

2026 AGENDA

INFO~TECH  
RESEARCH GROUP

# IGNITE

POWERED BY INFO-TECH LIVE

**Washington, DC**

October 1-2



# IGNITE Agenda

Oct 1, 2026

| Time    | Session Type              | Session                                                                                | Track                 | Role      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 am | LEVEL-UP LEADERSHIP EVENT | <b>IT Leadership Development – Adaptive IT Leadership</b><br>Speaker: Amanda Mathieson | Adaptive IT Workforce | All Roles | <p>Adaptive leaders create the environment for employees to thrive. A key enabler in a world of disruptive technologies is shifting from a traditional management mindset to adaptive leadership through self-assessments that define adaptive qualities and identify actions to create an adaptive culture. Adaptive leaders empower teams by delegating decisions and responsibilities to the levels where the work is being done, while encouraging different perspectives through experimentation and learning in the work. Join this session to learn about insights and tactics focused on developing the mindset and capabilities needed to lead effectively through disruption and uncertainty.</p> <p><b>Access this link to register:</b><br/><a href="https://go.infotech.com/level-up-washington-dc">https://go.infotech.com/level-up-washington-dc</a></p> |
| 1:30 pm | REGISTRATION & NETWORKING |                                                                                        |                       |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2:00 pm | OPENING REMARKS           | <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b><br>Speaker: Amanda Mathieson                        | All Tracks            | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2:15 pm | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE        | <b>Agentic IT: From Hype to Value</b><br>Speaker: Gord Harrison                        | Agentic IT            | All Roles | <p>In this age of AI, you're expected to make confident bets on emerging technology while balancing credibility, delivery pressure, and board-level expectations. This opening keynote reframes the conversation, challenges familiar narratives, and sets out how CIOs and senior IT leaders can drive sustained, enterprise-level impact beyond the hype.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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| 2:45 pm | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE | <b>Become an Exponential CIO</b><br>Speaker: Aaron Shum                                                                    | IT Playbooks | CIO              | As technology increasingly shapes how enterprises operate and compete, many CIOs remain constrained by governance, funding, and metrics designed for a different era. This keynote challenges the assumption that the role must change through leadership alone, revealing how redesigning enterprise context and use of data and technology enables CIOs to move beyond firefighting and reliably shape enterprise-level outcomes.         |
| 3:15pm  | NETWORKING BREAK   |                                                                                                                            |              |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3:45 pm | ACTIMTY            | <b>Data Playbook Deep Dive: How to Systematically Achieve IT Excellence in Data &amp; Analytics</b><br>Speaker: Nysa Zaran | IT Playbooks | Data & Analytics | In this interactive workshop, we'll dive deeper into the methodology behind the 12-step Data & Analytics 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 D&A from firefighting to forward-driving. |
| 3:45 pm | ACTIMTY            | <b>Lead IT Like a Business: From Cost Center to Value Engine</b><br>Speaker: Jack Hakimian                                 | All Tracks   | CIO              | Get a clear and actionable playbook on how to allocate and control IT spend, communicate real business value to your organization's top executives, and turn IT finance into a competitive advantage for you and your team.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3:45 pm | ACTIMTY            | <b>CIO Agents: From Contracts to Action in Minutes</b><br>Speaker: Andrew Sharp                                            | Agentic IT   | CIO              | IT leaders spend hours buried in contracts, policies, and technical agreements. Learn how to build a simple AI agent to rapidly analyze complex documents, flag key clauses, surface risks to automate repetitive document workflows and compress review cycles to free your team to focus on decisions, not paperwork.                                                                                                                     |

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| 4:30 pm | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE    | <b>From Data as a Product to the Data Value Chain:<br/>Reframing How Organizations Create Value From Data</b><br>Speaker: Nysa Zaran | All Tracks | Data & Analytics | This keynote challenges the dominant “data as a product” mindset, not by rejecting it, but by exposing why it so often fails to deliver meaningful enterprise value. Through the lens of the data value chain, this session explores where initiatives break down and how leading organizations overcome those gaps. This session gives leaders a clear, practical blueprint to move beyond data curation and into decisions, action, and outcomes. |
| 5:00pm  | CLOSING AND RECEPTION |                                                                                                                                      |            |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6:30pm  | NETWORKING DINNER     |                                                                                                                                      |            |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

