The Los Angeles Business Journal presents

CIOs of the Year

2015

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IT'S hard to think of an industry-leading company that could survive without a great CIO. These important individuals and their teams play vital roles in making Los Angeles businesses, institutions and non-profit groups successful. Their decisions often impact all aspects of a business, including their company's growth, profitability, functionality and competitiveness in the marketplace.

This is our fourth year of celebrating the cream of the proverbial crop among Los Angeles' finest IT leadership minds with an awards event for those who have their hands on the steering wheels of new technology. Our annual Los Angeles Business Journal CIO/CTO Awards, held Wednesday, June 3rd at the LA Hotel Downtown, give us the opportunity to stop for a moment and applaud the IT inventiveness and technological achievements of the corporate space's hi-tech men and women – the often unsung architects and enablers of our companies' operational successes.

Indeed, it's the CIOs who are often charged with providing the operational tools required to match a CEO's vision for a company. So for all the great CIOs celebrated by our awards this year, we say thank you and congratulations! Your tireless contributions to the companies you serve and ultimately, our business community as a whole, are appreciated.

This year's list of superb finalists (all profiled in these pages) — each an example of excellence in the field of corporate technology stewardship — made it even more difficult to arrive at the honorees. We are particularly excited to shine a light on ten particularly outstanding honorees announced in ten categories. We applaud each of the honorees and the terrific finalists who are also profiled in these pages.

Also, many thanks to the support provided by our presenting sponsors, Robert Half Technology and Williams Data Management, and to our community partners Association of Information Technology Professionals and the Los Angeles Chapter of ISSA.

Best regards,

Matthew A. Toledo
Publisher & CEO
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CIOs OF THE YEAR

2015 Honorees

JAMES BRADY
AREA CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
KAISER PERMANENTE

Dr. James Brady has worked tirelessly to partner with Kaiser Permanente medical center administrative and clinical leadership to align IT strategy and goalds to the needs of the business. In his role as a Kaiser Permanente medical service area CIO, he has stepped up and taken on a regional lead role in driving the improvement of strategy and governance between IT and the business. Specifically, he has worked tirelessly to align IT products and services with medical center strategic needs.

In addition, Brady has improved the feedback mechanism available for national and regional IT groups by streaming feedback from the business. Recognizing the need to have an up-to-date, consolidated, and comprehensive view of IT projects at a local medical center, regional, and national view, one of the first things he did when he arrived at Kaiser Permanente in 2013 was to engage in an initiative to document over 1,700 technology projects that impacted his local medical centers, providing a high level view to business leaders, enabling them to better identify their strategic priorities.

Brady also saved an estimated $3 million with innovative process identifying missed Pulmonary Hypertension, Sepsis, and Pantocypenia reimbursements at Kaiser Permanente, such as patient monitoring/fall prevention, bed tracking system and optimized BUN workflow, nurse call integration, reduced readmissions, and post-op reminder calls for surgical services. The patient monitoring/fall prevention system saved his medical center $350,000 in year one, and similar savings are expected in ensuing years.

In short, among his peer area CIOs at Kaiser Permanente, Brady has taken a lead role in looking for ways to improve the collective influence of the area CIOs to foster improved regional and national efficiencies, and to provide innovative ways IT can better communicate with clinical and business leaders, thus increasing the value to IT to the organization.

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-enterprise cio of the year (500+ employees)
jon michel greenwood
senior vice president, global it systems
live nation entertainment, inc.

as senior vice president of live nation’s global it systems, jon michel greenwood is responsible for all aspects of live nation’s technology systems and strategies globally. this includes the company’s robust event booking systems, enterprise systems, pos at the company’s clubs, amps and venues, software development for hob.com, and vip ticketing sites and shared services for qa and the pmo.

greenwood perpetually strives to drive process improvements and has a unique ability to create efficient technical solutions to complex business objectives. he consistently works efficiently to solve problems, create workable solutions and forge compromises. in short, he is effective, diligent and talented – and brings a hearty background of experience to his role at live nation.

prior to live nation, he held several positions at sony music and sony corp. of america including director of qa, and sr. director of content operations and promotions, overseeing acquisition, reception, dlm and maintenance for sony’s content ecosystem for ebook, mobile, music and video ecommerce stores, while also directing production, technology and usability work for large scale promotional initiatives with companies such as best buy and coca-cola.

a former musician, award winning producer and designer, greenwood has decades of experience in entertainment and technology, having worked on a vast expanse of products in consumer electronics, entertainment, internet, gaming and graphics software with companies and individuals such as bob ezrin, disney, ibm, microsoft, monty python, pink floyd and quincy jones. he has also achieved multiple us and world patents in software, hardware and process.
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TECHNOLOGY is essential to everything TrueCar, Inc. does because it is a technology product company that uses data to power its marketplace. The technology decisions that John Williams makes have a tremendous impact on the success or failure of the business. Last year, Williams successfully led TrueCar’s technology team in adopting a new data storage and processing platform, Hadoop. The data platform is the beating heart of TrueCar and switching out all the technology that powers it was an enormous undertaking.

Williams looked at where the company would be in the next five to 10 years – thinking strategically about not only the size of the data sets, but also the types of capabilities that would be needed to power next generation TrueCar products. Rather than simply expand and upgrade the existing data platform technology in a linear way, he investigated all options including completely new technologies and approaches.

By understanding the radical new capabilities of large-scale distributed computing, Williams was able to develop a new philosophy of how data can be ingested, processed, and exposed to power products and services. The economics of these new systems are so good that virtually unlimited amounts of data can be stored forever. This breakthrough leads to many unique business advantages for TrueCar.

As the leader of the technology team for a hyper growth company, Williams’ designs solutions with the assumption that the company will experience massive expansion in market cap within a handful of years. This leads to ambitious solutions that unlock incredible new product capabilities and yield unique competitive advantages in the marketplace. Williams believes that innovation often doesn’t come from the top down; it comes from all directions and layers within the organization. Williams is driven to ensure that TrueCar has the type of culture that captures and values this.
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Congratulations!

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**RENEE TRAN**

IT Service Partner of the Year Winner for the *Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2015 CIO/CTO Awards*

**JOE VISCONTI**

Lifetime Achievement Finalist for the *Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2015 CIO/CTO Awards*

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GOVERNMENT CIO OF THE YEAR
MICHAEL SYLVESTER
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF CONTRACT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Michael J. Sylvester is Department Chief Information Officer and Assistant Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). He is paving the way with his leadership, with an emphasis on utilizing leading edge technology throughout Los Angeles County, to modernize the department’s systems and make the most of contemporary technology.

In the wake of the financial crisis, the need for human services skyrocketed, while resources at DPSS, like many government agencies, continued to tighten. The increase in the number of citizens served, as well as the scope of services needed, stressed long-standing delivery systems rooted in face-to-face business processes and paper.

Sylvester looked to modernize mission critical technology solutions to fill the gap between demand and resources. He successfully communicated this vision to the Department’s Executive team who provided their full support, and to his IT management team and staff who were critical in bringing his vision to fruition. As one example, Sylvester and his team developed a Mobile Technology Initiative to identify, shape and deploy modern mobile technology that could improve efficiency and customer service. This initiative extended public assistance services beyond the traditional office visit, improving customer service and organizational efficiency by enabling self-service through mobile and browser-based technology.

Sylvester and his team were among the first to pioneer and fully integrate document imaging, web portals, Voice Over IP, call-center telephony and mobile applications for use in the public sector. Shaping these tools to conform to the complex public policies and procedures and then securing the necessary buy-in to implement these tools to the scale of Los Angeles County has been a true innovation. After shaping the design, Sylvester and his team successfully convinced multiple groups of stakeholders and oversight organizations that client sensitive data could be successfully and securely available on the web and then via a mobile device.

NON-PROFIT CIO OF THE YEAR
RAY AUSTAD
WEBMASTER
STEPHEN S. WISE TEMPLE

Ray Austad has been involved in the technology field since 1996. He joined the Stephen S. Wise Temple and Schools team in 2005, and was last year named Digital Communication and Information Systems Manager. Since 2010, he has been involved in numerous aspects of the Stephen S. Wise Temple information security program and works to make programs and systems both usable and as secure as possible. He also enthusiastically brings security awareness to the IT team, staff, the school and the synagogue community.

Austad has made a name for himself with his consistently excellent and innovative approaches to problem resolution, especially when it comes to information security. He has overseen Stephen S. Wise Temple’s WAF product and he is now instrumental in transitioning the Temple’s security to a new outsourced provider.

Coworkers report that Austad loves to work with people and help them solve their problems, which has helped contribute to the effective and cohesive team culture at the Temple.

Outside of his work at the Temple, but still highly relevant to Austad’s career, is his ongoing series of contributions to the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA). ISSA is the nonprofit community of choice for international cybersecurity professionals dedicated to advancing individual growth, managing technology risk and protecting critical information and infrastructure.

Austad has significantly stepped up to help ISSA in recent months and has been working on the organization’s annual summit. In addition to previously serving as ISSA’s technology director on its board, Austad has returned to be ISSA’s security evangelist and help the organization get people to attend its critical information security summit. He has also consulted for the Association and provided his expertise with web and digital marketing and communication for its monthly meetings. He is also a member of OWASP Los Angeles, and regularly attends InfoSec meetings and conferences.
CITY National Bank's Scott Hennon has developed, implemented and monitored a long-term information security and privacy strategy inclusive of the people, processes and technology needed to be successful in the short and long term. He has reviewed, implemented, updated and documented companywide information security policies and procedures to align with growing and evolving security needs and requirements. He developed strong collaborative working relationships with groups throughout the company involved with information security matters (Legal, Compliance, Audit, Corporate Security, Application Dev, Network Management, Digital Channels, Operations, Business Dev, etc.). He also partnered with enterprise risk managers to map and develop a common definition and understanding of IT risk. Hennon has implemented leading and innovative cyber security tools and strategies to prevent the organization and clients from costly data breaches and cyber fraud — including developing and validating Enterprise Cyber Preparedness and Response Plans and adding APT, Advanced Malware, and DDoS protection, "big data" advanced forensics, and client fraud protection tools.

Hennon's expertise has enabled him to detect and prevent millions of cyber-attack attempts against company network and systems. He developed and maintained strong relationships with local and federal law enforcement to share information and fight cybercrime — efforts were recognized by L.A. District Attorney's Office for ongoing work and assistance. Hennon also repeatedly leveraged strong security practices as a competitive advantage to help generate substantial new business from current and prospective clients.

It's worth noting that Hennon does not implement security for the sake of security. He builds strong relationships with the different business line executives and senior leadership to better understand their goals and challenges, and then provides strategies and options for addressing those items. He understands that things like user experience and convenience are very important to the business lines and so he strives to provide strategies to achieve both a world-class user experience as well as world-class security.

IT TEAM OF THE YEAR (INTERNAL)

VIC HERRERA (TEAM LEADER)
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER
DTT SURVEILLANCE, INC.

From the moment Vic Herrera took leadership of the DTT IT Team over ten years ago, he has not only transformed, but also established key management standards within the department, which have proven successful. Not only has the team's productivity increased quantitatively, but more so, qualitatively. His management success is attributed to the fact that he has achieved an unparalleled balance of stringency and empathy when dealing with his team. Herrera and his team are adept at deciphering and comprehending the current (and assessing the future) technological needs of the business. This is accomplished through numerous meetings and Q&A sessions with not just his own department, but most importantly, other departments within the company. The team meticulously crafts technological blueprints and roadmaps, and when presenting these to other members of the organization, resolutely solicits feedback and input. Herrera and his fellow team-mates never fail to implement viable proposals and solutions from the company, assuring everyone that their needs are met and their ideas are not falling on deaf ears.

Subsequently, DTT's members have come to respect and admire Herrera and his team's technological methodology - and at the same time - take delight in seeing their ideas come to fruition. Knowing that a team that communicates well stays together, Herrera maintains a strict open-door policy where communication is concerned. He wholly welcomes new and innovative ideas, and constantly challenges others around him to think outside the proverbial, "box." He is a huge proponent of his team working collaboratively, thereby strengthening the bonds and relationships formed therein. In addition, Herrera never fails to recognize and reward creative team members with tokens of gratitude such as movie tickets, gift cards, lunches, weekend trips, etc. His intrepid – yet prudent – approach to change has positively manifested itself in the countless new and more profitable methods by which the company operates.
CIOs of the Year

2015 Honorees

IT SERVICE PARTNER OF THE YEAR (EXTERNAL)

RENEE TRAN (TEAM LEADER)

VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

PARSONS

Renee Tran is a role model who takes charge, influences decisions, and is not afraid of responsibility or providing input and feedback. She is an active listener who builds consensus using logic, common goals, and cues from others to encourage confidence and optimism in everyone she works with. She is goal oriented and leads by example. She focuses, and places a high priority, on eliminating obstacles for the Information Systems department, so they can achieve their objectives.

Tran’s Business & Technology Solutions group comprises an eclectic team of talented individuals who are multidimensional thinkers and problem solvers. These individuals are trusted advisers who are encouraged to think innovatively, take calculated risks, build a network of reach-back talents, and collaborate strategically to achieve their missions and guarantee customer satisfaction.

Tran’s vision is for the group to contribute directly to Parsons’ core business by identifying enabling technology to solve customers’ problems. She also encourages her group to build great customer rapport through willingness to dive into the trenches, and excel at the fundamentals of project management. Tran is in a unique position to provide technology-inspired services. These include an increasing emphasis on Parsons’ innovative use of technology to enable business growth; facilitating service delivery improvements through automation; and growing, protecting, and leveraging Parsons’ intellectual property.

She is a key supporter of innovation and supports the information systems department’s metric on the subject – so much so that she has made it a requirement in her direct report’s annual performance goals. Tran places as much emphasis on supporting opportunistic innovation, which is often generated through resolving customer challenges on a daily basis, as she does for targeted innovations focused on advancing Parsons’ core differentiators.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

KARL CHAN

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

LASERFICHE®

Despite having been with Laserfiche for more than 25 years, Karl Chan continues to bring fresh perspectives to his role every day. In his belief that all IT initiatives should increase the company’s capabilities to deliver innovation to both internal and external customers. To this end, he encourages the software development and marketing teams to think creatively about how to solve business problems and package those solutions to generate revenue and establish a competitive advantage.

As one of the first Laserfiche employees, Chan has also been instrumental in shaping the company’s entrepreneurial culture. An adaptable leader with keen business acumen to compliment his sharp technical skills, the company’s capabilities to deliver innovation to both internal and external customers. To this end, he encourages the software development and marketing teams to think creatively about how to solve business problems and package those solutions to generate revenue and establish a competitive advantage.

When Chan saw how successfully the e-forms solution was meeting the company’s needs, he seized the opportunity to create business value and monetize the solution by bringing it to market. He worked with product marketing to brand the solution “Laserfiche Forms” and sell it to customers. As a result of his creativity and vision, company revenue grew by 11.4% in 2013 and 15% in 2014.
ALBERT AHDOOT
CIO, Celluphone

KEVIN BOWMAN
CIO, Celluphone

ALAIN AVAKIAN
CIO, Blackline

ALBERT AHDOOT
CIO, Celluphone

KEVIN BOWMAN
CIO, Celluphone

ALAIN AVAKIAN
CIO, Blackline

CIOs of the Year 2015

This year's esteemed CIO of the Year finalists are arranged below alphabetically by last name. Congratulations to all of the finalists!

ALBERT AHDOOT
CIO, Celluphone

KEVIN BOWMAN
CIO, Celluphone

ALAIN AVAKIAN
CIO, Blackline

ALICE Avenir
CIO, Blackline

ALAIN AVAKIAN
CIO, Blackline

ALICE Avenir
CIO, Blackline

ALAIN AVAKIAN
CIO, Blackline
Pablo Da Silva
NEW HORIZONS COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER

As a leader of Sales, Operations, Technical Support and now Information Technology, Pablo Da Silva has been integral to building the next leaders of New Horizons Computer Learning Centers. At NHiSoCal, the company's mission is to empower people to succeed through learning. Pablo Da Silva takes the Drucker style of leadership and approaches any project head on before enlisting his team. Through research, practice, implementation and improvement, he and his teamwork mentality shine through daily.

One of Da Silva’s best characteristics is his availability for employees to brainstorm with. He allows employees to have a voice, and be heard, which makes a huge impact in the company’s culture. This helps him stay up to date on newer technologies, strategies, and process improvement. Without him, New Horizons would not be able to grow and develop at the rate it has over the last year.

Tina Denuit-Wojcik
ENPLUG

Tina Denuit-Wojcik at Enplug takes a special approach to establishing strong ties with the company’s business and promotes this relationship through all levels ranging from developer to executive. Examples of this include setting up a weekly engineering report that details all of the tasks accomplished during the time period – this is sent out to the entire team who is able to learn about the details of the engineering side of things.

Tak Fuji
PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

Tak Fuji was recruited to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network as the organization’s tech leader to upgrade the technology needs for a growing enterprise. His first action was to implement a strong information technology governance structure. He followed the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) framework and implemented Incident Management, Release Management, Problem Management, Service Desk, etc. to stabilize and create reliability from the existing network, server and application environment. While implementing each section of ITIL, he educated the information technology team on the merits of each. The greatest impact was the immediate stabilization of the “tech” environment since the hardware and application teams were working together to focus on uptime.

The resulting increase in uptime and reliability provided Fuji with credibility among its Executive Leadership peers, opening a dialog where the information technology team could take on a greater role in supporting strategic business initiatives.
Parenting a Teen Girl.

Out” and Lucie Hemmen’s, PhD Simmons’ new edition of “Odd Girl

logic.com, kidsinthehouse.com and

including as an online expert for mom-

She has been published in several areas

development and consulting services to

more than 100 schools across the

country. Getz often lectures live, speak-

ing to parents, teachers and students.

Today, Cyber Education Consultants

provides workshops, professional devel-

opment and consulting services to

more than 100 schools across the

country. Getz often lectures live, speak-

ing to parents, teachers and students.

She has been published in several areas

including as an online expert for mom-

logic.com, kidsinthehouse.com and

most recently was featured in Rachel

Simmons’ new edition of “Odd Girl Out” and Lucie Hemmen’s, PhD “Parenting a Teen Girl.”

CREIGHTON GRENOBLE ASCENDANT SERVICES, INC.

CREIGHTON GRENOBLE

Grenoble has developed a remarkable track record of being able to formulate and understand business objectives and strategy, and then deliver technical organizations and solutions that meet those objectives. He has expertise managing large client engagements and building quality relationships with clients and is a seasoned program manager and systems architect, with a broad background in information security, enterprise infrastructure and application development. He is a successful consultant, executive and entrepreneur who has repeatedly demonstrated his ability to grow a practice, build long-term client relationships, lead teams, and operate a small business.

In 2002, he founded and began to lead Ascendant, a successful, information technology focused consulting firm. Clients are consistently satisfied and the firm thrives on follow-on work. Typically, engagements involve Grenoble and Ascendant acting as an “extension arm” of the CIO or IT Director, and often leading major initiatives, such as enterprise-wide programs, large projects and improvements in the management of innovation and operations.

MARK GOVATOS CROSSROADS SCHOOL

At Crossroads School, Mark Govatos has a unique perspective of how an IT organization should deliver for its user base as he has been with the organization for close to 30 years, starting as a Mathematics Instructor, moving to Mathematics Department Chair, and leading the Computer Science division before moving into IT administration.

From those roles Govatos understands the complexities of how a school operates and the role that IT plays in the education process. He has insight into the needs of the teaching staff, department staff, and administration staff. This has helped him create deep relationships with all of Crossroads constituencies and he has become a vital part of the school’s staff. He has a hand in the day to day running for all technology of the school. He has been given the responsibility of negotiating all contracts and keeps an open line of communication with all vendors or personnel that have to do with the schools technology needs.

RICK HOFER MOLENA HEALTHCARE

Rick Hoffer, CIO of Molena Healthcare, is responsible for establishing the company’s strategic technology directions by leading the IT Organization to align technology objectives, operations, programs, and investments around Molena business objectives. Improving quality and efficiency of IT delivered services reduces annual operational expenses leaving more of the annual budget to provide for our members. Along with establishing Molena’s new Service and Enterprise Architecture programs, Hoffer reorganized other aspects of his leadership team. Core IT services across the company have been consolidated, gaining operational efficiencies while creating tighter alignment with each of Molena’s unique lines of business.

Hoffer possesses an uncanny ability to influence positive impact on the core business and is exemplary of how one can influence growth through innovation, leadership and motivation. He is a strong CIO who never loses sight of the key business strategies and objectives.

CLIVE HOUSTON-BROWN UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

Two years ago, the University of La Verne completed the plan for the “2020 Strategic Vision.” The area of technology in enhancing the educational enterprise as well as helping with cost efficiencies was integral to the 2020 Strategic Vision. Dr. Houston-Brown has been a champion of aligning his area and his leadership with the 2020 Strategic Vision. Coupled with this attitude and behavior, he works closely, collaboratively, and authentically with each of the Vice Presidents across the institution. As a result, he has achieved and exceeded tactical goals that he identified in the 2020 Strategic Vision and is on the path to exceed the technologically related 2020 goals identified by the Board of Trustees and the campus.

Dr. Houston-Brown not only continually communicates and disseminates the plan for technology within the University of La Verne 2020 Strategic Vision, he also seeks feedback from each individual and group on how it can adjust, add to, or eliminate items from the plan.
MICHAEL KEITHLEY
CREATIVE ARTISTS AGENCY

Michael Keithley is a visionary technologist with strong business acumen. His technology vision and strategy roadmap is his gateway into leading his high functioning team to success. He is a thought leader when it comes to technology and is able to think outside the box in leading the CAA technology team to define a brand like no other. He was responsible for the technical aspects of the joint venture between Creative Artists Agency and Intel, which resulted in the CAA/Intel Media Lab located at CAA's headquarters. He continues to serve as a liaison between Silicon Valley's technology community and not just Creative Artists Agency, but also the entire Hollywood creative community.

Keithley continues to share the business, how the technology group can consistently provide value. Reporting to a partner at CAA, he spends time getting first hand information on what the companies priorities are which allows him to align accordingly and readjust his vision if needed.

BRUCE KHAVAR
CAT, INC.

A cyber security visionary, Bruce Khavar's lifelong mission has been to provide an effective solution to protect against cyber security attacks for consumers to business enterprise across all industries globally. His systems have been internationally tested and have proven to be 100% hacker-proof over a 6-month period. Commonly firms would have a 2-week window to hack into a system.

Khavar's patented technology is ground breaking and has raised the interests of the homeland security in Korea on the highest level — to the president, where the #1 cyber security expert has endorsed and claimed CAT, INC. as poised for being the global #1 leader in cyber security solutions because of it's ground breaking next generation paradigm solution that is 5-10 years ahead of what currently exists in the global market place today.

PHILLIP LIEBERMAN
LIEBERMAN SOFTWARE

Phillip Lieberman is a highly accomplished security software executive with more than 30 years of industry experience. He has an established track record of finding shortcomings in existing market solutions and filling those gaps with innovative new products. As president and founder of Lieberman Software, he developed the first products to serve the privileged password management and shared account password management space. His company released its first commercial product in 1994, but traces its roots back to 1978 when it was founded as a software consultancy.

Today he continues to introduce new solutions to resolve the security threat of unmanaged privileged accounts.

Lieberman Software has consistently provided unique solutions that fill the niche of managing privileged accounts throughout the cross-platform enterprise. Something of a visionary, Lieberman pioneered the privileged identity management space by releasing the first product to this market in 2001. Since then, the company has regularly updated and expanded its privileged password solution set while growing its customer base in this vibrant and emerging market.

SAMEER MAINI
ACCOUNT CONTROL TECHNOLOGY HOLDINGS, INC.

In 2014, Sameer Maini was promoted from CIO of Account Control Technology, Inc. (ACT) to CIO of Account Control Technology Holdings (ACT Holdings), an entity created to assist ACT's acquisition and integration of Convergent, a business four times ACT's size. Maini was challenged to leverage technology and expertise from both organizations to enhance ACT Holdings' leadership in the industry.

He has succeeded in integrating the wealth of knowledge, best practices and leading-edge technologies from three separate divisions, within a 70-person IT team, whose members are dispersed among 19 office nationwide.

Leveraging his extensive background in call center support both in the U.S. and internationally, Maini has provided the vision as ACT Holdings' CIO to lead the company's numerous technology enhancements, including a complex migration to an account management platform, the implementation of a call center speech analytics program, and the building of a world-class infrastructure to support exponential growth.

BRAD MARYMAN
MARYMAN AND ASSOCIATES

Brad Maryman is an experienced computer forensics consultant. Prior to founding Maryman & Associates, he served as a Supervisory Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 29 years. During that time, Maryman conducted and supervised investigations, and served as an Information Systems Administrator and Security Programs Manager.

Maryman has conducted forensic data acquisition, retrieval and analysis on a multitude of digital evidence including electronic business records, network logs and encrypted files. Additionally, Mr. Maryman has a wide-range of electronic discovery experience, specifically, recovering and processing electronic records produced by a variety of computer operating systems and applications.

In 1991 he founded the FBI’s first Computer Analysis Response Team (CAR Team) and served as its team leader. He established the agency's first state of the art computer forensics laboratory, which is now replicated across the nation.

Drawing on his years of training and experience with U.S. Government Inspection processes, he has consulted for corporations and public agencies to perform all-scope security assessments and special analysis reviews.

JASON LIDOW
THE DIGITRUST GROUP

JASON Lidow has been providing information security solutions to middle-market companies in the retail, healthcare, education, technology, finance, manufacturing and financial industries for the past twelve years. He serves as president and founder of the DigiTrust Group.

Lidow's company, DigiTrust, is a managed security services firm that focuses on using people, processes and technology to proactively provide the highest level of information security at client organizations. Lidow and his team do this by actively identifying, blocking and researching attackers.

Through managed security and security consulting services, Lidow works to provide the confidence businesses need to operate in a highly complex, threatening and interconnected world.

In short, he and his team act as a security operations center (SOC) for organizations that either do not have a SOC or require augmented SOC functionality, while also reducing the overall cost of security for all sizes of organizations.

KENNETH Kwan
ENGAGE:BDR

Kenneth Kwan is one of the co-founders of Engage: BDR. He dedicates himself to building the technology and business parts of the company from the ground up, so he understands very well that the tie between business and technology is critical. He always carefully evaluates the feasibility, risk and cost of every project from the business side, and schedules with team to ensure the execution to meet business objectives and budget. He loves critical thinking, which is required during the planning of every major technical project.

Kwan stays in the forefront of cutting-edge technology, also encourages engineers to digest new technology by participating open source foundation, technical global conferences, and collaboration with other technical companies in the industry. He sets up many contests for engineers to solve real world business problems, to incubate revenue generators/new business models, and to inspire the rising of new technology to stand out of all other competitors in the industry.

KEN KWAN
FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kenneth Kwan is president, where the #1 cyber security expert has endorsed and claimed CAT, INC. as poised for being the global #1 leader in cyber security solutions because of it’s ground breaking next generation paradigm solution that is 5-10 years ahead of what currently exists in the global market place today.

JASON LIDOW
FOUNDER AND CEO,
THE DIGITRUST GROUP

JASON Lidow has been providing information security solutions to middle-market companies in the retail, healthcare, education, technology, finance, manufacturing and financial industries for the past twelve years. He serves as president and founder of the DigiTrust Group.

Lidow's company, DigiTrust, is a managed security services firm that focuses on using people, processes and technology to proactively provide the highest level of information security at client organizations. Lidow and his team do this by actively identifying, blocking and researching attackers. Through managed security and security consulting services, Lidow works to provide the confidence businesses need to operate in a highly complex, threatening and interconnected world.

In short, he and his team act as a security operations center (SOC) for organizations that either do not have a SOC or require augmented SOC functionality, while also reducing the overall cost of security for all sizes of organizations.

REBECCA MENENDEZ
AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER OF THE AMERICAN WEST

At the Autry National Center of the American West, as a museum serving educational and inspirational purpose, creativity brings from every part of the organization. In such an organization, the IT systems must be built with an eye on the horizon of what technologies are yet to come. Rebecca Menendez is charged with ensuring that the technology can be implemented to support whatever new needs arise. These technologies include virtual desktop, mobile device management and increasing mobility with the upcoming Windows 10 operating system, VLAN for devices in the museum’s galleries, and researching software defined networking to see if this technology can help ease some of the pain points of managing a complex system.

Menendez is driven to ensure that the IT systems support the creative forces on staff, rather than serving as a roadblock, while keeping the network and data secure and ensuring that budgetary restrictions are responsibly upheld.
RICHARD RANDLE
MBG

As outsourced CIO, Richard Randle helps IT technicians communicate in the language of business — costs, benefits, risks, and return on investment. With expertise as a Vice President, in 2004. He has also been recommended to the advisory board of the Information Systems Security Association of Los Angeles, driven by the organization's work in being the voice of information security for the business and non-profit community in Los Angeles.

NAVEED REDDY
ENPLUG

At Enplug, Naveed Reddy communicates his technology plans and business value through the organization by constant education. Every member of the company is expected to have a high level understanding of the technology used. Individual project managers are encouraged to perform their own research on technology solutions and suggest superior choices to the incumbents. The process made in making technology decisions is always clearly laid out by Reddy and his team and critiques are not only allowed, but also expected.

Creative thinking is promoted and fostered by Reddy via extremely high levels of cross company communication. A high level of understanding of the core product companywide produces a fertile environment for innovation. Processes are improved, new features are developed, and issues are resolved by this persistent collaborative interchange — directly impacting business efficiency positively for increased revenue generation and high levels of agility that is a significant competitive advantage in the industry, which adheres to ‘traditional paradigms.’

CHERYL F. SANTOR
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT

Cheryl Santor, Information Security Manager for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, has over 25 years of Information Technology experience in the financial field and water industry. She has experience with every aspect of Information Technology.

Working with Metropolitan has exposed her to SCADA and Process Control Systems, bringing a new aspect to her Information Technology skills. Providing oversight of the control systems without hindering operations is an experience to which Santor is bringing her regulatory background together with a sense of standards and best practices for access control levels appropriate to the systems workflow. Santor has served as President of ISACA (Information Systems and Audit Control Association) Los Angeles. She is also a member of ISSA (Information Systems Security Association) and Fill Infragard.

MEGAN SAVAGE
TECH SAVAGE

Out of the things Megan Savage of Tech Savage does is encourage clients to think outside the box in their solutions. Instead of approaching a business issue with a specific solution in mind, Savage challenges them to fully define the problem and business need first, before deciding on a solution. By fully analyzing and mapping a business problem or business processes, Savage and her team are able to uncover additional areas where efficiency can be improved than they may have initially focused on, and then brainstorms how the combination of technology and business process changes can address each issue, based on budget and priorities.

Savage has also found that Kaizen sessions can be very useful tools to involve the business in defining their current process and pain points, creatively collaborating on short and long term solutions, and owning the results of the implementation.

HOWARD MILLER
LBW INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Howard Miller is the Director of the Tech Secure Division at LBW Insurance and Financial Services. He provides risk management solutions including complete insurance programs for a wide range of organizations with a focus on technology and media sectors. He provides additional expertise in the area of technology related risks such as intellectual property, information security, professional services, technology products and executive exposures. He is a Community Outreach Advisory Board Member for the Information Systems Security Association of Los Angeles and helped found a ProVison Technology Group.

Miller holds CISM (Certified Risk Manager) and CIC (Certified Insurance Counselor) designations and has worked in the insurance industry since 1996 and joined LBW, where he is currently a Vice President, in 2004. He has also been on the advisory board of the Information Systems Security Association of Los Angeles, driven by the organization's work in being the voice of information security for the business and non-profit community in Los Angeles.

KIMBERLY PEASE
CITADEL INFORMATION GROUP, INC.

Kim Pease co-founded Citadel Information Group as a trailblazer understanding and focusing on the need for cyber security management in the private sector. Her determination to drive Information Security awareness into Los Angeles has been diligent and unwavering since 2002. She embraces a belief that every business has a right to prosper without cybercriminals impeding its mission.

One of Pease's favorite quotes is "Nobody is as smart as everybody." Information Security will only be managed successfully if everybody does his or her part. Pease inspires creative thinking by assessing all angles of an issue, by incorporating different views and perspectives and having an open mind. Pease draws from her Six Sigma Black Belt knowledge and skill to focus on continual improvement. Throughout her career, Pease has maintained an emphasis on productivity and costs and embracing new tools, new ideas, and new methodologies to develop efficiencies.

MIKE PETERSEN
TM FINANCIAL FORENSICS, LLC

Mike Petersen, the IT Manager for TM Financial Forensics, LLC is excellent at applying high-end technology solutions to meet the needs of his business. TM Financial Forensics is a national business and disputes consulting firm specializing in financial, accounting, economic, engineering, scheduling and damages analyses.

As a one-man IT shop within the organization, he does an exceptional job and is dedicated to excellence. He is very responsive to business needs and is always looking to do things better for the businesses he works with. Recently, he has been working on a secure high-availability network for the organization.

RAJ RAJKOTIA
NEXTGEN TM, LLC & FUND DREAMER

Raj Rajkotia as a senior IT executive leader has worked and managed large teams at Toyota, Westfield, Bank of America and General Motors. Learning best practices from these large organizations, he has built NextGen TM and applied lean strategies to help clients leverage technology. His company and team specialize in a new wave of disruptive technologies such as Social, Mobile, Analytics (Big Data) and Cloud. Rajkotia has consistently provided transformative strategies and consulting services to client companies since 2005. He has a strong background in Finance and Technology Management that has helped companies transform and currently they are an emerging Technology Startup Incubator Company for the Los Angeles region. Rajkotia and NextGen TM have incubated several startups and have successfully launched FundDreamer, a next generation Crowdfunding Company focused on Empowering Women Entrepreneurship and Causes. He is an innovative thinker always looking to generate business efficiencies, drive business growth and attain competitive business advantages through use of technologies and innovative processes.

CIOs OF THE YEAR
2015 FINALISTS
Eric Schlissel and the GeekTek team distinguish themselves from their competitors through technical expertise and through customer service. The customer service distinction is the one that makes Schlissel most proud. He leads by example in ensuring that the hallmarks of every client interaction are listening and empathy. By approaching his client relationships in this way, he quickly establishes strong ties with his clients’ teams.

Under Schlissel’s stewardship, GeekTek is a nimble organization where team members wear many hats and are encouraged to contribute collaboratively to any number of organizational and operations initiatives. This diversity of thought is key to fostering ongoing creativity in problem solving. Schlissel runs workshops with the teams practicing seeing and solving problems from the end users’ perspective as opposed to from purely a systems perspective. Schlissel consistently demonstrates leadership amongst his own team and also within his clients’ organizations.

Kim A. Terry
Guthy-Renker LLC

Kim Terry has built a strong 140-person IT team since his arrival at Guthy-Renker, seeking out the most talented people possible, then delegating responsibility for outcomes not just tasks. Developing a conceptual vision for the future, then planning a way to transition this “new world” is a hallmark of his career. He leverages his 30 years of technology and managing people to guide organizations through difficult journeys, supporting his team and knocking down roadblocks.

Terry has been leading Guthy-Renker through a difficult and lengthy modernization of its systems for most of the past five years. Much of the past computing was built and run by business process outsourcers, so the company had little capability to execute an IT modernization program. Also because of the highly outsourced business model, the company had no mecha-
Growth of other businesses through his involvement in Provisors, a network of business professionals and advisors, try and outside his industry through- his connections within the indus- structure, budget, and compliance requirements.

Another strength that Watts exhibits is his long-standing business relationship with his own and those of his team. He places special emphasis on clear communication. He focuses first on clarifying and articulating the client’s business objectives. Secondly, he lays out for the clients how technology can best accomplish those objectives along with the pros and cons of each choice. He works to perform all of this within the context of the client's specific objectives, infra-structure, and budget, and compliance requirements.

David Watts is NETFUSION’S CIO, and through collaboration with other business professionals and advisors, in building the world’s original social network, and scaling it to global capacity. The large-scale infrastructure challenges he tackled and overcame in this process now inform the strategy of his role at SGN in mobile gaming. MySpace’s user base reached about 125 million monthly active in 2007, but SGN’s network is much bigger. SGN’s network of games comprises 500 million downloads, including 35 million players on its most popular title "Cookie Jam." This vast player base means millions of transactions and in-app purchases per day which SGN’s IT infrastructure must seamlessly accommodate to generate revenue.

Whitcomb’s major innovation at SGN is its patent-pending “MasterKey” system, a platform which allows a game to be developed and coded once, and then simultaneously published to all major gaming platforms – Amazon/Kindle, iTunes, Google Play and Facebook. The same system also delivers content updates, game maintenance, and other technology updates.

SGN originally recruited Jonathan Wong for his skill sets in building and migrating large enterprises infrastructure and technology at the cusp of a private equity acquisition. The acquisition involved the collapse of 13 legacy sites; the ground-up build of a new world class headquarters, the migration of multiple petabytes of data; and the reverse engineering of hundreds of home grown applications within a short timeframe. Wong adapted exist- ing technologies to the newly defined business model, which was to trans- form the 60-year-old business from media empire to brand management company. He then began to draft a new pool of custom applications to drive revenue initiatives for the newly designed business.

Within his first three years, IT opera- tional costs were reduced by 43% and performance gains were seen across the board by up to 900%, while still adhering to enterprise best practices. Wong is cur- rently working with the CEO and CFO to re-architect Playboy’s business systems to properly reflect and complement their new directions for the enterprise.

SGN CTO Aber Whitcomb – previ- ously CTO and Co-Founder of MySpace – applies his knowledge and expertise in building technologies to the newly defined business model, which was to transform the 60-year-old business from media empire to brand management company.
Over 300 attendees were on hand at the event, held at The LA Hotel Downtown in Los Angeles on June 3, 2015.