Gartner Application Innovation & Business Solutions Summit

June 2 – 4, 2026
Las Vegas, NV

2026 Executive Summary

Do you feel empowered to deliver the future? We look forward to working with you as you scale business benefits in the AI-native era, align innovation with business goals, lead cultural change, and optimize costs while modernizing your application portfolio.

We hope to see you at Gartner Application Innovation & Business Solutions Summit 2027!



Denis Torii,
Conference Chair and VP Analyst,
Gartner



Annie Hodgkins,
Conference Chair and Sr Director Analyst,
Gartner

Top takeaways

1

Lead through technological change

In times where unexpected disruptions increasingly impact organizational strategies and IT execution, leadership is crucial for providing unified direction and driving necessary cultural change. AI is a big technology change driver, but without a consistent leadership mindset and tactics, you will struggle to deliver on the promise of more efficient and responsive teams.

"Value is always defined by the stakeholder or consumer, not the producer."

Annie Hodgkins
Sr Director Analyst, Gartner

2

Evolve your enterprise application strategies

Your enterprise applications governance requires managing transformational strategy, application modernization, and business-as-usual operations. The most successful enterprise application organizations proactively manage roadmaps, including controlling their application lifecycles, pragmatically introducing AI, and taking charge of their vendor relationships.

"A successful and effective application strategy is a puzzle, not a mystery."

Tad Travis,
VP Analyst, Gartner

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2026 Executive Summary (continued)

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Top takeaways

3 Rethink the SDLC and leverage AI for next-generation software engineering

Traditional software development lifecycles must be entirely reimagined for the era of AI. Fundamentally rethink the SDLC and architect a next-generation engineering ecosystem. Transition toward a modern two-phase delivery blueprint, optimize the developer experience, and leverage GenAI productivity insights to measure true organizational output. By embedding AI capabilities across every lifecycle stage, from architecture to testing, you will move beyond localized automation to unlock full-scale delivery velocity, drive continuous innovation, and future-proof your engineering organization.

"The SDLC was a bridge built to cross temporal gaps that no longer exist."

Keith Holloway,
Sr Director Analyst, Gartner

4 AI automation demands skills, trust, integration, and leadership for success

AI-driven automation and integration are fundamentally transforming workplaces and computing. Many organizations need new skills, leadership strategies, and trust when orchestrating AI agents. The evolving API landscape and integration technologies demand upskilling and adaptability, while addressing talent shortages, employee uncertainty, and the path to autonomous business. You must modernize integration approaches and embrace agentic automation to navigate the complexities of an AI-native future, ensuring workforce readiness and organizational resilience.

"Application leaders' biggest challenge is not agent building or connectivity - it is orchestrating your AI agents!"

Saikat Ray,
Distinguished VP Analyst, Gartner

5 AI and agent success requires strong architectural foundations

Invest in a resilient AI architecture so you can deploy agentic solutions that act reliably, scale, and integrate across systems. Define measurable agent use cases, implement composable APIs and a searchable, permissioned data fabric, adopt event-driven orchestration and model gateways, and establish CI/CD, observability, and policy controls to transition from prototypes to secure, production-grade agent workflows.

"The future enterprise is not built by replacing applications. It is built by making applications consumable by governed agents."

C.A. Swan,
Sr Director Analyst, Gartner

6 Navigate enterprise architecture in the age of AI

AI is not just reshaping technology—it's transforming how enterprise architecture teams must operate. The era of fragmented AI pilots is over, and your organization needs unified direction to ensure AI delivers measurable outcomes while managing risk and cost. Success hinges on rewiring traditional approaches, fostering a portfolio of evolving skills, and making strategic bets to maximize value. Adapt to shifting business strategies and use real-time data to stay aligned and responsive in a rapidly changing landscape.

"By leveraging your unique business and technology perspectives across the organization, you can align AI strategy, planning, and execution."

Fred Ganter,
VP Analyst, Gartner

Save the Date!

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