The 22nd annual CIO&Leader Conference, the flagship event of the premier CIO community platform, CIO&Leader, from 9.9 Group, was successfully held virtually on 3rd and 4th September 2021. The theme for this year’s conference was CIO Gurukul, which stressed on the importance of learning pg.10
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If you are not already tired of listening to this, let me tell you for the nth time that the digital opportunity is not just about taking things digital as it is— with its obvious advantages and disadvantages. Like any paradigm shifts in technology, it also forces you to think of completely new possibilities, changing the fundamental nature of your products, services and processes.

We organized the 21st CIO&Leader Conference in March 2021. It was very different from our ground events, done for 20 years. Yet, somewhere, we were trying to replicate what we did on ground.

When we organized the 22nd CIO&Leader Conference—just six months later—we were sensitized to the new possibilities. For the first time in the history of the conference, we invited next-generation IT managers—tomorrow’s CIOs. And we did that without diluting the sanctity of the CIO congregation. All we did was that we short circuited the information dissemination and made it direct, real-time. Earlier, we used to put together the main messages emanating from the conference and took them through our magazine, newsletters and websites to the same audience. Digital just removed those barriers. The value proposition was still the same. The efficiency was more. And based on the feedback we received, the effectiveness was more too. And of course, it was our biggest event ever—measured across all parameters.

The theme too emerged from this new reality. On one hand, there is a need for continuous learning like never before. On the other, the ways and means of delivering those learnings from the top practitioners was no more a challenge. This helped us decide the theme—CIO Gurukul. The entire event was organized as one big guruukul, with ancient India’s guru-shishya parampara as the inspiration.

This issue carries detailed coverage of the event—with topics varying from data management to cloud, succession planning to leadership thinking—and team building to customer experience management.

Great new experimentations with digital and their success notwithstanding, at the end we all remain social animals. We all want to meet each other, chat face-to-face.

Hopefully, we should be able to do all that soon. We are exploring the possibilities of meeting you all face-to-face through small events, with focused topics of discussion. Of course, your safety will be the top consideration. As I said, the decision to go ahead will depend on how you feel about the proposition, how the situation on the ground unfolds and so on. You will be the first to know when we take a decision.

As we enter the festive time—from Dussehra, Diwali to Christmas and New Year—my best wishes to all of you.
22nd Annual CIO&Leader Conference Sets New Benchmark

The 22nd annual CIO&Leader Conference, the flagship event of the premier CIO community platform, CIO&Leader, from 9.9 Group, was successfully held virtually on 3rd and 4th September 2021. The theme for this year’s conference was CIO Gurukul, which stressed on the importance of learning.
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By Akash Jain
The market potential for AI/ML in Media & Entertainment Services to grow USD 16.5 billion by 2026

Rakuten enters B2B space in India with SaaS product SixthSense

Japanese internet firm, Rakuten, is entering the B2B space in India with the launch of a software-as-a-service product, SixthSense. The code to customer observability platform has been created by the company’s development center in India and was being used by Rakuten across its global locations over the last few years. India is the first market where it is being launched. The company may look at taking the product to other markets in the Asia-Pacific region. According to reports, a few other products are being incubated that may be launched at a later date. The platform, which will be available on a subscription model, will help provide end-to-end visibility of the entire IT environment, from development to business operations.

Anar B2B app gets seed funding

Anar, a business-to-business networking app, has raised USD 6.2 million in a seed funding round co-led by Elevation Capital and Accel India. First Cheque and Utsav Somani of AngelList India participated in the fundraising, as did angels such as Pratilipi cofounder Ranjeet Pratap Singh, ShareChat cofounder Farid Ahsan, Meesho cofounders Vedit Aatrey and Sanjeev Barnwal, and BharatPe cofounder Shashvat Nakrani. The capital will be used for building the product and hiring across functions.

Apna becomes youngest startup to enter unicorn club

Apna.com, a professional networking platform for blue- and grey-collar workers, has entered the coveted unicorn club, or those companies with a valuation of USD 1 billion or more, in just 21 months, the fastest Indian startup to do so. The company has raised USD 100 million in a new financing round, led by existing investor Tiger Global. Owl Ventures, Maverick Ventures and GSV Ventures have also come on board as new investors in its third funding round this year.

Flockjay cuts almost half of its workforce to move away from bootcamps into B2B SaaS

Flockjay, a bootcamp startup that helps laid off people and job seekers break into tech, cut half of its employees amid a broader pivot to a B2B SaaS platform, per media reports. The layoffs were mainly of nontechnical team and included admission advisers, biz ops and development, partnerships, recruiting and marketing professionals. It is reported that around 30 to 45 people were laid off accounting for at least half of Flockjay's full-time staff. The startup graduated from Y Combinator in 2019 with a simple goal: serve as an onramp for people to break into tech careers. Flockjay’s flagship offering is a 10-week sales training bootcamp that helps place graduates into sales jobs across tech companies. It claims to place around 80% of the company’s students within the first six months of graduation.

Hero Vired launches Vired for Business

Hero Vired, the education technology unit of Hero Group, has launched a business-to-business (B2B) arm called “Vired for Business” for upskilling employees. Hero Vired for Business assists enterprises in upskilling employees, sourcing talent, recruiting new employees, and implementing internal learning programs.
Tourism season begins with a slew of govt app launches

At least four Indian states have launched mobile apps to help inbound tourists to the state, just before tourism season picks up in October.