# IGNITE Agenda

Oct 2, 2026

| Time    | Session Type         | Session                                                                                                                     | Track        | Role                    | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am | NETWORKING BREAKFAST |                                                                                                                             |              |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9:00 am | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE   | <b>Tech Trends 2027</b><br>Speaker: Gord Harrison                                                                           | All Tracks   | All Roles               | This session explores the most significant technology forces reshaping IT in 2027 and how leaders can turn volatility, AI acceleration, and shifting global dynamics into strategic advantage. It highlights the emerging capabilities, risks, and operating models that are redefining how organizations build resilience and innovate.                                                                                                 |
| 9:45 am | ACTIMTY              | <b>CIO Agents: Use AI To Focus Your Calendar</b><br>Speaker: Andrew Sharp                                                   | Agentic IT   | CIO                     | What if every morning started with a briefing tailored to your priorities: flagged VIPs, shifting deadlines, and relevant industry and competitive news? See how AI analyzes where your time is going versus where it should be, and surfaces calendar optimization ideas that separate keep-the-lights-on work from strategic priorities.                                                                                               |
| 9:45 am | ACTIMTY              | <b>EA Playbook Deep Dive: How to Systematically Achieve IT Excellence in Enterprise Architecture</b><br>Speaker: Nysa Zaran | IT Playbooks | Enterprise Architecture | In this interactive workshop, we'll dive deeper into the methodology behind the 12-step EA 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 EA from firefighting to forward-driving.             |
| 9:45 am | ACTIMTY              | <b>Security Playbook Deep Dive: How to Systematically Achieve IT Excellence</b><br>Speaker: Aaron Shum                      | IT 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. |

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| 10:15am  | NETWORKING BREAK |                                                                                                                                                                    |            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 10:45 am | LIGHTNING        | <b>Lightning Talks</b><br>Speakers: Nysa Zaran, Andrew Sharp, Jack Hakimian, Amanda Mathieson, Gord Harrison                                                       | All Tracks | All Roles | 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 10:45 am | BREAKOUT         | <b>AI-Driven NetOps: Unifying Control and Observability for Stronger Networks</b><br>Speaker: Scott Penney, Vice President of Product Management, BlueCat Networks | Exhibitors | All Roles | <p>Modern enterprise networks span data centers, branch offices, private and public clouds, service providers, and an expanding ecosystem of infrastructure and security platforms. The result is a level of complexity that makes outages harder to diagnose, security incidents more difficult to contain, and compliance increasingly burdensome. Artificial intelligence is often presented as the answer. But AI cannot deliver meaningful operational outcomes without trusted data, sufficient context, and the ability to interact with the systems that run the network.</p> <p>This session examines what becomes possible when systems of control—including DNS, DHCP, IP address management, resolution, and security enforcement—are connected with systems of observation such as flow telemetry, packet data, synthetic monitoring, topology, and network resource monitoring. By correlating these sources within a common platform, AI can move beyond summarizing alerts to identifying probable root causes, explaining network behavior, and recommending or initiating appropriate action.</p> <p>Using examples from real-world network environments, BlueCat will discuss the architectural and operational challenges involved, where AI is already useful, and where its limitations remain. The focus will be practical: how shared context, integrated data, and carefully governed AI can reduce troubleshooting time, improve resilience, and remove friction from day-to-day network operations.</p> |

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|----------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:45 am | BREAKOUT             | TBA: Exhibitor Session                                                        | Exhibitors            | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 11:30 am | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE   | Talent Trends 2027<br>Speaker: Amanda Mathieson                               | Adaptive IT Workforce | All Roles | Explore IT talent trends for 2027 and beyond. The session examines what the IT talent trends mean for IT leaders with a forward-looking view on human–AI teams and securing and retaining top IT talent amid technological advancement.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 12:00pm  | NETWORKING LUNCH     |                                                                               |                       |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1:00 pm  | CLIENT/ EXPERT PANEL | TBA: Panel or Fireside Chat                                                   | All Tracks            | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1:00 pm  | CLIENT/ EXPERT PANEL | TBA: Panel or Fireside Chat                                                   | All Tracks            | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1:00 pm  | BREAKOUT             | TBA: Exhibitor Session                                                        | Exhibitors            | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1:45 pm  | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE   | Lead IT Like a Business: Every Dollar is a Decision<br>Speaker: Jack Hakimian | All Tracks            | CIO       | All CIOs and IT leaders face the test of proving IT's value in the language of the business. This keynote walks you through a proven, end-to-end ITFM framework – spend allocation, budgeting, forecasting, reporting, and optimization – illustrated with real-world data and results.                                                                                                                             |
| 2:15 pm  | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE   | Five Key Takeaways from Info-Tech IGNITE<br>Speaker: Amanda Mathieson         | 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 and what your next steps should be. Make your trip home stress-free! |
| 2:30pm   | EVENT WRAP UP        |                                                                               |                       |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |