

2024

GEORGIA CIO ORBIE[®] AWARDS

The annual GeorgiaCIO 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 22 at Hotel Avalon.



CHAIR

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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENT

ORBIE Lifetime Achievement
recipient: Bill VanCuren,
BVC Advisors

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Congratulations to
DeWayne Griffin on being
an Orbie Award Finalist!

Your dedication, innovation, and leadership are a testament to your passion for driving change in tech.

Endless congratulations to you from your IG Family on this monumental accomplishment!



GEORGIA CIO ORBIE AWARDS

November 22, 2024
8:15AM - 11:15AM

Hotel Avalon
9000 Avalon Boulevard Alpharetta, GA



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FROM THE CHAIR

Connected Leaders Move Faster

Great CIOs know technology moves fast, and connected leaders move faster.

GeorgiaCIO brings together the preeminent CIOs from Georgia's largest organizations to enhance leadership effectiveness, create value, mitigate risks, and share successes. Member-led, non-commercial programs foster meaningful professional relationships, enabling collaboration on shared challenges to gain leadership advantage.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO. Leaders sharpen professional acumen through peer collaboration with others facing similar challenges. While industries and organizations vary in GeorgiaCIO, successful leadership approaches are universal.

Members understand the "superpower" of trusted relationships. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. Through regular member-led events and interactions, the collective power of executives working together generates immense value. Everyone

wins when ideas, experiences, and best practices are shared in a collaborative and secure group.

GeorgiaCIO connects CIOs to nearly 1,600 lifelong learners across over 40 chapters in the Inspire Leadership Network. From public and private companies to government, education, healthcare, and nonprofits, we exist to help members succeed in one of the most demanding C-suite executive roles.

The principles serving CIOs for over 25 years are now available to CISOs as the Inspire Leadership Network expands, with six chapters exclusively for CISOs launching in 2024.

The leadership of CIOs transforming organizations in Georgia is recognized through the ORBIE® Awards. On behalf of GeorgiaCIO, I congratulate all the nominees and finalists for their remarkable achievements. A special thank you to the sponsors, underwriters, and staff for making the Georgia ORBIE® Awards possible.



Sincerely

Brian W. Benn

Brian Benn

2024 Chair, GeorgiaCIO

VP and CIO, Clark Atlanta University

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new
way
to
cloud.**



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2024 ORBIE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Bill VanCuren

CIO | BVC Advisors

GeorgiaCIO ORBIE Lifetime Achievement Award recipient: Bill VanCuren, BVC Advisors

By The Business Journals Content Studio



Bill VanCuren is the president of BVC Advisors. As a global business executive and board member, he leads transformations for growth through a balance of technology and business solutions, from private to publicly traded, from mid-size to multibillion-dollar corporations. VanCuren is an insightful business leader who leads teams through uncertain times, drives execution, and is always at the confluence of human factors and technology introduction.

Coaching skills and building diverse teams

VanCuren's coaching skills and experience includes building diverse teams with culture that respects individuals while achieving aggressive corporate goals for profit and expense discipline. He is also a mentor to other CIOs and technology professionals in Atlanta as well as across the U.S. He excels at both one-on-one coaching and group sessions based upon experiential learning and adaptive real world case studies. VanCuren uses situational leadership techniques to demonstrate how to apply the best style to the situation.

Adjunct professor

VanCuren has performed as guest lecturer at Georgia State University Master's program, Georgia Tech Scheller College of Business MBA program and The University of Georgia Terry College of Business. He also teaches MIS for business majors at University of North Georgia Cottrell College of Business. VanCuren also provides guidance for the InspireCIO Next Generation Leader (NGL) program and TAG's Pathways to Leadership (PTL) and Technology Leadership Playbook (TLP).

Career highlights

- Led the successful Fortune 500 corporate relocation from Ohio to Georgia and also established a technology enabled GHQ campus in midtown designed for innovation and collaboration to enable the more than 2,000 headcount workforce of a software industry focused company.

- Developed and deployed technology to digitally enable large field service workforce (15,000+ technicians) globally with advanced mobile devices, regional contact centers, and global parts logistics supply chains and digitized contracts representing more than \$2 billion annual revenue.
- Led multiple successful M&A integrations, including three sizable software companies each exceeding \$300 million in revenue, two now valued \$1 billion each, and one ATM operations company. This experience also includes a public company spin-off of a \$2 billion data analytics software company, and "go private" assessments of parent company.
- Established cloud-first strategy and migrated majority of on-prem business systems to cloud-based SaaS enterprise digital platforms supporting all mega processes across the entire company.
- Established first company CISO position and built a cybersecurity practice of more than 100 employees, continually improving security maturity scores while achieving FFIEC certifications and PCI and GDPR compliance.
- VP of application development leading move from build to buy strategy at time of Y2K cutover and achieved SEI CMM maturity to a level 3 in less than one year. Established large captive offshore development centers in India, shifting 70% of labor to low-cost and high productive delivery centers.
- Three-time winner of company-level Outstanding Achievement award, once for field services innovation and twice for manufacturing systems.
- Achievement of highest engagement scores for all employees across the company for more than three years consecutively, during time of the biggest culture change coinciding with global headquarters move.
- Established the company relationships with nonprofits that ultimately led to a more diverse workforce with established hiring pipelines, with community involvement at its core.

Unique attributes

- Board experienced: VanCuren was actively involved in the Audit Committee and Risk Committee of the board of directors at a public company — attending more than 50 public board and committee meetings over his 12-year tenure as a Fortune 500 CIO. In addition, he has served as Advisory Board Chair for the two largest Atlanta technology associations, Technology Association of Georgia and Georgia CIO Leadership Association.
- Education: VanCuren holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from The Ohio State University Cum Laude, with concentration in computer science, and an MBA from The University of Dayton, along with executive education completed at Stanford University.
- Thought leader: VanCuren has been interviewed and published on leadership and culture change topics related to information technology in leading periodicals such as The Wall Street Journal, Fortune, and IDG and has been recognized in the CIO top 100 and Information Week top 500.
- Awards: VanCuren was named CIO of the year in 2011, Techbridge CIO Philanthropy Leader in 2018, and HMG's Tech Execs to Watch in 2019, along with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022 when he also chaired the first annual InspireCIO National ORBIE Awards.
- Green Belt 6 Sigma, certified by ASQ.
- Boardroom Certified Quality Technology Expert (QTE) – Digital Directors Network

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OVER \$15 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS

2024
ORBIE
AWARDS



Shelia Anderson

CIO,
Aflac



Shelia Anderson joined Aflac in July 2022 as Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer where she is responsible for overseeing Aflac's Digital Services division and driving the technology strategy in support of the company's Corporate, Global Investments, Individual, Group VB, Premier Life Absence and Disability, and Aflac Benefits Solutions (Dental and Vision). Anderson received her BS in Computer Science from Louisiana Tech University and her MS in Engineering Management from Southern Methodist University.

SUCCESS STORY

Aflac previously operated with a decentralized IT model, leading to duplicated capabilities, fragmented experiences, operational inefficiencies, and quality inconsistencies. To address this, we centralized technology into a unified organization by merging five entities, increasing employee footprint, while maintaining zero business impact. This consolidation resulted in cost reductions and allowed us to reinvest in modernization without employee reductions. We focused on engineering excellence, architectural discipline, and a robust data and AI strategy, exemplified by the award-winning MyAflac system, which automated 54% of claims. Our efforts also improved our Run/Grow/Transform metrics from 73/23/4 to 64/20/16.



Keisha James

CIO, Cummins Distribution Business Unit, Cummins, Inc.



Keisha James is CIO of the Cummins Distribution Business Unit (DBU), 10B unit of Cummins, Inc. Prior to Cummins, Keisha spent over 23 years with GE where she held various leadership roles in Information Technology, Operations and Quality. She holds a Masters in Business in Administration degree, as well as dual Bachelor degrees in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics. Keisha's passion drives her to support organizations which focus on closing the gender gap in technology.

SUCCESS STORY

During my career, I have been the beneficiary of great mentors, coaches and sponsors. Therefore, I am determined to do same for others. One of my mentees was trying to decide on when and which grad school to attend. She had over 8 years of work experience and was concerned if she would qualify an Executive MBA Program. I not only encourage her to apply for the program, helped her during the application process; provided recommendation letter from business leader and Global CIO. I continue to encourage; support her, and she graduated, received a promotion to a senior leadership position



Trey Keisler

CIO, Power,
GE Vernova



Trey Keisler is the Chief Information Officer for Power in GE Vernova. He leads Global IT strategy and operations with a team of 450+ employees supporting 36,000 global employees. In addition to his role as CIO, Trey is also a leader in the community, serving on the Executive Advisory Board for Inspiredu, as well as the Board of Ambassadors for TechBridge. Trey holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Georgia Institute of Technology.

SUCCESS STORY

2024 has been a historical year of tremendous transformation for GE Vernova, as well as the Digital Technology team. The efforts of my team have set us on a path to achieve significant cost efficiencies while increasing capacity for business outcomes and innovation. But success is not just about driving business outcomes... it's also about developing and elevating others to achieve their greatest potential so we can collectively have a greater impact. Whether it's my team members, peers, mentors... or the students who are impacted by my community commitment...I am dedicated to the success of those around me.



Lo Li

CTO & Managing VP,
Bank Technology,
Capital One



Lo Li is the CTO and Managing Vice President of Retail Consumer Engineering at Capital One. She has spent the past two decades in technology roles working with some of the world's most iconic brands – Intercontinental Hotels Group, Equifax, Spanx, and Capital One – leading thousands across the globe. Fluent in four languages, she received her BBA in Management Information Systems and earned her MBA at the University of Georgia.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2022, Capital One fully implemented our no-fee overdraft policies for our consumer banking customers. We were the first top-10 retail bank to announce the elimination of all overdraft and non-sufficient funds fees. This particular achievement is possible because of the investments we have made in our technology journey, including using real-time data at scale, AI and machine learning, and the power of the cloud to solve challenging industry problems and build solutions that can make a real difference in millions of peoples' lives.



Juan Perez

EVP & CIO,
Salesforce



Juan Perez is EVP and CIO at Salesforce. He is responsible for the global IT team, driving digital strategy, and the technical integration of newly acquired companies. Juan also partners closely with customers to advise on their digital transformations. Juan joined Salesforce in 2022 from UPS where he was CIO and Engineering Officer and a member of the Executive Leadership Team. Juan was a key part of UPS' adoption of new technologies.

SUCCESS STORY

Under Juan's leadership Salesforce is transforming the technologies used to support the organization as it scales into a \$50+ billion company. He has worked on transforming the IT organization by implementing a business-intimate model focused on providing tech services to a growing technology company. His team of top IT professionals are helping Salesforce implement its own technology to support business process improvements and drive efficiency and productivity in many aspects of the business. He is now focused on enabling AI capabilities fueled by Salesforce's products and continues to prioritize cybersecurity, people development, resiliency, and innovation in all aspects of IT.



Regina Salazar

SVP, Chief Information & Digital Officer, Novelis, Inc.



Regina Salazar is the SVP, Chief Information Digital Officer at Novelis Inc., leading global IT and digital transformation. Previously, she was CIO for North America at Whirlpool and VP of Global Information Systems. She has held IT and Operations roles at Delphi Automotive, Goodyear, and Meritor Automotive. Regina holds degrees from UNICAMP, Central Michigan University, and Thunderbird School of Global Management. She received the Automotive Hall of Fame Young Leadership Award for her industry contributions.

SUCCESS STORY

We advanced our digital journey by implementing key building blocks like team purpose, knowledge sharing, and a new IT Operating Model. We launched an Executive Digital Committee and Technical Career Framework. The Digital Strategic Framework integrated digital into the company strategy, expanding AI/ML to deliver millions of savings. Initiatives included I4.0 technology for safety and predictive maintenance, AI for new alloys and supply chain planning, and extending SAP globally. We are developing the tech stack for a new plant in Bay Minette, AL, launched our GenAI platform, improved NIST Cybersecurity scores, and achieved the highest employee engagement score in 2023.



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GEORGIA CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBIE
AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2024
Georgia CIO of the Year
Award Winners and Nominees

GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS

2024
ORBIE
AWARDS



**Peter
Claus**

VP & CIO,
Textron Specialized
Vehicles



Peter Claus has been the CIO of Textron Specialized Vehicles since 2022, leading significant modernizations like S/4HANA and implementing cloud-native products. Previously, he served as Textron's CTO, driving strategy and infrastructure services. Peter also held various leadership roles at TRU Simulation + Training and Kautex. He worked at The Walt Disney Company for 11 years. Peter serves on the Board of Trustees at Augusta Technical College and holds a B.S. in IT from Colorado State University.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, Textron Specialized Vehicles has achieved significant IT milestones. We modernized our ERP landscape with SAP S/4 HANA, reducing system downtime and enhancing productivity. Our PACE Technology transitioned to a serverless cloud-native solution, increasing scalability and boosting Golf segment revenue. Additionally, we developed LISA, a custom Generative-AI solution for our Service organization, which has improved efficiency, accuracy, and customer service, while also contributing to significant cost savings.



**Suzi
Connor**

CIO,
CDC



Suzi Connor has been a transformational leader CIO at the CDC since 2017. With experience in both public private IT sectors, she excels in developing diverse, high-performing teams delivering innovative IT solutions. Suzi leverages emerging technologies to enhance public health data analysis drive operational efficiency. She's received numerous accolades, including the Presidential Rank Award, Women in IT CIO of the Year, Transformation Leader of the Year, recognizing her exceptional contributions to federal IT digital transformation.

SUCCESS STORY

Serving as the CIO of the CDC has been the greatest honor of my career. I am incredibly proud of the dedicated team that has worked tirelessly to modernize CDC's core infrastructure. Together, we built a more agile, resilient IT system, capable of meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing world. When the pandemic hit, we scaled our systems to meet an unprecedented demand, ensuring public health efforts continued uninterrupted. The foundation we've built serves as the bedrock for future public health IT and will continue to strengthen the nation's ability to respond to health challenges for years to come.



**DeWayne
Griffin**

Chief Digital &
Information Officer,
Insight Global



DeWayne Griffin is dedicated to driving growth and innovation through technology and analytics. As Chief Digital Information Officer of Insight Global, DeWayne leads advancements in business strategy, talent alignment, and data modernization for one of the world's leading staffing and professional services companies. Committed to community and social responsibility, DeWayne sits on the Advisory Council for Women in Technology and is involved in several local philanthropic missions.

SUCCESS STORY

As Chief Information Digital Officer at Insight Global, I quickly restructured our technology department to adopt a product-led operating model focused on business outcomes. With the right team in place, we used technology and analytics to drive efficiency across the organization. This year, we rolled out key tools, including AI models that increased productivity, contributing to a 1% top-line revenue boost, enhanced transparency that improved gross margins, and new tracking systems that streamlined recruiters' workflows, allowing them to focus on placing more people in jobs.



**Matt
Ringer**

Global VP DIT - Americas,
Kloeckner Metals
Corporation



Matt Ringer is a tech leader with 18 years spanning Retail, Metals, and Manufacturing. Currently the North and South America Regional CDIO, he thrives on aligning tech and business for value. As a worship minister at Journey Christian Church, Matt's servant leadership clears the path for team success, emphasizing growth and collective achievements. He believes in pushing limits, stating that growth happens beyond comfort zones – in the high-impact zone.

SUCCESS STORY

Guiding a resilient team of IT professionals, Matt Ringer champions a servant leadership approach. By nurturing an environment where innovation thrives, he challenges his team to stretch beyond comfort zones, fostering both individual and collective growth. Through trust and empowerment, Matt's leadership inspires his team to conquer challenges, leading to achievements like seamless global integrations and substantial cost savings. With a heart for servant leadership, Matt's legacy is a harmonious blend of team empowerment and remarkable accomplishments.



**Michael
Spires**

EVP & CIO,
Americold Logistics



Michael Spires was appointed Chief Information Officer in December 2022. He is responsible for global information technology and leads Americold's IT team to provide customers the highest level of systems security and leading-edge supply chain technologies to support their business. Mr. Spires brings over 20 years of executive-level technology leadership experience to Americold, having previously served in senior roles at The Hackett Group, Cognizant Technology Solutions, and Booz Allen Hamilton.

SUCCESS STORY

The Americold IT team in partnership with our stakeholders across the organization has accomplished some significant achievements in the last year. We implemented Oracle Cloud Fusion ERP, HCM, PPM, and EPM with ZERO customizations and no major go live issues. The alignment between executive leadership and the program drove the ability to use out of the box configurations eliminate any customizations. The IT organization also was able to remediate the challenges from our cyber incident in 2023 and quickly address any identified weaknesses create a robust cyber roadmap that led to our 2024 cyber insurance costs going down significantly while increasing our coverage dramatically. We are a much more secure & data driven company now than we were a year ago.



**Kathy
Tira**

SVP, Global Digital
Workplace,
Experian



Kathy Tira is the Senior Vice President of Global Digital Workplace at Experian, overseeing all internal technology and the colleague tech experience. She leads a global team responsible for both enterprise systems and end-user services, driving innovation, improving productivity, and enhancing operational efficiency. With over two decades of experience in technology leadership, Kathy is recognized for her contributions to digital workplace transformation and is a finalist for the ORBIE CIO award.

SUCCESS STORY

When I joined the company, there was a clear opportunity to enhance IT's contribution to productivity and user satisfaction. I led a transformation by placing the right talent in key positions, fostering urgency, and prioritizing the end-user experience. We introduced automation, integrated AI, and enhanced customer care. Our efforts streamlined processes, consolidated services, and significantly improved overall service quality and efficiency. By implementing standardized systems and driving performance accountability, we revitalized productivity and morale. Positive feedback from stakeholders highlighted how these improvements transformed their daily work experience, positioning IT as a critical driver of organizational success.

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$2.5 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

2024
ORBIE
AWARDS



Mat Mathews

CTO,
Boys & Girls Clubs of
America



Mat Mathews is the Chief Technology Officer for Boys Girls Clubs of America and leads digital transformation, product development, BI, IT Operations, and cybersecurity. Prior to joining the organization, Mat spent almost two decades proudly supporting the United States National Security Community in counterterrorism and cyber-defense. In addition to technical certifications, Mat holds a BA from Emory University in Political Science and a MA in International Studies and Diplomacy from the University of London.

SUCCESS STORY

A few months into the top role, I had the courage to recommend to our C-level and Board that their \$2M investment in a product they made over the past 1.5 years needed to be completely replaced; it was not sound technology. I also had to have the gumption to ask for more money. With credit to the amazing team I have, the new program launched within 6 months and in two years claims 1/3 of the market share in our ecosystem. Our CRM is still in shock at how we pulled off the trust, new funding, and the product.



Lisa McVey

CIO,
National Christian
Foundation



Exemplary leader known for her innovation, vision, and strategic thinking to deliver technology results. Courageous in her approach, she leverages dynamic industry standards in corporate environments to drive complex business initiatives that achieve results. Her greatest strength is mentoring, coaching, and caring for each member of her team and the next generation of technology professionals. A highly collaborative and team player, earns the trust of business partners and teammates and motivates them to extraordinary results.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team has achieved significant accomplishments with profound impact on the organization: Cybersecurity Risk Management, Improvements to IT Support and End-User Experience, Migration to Microsoft Solutions, Azure Migration and Cloud Center of Excellence, Office Transition and Expansion, Hybrid Employee Experience, and Agile and Scrum Implementation. These accomplishments have positioned the organization for continued success, growth, and innovation, aligning with our strategic goals and ensuring that we remain adaptable and resilient in a rapidly changing technological landscape.



Chris Paravate

CIO,
Northeast Georgia
Health System



Chris Paravate has served as the Chief Information Officer for Northeast Georgia Health System since 2014. Previously, Chris served as Director of Portfolio Management for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Chris holds a bachelor's degree from DeVry Institute of Technology and is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems, as well as a CHIME-certified Healthcare CIO. He received his master's degree in business administration from Brenau University.

SUCCESS STORY

NGHS has driven amazing accomplishments impacting patients and employees across northeast Georgia. In 2017, we transformed our entire Electronic Medical System to Epic, creating a comprehensive care platform now used by 15,000 care providers. In 2020, in support of our COVID response, we completed more than 100 technology-related projects. In 2022, the IT team led the implementation of Workday, and NGHS was awarded its Innovation Trailblazer Award in 2023. This year, we continue to drive innovation and digital adoption in care delivery, working to leverage AI capabilities to create exceptional care experiences for our patients both virtually and in person.



Grant Shih

CTO,
Vestis



Grant Shih is Executive Vice President and CTO for Vestis. He focuses on leading innovative business solutions, improving technology infrastructure, optimizing enterprise applications, serving data analytics, and providing security around enterprise transactions and compliance activities. Grant was formerly the CIO for National DCP and Encompass Digital Media. He also held leadership roles at Carter's/OshKosh B'Gosh and Accenture. Grant created and is CEO of The IT Girls Foundation and serves on the Board of Inspiredu.

SUCCESS STORY

I was a key executive in leading the divestiture of Aramark Uniform Services from Aramark to become what is known as Vestis today, a new publicly traded company. I helped identify our new culture and mission, established the business transition plan, created a new marketplace identity and brand, developed valuable customer functions through technology and process enablement, and generated additional shareholder value. My teammates and I deliver uniforms and supplies that empower people to do good work and good things for others while at work. We are creating an expectation of being obsessed with customer service and business value.