Kerala, whose famous tourism tagline, God's Own Country, is now globally known, kicked off the app launch season in the second week of September. Actor Mohanlal launched the app, at a function in Kovalam. The app would help tourists find out new, unexplored attractions and help them record their travel experience. The government is looking at identifying at least one such location in each of the panchayats.

Three other states – Delhi, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra – launched tourism apps to better tourist experience.

Delhi government launched an app, Dekho Hamari Dilli, which provides information about tourist spots along with their brief history, popular local cuisines, marketplaces and heritage walks. Users will get an experience of tourist destinations, including heritage sites, through audio and videos through this app.

A similar app was launched by Rajasthan government on World Tourism Day that gives information about tourist locations, along with tourism promotions.

Maharashtra tourism app, apart from giving information about tourist locations and other related information, also facilitates booking.

Andhra Pradesh too has announced that it would have its own mobile app for visiting tourists which it is planning to launch on Dussehra day.

Agri Ministry signs MoUs with 5 cos for digital agriculture

Central Ministry of Agriculture signed MoUs for pilot projects with five companies – Cisco, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms, ITC and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML).

The projects are aimed at helping farmers to take informed decisions on what crop to grow, what variety of seed to use and what best practises to adopt to maximize the yield. It can help agriculture supply chain players to plan their procurement and logistics on precise and timely information. Farmers can take informed decisions about whether to sell or store their produce and when and where and what price to sell.

A Digital Agriculture Mission has been initiated for 2021 - 2025 by Government for Projects based on new technologies like AI, blockchain, remote sensing/GIS technology, use of drones and robots, etc.

Cyber Lab for Online Capacity Building to be established

National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has signed an MoU with National Law University (NLU), Delhi and National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal, to establish a Cyber Lab for the ‘Online Capacity Building Program on Cyber Law, Crime Investigation and Digital Forensics’.

The goal of this program is to enable police officers, state cyber cells, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judicial officers to acquire requisite skills to deal with cyber forensics cases efficiently and effectively, as per the Indian Cyber Law while adopting global best practices, standards and guidelines. The proposed cyber lab will be equipped with Hybrid architecture which supports both virtual as well as physical mode of capacity building in the areas of cyber law, cybercrime investigation and digital forensics.

Digital onboarding and training program for street vendors launched

MINISTRY of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), launched the pilot drive ‘Main Bhi Digital 3.0’ - A special campaign for Digital Onboarding and Training for street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme across 223 cities.
CIO & CISO MOVEMENTS

ABHIJIT BHALERAO has joined Nuvoco Vistas Corp as CIO.
Bhalerao moves from Force Motors Group of Companies where he was Head - Group IT.

ANUP PUROHIT has been appointed Global CIO at Wipro.
Immediately prior to this, Purohit was CIO at Yes Bank.

BHARADWAJ RALLABANDI has been promoted as CIO - South Asia & North Asia at Johnson & Johnson.
Before this, Rallabandi was CIO & Digital Transformation Leader - India at the same company.

MANDAR PATKAR has been promoted as Director - IT Services at GIA India Laboratory.
In his earlier role at the organization, Patkar served as the Head of IT. Patkar won the NEXT100 Award in 2020.

NITIN MITTAL has joined Zee Entertainment Enterprises as President - Technology & Data.
Immediately prior to this, Mittal was the Founder, CEO & Board Member for SOLV.

SAURABH NIGAM has joined promoted to Group CTO of DMI Finance.
Before this, Nigam was CTO at the same company. Nigam has been a NEXT100 winner in 2013.

SUMIT CHADHA has been appointed CIO at India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation.
Previously, Chadha was Head of IT at PNB Housing Finance.

SUMIT GARG has been appointed Global CIO at Piramal Pharma Solutions.
Immediately prior to this, Garg was associated with SenseAI Ventures in an Advisory role.
Industry Movements

Anantharaman Sreenivasan has joined as Managing Director & CEO at NSEIT. Immediately prior to this, Sreenivasan was Vice President & Country Head, India at Cognizant.

Prativa Mohapatra has become the first woman to lead Adobe India, having joined as Vice President & Managing Director. Previously, Prativa was VP - Digital Sales, APAC at IBM.

Sanjay Deshmukh has been appointed as Senior Regional Vice President, ASEAN & India at Snowflake. Deshmukh joins from VMware where he served as Vice President & Managing Director, South East Asia & Korea.

Girish Dev has been appointed as Head of AI & Digital Transformation at Commtel Networks. Before joining Commtel, Dev served as a Strategic Advisor and Head at a global technology group for its blockchain and DLT ventures.

Matthew Goss has been appointed as Senior Vice President & General Manager for Asia Pacific Japan and Greater China at SAP Concur. An 18-year SAP Concur veteran, Goss was until his latest appointment, the Managing Director for SAP Concur Australia and New Zealand.

Phaneesh Gururaj has joined Koo India as President - Technology. Earlier, Gururaj was Senior Vice President – Head of Business | Data Science at redBus.

Senthil Kumar has been appointed as Vice President - Industrial Automation at Schneider Electric India. Before this, Senthil was Managing Director - Asia Pacific & Middle East, Eurotherm, Schneider Electric.

Yogesh Nehra has joined as President - Technology at upGrad. Before this, Nehra was the Co-Founder of ShopG.
This is the fifth in our series examining Data and its idiosyncrasies. In the last four instalments, we looked at Data Visualization and Stories, Thick Data, Data Confluence, and the Data-Discovery-Disruption cycle. In this viewpoint, we will look at the opportunity existing Data can provide if we stretch it (and our minds) a little. “Stretching” here refers to the act of deploying data for more than it is usually used for (and not to the Azure product or to a technical function in some of the visual processing software). Some of the concepts and examples here are parts of industry in the form of Data Acceleration, Data Extension, Data Mining, etc.; this column simplifies all of that into a single stream of thought with some simple examples.

We will not get into any of the techniques mentioned above but will look at it from a singular and logical point of view. And some of our examples, while falling in the realm of these techniques did not actually use any of those techniques. All of these were based on simple business logic. Data can be stretched in one of the four ways: Vertical, Horizontal, n-th Dimension, and Across. The contention here is that any dataset can use all four of these methods; together or separately.

A couple of things should be noted here first. The benefits of stretching the data can only be realized by developing new capabilities, in product development, service provisioning or supply chain management. Secondly, some of the examples below happened by intuition or accident. But today rigid self-proving and self-learning Data Science models (that use statistics and calculus) are being deployed to exploit these opportunities.

One way to stretch the data is Vertically. One goes further down the same pattern or the path the data is “obviously” showing, and project
based on that. As an example, a very large retailer in India discovered through data that milk and sugar are usually purchased together. And intuitively, the retailer’s IT department looked at where this was not true. There were about 10% more customers who were only buying milk. A focused campaign on this subset of customers brought them back into the stores to buy sugar also.

Second way is to stretch it Horizontally. Use the data to expand the business into other business areas. Banks had the data that gave them a fair idea of the income and net worth of their customers. A simple analysis provided them with a list of customers who are likely to be investing in stock markets, insurance, etc. And they quickly moved into these areas. Today, every bank in the world offers investment and insurance brokerage in addition to a host of other services.

A third type of data stretching would be to take the business into n-th Dimension. This has come into focus especially during COVID. People stuck at home with lockdowns switched to video/online games as an outlet. And suddenly data showed that these were being used by 30-50 year olds in addition to 20-30 year olds. This new group obviously has the highest purchasing power of all the age groups. And so, the games industry has now added all kinds of services in its advertising: financial services, retail, FMCG manufacturers, and what not. And they did not stop there, they incorporated e-sports, a perfect replacement for the sports games that this consumer segment was missing. This increased the volume of betting inside the games by a very large multiple. So, now data showed that the demography of its user base was shifting, and the whole industry changed. And the rest of the players in the economy have now started pouring money in advertising on these platforms.

Lastly, there is the stretching the data Across demography, geography, product, situation, etc. You take the learnings of data from current scenario and replicate it across a different demography, geography, product, or situation. The belief here is that people are similar everywhere and related products behave similarly. As an example, one of the largest retailers in the world had perfected the art of rejigging its supply chain to cater to changed needs after a hurricane hit an area. Data taught them what is needed most in a disaster: water, bread, eggs, shoes, underwear, etc. So, when COVID hit badly in certain parts of the US, this retailer was the only one who had its shelves restocked with what the consumers really needed (toilet paper notwithstanding).

Bottomline is, Data is more than it looks like. There is more in it than one has collected and ingested. IT departments need to ask the following of their data:

- How far can I push what the data is already telling me?
- Can this data be used beyond its current source?
- What is “new” in the data?
- Where else can I generate the same data?
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As many as 118 CIOs participated in the conference as Gurus to share their insights and learning with more than 2,400 people registering for the event. They did that over 39 sessions – keynote, sponsored and editorial – across various formats, such as Masterclasses, Fireside Chats, Roundtables, Panel Discussions, and Case Study Workshops.

The event began with participating CIOs and delegates being welcomed by Vikas Gupta, Publisher of CIO&Leader and Director & Co-Founder, 9.9 Group.

The opening keynote themed Rise over Obstacles was delivered by Life Coach Gaur Gopal Das of ISKCON. He also participated in a fireside chat with Rajendran N, CEO, IFTAS; Rajesh Uppal, CIO, Maruti Suzuki India; and Vikram K, Senior Director, HPE India, who deliberated on Leadership in the Era of Hybrid Work Culture. Harish Manwani, Senior Operating Partner, The Blackstone Group & Former Global COO, Unilever, spoke on Leading in Turbulent Times, in the second keynote delivered on the first day.

The opening keynote on the second day was given by Prakash Iyer, Former Managing Director, Kimberly-Clark Lever, who spoke on The Leaders’ Mindset. Sjoerd Marijne, Chief Coach of Indian Women’s National Hockey Team which reached the quarterfinals of
Tokyo Olympics 2020, delivered a keynote address on How to Build a World Class Team.

The sponsored sessions on the first day included:
- Visual Data Mining & Machine Learning, Case Study Workshop sponsored by SAS
- An Integrated Security Strategy to Support Business Transformation, Case Study Workshop sponsored by Fortinet
- Technology & Financial Services – A Love/Hate Relationship, Fireside Chat sponsored by Fortinet
- Lessons from Digital Transformation, Fireside Chat sponsored by Tata Communications
- The Post COVID CISO, Fireside Chat sponsored by Fortinet
- Adopt a Holistic Approach to Cyber Security, Masterclass sponsored by Sophos
- Simplify Compliance & Reduce Risk, Masterclass sponsored by Microsoft
- Proactive Threat Hunting to Combat Ransomware, Panel Discussion sponsored by Microsoft
- Accelerate Business Agility & Growth with the Right Hybrid Cloud, Panel Discussion sponsored by IBM
- Cloudizing your IT with Everything as a Service, Panel Discussion sponsored by HPE
- Build IT Agility: Accelerate Infrastructure Transformation, Roundtable sponsored by Tata Communications
- Modernized Data Management for Banking & Financial Industry, Roundtable sponsored by HPE
- Accelerating Digital Transformation with IoT Analytics, Roundtable sponsored by SAS
- Finding Your Path to Modernization, Roundtable sponsored by VMware
- A Core Foundation of Modern Data Strategy: Logical Data Fabric, Talk delivered by Denodo
- Create More Value from Apps & Data – Anywhere, Talk delivered by IBM
- Building an End-to-End Integrated Security Approach, Talk delivered by Microsoft

The sponsored sessions on the second day included:
- Unified Cloud Experience for Smart Business Transformation, Case Study Workshop sponsored by Tata Communications
- AI-powered Service Operation: Your Powerful Ally, Case Study Workshop, sponsored by ServiceNow
- Formulating a Business Optimized Threat Protection Strategy, Case Study Workshop sponsored by Kaspersky
- Build Your Digital Workspace, Masterclass sponsored by Wysetek
- Modernizing IT from Edge to Cloud, Masterclass sponsored by Wysetek
- Network & Security: Get the Strategy Right, Panel Discussion sponsored by Tata Communications
- Unlock the Potential of Business Outcome, Panel Discussion sponsored by Aruba
- Exceptional Customer Service Experience, Panel Discussion sponsored by NICE
- Virtual Cloud Network for Intrinsic Security - Spotlight, Roundtable sponsored by VMware
- How Enterprises Can Unleash The Power of Data With The Modern Database Platform, Roundtable sponsored by MongoDB
- Exploring the Future of Work with Sixth Sense Networks, Roundtable sponsored by Aruba

Editorial sessions included a presentation by Editorial Director Shyamanuja Das on Career & Succession Planning in Enterprise IT, based on a research conducted by CIO&Leader, on 3rd September 2021. A roundtable on the same topic was conducted on the second day of the event, which saw participation of leading CIOs. Invited speakers, veteran CXOs and consultants, Vijay Sampath and Akash Jain spoke on Introducing Thick Data Thinking.

Like in last few years, the final part of the program agenda was CIO&Leader Samman, a unique honor CIO&Leader is conferring on veteran CIOs since last three years. Fourteen CIOs, chosen by a jury panel of four former CIOs, received the 3rd CIO&Leader Samman.

The formal end of the event was thanking the CIO gurus for their selfless participation in the program and announcement of Guru Dakshina, as is customary at the end of the education at a Gurukul. Group Editor R Giridhar announced Guru Dakshina.

Director of Sales & Community Engagement, Mahantesh G, thanked the sponsors of making the program a success.

Exciting prizes like Maruti Baleno car, Sony BRAVIA TV, Bose EarPods and Amazon vouchers were announced for delegates based on their levels of participation.

The entire program was supported by Hewlett Packard Enterprise as the lead sponsor together with Aruba & Inflow, powered by Tata Communications and co-powered by AMD & VMware. The associate partners included Kaspersky, Microsoft, IBM, MongoDB, NICE, SAS, Sophos, Denodo, Fortinet, ServiceNow and Wysetek.
The two day session was kicked off by a brief but warm welcome by the Publisher of CIO&Leader and Co-Founder of 9.9 Group, Vikas Gupta.

Welcome Address
Vikas Gupta, Co-Founder & Publisher

Shri Gaur Gopal Das, Life Coach, in his talk on ‘Rise over Obstacles’ had a heady mix of experience, insight and humor to make his point.
Leadership in the Era of Hybrid Work Culture

Shri Gaur Gopal Das, Life Coach; Rajendran N, CEO, IFTAS; Rajesh Uppal, CIO, Maruti Suzuki India; Vikram K, Senior Director, HPE India

Moderator: Sachin Mhashilkar, Executive Director - B2B Tech, 9.9 Group

The cybersecurity masterclass provided hands-on knowledge on the best ways to create a holistic approach to cyber security that includes people, skills, technology, and governance, in addition to multifaceted security products and solutions

Moderator: Jatinder Singh, Associate Editor - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group
Top tech leaders deliberated on how enterprises can build IT agility by accelerating infrastructure transformation through the cloud.

**Build IT Agility: Accelerate Infrastructure Transformation**

Rajarshi Purkayastha, Head, Pre-Sales, India | MECAA | SAARC, Tata Communications; Debasish Singh, SVP & Global CIO, Mphasis; Harnath Babu, Partner & CIO, KPMG; Mayuresh Purandare, Head IT - Infrastructure & Security, Marico; Naveen Gulati, Group CIO, Girnarsoft; Sanjay Kotha, Joint President & Chief Digital & Business Transformation, Adani Group; Umesh Mehta, EVP & Global CIO, Jubilant Life Sciences  

**Moderator:** Shyamanuja Das, Editorial Director - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group

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Ravi Shankar, SVP & CMO, Denodo outlines how embracing a logical data fabric approach through data virtualization technology can benefit enterprises and future-proof their data architecture to meet new demands.

**A Core Foundation of Modern Data Strategy: Logical Data Fabric**

Ravi Shankar, SVP & CMO, Denodo
The workshop enabled attendees to discover unique insights about Visual Data Mining & Machine Learning and make them learn how to access these methods through a case study.

**Visual Data Mining & Machine Learning**
Abhishek Deshmukh, Senior Business Solution Manager - Supply Chain & IoT Analytics Practice, SAS India; Nabuath Khan, Practice Head - Manufacturing & IoT Analytics, SAS India; Ashish Desai, VP - IT & CIO, Chemical Division of Grasim Industries (Aditya Birla Group); Rajkumar Ayyella, CIO, RPG Group (KEC International); Ramkumar Mohan, CIO, Air Works India Engineering

**Moderator:** Mahantesh Godi, Associate Publisher & Director - Community, 9.9 Group

**Technology & Financial Services – A Love/Hate Relationship**
Patrick Grillo, Senior Director - Solutions & Product Marketing, Fortinet; Rajesh Maurya, Regional VP, India & SAARC, Fortinet; Amol Pai, CTO, SBI

**Moderator:** Jatinder Singh, Associate Editor - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group

**Fireside Chat**

**Technology & Financial Services – A Love/Hate Relationship:** In a fireside chat, distinguished panelists discussed challenges, trends, and limitations of current technologies in the BFSI sector.
In this roundtable, CIOs deliberated on how an integrated data cloud can help banking and financial services enterprises to manage and streamline increasing workloads that require access to a diverse set of data for real-time analysis and operational decisions.

Moderator: Sachin Mhashilkar, Executive Director - B2B Tech, 9.9 Group

Aju Murjani, Cloud Platform Sales Leader, IBM Asia Pacific on how leading enterprises are combining the speed and interoperability of open, cloud-native tech with enterprise-level productivity and security — and taking it everywhere.

Create More Value from Apps & Data – Anywhere

Aju Murjani, Cloud Platform Sales Leader, IBM Asia Pacific
Expectations from CIOs have never been more than it has been post the pandemic. With businesses going through tough times and the organizations trying to become agile and digital, how do CIOs and IT leaders lead from the front in these turbulent times...Harish Manwani, Senior Operating Partner, The Blackstone Group & Former Global COO, Unilever spoke eloquently on the topic

Digital First Adaptation to Enable Hyper-Connected Ecosystem - in a fireside chat, Hari Nair, VP - Solutions Engineering, Tata Communications, reflects on why the digital-first operating model is a must for enterprises in the new world order and what is needed to address the gaps businesses are facing in their digital transformation journeys

Digital First Adaptation to Enable Hyper Connected Ecosystem
Hari Nair, VP - Solutions Engineering, Tata Communications; Moderator: R Giridhar, Group Editor, 9.9 Group
Is there something called succession planning in enterprise IT? Editorial Director Shyamanuja Das presented excerpts from a research conducted by CIO&Leader on how CIOs look at next generation leadership and what are they doing for succession planning.

**Career & Succession Planning for CIOs**
Shyamanuja Das, Editorial Director - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group

In this masterclass, industry experts shared insights on how to protect data from growing cybersecurity attacks and simplify compliance monitoring to ensure enterprises stay continuously compliant and risk-free.

**Simplify Compliance & Reduce Risk**
Prashant Singh, Director - Cybersecurity Tech Specialist Lead, Microsoft; Subodh Kumar, Partner Director - Product Management & Security Research, Microsoft; Sandeep Karan, Head - Cybersecurity, L&T Technology Services
The event saw rich, diverse, and lively discussion around the role of IoT analytics to accelerate digital transformation.

Accelerating Digital Transformation with IoT Analytics
Arun V. Chearie, Director - Sales, SAS India; Deepak Ramanathan, VP - Global Technology Practice, SAS APAC; Aniruddha Kadkol, Head - IT & Digitalization, Mahindra & Mahindra; Anjani Kumar, CIO, Strides Pharma; Deepak Bhosale, GM - IT, Asian Paints; Dhaval Pandya, Corporate CIO, Piramal Enterprises; Kushal Varshney, CTO, Virescent Infrastructure; Rajesh Uppal, CIO, Maruti Suzuki India; Rajiv Arora, Global Head of IT Global Hub, Siemens; Ramkumar Mohan, CIO, Air Works India Engineering; Sachin Gupta, President & Chief Information & Innovation Officer, Usha International; Vinod Khode, SVP & Group CIO, Varroc Group
Moderator: Shyamanuja Das, Editorial Director - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group

Finding Your Path to Modernization
Kip Cole, VP, VMware Tanzu Sales, APJ, Sanjay Aneja, Sales Head, VMware Tanzu; Ajay Bakshi, Global Transformation Leader, Xerox; Anand Hadgaonkar, CIO-Asia, Whirlpool Corporation; Balakrishnan A, Executive Director - IT, Geojit Financial Services; Chandra Kishore Prasad, Executive Director - IT, Railtel Corporation of India Limited; Narahari BL, Head - IT (Digital Transformation), Titan; Naveen Gulati, Group CIO, Ginarsoft; Sunil Sonare, CIO, CDO & CTO, Sadbhav Engineering; Yogesh Zope, CDO & SVP, Bharat Forge (Kalyani Group)
Moderator: R Giridhar, Group Editor, 9.9 Group

In this roundtable discussion, thought leaders discussed how to identify the right strategy for application modernization, its challenges and benefits.
Building an End-to-End Integrated Security Approach
Avinash Lotke, APJ Time Zone Leader - Security Solutions, Microsoft

The Post COVID CISO — in a fireside chat, distinguished panelists, ponder over the changing role of CISOs and the need to re-evaluate security priorities in alignment with the new cyberthreat realities

The Post COVID CISO
Alain Sanchez, EMEA CISO & Senior Evangelist, Fortinet; Rajesh Maurya, Regional VP, India & SAARC, Fortinet; Dr. Durgaprasad Dube, EVP, Reliance Industries
Moderator: R Girdhar, Group Editor, 9.9 Group
The case study workshop was instrumental in bringing recommendations on how to integrate security practices to support business transformation more tightly.

Top security minds of the industry deliberated on the role of threat intelligence and other detection technologies to stay ahead of ransomware attacks and other cyber security threats.

**An Integrated Security Strategy to Support Business Transformation**

Krishnan Rajagopalan, SME - SIEM/SOAR/EDR/XDR India & SAARC Region, Fortinet; Arvind Sivaramakrishnan, CIO, Apollo Hospitals; Dr. Avadhut Parab, Associate Vice President - IT & Global Head, Wockhardt; Ritu Madbhavi, Group CIO, FCB India *Moderator:* Mahantesh Codi, Associate Publisher & Director - Community, 9.9 Group

**Proactive Threat Hunting to Combat Ransomware**

Avinash Lotke, APJ Time Zone Leader - Security Solutions, Microsoft; Chandan Pani, CISO, Mindtree; Mathan Babu, Chief Technology Security Officer & Data Privacy Officer, Vodafone India; Sameer Ratolikar, EVP & CISO, HDFC Bank; Saritha Auti, Global CISO, UD Trucks; S Raghunatha Reddy, SVP & Head IT, UTI Mutual Fund *Moderator:* Sachin Mhashilkar, Executive Director - B2B Tech, 9.9 Group
The panel discussion comprising top technology leaders deliberated on the importance of modernizing hybrid cloud environments and how the right hybrid cloud strategy can help enterprises accelerate agility and deliver exceptional business outcomes.

Accelerate Business Agility & Growth with the Right Hybrid Cloud
Sanjay Lulla, Technology Platform Alliance leader at GBS IBM India/South Asia; Anand Budhodia, CIO, Birla Corp (MP Birla Group); Ashish Desai, VP - IT & CIO at Chemical Division of Grasim Industries (Aditya Birla Group); C Subramanya, Global CTO, Hinduja Global Solutions; Gyan Pandey, Global & Group CIO, Aurobindo Pharma; LB Sharma, GM - IT, BPCL; Shobhana Lele, CIO, Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Co
Moderator: R Giridhar, Group Editor, 9.9 Group

Cloudizing your IT with Everything as a Service
Nidhi Pandey, CTO - Industry Verticals, HPE India; Mrinal Chakraborty, CIO, DTDC; Neeti Wahi, Group Chief Information & Digital Officer, Sterlite Power; Pratap Pat Joshi, CIO, Mercedes-Benz India
Moderator: Shyamanuja Das, Editorial Director - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group

Technology leaders deliberated on the multi-faceted advantages and challenges of moving on-premise IT products closer to cloud services.
A new day, a new beginning. Sachin Mhashilkar, Executive Director - B2B Tech, 9.9 Group welcomes delegates for the second day of the event.

The opening keynote, by Prakash Iyer, Former Managing Director, Kimberly-Clark Lever, on 'The Leaders Mindset', saw one of the highest audience interests. He talked about how do leaders think.
Technology leaders contemplating and sharing insights on how enterprises are turning to change management and automation, harnessing AI-Powered Service Operations to deliver exceptional employee experiences 24/7.

In this CIO panel discussion, latest trends and best-practices were discussed to protect the network from unwelcome threats.

**AI-powered Service Operation**
Venugopal S Arcot, Senior Director - Solutions Consulting, ServiceNow; Anil Nama, CIO, CtrlS Datacenters (Cloud4C & CtrlS); Jayantha Prabhu, CIO, ACG Networks; Rupesh Nain, CIO - Natural Resources, Adani
Moderator: Jatinder Singh, Associate Editor - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group

**Network & Security: Get the Strategy Right**
Gaurav Goel, Head - India Prime (Digital Sales), Tata Communications; Chander Khanduja, CIO, Luminous Group; Naveen Gulati, Group CIO, Girdarsoft; Sanjiv Kumar Jain, Group Chief Information & Technology Officer, Krishna Maruti Group
Moderator: Shyamanuja Das, Editorial Director - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group
The roundtable session brought together IT leaders to discuss how to increase the security posture of modern hybrid infrastructure across clouds.

**Virtual Cloud Network for Intrinsic Security - Spotlight**
Elton Chew, Senior Director - Networking, Security & Automation Solutions Engineering, Asia Pacific Japan; Vinay Bhat, VMware India Networking & Security Sales; Alingan Patra, Senior Manager - IT, Odisha Gramya Bank; Kunal Dhingra, Senior Director - IT, L&T Infotech; Manoj Bharadwaj, Head - IT, HMLE; Pooran Jaiswal, CIO, Entero Healthcare; Rajkumar Ayella, CIO, RPG Group (IEC International); TR Venkateswaran, CISO, PNB

*Moderator:* R Giridhar, Group Editor, 9.9 Group

The case study workshop enabled participants to understand how businesses could transform themselves for the future by integrating various hybrid multi-cloud pieces.

**Unified Cloud Experience for Smart Business Transformation**
Hari Nair, VP - Solutions Engineering, Tata Communications; Ashok Jade, Group CIO, Spark Minda; Archie Jackson, Senior Director (Head - IT & Security), Incedo; Kapil Mehrotra, Group Chief Technical Officer, National Collateral Management Services; Mahesh Kumar Pinnamaneni, Director - IT, Allanasons

*Moderator:* Mahantesh Godi, Associate Publisher & Director - Community, 9.9 Group
The esteemed panelists of this session shared their perspective on modernizing database technology over conventional data architectures to manage the exponential amount of data effectively and get a competitive edge.

How Enterprises Can Unleash The Power of Data With The Modern Database Platform

Suvig Sharma, Senior Director, APAC, MongoDB; Abhishek Gupta, CIO & CDO, Dish TV India; Alok Khanna, Executive Director - Strategic IS, Indian Oil Corporation Limited; Basant Chaturvedi, CIO, Perfetti; Byju Joseph, VP - IT, Future Generali India Life Insurance Co; Dnyanesh Chaudhari, VP & Head - Information Systems Audit, Axis Bank; Kamal Karnatak, Group CIO & SVP, RJ Corp; Navaneeth M, SVP & CISO & Head - IT, Groww; Venktaraman Ananthanarayanan, CIO, Sundaram Finance

Moderator: Balaka Baruah Aggarwal

Build Your Digital Workspace

Jude Mathias, Senior Solutions Architect, Wysetek Systems Technologists; Zahir Bhatkar, Solutions Architect, Wysetek Systems Technologists; Kokil Vira, Director - Solutions Engineer - Networking & Security, VMware; Shreyas Dukle, CIO, Mahindra Partner Companies

Moderator: Jatinder Singh, Associate Editor - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group

Experts of this masterclass provided valuable insights on how to enable a digital workspace in an organization.
In this panel, top industry leaders and our partners discussed the criticality of an intelligent network to scan and fix problems before they happen in real-time in today’s complex hybrid workplace.

**Exploring the Future of Work with Sixth Sense Networks**

Surya Narayan CS, Country Category Manager, HPE Aruba, India; Amit Wagmare, Group CIO, DB Corp; Arup Choudhury, CIO, Eveready Industries India; Pooran Jaiswal, Group CIO, Entero Healthcare; Saurabh Gupta, VP & Head - Group IT, Anand Group India; Srinivasa Rao Muppaneni, Group CIO, Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank & Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank; V Ranganathan Iyer, Group CIO & EVP - IT, JBM Group; Venugopalam Medicherla, Group Vice President - Digital Technology, MSPL Limited (Baldota Group)

**Moderator:** Sachin Mhashilkar, Executive Director - B2B Tech, 9.9 Group

It was an unprecedented show by the Indian Women’s Hockey team at the Tokyo Olympics. The man who helped it reach there, Sjoerd Marijne, Chief Coach of the team, shared some of his recipe on how to build a world class team.

**How to Build a World Class Team**

Sjoerd Marijne, Chief Coach, Indian Women's National Hockey Team, Tokyo Olympics 2020
During the case study workshop on AI-powered Service Operation: Your Powerful Ally, participants learned about the benefits of big data and machine learning to optimize operations.

Industry experts delve deeper into how by taking enterprise applications closer to the edge, organizations can digitally transform themselves and be able to respond faster.

Modernizing IT from Edge to Cloud
Vikram K, Senior Director - Industry Verticals at HPE; Chetan Trivedi, CIO, Hindustan Zinc (Vendanta Resources); Deepak Bhosale, GM - IT, Asian Paints; Gyan Pandey, Global & Group CIO, Aurobindo Pharma; Saritha Auti, Global CISO, UD Trucks; Vinay Khargaonkar, VP & Head - Corporate IT, Larsen & Toubro Moderator: Jatinder Singh, Associate Editor - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group
Unlock the Potential of Business Outcome
Surya Narayan CS, Country Category Manager, HPE Aruba, India; Atul Govil, Chief Transformation Officer & Head (SAP & IT) - Corporate, India Glycols; Jai Daga, VP - Technology (Rights & Content), Sony Pictures Networks; Maitrey Modha, Head - ICT - AMEA+ANZ, CNH Industrial India; Rajeev Mittal, CIO, Endurance Technologies; Vinod Sivarama Krishnan, CIO, Indus Towers
Moderator: Sachin Mhashilkar, Executive Director - B2B Tech, 9.9 Group

The panel discussion analyzed and recommended the right technologies to unlock the potential of the digital workplace

Even though technology and business issues are discussed in minute details, succession planning in enterprise IT is still an after-thought, if at all. CIO&Leader is committed to create awareness and facilitate collective thinking on this important aspect of a CIO’s role. The roundtable saw participation by seven top CIOs.

Career & Succession Planning
Anjani Kumar, CIO, Strides; Atanu Pramanick, Joint President & CIO, Hindalco; Greesh Jairath, former CIO, ITC Infotech; Rajiv Sikka, CIO, Medanta; Sanjay Prasad, CIO, CESC; Vijay Sethi, Chairman, Mentor Cart & former CIO & Head of HR & CSR, Hero MotoCorp; Vinod Bhat, CIO, Air Vistara
Moderator: Shyamanuja Das, Editorial Director - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group
The workshop provided a great learning opportunity to IT leaders to understand the nuances of formulating a business optimized threat protection strategy.

**Formulating a Business Optimized Threat Protection Strategy**

Dipesh Kaura, General Manager, Kaspersky South Asia; Abhishek Gupta, CIO & CDO, DishTV India; Arindam Singha Roy, Group CIO & CISO, East India Udyog Limited; Meheriar Patel, Group CIO & Digital Solutions, Jeena & Company; Suresh Kumar, Partner & CIO, Grant Thornton

**Moderator:** Mahantesh Godi, Associate Publisher & Director - Community, 9.9 Group

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**Exceptional Customer Service Experience**

Sanjay Gupta, Managing Director - South Asia & Middle East, NICE; Deepak Bhosale, CM - IT, Asian Paints; Ekhlaque Bari, CIO, Jubilant FoodWorks; KRC Murty, SVP & Head - RTB (IT), Kotak Mahindra Bank; Sanjay Kotha, Joint President & Group CIO, Adani Enterprises

**Moderator:** Jatinder Singh, Associate Editor - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group

A panel of C-Level technology leaders deliberating on how emerging technologies such as AI and automation can empower organizations to uncover new ways to understand customers better and deliver a truly exceptional customer experience.
You have Big Data. But what is Thick Data? Distinguished panelists, spoke on why organizations must look beyond Big Data and look at the outliers and the qualitative but faint observations to have more accurate insights.

**Introducing Thick Data Thinking**

Akash Jain, InfoTech Navigator: Advisor, Mentor, Executive Coach, Writer, Teacher, Trainer; Vijay Sampath, Business Transformation Pioneer

**Moderator:** Shyamanuja Das, Editorial Director - Enterprise Technology, 9.9 Group
The 3rd CIO&Leader Samman Recipients

Alok Khanna  
Executive Director IS  
Indian Oil

Atanu Pramanic  
Joint President & CIO  
Hindalco Industries

Rajababu Kotta  
CIO  
Andhra Pradesh Paper Mills

Rajasekhar V V  
Group CIO  
ITC

Rajeev Batra  
CIO  
Bennett, Coleman & Co

Rajiv Sikka  
Group CIO  
Medanta Hospitals

Ritu Madbhavi  
Group CIO  
FCB India

Sanjay Moralwar  
Global CIO  
Cadila Healthcare

Sanjay Prasad  
CIO  
CESC Power

Sendil Kumar  
CIO  
Shriram Capital

Sreekumar Balachandran  
Global IT Head  
Suntec

Subramanya C  
Global CTO  
Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS)

V Vasudevan  
CIO  
E.I.D Parry

Ved Prakash Nirbhya  
CIO  
Tech Mahindra

The 3rd CIO&Leader Samman Jury

Bishwanath Ghosh  
former CIO - Enterprise, Manufacturing & Corporate  
Mahindra & Mahindra

Kaushal K Choudhary  
former Executive Director - IT  
Lanco

Prashun Dutta  
former CIO  
Tata Power & Reliance Energy

S Ramasamy  
former Executive Director - IS  
Indian Oil
The theme for this year’s conference was CIO Gurukul. How can a Gurukul end without the customary Guru Dakshina? R Giridhar, Group Editor, 9.9 Group thanked the CIO gurus by honoring them with Guru Dakshina.

The vote of thanks to the sponsors, who made the event possible, was offered by Mahantesh G, Associate Publisher & Director - Community, 9.9 Group.

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Siddharth Saxena
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd
Anil Rao
Capgemini Technology Services India
Aryan Dev
Yandex Tech

3rd Prize
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Sreedhar Sahu
MAQ
Gaurav Mishra
Rolta India Limited
Muthu Krishnan C
Resolute IT and Solution
Y K Agrawal
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NCL
Manoj Chawla
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Alagu Raja
TVS & Sons
Gandhi S
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A K Jain
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