

2026 AGENDA

INFO~TECH  
RESEARCH GROUP

# IGNITE

POWERED BY INFO-TECH LIVE

**Sacramento, CA**  
October 27-28



# IGNITE Agenda

Oct 27, 2026

| Time    | Session Type              | Session                                                                                                    | Track      | Role      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 am | LEVEL-UP EVENT            | <b>AI Workforce Development – Operationalizing AI: From Ambition to Architecture</b><br>Speaker: Jai Hebel | AI         | All Roles | <p>This interactive session establishes a shared foundation for understanding LLMs, tools, and agentic behavior by clarifying how these systems operate beyond the user interface and by providing a framework for interpretation and implementation. It examines practical design patterns used within organizations to show how agents are applied to real tasks with appropriate technical grounding. We will address key risks and the mechanisms required to manage them, including access control, observability, and logging, along with the relevant regulatory and organizational context. The outcome is a structured understanding of how AI agents function, how they can be used safely, and how organizations can support their use through appropriate controls and governance practices.</p> <p><b>Access this link to register:</b><br/><a href="https://go.infotech.com/level-up-sacramento-ca">https://go.infotech.com/level-up-sacramento-ca</a></p> |
| 1:30 pm | REGISTRATION & NETWORKING |                                                                                                            |            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2:00 pm | OPENING REMARKS           | <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b><br>Speaker: Alan Neal                                                   |            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2:15 pm | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE        | <b>Agentic IT: From Hype to Value</b><br>Speaker: Davin Juusola                                            | 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>Designed for Autonomy: Inside the Agentic Enterprise</b><br>Speaker: Martin Bufi | All Tracks | All Roles               | Most organizations will add agents. Very few will become agentic. As AI systems move from assisting tasks to executing workflows, the challenge is no longer adoption, it's design. Agentic AI exposes process ambiguity, data fragmentation, and decision chaos. It demands clarity in architecture, governance, and accountability. We're about to discover which enterprises were truly digital, and which were only digitized. This session explores what it takes to build an enterprise architected for autonomy, from orchestration and integration to governance, structure, and decision design. The future won't belong to those experimenting at the edges. It will belong to those bold enough to redesign the core. |
| 3:15pm  | NETWORKING BREAK   |                                                                                     |            |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3:45 pm | ACTIMTY            | <b>Build Your AI Strategy &amp; Roadmap</b><br>Speaker: Martin Bufi                 | AI         | CIO                     | Every organization needs an AI roadmap, but building a strategic roadmap that ties initiatives to value is harder than it may seem. In this hands-on interactive session, we will walk through the core steps of developing your AI strategy. Come with an initiative you want to better define and draft. You'll leave this session with a concrete initiative proposal you can take home and discuss with your team.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3:45 pm | ACTIMTY            | <b>Design an AI-Ready Enterprise Architecture</b><br>Speaker: Andy Neill            | AI         | Enterprise Architecture | Organizations often blame models, vendors, or prompts when AI initiatives underperform. In reality, many failures stem from architectures that cannot provide the data, integrations, governance, observability, and operational controls required for AI at scale. This session challenges traditional enterprise architecture thinking and explores what must change when systems are no longer supporting users alone but increasingly supporting autonomous agents. Learn how leading organizations are designing architectures that transform AI experimentation into repeatable business value.                                                                                                                            |

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| 3:45 pm | ACTIVITY              | <b>Agent Lab: Intelligent Invoicing and Finance Operations</b><br>Speaker: Jai Hebel | Agentic IT | All Roles | This lab focuses on how AI agents can streamline invoicing and reduce manual effort in finance operations. We will walk through the business context, value, design choices, and build process, followed by a live demo of the agent. Participants can interact throughout, ask questions, and test how the approach would hold up in their environment. You will see how to improve accuracy, handle exceptions, and accelerate processing cycles.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4:30 pm | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE    | <b>Rise of Agents 2.0: From Theory to Evidence</b><br>Speaker: Jai Hebel             | Agentic IT | All Roles | One year after launching Rise of Agents, we return with implementation proof. After building and testing 60+ agents, from single-task automations to orchestrated multi-agent systems, we've moved beyond theory to operational evidence. This keynote shares what actually works in production: why tool-first architectures outperform prompt-centric builds, why orchestration is essential for reliability, and why guardrails, observability, evaluation, and cost design must be embedded from day one. Across all of this, one core truth stands out: the agent isn't the product. The operational system around it is what determines success. |
| 5:00pm  | CLOSING AND RECEPTION |                                                                                      |            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 6:30pm  | NETWORKING DINNER     |                                                                                      |            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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Oct 28, 2026