Alan Stukalsky

CIO,
Randstad North America



Alan Stukalsky serves as the North America Chief Information Officer at Randstad, overseeing technology strategy and implementation. As part of the leadership team, they aim to impact the work lives of 500 million people by 2030. Alan collaborates closely with the business to drive digital transformation. Outside of work, he enjoys family time and is passionate about giving back, serving as chair of STE(A)M Truck and board member of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber.

SUCCESS STORY

The Randstad app is a cutting-edge, AI-driven platform that connects over 450,000 vetted workers with job opportunities, offering 24/7 access for both job seekers and employers. Over 80% of candidates explore jobs outside traditional hours, and 50% accept positions beyond the 9-to-5 workday. The app matches workers with roles based on their skills, location, and preferences, while employers can quickly fill positions with pre-screened candidates. With features like real-time staffing updates, data analytics, and streamlined hiring, the app delivers flexibility and efficiency, transforming the staffing experience for both employers and candidates across 39 states and Washington, D.C.



Paula Wagner

VP, IT (CIO),
Mansfield Energy
Corporation



Paula Wagner is a visionary IT leader known for aligning technology strategies with organizational goals. With a focus on innovation and operational excellence, she drives digital transformation through strategic planning and effective management. Paula excels in integrating secure IT practices with financial oversight, leading teams to deliver efficient, scalable solutions. Her expertise in technology modernization and cost optimization ensures robust, future-ready IT environments, positioning her as a key driver of organizational success.

SUCCESS STORY

At Mansfield Energy, I led a transformational modernization journey that enhanced efficiency and growth. A significant achievement was building a collaborative team and focusing on their development while strengthening our product and service value for the organization, customers, and partners. We revamped infrastructure, integrated AI-driven systems, re-imagined products like FuelNet, and launched our first mobile app. These efforts streamlined operations, generated new revenue streams, and advanced our goal of automating tasks for better accuracy and customer satisfaction. This strategic shift strengthened our market position and reinforced customer loyalty, demonstrating our commitment to operational excellence and technological advancement.

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OVER \$1.2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

2024
ORBIE
AWARDS



Jake Elson

VP & CIO,
Interface

Interface®

As Chief Information Officer, Jake Elson is responsible for transforming and evolving Interface's global technology systems, including the technology platforms that support commercial and supply chain teams globally. Jake brings more than 25 years of IT leadership and transformation experience to Interface, having formerly served as global CIO of Design Group and regional CIO for Kimberly-Clark. Jake leverages his expertise to drive new modern approaches and optimize existing systems to support Interface's growth objectives.

SUCCESS STORY

I am most proud of how our Interface IT organization has been able to balance achieving a digital transformation while keeping people front and center. We have asked a lot of our team over the last few years, from establishing new systems to revamping our cybersecurity infrastructure. Through it all, we have invested heavily in our people-first culture. We globalized our team, created feedback loops, and ultimately achieved our organization's highest department-level Great Place to Work score. I am proud to demonstrate how an IT team can reach aggressive business goals while keeping people at the heart of it all.



Yogs Jayaprakasam

Chief Technology & Digital Officer,
Deluxe

deluxe.

Yogaraj (Yogs) Jayaprakasam joined Deluxe in May 2022 as Chief Technology and Digital Officer, leading Deluxe's technology, digital assets, data and AI capabilities, cybersecurity, infrastructure, and business resiliency. Yogs has a distinguished background in fintech, leading large-scale organizations such as American Express for more than 20 years. He holds several patents, having received his bachelor's degree from University of Madras, India and a master's degree from Bharathidasan University, India.

SUCCESS STORY

Deluxe was traditionally a printing company, producing and shipping checks to millions of customers. The company smartly diversified into digital fintech solutions, but this diversification came at a cost, with unintegrated systems running on 50+ different platforms. Upon joining Deluxe, we created the Deluxe Digital-First Platform, replacing legacy systems with a composable, cloud-native, data-driven, and secure suite of products to power product innovation and drive efficiency. This includes an industry-leading data lake, developer portal, generative AI ecosystem, enhanced security offering, and reusable development libraries, saving the company nearly \$20M and speeding up deployment from weeks to minutes.



James Pennington

VP & CIO,
Southwell, Inc.

SOUTHWELL

A tenured healthcare leader, I have served in IT leadership roles working for hospitals, vendors, and independent consulting. Chief Information Officer of Southwell, I direct the planning and implementation of enterprise IT systems in support of business operations. I also provide administrative oversight of IT infrastructure, IT security, applications, informatics, telecommunications, and project management. I also serve as the system's HIPAA Security Officer and as Chair of the MIS Steering Committee.

SUCCESS STORY

My team was inundated with a litany of organizational challenges that included a recent security breach, changes in leadership, struggling financials and poor team engagement. In working with my direct reports, we created plans to attack each challenge along with energizing team engagement. We increased our security posture resulting in drastic improvement in our security assessment results, supported the organization's financial strategy by managing out underutilized and duplicative technology, and created a team communications model that drastically improved team engagement scores.



Roxanne Seymour

VP & CIO,
Beazer Homes

BEAZER HOMES

Roxanne serves as CIO at Beazer Homes. She guides long-term IT strategy and direction for Beazer, including modernization of systems, AI, cybersecurity and data & analytics. She has a long tenure in IT in retail and manufacturing industries. Roxanne's energy and conviction are also evident in her passion and commitment to mentorship and volunteerism. She is currently on the board for IT Girls Foundation and serves as an Advisory Board Member of Georgia CIO, ATP and InspiredU.

SUCCESS STORY

One of my proudest accomplishments as CIO at Beazer Homes has been transforming IT from a support function to a strategic business partner. By focusing on modernization, cybersecurity, and data analytics, we stabilized infrastructure, adopted a cloud-first approach, and built a robust cybersecurity program. We also established a data-driven enterprise, leveraging insights for decision-making. Our efforts increased IT employee engagement and reduced risk to the organization. This transformation has positioned IT as a key enabler of business strategy.



Bates Turpen

EVP & CIO,
Travelport

T TRAVELPORT

Bates Turpen is the Chief Information Officer and Executive Vice President at Travelport, overseeing application development, global operations, and security. With over 20 years of experience, he has held senior roles at Intercontinental Hotel Group, Staples, and First Data, demonstrating expertise in IT strategy and business outcomes. Bates holds a Bachelor's in Engineering Technology from Memphis State University and completed the Harvard Business School Strategic Leadership Program. He resides in Atlanta, GA.

SUCCESS STORY

I am proud of my Global Technology Services (GTS) team at Travelport, because together, we have achieved such high standards for the delivery of technology services that are being recognized by the Georgia CIO community. We have worked hard to maintain our "always on" availability for our customers, while consistently remaining innovative and efficient to improve our capabilities. As Travelport is leading key initiatives to modernize travel retailing for the entire industry, my team maintains an end-to-end customer centric view of system rollouts and continually improves our own processes enabling Travelport to support industry shifts with flexibility and agility.

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

2024
ORBIE
AWARDS



Marcia Calleja-Matsko

CIO,
OneDigital



As the CIO of OneDigital, a leading insurance, financial services, and HR consulting advisory firm, Marcia Calleja-Matsko oversees all IT functions, including the strategic planning and execution of OneDigital's technology services to support future growth. With over 30 years of technology experience, Marcia expertly leads a dynamic team of technology professionals dedicated to the continuous evolution of OneDigital's industry-leading technology platform. Her leadership ensures the organization achieves its strategic business objectives efficiently and at scale.

SUCCESS STORY

During my tenure as OneDigital's CIO, my greatest achievement has been transforming the IT department into a trusted and innovative business partner. With an exceptional IT team, we deliver efficient technology solutions, centralize services, rebuild infrastructure, and implement innovations. My focus on developing associates and increasing the number of women in technology has been integral to our success. I am grateful to work at a company committed to culture and excellence, with strong management support for technology. Working with such a high-performing team is incredibly rewarding, both personally and professionally.



Jay Ferro

EVP,
Chief Information,
Technology,
& Product Officer,
Clario



Jay Ferro is the EVP, Chief Information, Technology & Product Officer at Clario, a global leader in clinical trial technology. An award-winning technology executive, Jay has driven transformational initiatives across industries, including healthcare, cloud services, and manufacturing. He is deeply committed to community service, serving on the boards of Catholic Charities of Atlanta and InspirEdu, and is a frequent speaker and advisor. Jay holds an MBA and a BA from the University of Georgia.

SUCCESS STORY

Jay Ferro, EVP, Chief Information, Technology Product Officer at Clario, has led transformative initiatives that have significantly improved the company's operations. Under his leadership, Clario unified its product management, technology, and marketing teams, resulting in significant cost savings, improved innovation and speed to market, and a marked reduction in product defects. Jay spearheaded the launch of NxT, a cloud-based platform that has accelerated clinical trial timelines, and deployed cutting-edge AI solutions, which boosted quality, privacy, and efficiency. His leadership has not only improved agility and delivery, but also enhanced customer satisfaction, positioning Clario as a leader in digital health solutions.



Torri Martin

CIO,
Atlanta Housing



Torri Martin is the CIO for Atlanta Housing. He previously led the Office of Financial Systems Services for the City of Atlanta and served as SVP and CIO for WMATA, a \$2.4B transit authority. Torri has degrees in business administration from Georgia State University, public administration from Troy University, and a Juris Doctor from John Marshall Law School. He is a Certified Public Manager and member of the State Bar of Georgia.

SUCCESS STORY

Atlanta Housing has embraced Generative AI and partnering with Microsoft to implement Copilot to improve customer service, IT operations, and security. AH has also developed a Gen AI policy that will enable us to fully take advantage of AI while utilizing it in a responsible manner and minimizing any bias in the system. All of this is significant because we have a partner that is a leader in this space and guardrails in place that means that the possibilities are limitless for us as an organization.



Tim Moody

CTO,
City of Savannah



Tim Moody has been the Chief Technology Officer for the City of Savannah since February 2020. Previously, he served as Chief Information Officer at several universities within the University System of Georgia. His IT career began in 1994 in publishing and retail. With extensive experience in both private and public sectors, Tim offers a unique perspective, having held roles from Network Administrator to C-Level executive, all driven by his passion for delivering exceptional customer experiences.

SUCCESS STORY

Since joining the City of Savannah in February 2020 amid IT disruption and low morale, I've led major advancements by rapidly deploying Microsoft 365, Teams, and OneDrive, and establishing strong technology governance. This transition enabled remote work, reduced IT issues, and allowed us to focus on valuable projects. Our efforts have also led to zero staff turnover for the past two years. We're now on track to implement a modern ERP system, flexible utility billing solutions, an electronic records platform, and a citywide data strategy, positioning Savannah as a leader in municipal technology.



