real estate, sourcing, supply chain and sustainability. Previously, he was chief digital and information officer, leading IT, digital, data and analytics for digital transformation and revenue growth. He serves on the boards of TM Forum and Seagate Technology plc and holds a master's in computer science from the University of South Florida and a bachelor's in electrical and electronics engineering from Anna University.

Success Story: Verizon Global Services has successfully transitioned from a cost center to a source of value creation-operating with a strong sense of urgency to deliver impactful business results. My team is consistently encouraged to adopt innovative thinking & take the lead in resolving complex business challenges & utilizing our unique vantage point. Our strategic focus encompasses implementing a pragmatic real estate strategy-optimizing working capital efficiency through global supply chain improvements-achieving cost savings-providing actionable insights for our most demanding business problems. We are embedding AI-reducing cognitive load & proactively solving issues. We are continuously striving to improve work processes-provide thought leadership.



DR. CRAIG CUYAR
Senior Vice President and Global CIO, Omnicom Group

Dr. Craig Cuyar is senior vice president and global CIO at Omnicom Group, where he leads IT transformation for a \$15.5 billion Fortune 250 company. Previously global CIO at Cushman & Wakefield, he is a CIO Hall of Fame inductee and serves as adjunct faculty at Northeastern University and, previously, Columbia University, empowering future technology leaders with his expertise in IT strategy and innovation.

Success Story: Dr. Craig Cuyar transformed Omnicom's global IT landscape, leading a company-wide digital modernization that drove new client offerings, measurable cost savings, and robust revenue growth. His leadership earned induction into the CIO Hall of Fame and set a benchmark for innovation and organizational impact, with results that continue to deliver strong business value for the world's largest agency holding company.



DAVID DITILLO
CIO, Corebridge Financial

David Ditillo is CIO of Corebridge Financial, responsible for all aspects of technology strategy, transformation and delivery. He also oversees cybersecurity, physical security and enterprise resiliency. Prior to joining Corebridge, Ditillo held executive technology management roles at AIG, MetLife and JPMorgan Chase, where he led various technology divisions. He is a member of the boards of directors for AGCL, AGL, USL and VALIC, and of the North Carolina Technology Association.

Success Story: As CIO, Dave Ditillo led Corebridge Financial through the complex technology infrastructure separation from its previous parent company, AIG. Since Corebridge's IPO in 2022, Dave has transformed IT into a modern, commercial organization, reinforced security and resiliency, migrated our systems almost entirely to the cloud, modernized our back-office capabilities, digitally enabled the way we serve our diverse customer, and positioned the company for the deployment of advanced practices, including AI. He is also committed to building a culture of partnership, collaboration and inclusion, and an innovative, high-performance culture to drive growth and substantial business outcomes.



TSVI GAL
CTO and Head of Enterprise Technology Services, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Tsvi Gal is a recipient of the Presidential Einstein Award for Technology and Science. A pioneer of on-line banking, digital wealth management and online music, he has deep expertise in high-performance computing and AI, now applied as CTO of Memorial Sloan Kettering to transform cancer research and care. Previously CIO/CTO at Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch, Time Warner and president of AT&T.com, Gal also served on the U.S. G7 technology delegation.

Success Story: At Memorial Sloan Kettering, we led the integration of high-performance computing and next-generation AI into cancer research, enabling genomic sequencing at unprecedented scale. This work accelerated time-to-insight by close to 10 years, directly supporting breakthroughs in precision medicine and less invasive biological treatments. At the same time, our team modernized hospital operations with digital "front doors," cutting patient call wait times from 42 minutes to under one and virtually eliminating call abandonment. These innovations not only advanced research and improved clinician productivity but also gave patients a warmer, more efficient experience allowing them to focus on healing, not bureaucracy.



AJIT NAIDU
CIO, Retirement, Wealth, Marketing and Digital Client Technology, TIAA

As CIO of Retirement, Wealth, Marketing and Digital Client Technology at TIAA, Ajit Naidu orchestrates technology strategy for one of the nation's largest financial services organizations managing \$1 trillion in assets. He serves on multiple boards, including venture capital firm Turbostart and nonprofit Streetwise Capital, and provides strategic counsel on Salesforce's Financial Services Customer Advisory Board. Under his leadership, TIAA has earned seven consecutive CIO 100 awards.

Success Story: At TIAA, we're engineering financial futures for 5 million educators, researchers, and nonprofit workers managing \$1 trillion in assets. We've democratized sophisticated financial guidance through mobile-first platforms, cloud-native and AI enabled architecture. Institutional-grade retirement modeling now serves every teacher checking balances. Week-long processes—loan approvals, beneficiary updates, distributions—now happen at digital speed. Our Google Cloud Contact Center AI transformation revolutionized 15,000+ daily interactions—AI agents handle routine inquiries while intelligent routing connects complex conversations to specialized counselors with predictive insights. Our MyTIAA portal's #1 Corporate Insights ranking demonstrates how thoughtful technology humanizes complex financial decisions.



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TRISH BOUSFIELD
CIO, Hikma Pharmaceuticals

Trish Bousfield is CIO at Hikma Pharmaceuticals, where she leads global IT transformation, modernizing legacy systems and advancing AI and digital strategies. Since joining in 2020, Bousfield has championed data democratization and operational excellence, balanced with cost containment and optimization. Recognized as a Top 100 Life Science Data Leader, she brings expertise from leadership roles at Syneos Health, Zoetis, Pfizer and American Express.

Success Story: Under my leadership, we transformed Hikma's IT organization into a unified, high-performing global function respected by the Business. We established an engagement based operating model, aligning technology with business goals. We redefined IT's reputation, increasing engagement scores, diversity and customer satisfaction. Our compliance and risk posture improved dramatically as did our fiscal management, optimizing costs to offset business growth and invest in new technology. We launched a Digital Roadmap and AI Advisory Board, delivering automation and digital fluency across the enterprise and launching a global data foundation platform. These accomplishments positioned IT as a catalyst for innovation and business growth.



RAMA DONEPUDI
Senior Vice President and Global CIO, Mead Johnson Nutrition

Rama Donepudi is senior vice president and global CIO of Mead Johnson Nutrition, a \$3 billion subsidiary of Reckitt. He leads global IT and digital, overseeing strategy, operations, cybersecurity, data and AI-driven transformation. Donepudi has delivered initiatives including a global S/4HANA on RISE implementation, enterprise-scale generative AI platforms and AI-Ops innovation. A lifelong learner, he holds an MBA from Northwestern Kellogg and is pursuing a Ph.D.

Success Story: Under Rama's leadership, Mead Johnson Nutrition has delivered breakthrough digital transformation in the highly regulated infant nutrition industry. In just 11 months, his team implemented SAP S/4HANA on RISE globally, modernizing operations and building a scalable digital backbone. They launched DART, a GenAI-powered data marketplace that cut reporting time by 50% and boosted dashboard engagement by 32%. With LEXicon AI, content approvals dropped from five days to hours, fueling faster growth. These initiatives, alongside RAPID AI for scalable AI adoption, have positioned MJN as a connected, insight-driven, and innovation-ready enterprise delivering measurable business value worldwide.



JEFF GOETHALS
CIO, Centric Brands

Jeff Goethals, CIO of Centric Brands, is reshaping the operating playbook for global retail by uniting technology, transformation and strategy. He leads acquisitions, global expansion and innovation through AI, automation and advanced analytics, anchored by Centric's "Adaptive Technology Ecosystem." With prior leadership roles at Ross Stores, Toys R Us, IBM and PwC, Goethals has consistently delivered large-scale digital and operational transformations.

Success Story: My team and I are executing an ambitious agenda to digitize core processes, eliminate tech debt, and build differentiating capabilities at a time of rapid global growth and brand acquisitions. With strong support from CEO Jason Rabin, we embraced the challenge to make Centric a technology-first company. We built a fully composable "Adaptive Ecosystem," a modern architecture of specialized Engines that plug into our ERP and PLM core. Examples include our Product Design Engine, International Engine, and Data & Analytics Engine, all delivering speed, scalability, and AI-driven innovation. I'm proud of our teams and partners bringing this vision to life.

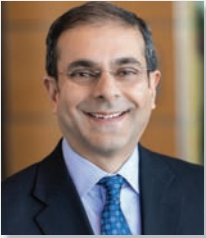


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VIKRAM NAIR
CIO, Amneal Pharmaceuticals

Vikram Nair is CIO at Amneal Pharmaceuticals, leading global IT strategy, operations and digital transformation. Under his leadership, Amneal IT has delivered measurable business value through automation, AI and enterprise modernization. He leads TEAM IT — Together, Everyone Achieves More Inspiration and Transformation. Previously, Nair held global IT leadership roles at Pfizer, Viking Cruises and Carnival Cruise Lines.

Success Story: Amneal IT's real success is that we've stayed the course. Five years ago, we defined a strategic roadmap — and we've delivered on it, step by step, through perseverance, adaptability, and teamwork. Along the way, we've evolved our organization, strengthened execution, and built the muscle to manage complexity at scale. Now, we're positioned for our next chapter — one that will demand new thinking, new capabilities, and deeper partnership across the business — to achieve our new mission: enabling business transformation through AI at Amneal, and evolving our team and operating model to rise to it.



ARVIND SAHU
Global Vice President of IT and Global CIO, Crayola Inc.

Arvind Sahu is a global technology leader with a proven track record of driving enterprise-wide digital transformation. He specializes in aligning IT strategy with business goals, leading ERP implementations, and driving innovation through AI and analytics. Sahu is known for building high-performing business-focused teams, optimizing global infrastructure and delivering measurable ROI.

Success Story: As Global CIO at Crayola, I'm leading a multi-year global transformation initiative to standardize business processes and technology platforms across all regions. This includes implementing a centralized ERP ecosystem across all our subsidiaries, targeting significant reductions in operating and inventory costs while improving order fulfillment. We're leveraging AI to enhance forecast accuracy and integrating internal and customer data for better insights. Infrastructure modernization is driving scalability and cost savings, while cybersecurity and change management ensure resilience and adoption. Additionally, I've reduced operating expenses through strategic vendor management and launched an innovation-focused division to explore generative AI opportunities with the business.



DANIELLE SCHMELKIN
Executive Vice President and CIO, J.Crew Group

Danielle Schmelkin is executive vice president and CIO of J.Crew Group, leading technology across J.Crew, J.Crew Factory and Madewell. Her career includes leadership roles at Tapestry, Barnes & Noble and Pepperidge Farm. At J.Crew, she drives differentiation through AI, analytics, personalization and unified commerce, while serving as executive sponsor of two Associate Impact Groups. Schmelkin also chairs the board of URJ Eisner and Crane Lake Camps.

Success Story: At J.Crew Group, we reimagined technology from polite plumbing to the runway for customer experience. We modernized our commerce stack, launched mobile apps that generated millions in sales, and introduced AI capabilities that doubled search engagement and lifted conversion. A new Intelligent Data Hub and predictive models power personalization at scale, reducing returns and building rich customer personas. Our Zoë assistant turns data into instant insights, returning thousands of hours to the business. Alongside the tech, we built Summer Camp and hackathons to nurture builders across the company. The result: measurable growth, lower costs, and a culture of innovation.



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ROGER CZUCHRA
Executive VP, Chief Technology and Digital Officer, Acushnet Holdings Corp.

Strategic, creative and accomplished Information Technology and Digital Officer with a proven track record of leading innovative solutions for some of the world's most iconic brands. Renowned for driving transformative initiatives that redefine customer experiences and enable organizations to leverage technology for competitive advantage. With global professional experience, he navigates diverse industries, cultures and geographies with ease, having held C-level roles in growth-driven mid-sized and Fortune 500 companies.



SALVATORE DIDONATO
CTO, STG Logistics

Salvatore DiDonato, EVP and CIO of STG Logistics, is a thoughtful savage leader in supply

chain and logistics technology, combining empathy with relentless drive. Since joining STG in 2015, he has applied expertise from cold chain logistics, healthcare, big data analytics, and digital advertising to lead innovation and AI-enabled transformation. His leadership philosophy unites technology, people, grit, and culture to achieve operational excellence and position STG as a benchmark for modern, intelligent, and resilient logistics organizations.

Success Story: At the core of my leadership philosophy is the belief that people and business processes must come before technology. True transformation begins with empowering teams, defining clear processes, and cultivating trust, only then can technology deliver its full potential. When organizations focus on these foundations, innovation becomes sustainable and measurable. I've learned that fostering a culture of continuous learning, transparency, and adaptability enables teams to embrace change (including failure) with confidence. This mindset drives operational excellence and ensures that digital transformation and AI investments create long-term value and competitive advantage across the organization.



FARIS FARIS
Chief Information and Technology Officer, Ferraro Foods

Faris Faris is a results-driven technology executive

who is proficient in business systems and process transformation, with strengths in building teams, creating synergies and identifying opportunities for innovation. He has positioned businesses to achieve goals and enable growth by streamlining processes, advancing AI initiatives and maximizing organizational impact. Faris has a track record of spearheading projects in AI, cybersecurity, ERP, WMS and CRM.

Success Story: Faris once took on a leadership role with a multi-million dollar company that had no cyber security, end of life servers, non-supported operating systems, outdated applications, outdated ERP, and a server room that had a sprinkler in it. This was a total strategic tech overhaul, and Faris was excited. Within 2 years Faris and his team completely rebuilt the IT landscape, new ERP system, developed a security program, and completed all software upgrades, positioning the company for its nearly 2x growth, which included a full BC/DR design. Where most would walk away from this environment, Faris thrived in it!



FRANK IANNELLA
Senior Vice President and CIO, Heineken USA

Frank Iannella is senior vice president and CIO of Heineken USA and

a member of its executive team, driving digital transformation and IT strategy to enable commercial and supply chain excellence. With more than 25 years in consumer products, including executive roles at PepsiCo and Freshpet, Iannella aligns technology with business outcomes, fosters strategic partnerships and develops talent.

Success Story: Under my leadership, IT shifted from a reactive service into a strategic enabler of commercial growth. I led the development of a consumer-centered program that modernized our digital marketing and consumer data capabilities. I also launched a Data & Analytics team and a Digital Innovation Practice to drive business insights and improve supply chain efficiency. During the post-pandemic period, I played a key role in navigating market disruptions, including supply chain and tariff challenges, ensuring business continuity and operational resilience. Beyond technology, I championed culture and talent development, building a high-performing, business-focused IT organization rooted in transformation and strategic impact.



ROBERT LEE
CTO, Blue Owl Capital

Robert Lee is CTO of Blue Owl Capital, overseeing the firm's technology strategy across AI, digital transformation, cybersecurity and infrastructure. Previously, he was CTO at Clayton Dubilier & Rice and CIO at Morgan Stanley Real Estate and Merchant Banking Partners. He also held leadership roles at Credit Suisse, including CIO for DLJ Merchant Banking Partners.

Success Story: As CTO of Blue Owl Capital, Robert Lee has transformed technology into a strategic engine for growth and innovation. He leads a team of technologists and has driven initiatives that modernized infrastructure and embedded solutions across investment, fundraising, and operations. His leadership fostered collaboration within cross-functional teams to build tools - such as mobile portfolio apps and AI-powered platforms - that enhanced client engagement and accelerated outcomes. By cultivating a culture of innovation, partnership, and talent development, Robert has positioned technology as both an enabler and a differentiator in the competitive alternative investment space, driving measurable efficiency and elevating Blue Owl's brand.



ARIANE SCHIERECK
CIO, Hollister Inc.

Ariane Schiereck is CIO of Hollister Inc. and group CIO for John Dickenson Schneider

Inc., a multinational medical device and services company. She leads enterprise-wide digital, data, technology, cyber and AI strategy across nine businesses in more than 24 countries. With more than 25 years of IT leadership experience across regulated industries, she is redefining IT as a strategic enabler of growth.

Success Story: I believe in the power of people and purpose to push boundaries and create transformative outcomes. At Hollister and JDS, I'm leading a full-scale reinvention of IT, evolving it into a strategic enabler of innovation, agility, and growth. I'm unifying global IT, building a future-ready workforce, modern architectures, and AI-driven ecosystems. From innovation programs to modernizing core platforms, my teams are reshaping how our businesses operate and deliver value. Together, we're positioning JDS to thrive in the digital and AI era, creating exceptional experiences to make life more rewarding and dignified for the users of our products and services.



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AMIT BASU
Vice President, CIO and CISO, International Seaways Inc.

Amit Basu is CIO and CISO of International Sea-

ways, one of the world's largest energy transportation companies. A pioneer of shipboard computerization in the 1990s, he later led the company's cloud-only transformation and built a multi-layered cybersecurity framework. Today, he advances AI-driven automation to enhance efficiency and resilience. Basu is a recognized global thought leader and advisor.

Success Story: My team at INSW has delivered accomplishments of strategic importance, driving resilience, efficiency, and growth. During the pandemic, INSW operated without any disruption thanks to meticulous planning and early shift to cloud-only architecture. We even completed a remote merger with a company of larger size. Our CEO publicly credited me and the IT team on national television for business continuity at a time of global uncertainty. We advanced automation, strengthened cyber resiliency, and developed enterprise AI roadmap. These initiatives have positioned INSW as a secure, efficient, and future-ready enterprise, with an IT team trusted by business and the board.





GREG BELLOTTI
Senior Vice President, CIO and CISO, Kean University

Greg Bellotti is an IT leader at Kean University, known for

driving transformative technology solutions. In two years, Kean IT has rebuilt its organization, wide-area network, core tech and cyber systems and operational processes. Bellotti excels at creating strategic vision and building user buy-in to deliver measurable ROI.

Success Story: Our University journey to modern IT is a testament to strong leadership, exceptional vendors, an energized staff and smart/able users who needed Secure, Simple, Standard and Sustainable IT to unleash scalable growth and pursue large, high-value sponsored research opportunities that make a difference in our local and national communities. "Research that Matters" isn't just a cute tag line, it a call to action that is embraced by our administration, faculty, students and community. It drives our campus and requires exceptional IT my team and I are proud to deliver.





CHRISTIAN FORTUCCI
CTO, David Yurman

Christian Fortucci is CTO at David Yurman with more than 25 years of experience turning

ideas into solutions. He focuses on bridging business strategy and technology to deliver growth. He is passionate about developing talent and creating inclusive environments where individuals thrive.

Success Story: The investment in our people has repeatedly proven to be a success story that provides infinite returns. By seeking out individuals with passion, curiosity, and values that align with the culture of David Yurman, we created an inclusive community where people thrive, grow, and inspire one another. We ground ourselves in the core values of empathy, integrity, and trust, to create an ecosystem that develops individuals into high-performing talent. Through this investment with intention into our people, we have established a collective force that drives innovation, resilience, and generates lasting impact.

DAVID YURMAN



SHEETAL GUPTA
CIO, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler

Sheetal Gupta is a technology leader with more than 30 years of experience

helping organizations transform how they work and deliver for clients. As CIO, she focuses on making technology seamless, secure and empowering so attorneys and staff can deliver their best work.

Success Story: At Patterson Belknap, our biggest accomplishment has been turning IT from invisible plumbing into a visible force that powers how attorneys work and serve clients. We modernized the workplace with secure, high performing tools and created a culture where resilience and experimentation thrive. That shift turned skeptics into believers and ideas into measurable impact. However, the most meaningful change has been cultural. IT is now seen as a driver of progress, trusted for its vision, capability, and credibility to deliver outcomes that matter.



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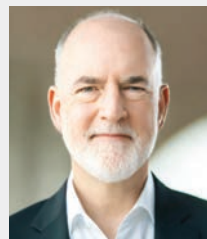
REX PHILIPS
CIO and CTO, Trinity Solar

Rex Philips is a technology executive with a servant-leader mindset and a

"business-first, technology-second" philosophy. As CIO and CTO of Trinity Solar, he builds scalable, reliable and long-term systems that drive organizational success. He prioritizes solutions that solve complex problems, streamline processes and integrate across platforms to improve efficiency and the customer experience.

Success Story: One of my core strengths is the ability to bridge technology and business through simple, outcome-driven conversations. I focus on listening deeply to the real needs of the customer and then translating those needs into systems that deliver lasting value. Over the years, I've built numerous enterprise-class systems, but one example stands out: I architected a web-based engineering CPQ system that became a cornerstone of the company's operations. The system was so effective and deeply embedded in workflows that it remained in use for over 20 years, only being retired after more than five years of phased replacement planning.





ANDY RHODES
CIO, Ultimate Medical Academy

Andy Rhodes is CIO at Ultimate Medical Academy, leading AI, digital and data transformation to

prepare students for healthcare careers. With more than 30 years across Fortune 1000, higher education and nonprofit sectors, he previously held CIO roles at UNICEF and USGA. Rhodes chairs the University of Pittsburgh School of Computing and Information Board of Visitors and serves on nonprofit boards focused on technology and education.

Success Story: Our team is transforming how Ultimate Medical Academy empowers non-traditional learners—often first-generation college students and working adults—through healthcare careers. Over three years, we modernized legacy systems with cloud-native architecture, built data-driven real-time student support capabilities and enabled just-in-time outreach to at-risk learners. As a result, UMA has over 100,000 alumni nationwide, with our graduates filling critical healthcare roles in communities across the country creating lasting community benefits through their service.



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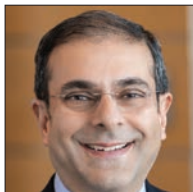
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