



AI Innovation Summit

Scottsdale, Arizona, 24 – 25 Sep 2025

Insight Report From The Main Stage

Contents.

- 03** **Intro:** AI Innovation Summit 2025 – Connect, Adapt, Accelerate.
- 04** **The Humans Behind AI**
Sangamie Krishnamani & Howard Spira
- 05** **Agentic AI for Rapid ROI**
Guru Angiset
- 06** **Measuring the Business Value of Agents**
David Tepper
- 07** **The Problem of AI Alignment**
David Tepper
- 08** **AI and Embodied Intelligence**
Joe Chapa
- 09** **The AI Breakfast Briefing**
Vino Kingston & Sriraj Rajaram
- 10** **How to Maximize the Value of AI in CX**
Carmit DiAndrea
- 11** **Value Is All We Need**
Mansi Agarwal
- 12** **Outro**



AI Innovation 2025

Connect, Adapt, Accelerate.

The AI Innovation Summit in Scottsdale brought together leaders to explore the evolving role of artificial intelligence.

This year's summit focused on cutting through the noise around AI hype, showcasing realistic deployments, and fostering nuanced conversations on the ethical, technical, and economic dimensions of enterprise AI.

If you missed out or want to revisit the main stage's most compelling ideas, this report distills the key insights you need to carry forward.



The Humans Behind AI.

Speaker



Sangamie Krishnamani

Director of Software Engineering, Capital One



Howard Spira

Chief Information Officer & Chief AI Officer, Export-Import Bank of the United States

Summary

This conversation explored the evolving leadership roles AI demands. Sangamie Krishnamani and Howard Spira emphasized the CAIO's responsibility to balance experimentation with governance. They painted AI leadership as both exploratory and accountable.

Key Takeaways

Define the AI leadership function

Focus on solving the right problems.

Build safe spaces for experimentation

Encourage exploration without fear of failure.

Governance is strategy

Ethics and compliance are key to scale.

Partnerships break silos

Cross-functional collaboration prevents misalignment.



Innovation without governance is chaos, and governance without innovation is stagnation.

Howard Spira

Chief Information Officer & Chief AI Officer, Export-Import Bank of the United States



Agentic AI for Rapid ROI.

Speaker



Guru Angisetty
Founder & CEO, Odin

Summary

Guru Angisetty shared how Odin achieved a 98% success rate in converting pilots to production with agentic AI. His GROW framework (Governance, ROI, Optimization, Workflow) structured their scalable deployments.

Key Takeaways

Understand agentic systems

These systems are probabilistic, not deterministic.

Frameworks matter

GROW aligns performance with value.

Tool use drives value

Blend passive and active toolchains.

Adopt wisely, not wildly

Proven platforms yield better ROI than custom builds.



To be successful in implementing agentic frameworks, you need a framework that takes into consideration people, process, platform, and performance.

Guru Angisetty
Founder & CEO, Odin

Measuring the Business Value of Agents.

Speaker



David Tepper
Co-founder & CEO, Pay-i

Summary

Dave Tepper described how Alcon used agentic AI to reclaim 35,000 hours of labor in six months. He presented a 4-step model to scale and track value with AI agents.

Key Takeaways

Value begins with intent

Align with business KPIs from the outset.

Track, trace, translate

Telemetry reveals impact.

Prioritize repeatability

Reuse drives the highest returns.

Business buy-in is non-negotiable

Define accountability early.



You don't need to do 100 agent use cases to be successful. You need to find the five that everyone needs and then scale those five.

David Tepper

Co-founder & CEO, Pay-i



The Problem of AI Alignment.

Speaker



David Tepper
Co-founder & CEO, Pay-i

Summary

Dave Tepper reframed alignment from Artificial General Intelligence philosophy to practical enterprise concerns. It's about ensuring systems reflect goals, constraints, and ethics now – not in the distant future.

Key Takeaways

Operational alignment trumps abstraction

Human-in-the-loop is essential

Alignment is multidisciplinary

Trust is earned through transparency



Alignment isn't just about AGI risk. It's about making sure today's systems do what we actually want – and nothing we don't.

David Tepper
Co-founder & CEO, Pay-i

AI and Embodied Intelligence.

Speaker



Joe Chapa

Author & Thought Leader
at the Intersection of
Philosophy & Technology

Summary

Joe Chapa explored the necessity of embodiment in intelligence. He warned that without shared context and physical understanding; AI can never fully align with human needs or ethics.

Key Takeaways

Embodiment matters

Military AI raises the stakes

Human-AI collaboration needs grounding

Design influences behavior



You can't outsource moral responsibility to a machine – especially one that doesn't share your body or your context.

Joe Chapa

Author & Thought Leader at the Intersection of Philosophy & Technology



The AI Breakfast Briefing.

Speaker



Vino Kingston

AI Transformation Strategy
& Integration Leader,
Lockheed Martin



Sriraj Rajaram

Director, Product
Management, Reltio

Summary

This session highlighted AI's role in reshaping security strategy and operations. Vino Kingston and Sriraj Rajaram stressed designing for trust, managing AI risk proactively, and collaborating across functions.

Key Takeaways

AI adoption is accelerating

Design for trust

Be proactive, not reactive

Cross-functional alignment is key



We can't rely on just a privacy control or just a security control. We have to go back to first principles and rethink how we approach building trust in AI systems.

Vino Kingston

AI Transformation Strategy & Integration Leader, Lockheed Martin



How to Maximize the Value of AI in Customer Experience.

Speaker



Carmit DiAndrea

Director, AI Data Management, CSA, CX, NiCE

Key Takeaways

Make empathy scalable

Solve real problems, not hypothetical ones

Unify all customer touchpoints

Use AI to listen better

Summary

Carmit DiAndrea urged brands to use AI to create empathetic, seamless experiences. She cautioned against treating AI as merely a technical tool – its real value lies in making customer care more human.



AI doesn't need to be cold. It can be the way we listen better, the way we care more efficiently, the way we remember what matters.

Carmit DiAndrea

Director, AI Data Management, CSA, CX, NiCE

Value Is All We Need.

Speaker



Mansi Agarwal

Global Head of Analytics and AI, Carrier Corporation

Summary

Mansi Agarwal made the case for value-first AI adoption. She warned against letting the technology drive the agenda and emphasized co-created, outcome-based design.

Key Takeaways

Start with measurable impact

Don't scale noise

Use a value flywheel

Align teams from day one



It's not about scaling intelligence. It's about scaling value. If we can't show value, then what are we really scaling?

Mansi Agarwal

Global Head of Analytics and AI, Carrier Corporation



Closing Thoughts.

As the AI Innovation Summit drew to a close, one central message echoed clearly: progress in artificial intelligence is inseparable from human intention, integrity, and ingenuity. Despite the impressive range of tools, frameworks, and strategies on display, the sessions returned time and again to the people and principles driving AI forward.

Three Lessons to Carry Forward:

Empower with curiosity and trust

Leaders must foster curiosity, emotional intelligence, and open dialogue to build trust and spark innovation.

Align outcomes before algorithms

From Tepper to Agarwal, all stressed: start with a value-based goal, then apply AI – not the other way around.

Build frameworks for scale

Frameworks like GROW and governance-first design enable sustainable, secure AI deployment.

As AI becomes a bigger part of our world, the message is simple: it can make us stronger, faster, and more capable, but only if we handle it with care. The real task isn't just building smarter machines; it's becoming smarter about how we use them.

Stay tuned.

Our content doesn't end here – look out for more blogs, interviews, and footage from the summit, and be sure to check out our calendar of upcoming events.

We look forward to seeing how you use these insights to grow your organization and explore new challenges.

AI Innovation is a GDS Summit. GDS Group is the data-driven executive engagement company. Our mission is to empower our executive and partner communities. Accelerating their growth through transformative relationships and actionable insight.

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See you next time!