Karl Pierburg

SVP & CTO, Football
Strategy and Innovation,
AMB Sports and
Entertainment/
Mercedes-Benz Stadium



Karl Pierburg is the Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer, Football Strategy and Innovation for the Atlanta Falcons and AMB Sports and Entertainment. He oversees football systems, analytics, and video while leading the enterprise data team focused on fan experience. Pierburg joined the Falcons in 2005 and developed the groundbreaking Peregrine scouting application. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science from Illinois Wesleyan University and previously worked with the Chicago Bears.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team has fundamentally transformed the fan experience by implementing frictionless entry, biometric authentication for tickets, and seamless food and beverage options, allowing fans to move easily from car to seat. We developed Constellation, a Venue Integration Platform that connects ticketing, security, concessions, and retail systems, reducing fan friction while increasing revenue and sponsor insights. This platform centralizes data, lowers integration costs, and enhances reporting. Our strategy teams also focus on aligning technology, analytics, and AI efforts with the organization's long-term goals, ensuring actionable solutions that drive success on and off the field.



Jason Sankey

CIO,
City of Atlanta



Jason Sankey is a strategic change agent with two decades of executive leadership and experience in operations and technology. He is known for his ability to effectively collaborate across business lines while continuously driving innovation. Jason brings immense experience as a technology leader to the City of Atlanta. Jason is widely known for his executive leadership, technology foresight, thought-provoking strategies in transforming organizations, and community impact through his work serving as a public service executive.

SUCCESS STORY

With budget constraints, politics, and a competitive job market, leading as a CIO for a municipality with the size and complexity of the City of Atlanta is challenging. My success is measured with a focus on our most important asset, our people. My emphasis is geared toward upskilling our talent, improving our culture, and providing internal growth opportunities for our staff. We've realized promotional advancements, ensured equitable compensation, and provided upskilling opportunities. I have developed into a leader that is focused on positioning organizations to be better poised for long-term sustainable success and the core is investing in our people.

CORPORATE FINALISTS

UP TO \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

2024
ORBIE
AWARDS



**Stan
Hoptroff**

VP, Business Technology,
North American Electric
Reliability Organization



Stan Hoptroff is a nationally known Information Technology (IT) leader with a keen focus on critical infrastructure, in particular those associated with North America's electric utilities. Hoptroff has significant experience with overseeing and communicating complex technical concepts, strategies and plans that have gained support for large IT investments from a diverse group of stakeholders. Hoptroff is a strong leader with highly developed emotional intelligence that has enabled him to connect with people at all levels.

SUCCESS STORY

Since joining NERC in 2014, I have been focused on closely collaborating with NERC's leadership, employees, and contract resources to understand their needs and business process pain points. Out of this effort, the biggest need was determined to be a unified work and data management tool that would bring harmony to the Regional Entity Compliance Management and Enforcement Process (CMEP). I also led the development of a high-quality high impact Business Technology organization by creating an Information Technology Security Group to ensure alignment, streamlining and collaboration of efforts across NERC and the Regional Entity teams.



**JJ
James**

CIO,
Aptos



Jason James brings to Aptos over two decades of leadership experience in cloud operations, cybersecurity, IT infrastructure and digital transformation. As Chief Information Officer (CIO), Jason helps Aptos navigate the ever-evolving digital landscape and translate our company's vision into an actionable IT path.

Prior to joining Aptos, Jason was CIO at several high-growth software and data analytics organizations within the healthcare sector. Earlier in his career, Jason held executive-level IT roles at the software company Servigistics (now PTC), the data intelligence firm PRGX and internet service provider EarthLink.

Passionate about his trade, Jason is an award-winning CIO, writer and thought leader. He has been featured in multiple podcasts and publications, including www.cio.com, The Enterprisers Project and eWeek. He also serves on the board of the non-profit organization CIOChat and is an active member of TechBridge.



**Arun
Kandel**

CIO
Southern Poverty Law
Center



Arun Kandel is a seasoned technology executive with 20+ years of experience driving collaborative transformation. As a visionary leader, he has successfully led large-scale IT and cybersecurity transformations, delivered significant cost savings, improved operational efficiency, and improved the organization's security Posture. Arun is a valuable asset to any organization seeking to harness the power of technology to achieve its strategic goals. He has successfully transformed organizations through upskilling, a culture of trust, and agile practices.

SUCCESS STORY

As a transformative and collaborative CIO, I have seamlessly aligned IT with business, transforming challenges into triumphs. My collaborative leadership has fostered a culture of innovation and efficiency. Through strategic cloud migration and agile adoption, we've achieved millions in savings and fortified security. Empowered teams deliver exceptional value, exemplified by projects like ERP modernization, remote collaboration technology enablement, and application modernization. With a robust foundation, my vision now focuses on leveraging technology's full potential to drive the organization toward a future of boundless possibilities.



**Atul
Kanvinde**

CIO,
Shepherd Center



My career has been shaped by leading transformative change, helping organizations unlock their true potential. As a business leader, ROI is a given; but as an industrial engineer and healthcare technology leader, my passion lies in ROV—where strategic technology investments, coupled with intentional human-centered design, lead to consumer delight, driving long-term sustainability and adoption.

SUCCESS STORY

My journey has shaped my desire to help others and drive meaningful change. I believe that every day presents an opportunity to do better than the last, and this philosophy guides my work. As an industrial engineer in a technology role in healthcare, I am committed to improving healthcare experiences. My experience at a software company honed my skills in product engineering and support services. I pride myself on my ability to be curious, dig deeper or simply go and observe to understand the true barriers behind the stated problem, with technology not always the solution.



**Steven
McWilliams**

VP & CIO,
Georgia Hospital
Association



Steven McWilliams is the Vice President and CIO at Georgia Hospital Association, overseeing IT strategic initiatives and operational effectiveness. Previously, he was part of the IT management team at Oakwood University. Steven holds a Master of Science in IT Project Management and Leadership from Purdue University. As a Fellow of HIMSS and an active member of CHIME, he is recognized for his efforts in digital literacy, bridging the digital divide, and advancing healthcare technology.

SUCCESS STORY

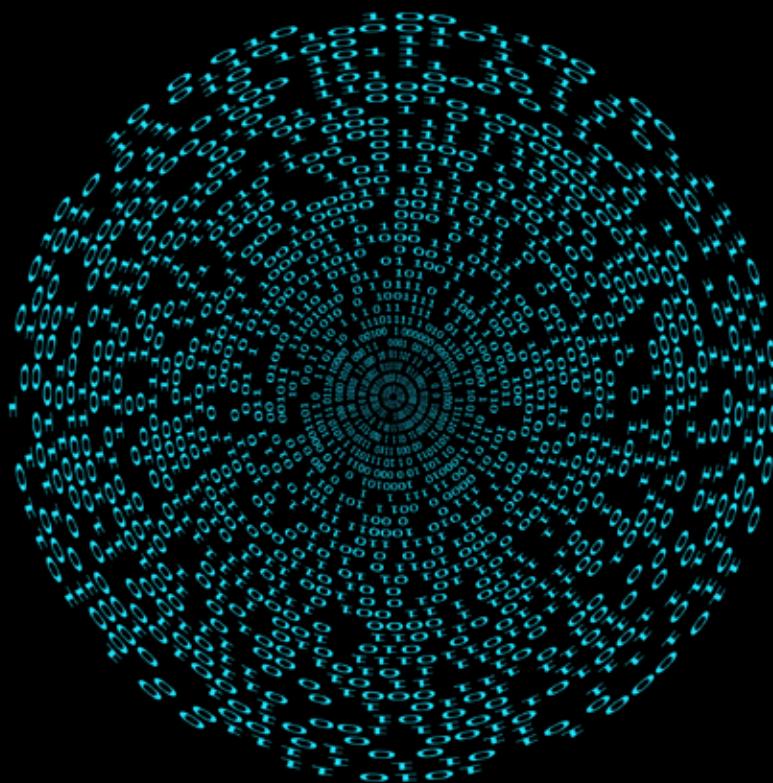
I am very proud of our team and our accomplishments. One of our greatest achievements is retiring our physical data center and adopting a cloud-first strategy, which improved scalability, optimized budget consumption, and enhanced disaster recovery. This strategy also enabled us to modernize our CRM solution, strengthen our cybersecurity program, and move to new offices during the pandemic. Founded in 1929, our organization serves 145 hospitals in Georgia, promoting public health through better hospital care. I am grateful for a team committed to this mission, making a real impact in the healthcare community.

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Emerging technology doesn't always click right away.
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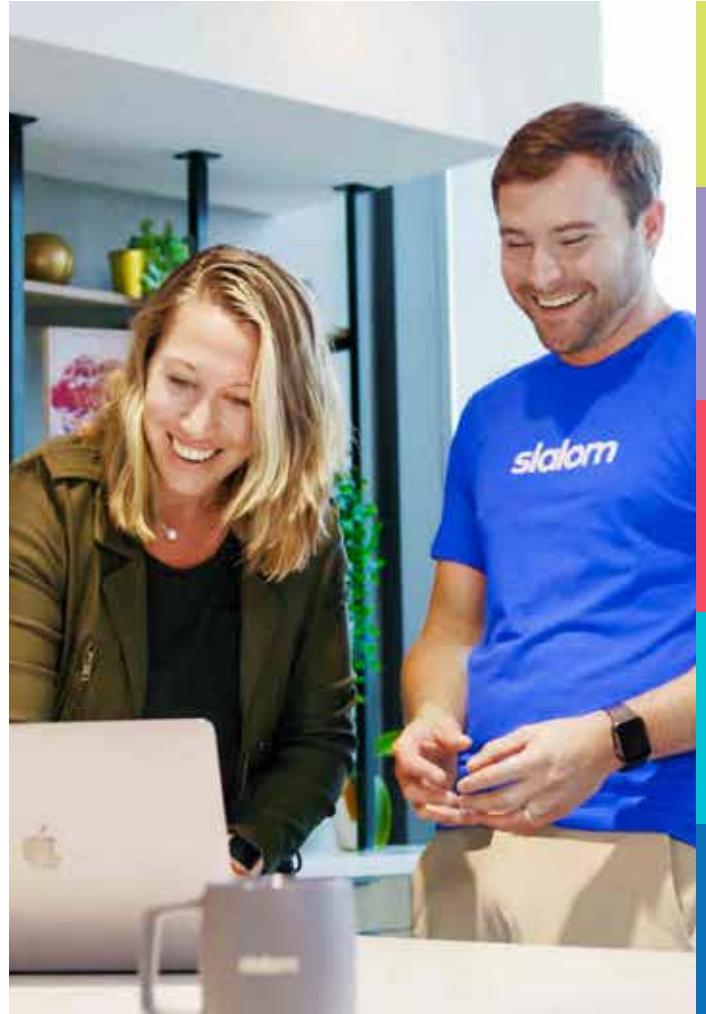
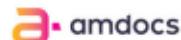


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