

2025 Executive Summary

A message from the Conference Chair

Do you feel empowered to thrive in an environment of disruption and volatility? We look forward to working with you as navigate new challenges in a future driven by intelligent and adaptive applications and automation, and hope to see you at Gartner Application Innovation & Business Solutions Summit 2026.

Sincerely,
Gary Olliffe
Conference Chair and Distinguished VP Analyst, Gartner

Top takeaways

1

The transformative and disruptive power of AI on talent and workforce management

AI is not just a new tool but a fundamental force reshaping the workplace, job roles, and the very nature of computing. A significant challenge is the "talent crunch," exacerbated by the need for new AI-related skills and the complexities of hiring and upskilling. Leaders are grappling with how to prepare their workforce for an AI-native future and address employee fear and uncertainty.

"Move from a fear-based model to an empowered model of helping employees see the future and their potential with AI."

Autumn Stanish,
Director Analyst,
Gartner

2

Leverage AI for smarter enterprise applications

The next generation of enterprise applications features embedded intelligence, an adaptive user experience, and autonomous orchestration. While a complete overhaul might not be necessary, your organization should strategically approach this, looking for incremental improvements in process automation and knowledge sharing. With AI agents and AI assistants, you can extract more value from existing systems to achieve greater efficiency, intelligence, and user satisfaction.

"By 2027, about 70% of organizations will prioritize AI funding for applications based on business benefits, not functionality. This is a near complete reversal of how applications are purchased currently."

Tad Travis,
VP Analyst,
Gartner

3

Modernize software engineering

Leaders must challenge the status quo by exploring emerging themes like AI and adopting leading practices that revolutionize engineering and platform approaches to generate business value. Encourage innovation by fostering an environment where teams prioritize creative problem-solving with AI tools and explore novel applications. Additionally, adopt a balanced approach to measuring innovation by incorporating metrics that go beyond efficiency, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of progress and impact.

"As a software engineering leader, you must selectively invest in disruptive technologies and practices that will help you achieve your top priorities."

Frank O'Connor,
Sr Director Analyst,
Gartner

4

Drive growth and efficiency through application integration and process automation

Increased efficiency and growth are top priorities for businesses across all sectors. Embrace the latest trends and best practices in application integration and process automation, including AI and agentic AI, to enhance application and engineering strategies. Focus on aligning automation projects with your overall automation strategy and identify potential challenges in your initiatives early on to ensure they deliver tangible value and support your business goals effectively.

"Automation is simple to understand and easy to justify, but it is *hard* to execute!"

Arthur Villa,
Sr Director Analyst,
Gartner

5

Build and maintain agile architecture foundations to support innovation and modern applications

Emerging technology trends, such as AI agents, require new architecture patterns, but still build on tried and tested patterns. Strengthen your understanding of fundamental patterns such as event-driven architecture, microservices, and practices such as cloud cost and portfolio management, while learning the basics of AI agents and intelligent applications.

"The rapid advancements and hype in generative AI have created a chaotic landscape, leaving IT leaders uncertain about their focus and next steps."

Arun Chandrasekaran,
Distinguished VP Analyst,
Gartner



Save the date!

Join us 14 - 15 September 2026 in London, U.K. for [Gartner Application Innovation & Business Solutions Summit](#).