

2025 Executive Summary

A message from the Conference Chair

As you navigate fresh challenges and discover new opportunities in an ever-changing world, it is crucial to drive business value and prepare for what's next by enhancing your leadership skills, innovating with technology, and accelerating digital business.

We hope to see you at Gartner IT Symposium/Xpo 2026.

Sincerely,
Kristin Moyer
Conference Chair and Distinguished VP Analyst, Gartner

Top takeaways

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Create AI value
Unlock AI's true potential by balancing human and technology readiness. Assess your progress, empower AI agents, and envision bold futures to create lasting business value. Embrace the journey – your leadership will shape how AI transforms tomorrow's world.

"AI literacy isn't just knowing how to use a tool – it's learning to 'speak' to AI in all the places it's embedded and to judge the quality of what it creates."

Alicia Mullery,
VP Analyst, Gartner
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Drive cybersecurity resilience and confidence
Step boldly into the future of cybersecurity, where new benchmarks set the pace and confident leadership inspires trust at every level. Arm yourself with the strategies and playbooks to navigate 2026's evolving landscape, measure the real impact of generative AI risk management, and prepare your organization for the post-quantum era. Turn uncertainty into opportunity and lead the way to a more secure and resilient digital world.

"Benchmarking protection levels will delight your board and solve your cybersecurity investment challenges. Switch to outcome-driven metrics now."

Paul Proctor,
Distinguished VP Analyst, Gartner
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Transform business with data-powered analytics
Enable your organization to unlock new possibilities for innovation and growth by preparing your data for AI. Embrace and leverage emerging trends in data and analytics to stay ahead and make smarter, more informed decisions. Lead the way into the future by harnessing generative AI to transform how insights drive ongoing business success and strategic advantage.

"Move from the inexhaustible integration of data to the more meaningful integration of insights, ideas, and ontologies. That's where value accelerates."

Chris Howard,
Distinguished VP Analyst,
Chief of Research, Gartner
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Negotiate smarter, secure sourcing
Master the art of strategic sourcing and contract negotiation in an era of rapid change to empower your organization. Proactively address AI risks, eliminate tech purchase regret, and outsmart rising software costs to safeguard your resources. By adopting proven practices and staying alert to global shifts, you'll lead with confidence and unlock lasting success.

"Transparency is the key. Use a risk matrix to determine the amount of scrutiny necessary and build a plan on how to address it now, before it slows you down later."

Melanie Alexander,
VP Analyst, Gartner
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Highlight and optimize the business value of IT
Elevate your IT story by showcasing measurable business impact and strategic cost optimization. Transform IT spending into business-driven decisions that fuel growth. Master cloud economics to unlock greater efficiency, agility, and innovation across your organization.

"IT demonstrates value when we enable business outcomes, not when we report effort expended, resources consumed, or work done."

Robert Naegle,
VP Analyst, Gartner
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Lead strategic planning boldly toward a new, more autonomous future
Embrace the future by building strategies that thrive beyond digital transformation and disruption. Anchor your IT vision on the pillars of AI, adaptability, and strategic leadership. Guide your organization through M&A and emerging technologies, inspiring progress in a world where business and technology unite.

"Build your strategy to stay flexible and stand out from the competition by making sure your systems work well together."

Don Scheibenreif,
Distinguished VP Analyst, Gartner
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Cultivate continuous learning for AI success
Empower your enterprise by fostering a culture of outcome-driven, continuous learning, and comprehensive AI literacy. Upskill your talent rapidly and embrace skills-based management to build a resilient and highly adaptive workforce. Inspire your teams to master generative AI skills, collaborate effectively, and lead confidently into an evolving future.

"With AI, the features and fundamental use cases change daily. The opportunities and risks are moving at a faster pace than any technology before it."

Alicia Mullery,
VP Analyst, Gartner
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Elevate executive leadership for transformative impact
Step confidently into the evolving world of executive leadership, where CIOs drive transformation and shape the future. Embrace proven tactics and visionary thinking to influence, inspire, and secure your seat at the table. In times of uncertainty, focus on enduring strengths to lead with clarity and lasting impact.

"There's no better time than now to leverage your reputation, to ask, to open the doors, and move toward an increased scope of leadership."

Chris Howard,
Distinguished VP Analyst,
Chief of Research, Gartner
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Champion innovation through bold, collaborative leadership
Lead innovation by fostering psychological safety and empowering co-leaders on your AI journey. Transform risk and failure into catalysts for breakthrough ideas, even in change-resistant cultures. Inspire your teams to move beyond complaints and drive meaningful, disruptive innovation that shapes the future.

"Take the time to manage failures (and successes) to adapt and accelerate the velocity of innovation."

Tsuneo Fujiwara,
Distinguished VP Analyst, Gartner



Save the date!

Join us October 19-22, 2026 in
Orlando, FL for **Gartner IT
Symposium/Xpo.**