

2026 AGENDA

INFO~TECH
RESEARCH GROUP

IGNITE

POWERED BY INFO-TECH LIVE

Vancouver, BC

June 1-2nd, 2026



IGNITE Agenda

June 1, 2026

Time	Session Type	Session	Track	Role	Description
1:00pm	REGISTRATION				
2:00pm	WELCOME	Welcome and Opening Remarks Speaker: Jeremy Roberts			
2:15pm	TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE	Transform IT. Transform Everything. Speaker: Gord Harrison	Exponential IT & AI	All Roles	The past two years have seen unprecedented advances in both technology and societal changes. In a world of critical changes to supply chains, reciprocal tariffs, market volatility, and AI breakthroughs, how can today's CIO survive the collision of major global forces? In this talk, we will explore how to meet sociopolitical and cultural uncertainty head-on by leveraging advanced technology and Exponential IT. If CIOs can transform their departments using exponential technologies, they can become the organizational leaders needed in this new age of technology-first enterprises.
2:45pm	TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE	From Predictions to Reality: Exponential IT, Two Years Later Speaker: John Annand	Exponential IT & AI	All Roles	The technology landscape has shifted significantly in the past two years. In this session, we will explore the exciting and emerging technologies driving Exponential IT. Discover how these technologies are transforming industries and connecting through the value chain to impact IT operations and learn how IT leaders can navigate this evolving landscape to deliver organizational value.
3:15pm	NETWORKING BREAK				
3:45pm	ACTIVITY	Build Your AI Strategy & Roadmap Speaker: Evan Garmaise	Exponential IT & AI	CIO	In this interactive session, we will help you derive an initial shortlist of AI use cases to guide the foundational steps of creating an AI strategy and roadmap.
3:45pm	ACTIVITY	Build a Business-Aligned IT Strategy Speaker: Mark Roman	Value-Driven IT	CIO	In this session, our expert analysts will help you craft a goals cascade for use in your IT strategy document. We will quickly work through the process of gathering enough business context and details of new and existing IT initiatives to demonstrate how to achieve alignment.

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3:45pm	ACTIVITY	Strengthen Your Organization's Digital Sovereignty Speaker: Pearl Almeida	All Tracks	Security & Privacy	Common security frameworks focus on operational controls, not business or organizational value. Join this informative session to learn how to tailor your security program to what makes your organization unique. Participate in a practical exercise with our security analysts who will show you how to quickly produce a high-quality security strategy.
4:30pm	TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE	The Race to Develop Talent: The Hidden Speed Limit on IT's Ambition Speaker: Isabelle Hertanto	Adaptive IT Workforce	All Roles	The talent challenge isn't just about hiring – it's about accelerating development. This keynote unveils the AI-Human Flywheel, a practical model for scaling capability through automation, augmentation, and human adaptability. Learn how to create a system where people and machines continuously learn and evolve, giving your organization the ultimate competitive edge.
5:00pm	CLOSING AND RECEPTION				

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June 2, 2026

Time	Session Type	Session	Track	Role	Description
8:00 am	NETWORKING BREAKFAST				
9:00am	TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE	The Exponential IT Leader: Info-Tech's Playbook for IT Transformation Speaker: Jim Williams	Playbooks	All Roles	In this keynote, we will explore Info-Tech's new IT Playbooks, a comprehensive and scalable framework for achieving excellence across the IT leadership team. Anchored by the CIO Playbook, and extended through targeted playbooks for Data, Security, Applications, and Infrastructure, this suite empowers leaders looking to take their function to the next level individually or against a coordinated, unified vision. It's time to stop firefighting and start building a high-performance IT organization.
9:45am	ACTIVITY	The AI Playbook: Secrets & Steps to Systematically Achieve IT Excellence Speaker: Evan Garmaise	Playbooks	CIO	In this interactive workshop, we'll dive deeper into the methodology behind the 12-step AI Playbook and help you understand how to apply it to your unique environment. Participants will not only gain a deeper understanding of what each of the 12 steps means for them but will also leave with a prioritized roadmap to begin implementing the playbook and start turning AI into a growth engine instead of a gamble.
9:45am	ACTIVITY	The CIO Playbook: Secrets & Steps to Systematically Achieve IT Excellence Speaker: Mark Roman	Playbooks	CIO	In this interactive workshop, we'll dive deeper into the methodology behind the 12-step CIO Playbook and help you understand how to apply it to your unique environment. Participants will not only gain a deeper understanding of what each of the 12 steps means for them but will also leave with a prioritized roadmap to begin implementing the playbook and start transforming IT from firefighting to forward-driving.
9:45am	ACTIVITY	The Security Playbook: Secrets & Steps to Systematically Achieve IT Excellence Speaker: Pearl Almeida	Playbooks	Security & Privacy	In this interactive workshop, we'll dive deeper into the methodology behind the 12-step Security Playbook and help you understand how to apply it to your unique environment. Participants will not only gain a deeper understanding of what each of the 12 steps means for them but will also leave with a prioritized roadmap to begin implementing the playbook and start transforming security from firefighting to forward-driving.
10:15am	NETWORKING BREAK				

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Time	Session Type	Session	Track	Role	Description
10:45am	LIGHTNING	CIO Priorities 2026 Speaker: Mark Roman	All Tracks	CIO	Lightning round presentations offer attendees brief but incisive looks into the most critical topics impacting IT today, guided by some of the best thinkers and researchers in the field.
		Applications Priorities 2026 Speaker: Tom Larson	All Tracks	Applications	
		Data Priorities 2026 Speaker: Evan Garmaise	All Tracks	Data & Analytics	
		Security Priorities 2026 Speaker: Pearl Almeida	All Tracks	Security & Privacy	
		Infrastructure & Operations Priorities 2026 Speaker: Jeremy Roberts	All Tracks	Infrastructure & Operations	
10:45am	CLIENT/EXPERT PANEL	Should the CIO Be the Only Technology Leader? Speaker: Chris Milne, Shari Wallace, Dennis Silva	All Tracks	All Roles	Exponential growth of technology is forcing organizations to value multi-dimensional investments in IT and the elevation of CSIOs, CTOs, CAIOs, and CDOs to the highest levels of the organization is diluting the role of the traditional CIO. Should the CIO be an overarching leader of technology with umbrella leadership over all related roles, or is there an emerging model for multiple technology leaders to steer an autonomized organization? Join us as we explore the answers to these questions in this expert panel discussion.

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11:30am	TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE	Run IT by the Numbers: How to Inject Real Meaning Into the Decisions You Make Speaker: Tom Larson	Value-Driven IT	All Roles	We live in a world where exponential technologies require IT leaders to rise to the challenge of leading their organizations through transformational technology-enabled change. This cannot happen unless IT takes control of its budget, adopts best practices in proactively managing its finances, and makes data-driven decisions on spending. Info-Tech shares its insight on how to become world-class ITFM leaders.
12:00pm	NETWORKING LUNCH				
1:00pm	CLIENT/EXPERT PANEL	Address the CIO Priorities List - Getting It Done! Speakers: Fiohann Shanahan-Dover, Michael Lam, Edward Bagg, Brian Kuhn, Steeves & Associates	All Tracks	CIO	The 2026 CIO Priorities list includes getting ROI on AI, proactive risk management, data accountability, AI cyber-security, and running IT by the numbers. CIOs face dramatic challenges in addressing these issues while simultaneously keeping the lights on. This panel will discuss how CIOs are managing this complex juggling act.
1:00pm	CLIENT PANEL	AI Impact in the Real-World Speakers: Mark Roman, Casper Shyr, Fraser Health Authority, Dimple Prakash, Fraser Health Authority	Exponential IT & AI	All Roles	Join this session with Casper Shyr and Dimple Prakash of the Fraser Health Authority as they discuss the real-world impact of AI. It will highlight clinical use cases, responsible AI governance, and social determinants of health integration across healthcare systems.
1:45pm	TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE	The Rise of AI Agents Speaker: Evan Garmaise	Exponential IT & AI	All Roles	How can one succeed in the exponential world of AI agents? Attend this important keynote to discover how to bridge the AI adoption gap and unlock the potential of agentic AI. Also learn how Info-Tech is leveraging agentic AI to enhance your team's performance.

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2:15pm	TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE	Five Key Takeaways From IGNITE Speaker: Jeremy Roberts	All Tracks	All Roles	At every conference, you're supposed to learn things, bring back your insights, and share them with your colleagues. But that can be hard when there's so much great information packed into such a short period. Please allow us to help you out. In this keynote, we'll walk you through what we think the five most important takeaways are from Info-Tech IGNITE and what your next steps should be. Make your trip home stress-free!
2:30pm	EVENT WRAP UP				