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| 8:00 am | NETWORKING BREAKFAST |                                                                                         |            |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9:00 am | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE   | <b>Securing Agentic AI and the New Security Reality</b><br>Speaker: Pearl Almeida       | Agentic IT | Security & Privacy | Agentic AI is moving fast. Autonomous systems that can reason, plan, and take action across your enterprise are the new reality. With the AI risk landscape changing rapidly, it is difficult to prioritize which security control to tackle first. Whether you are implementing your first AI agent or evaluating vendor solutions, this session will help you gain clarity on what to focus on now, what to wait on, and the right conversations to have with your security teams starting tomorrow. |
| 9:45 am | ACTIVITY             | <b>Establish Effective AI Governance</b><br>Speaker: Martin Bufi                        | AI         | All Roles          | Governance is about innovating at a speed and scale, and in line with the organization's goals. Organizations that treat governance as a dusty compliance exercise will find themselves exposed to unacceptable risks as systems become more dynamic, agentic, and embedded in decision-making. This practical, discussion-driven session outlines how you can build effective AI governance within a framework of guiding principles, decision-making structures, policy, and assurance.              |
| 9:45 am | ACTIVITY             | <b>Lead IT Like a Business: From Cost Center to Value Engine</b><br>Speaker: Tom Larson | All Tracks | All Roles          | 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9:45 am | ACTIVITY             | <b>Agent Lab: HR Onboarding Experience</b><br>Speaker: Jai Hebel                        | Agentic IT | All Roles          | This lab focuses on how AI agents can streamline invoicing and reduce manual effort in finance operations. We will walk through the business context, value, design choices, and build process, followed by a live demo of the agent. Participants can interact throughout, ask questions, and test how the approach would hold up in their environment. You will see how to improve accuracy, handle exceptions, and accelerate processing cycles.                                                    |
| 10:15am | NETWORKING BREAK     |                                                                                         |            |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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| 10:45 am | LIGHTNING            | <b>Lightning Talks</b><br>Speakers: Pearl Almeida, Andy Neill, Martin Bufi, Tom Larson, Jai Hebel | 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>TBA: Exhibitor Session</b>                                                                     | Exhibitors | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10:45 am | BREAKOUT             | <b>TBA: Exhibitor Session</b>                                                                     | Exhibitors | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 11:30 am | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE   | <b>AI Trends 2027</b><br>Speaker: Andy Neill                                                      | AI         | All Roles | Discover the trends we're seeing in AI for 2027 in a keynote session you won't want to miss. Using data and information collected from a variety of sources, our deep subject matter experts will synthesize and analyze the trends. |
| 12:00 pm | NETWORKING LUNCH     |                                                                                                   |            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1:00 pm  | CLIENT/ EXPERT PANEL | <b>TBA: Panel or Fireside Chat</b>                                                                | All Tracks | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1:00 pm  | CLIENT/ EXPERT PANEL | <b>TBA: Panel or Fireside Chat</b>                                                                | All Tracks | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1:00 pm  | BREAKOUT             | <b>TBA: Exhibitor Session</b>                                                                     | Exhibitors | All Roles |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| 1:45 pm | TECHNOLOGY KEYNOTE | <b>Lead IT Like a Business: Every Dollar is a Decision</b><br>Speaker: Tom Larson | All Tracks | All Roles | 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 | <b>Five Key Takeaways from Info-Tech IGNITE</b><br>Speaker: Alan Neal             | 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      |                                                                                   |            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |