

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 | LE MÉRIDIEN

CDAO Washington D.C.

CONNECTING LEADERS IN ENTERPRISE DATA & AI

▶ Connecting you to what's next in Data

CDAO Washington D.C. — 23rd September

A cross-industry gathering for senior enterprise data and AI leaders focused on proving value, scaling AI responsibly, and leading through talent and investment pressure.

What the day covers

- What leaders would do differently if they had to do it again
- What gets scaled, what gets stopped, and where investment is still going
- Why capable teams still struggle to move fast enough
- Where data quality breaks down, what it costs, and what to fix first
- How the Data & AI Leadership roles are shifting as AI moves into live operations
- Where ownership sits across data, models, decisions, and risk

Format

- **Confession circles** on what failed, stalled, or cost more than expected
- **Ask-Me-Anything** sessions on AI ethics, governance, privacy, and regulation
- **Live polls** on AI accountability, ownership, investment, and the room's view
- **Roundtables** on risk, talent, operating models, decision rights, and what's changing inside organisations

If this is your world, this is the conversation worth being in.

Confirmed Speakers:

Sean Lensborn, *Chief Technology Officer* –ZAIS Group

Priyo Chatterjee, *Chief Analytics Officer* - Excelsior University

Elina Abel, *Head of Transformation* – T. Rowe Price

Subha Madhavan, *Vice President & Head of AI/ML & Digital Sciences, Global Product Development* – Pfizer

Dr. Elena Alikhachkina, Board Director, NACD | Author, “AI Oversight”

Dr. Andrew Omidvar, *Vice President Government* – **Philips**

Navin Kumar, *Director, Data Engineering and AI Risk* – **CITI**

Vaidehi Rao, Sr. Director of PPM data transformation -**Astrazeneca**

Senthil Kumar, *Senior Director, Digital Core (Cloud Platforms & Infrastructure)* - **CSL**

Abhinav Shankar, Global Head – Reporting and Analytics - **Tradeweb**

Chetan Desai, *Head of Data Governance and Operations* – **Guardian Life**

Trevor Teason, *Head of the Talent Intelligence & Innovation Lab* -**Capital One**

Jitin K. Singhal, *Senior Director - Portfolio Analytics and Credit Strategy* – **Sallie Mae**

Daniel Chen, *Senior Data Scientist* -**The Hartford**

Yunlong (Mark) Wang, Director, AI Science -**IQVIA**

Zoe Hsu, *Data Scientist*- **Lasa Health**

Brandy O'Shields, Sr Manager, Enterprise Data Governance – **PayPal**

Marcos Oliveira, Technology & Digital Senior Manager -**Reckitt**

Michael Stefkovich, *Data Science Manager* - **CarMax**

Sumahitha Vadnala, *Director* – **Capital One**

Kaycee Lai, *VP of AI* -**Everpure**

CDAO Washington D.C	
23 nd September 2026	
08:00 – 08:45	Registration & Coffee in the Exhibition Area
8:45 -	Chair's Opening Remarks

8:55	Dr. Elena Alikhachkina, Board Director, NACD Author, “AI Oversight”
8:55-9:00	Speed Networking – Making new connections at CDAO Washington D.C During this 5-minute networking session, the aim of the game is to go and meet two people you don't already know.
09:00-9:45	Panel Discussion: Why Data & AI Still Don’t Influence Decisions - And How Do You Change That • Where decisions really happen and why data still is not there • Why AI sits outside live workflows • What leaders changed to influence earlier and closer to the point of action • What to stop doing if you want decisions to shift • How data gets embedded into actual business action Moderator: Priyo Chatterjee, <i>Chief Analytics Officer</i> - Excelsior University Jitin K. Singhal, <i>Senior Director - Portfolio Analytics and Credit Strategy</i> – Sallie Mae Trevor Teason, <i>Head of the Talent Intelligence & Innovation Lab</i> -Capital One Marcos Oliveira, Technology & Digital Senior Manager –Reckitt Zoe Hsu, <i>Data Scientist</i>- Lasa Health
09:45-10:15	Expert Ask-Me-Anything on AI Ethics, Data Governance & Privacy An interactive session where attendees put their questions directly to an experts on AI ethics, privacy, governance, and regulation. Designed to give practical, real-world answers on operating responsibly under growing scrutiny. <u>Focus Areas:</u> AI ethics, data privacy, regulatory challenges. Navin Kumar, <i>Director, Data Engineering and AI Risk</i> – CITI Dr. Andrew Omidvar, <i>Vice President Government</i> – Philips
10:15-10:45	Presentation: AI Wants Your Data. Can You Scale Without Giving Up Control?

	AI is expected to move faster, deliver value sooner and work across the business. The catch? It wants access to your most valuable data. Join Kaycee Lai, VP of AI at Everpure, to explore how organizations can move beyond experimentation and scale AI across the enterprise—building a modern data foundation that accelerates time to value, supports business agility and keeps production AI secure and adaptable, without exposing sensitive data to model training. Kaycee Lai, <i>VP of AI -Everpure</i>	
10:45 11:15	<i>Mid-Morning Coffee & Networking in the Exhibition Area</i>	
	TRACK A Main Stage	TRACK B Interactive Room
11:15- 11:45	Presentation: From Prediction to Prevention: How AI Helped Drive Historic Lows in Student Melt - Challenge: Melt (dropping out of course registration before term start) rates have been historically high - Approach: Leverage StIR (Student Intervention Recommender), a proprietary AI platform we have developed, to mitigate the impact Work closely with Partners to make sure that deployment is seamless and effective - Results: After deployment of Machine Learning Module, our Melt rates have seen historic lows for 6 consecutive terms Priyo Chatterjee, <i>Chief Analytics Officer - Excelsior University</i>	Confession Circle: Where Data Quality Breaks And What It Costs the Business - Where data quality breaks across ownership, pipelines, and definitions - Why no one owns trust end-to-end - How poor data quietly kills adoption and confidence - What the business cost really looks like - What leaders should fix first Abhinav Shankar, Global Head – Reporting and Analytics - Tradeweb Chetan Desai, <i>Head of Data Governance and Operations</i> – Guardian Life Yunlong (Mark) Wang, Director, AI Science - IQVIA
11:45 –	Panel Discussion: What Still Slows Delivery When the Team and Tools Are Already	Roundtable Discussion: Where Data & AI Decisions Create Risk And Who Carries It

12:15	There • Where delivery stalls between priorities, dependencies, and decision rights • Why adding AI into the mix often creates more noise, not more speed • How leaders decide what capability to build, buy, or drop • When vendors help and when they create more complexity • What operating discipline improves time to value Moderator: Abhinav Shankar, Global Head – Reporting and Analytics – Tradeweb Vaidehi Rao, Sr. Director of PPM data transformation –Astrazeneca Marcos Oliveira, Technology & Digital Senior Manager –Reckitt Sumahitha Vadnala, <i>Director</i> – Capital One Elina Abel, <i>Head of Transformation</i> – T. Rowe Price	• What happens when AI and data decisions go wrong • Who is accountable when outcomes fail • How leaders think about risk versus speed • Where liability sits across business, risk, and data leadership • How organisations protect the business and themselves Navin Kumar, <i>Director, Data Engineering and AI Risk</i> – CITI Brandy O'Shields, Sr Manager, Enterprise Data Governance – PayPal Subha Madhavan, <i>Vice President & Head of AI/ML & Digital Sciences, Global Product Development</i> – Pfizer
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12:15 - 12:45	Case study: Driving Engagement with CarMax’s digital assistant “Skye” • How we identified target sales behaviors (internal/external research) • Turning those into agent experiences (prompts and software) • Evaluating them for legal compliance and experience (LLM judges, HITL) • Confidently measuring incrementality (fastest way to statistical significance) • Result: i.e., Case study drove X.X% engagement, link to sales Michael Stefkovich, <i>Data Science Manager - CarMax</i>	Peer Exchange: Building a Data Team in the Age of AI — What Changes, What Stays, What Disappears? • Hiring for a landscape changing faster than job descriptions can keep up • Retaining strong people when tools, priorities, and expectations keep shifting • How leaders are redesigning teams around data, analytics, ML, and GenAI • Whether AI is reducing headcount pressure or simply changing where talent is needed • How leaders keep teams motivated when the market narrative is “AI can do this now” Trevor Teason, <i>Head of the Talent Intelligence & Innovation Lab -Capital One</i> Jitin K. Singhal, <i>Senior Director - Portfolio Analytics and Credit Strategy – Sallie Mae</i> Sean Lensborn, <i>Chief Technology Officer – ZAIS Group</i> Senthil Kumar, <i>Senior Director, Digital Core (Cloud Platforms & Infrastructure) - CSL</i>
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Lunch & Networking in the Exhibition Area</i>	Invite-only Roundtable: Your AI Pilot Worked. What Happens Next? The pilot looked great. Then it met messy data, legacy systems, security reviews, unclear ownership and the people who have to use it.

		Join Kaycee Lai, VP of AI at Everpure, and a small group of technology leaders for an honest conversation about what it really takes to move AI into production. We'll get into where projects tend to stall, what's working, and how teams are turning early momentum into measurable business value. Kaycee Lai, <i>VP of AI</i> -Everpure
13:45-14:15	Presentation: When AI Starts Acting: Securing the Agentic Enterprise • Understand how the attack surface changes when AI moves beyond prompts and outputs to using memory, tools, APIs and enterprise systems. • Explore the OWASP Top 10 risks, including goal hijacking, tool misuse, privilege abuse, supply-chain vulnerabilities, code execution and memory poisoning. • Apply Zero Trust across agent identities, authorisation, data, tools, APIs and agent-to-agent interactions. • Use least privilege, runtime policies, human approvals and agent containment to scale securely without slowing innovation. Senthil Kumar, <i>Senior Director, Digital Core (Cloud Platforms & Infrastructure)</i> - CSL	Discussion group: How to Structure Data & AI Ownership to Drive Delivery, Not Friction • What works across centralised, federated, and hybrid models • Where ownership breaks across data, models, and decisions • Why duplication and friction keep happening • How decision rights are defined, enforced, or avoided • What leaders are redesigning right now Navin Kumar, <i>Director, Data Engineering and AI Risk</i> – CITI Sumahitha Vadnala, <i>Director</i> – Capital One
14:15-14:45	Fireside Chat: AI in the Boardroom: How CDOs Secure Investment, Shape Governance, and Build Sustainable Adoption	Discussion group: How Do You Move Fast Without Breaking Trust, Control, or Compliance?

	• How CDOs can effectively partner with Boards to secure AI investment and align on value realization, not just experimentation • Practical governance models that balance innovation with risk oversight, including what Boards expect from data leaders • The evolving CDO-to-Board pathway. What it takes to influence, educate, and build long-term trust at the executive level • Lessons from the field. Insights from a study of 150+ CDOs and Board directors on what is working in large, complex organizations Dr. Elena Alikhachkina, Board Director, NACD Author, “AI Oversight” Subha Madhavan, <i>Vice President & Head of AI/ML & Digital Sciences, Global Product Development - Pfizer</i>	• Where governance slows or blocks delivery in practice • Where teams bypass controls to get things done • How leaders balance speed against risk • What gets enforced versus what only exists on paper • How organisations operate under growing scrutiny without freezing progress Abhinav Shankar, Global Head – Reporting and Analytics – Tradeweb Michael Stefkovich, <i>Data Science Manager - CarMax</i>
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14:45-15:15	Presentation: Your Agents Don't Need Better Models. They Need Track Records Deploying autonomous agents inside an alternative asset manager, and what a year of production taught us about trust • Why the model is the most swappable part of an agent system, and what survives when you replace it	Discussion group: Why Good Data Work Still Dies Inside the Organisation And How Leaders Navigate Power, Politics, and Resistance • How AI urgency is changing internal power dynamics across data, tech, risk, and the business • Where good work gets blocked internally even when the case is clear
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	- Where guardrails fail in practice: what happens to safety instructions written into prompts once context gets compacted, and why the fix has to live in code - Building on proprietary data that never leaves the perimeter, and what changes when the agent's output has to withstand review rather than impress a demo audience - What we measure now that we didn't measure a year ago, and why observed behavior beats declared capability every time Sean Lensborn, <i>Chief Technology Officer</i> – ZAIS Group	- Why alignment breaks across business, tech, risk, and operations - How leaders build influence without formal control - What resistance looks like at senior level Dr. Andrew Omidvar, <i>Vice President Government</i> – Philips Zoe Hsu, <i>Data Scientist</i>- Lasa Health Dr. Elena Alikhachkina, Board Director, NACD Author, “AI Oversight”
15:15 15:45	<i>Afternoon Break & Networking in the Exhibition Area</i>	
15:45-16:15	Presentation: Smart Execution: How Reckitt Elevated Shelf Performance Go behind the scenes as Reckitt reveals how it collaborated with a major retail partner to deploy AI-powered insights directly in stores. How AI guided specific shelf-level actions and the lift that followed. Marcos Oliveira, Technology & Digital Senior Manager -Reckitt	
16:15-16:45	Closing Live Poll +Fireside chat: The Data & AI Landscape Reset — What Matured, What Collapsed, What’s Next - How the data and AI ecosystem has changed over the last 3–5 years - Which categories are consolidating, blurring, or becoming harder to separate - What leaders are still buying, what they are rationalising, and what they regret - How GenAI changed vendor strategy, budgets, and internal expectations - What capabilities now matter more than shiny tooling	

	Dr. Elena Alikhachkina, Board Director, NACD Author, “AI Oversight” Daniel Chen, <i>Senior Data Scientist</i> -The Hartford
16:45 16:50	Chair’s Closing Remarks Dr. Elena Alikhachkina, Board Director, NACD Author, “AI Oversight”
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