

Washington State IT INDUSTRY FORUM & AI SUMMIT



Post Event Report

March 25, 2024

Vickie Sheehan -Communications Director

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Executive Summary

The Washington State IT Industry Forum & Al Summit was held on March 25, 2024 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Saint Martin's University Norman Worthington Conference Center and Marcus Pavilion.

The purpose of the Forum was to provide an in-person networking event for state and local government to collaborate with IT industry vendors and leaders. The AI Summit was a roundtable workshop to explore the integration and ethical considerations of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in government operations and services to enhance decision-making, service delivery, and policy development.

This event marked its second occurrence, drawing a total attendance of over 250 participants, including 78 industry vendors and representatives from 42 state and local agencies. Due to overwhelming interest, the venue reached full capacity, and some last-minute attendees had to be turned away.

The Forum began with opening remarks from State CIO Bill Kehoe and State Chief Privacy Officer Katy Ruckle. It featured two main networking sessions where 15 state agencies hosted tables. These sessions adopted a "reverse" trade show format, enabling intensive one-on-one interactions between agencies. This structure was aimed at fostering detailed discussions about technology needs and potential collaborative initiatives.

Panel discussions were a focal point of the agenda, with a State & Local Government Panel sharing insights on the application and future of AI in public administration. An Industry Panel comprised of leaders from significant technology firms addressed critical topics such as generative AI use cases in government, AI governance, and procurement strategies.

The AI Summit facilitated a roundtable workshop for deeper exploration into the integration of AI within government operations. Discussions during the roundtable workshop covered ethical AI use, enhancing operational efficiency, adaptive governance, and the importance of cross-sector collaboration. The diverse topics sparked engaging conversations and yielded significant insights, resulting in the creation of a separate summary report that compiled notes from various tables.

Pre-event marketing efforts began in November 2023, engaging past attendees and potential vendors, highlighted by targeted outreach and comprehensive online information sharing, including a dedicated event webpage. Post-event feedback was solicited through a survey, and appreciation messages were sent to all contributors, paving the way for future interactions and continuous engagement.

Overall, the Washington State IT Industry Forum & AI Summit successfully achieved its goals of enhancing collaboration between state agencies and IT industry leaders, discussing the evolving role of AI in government, and setting the stage for future technological integrations in public services.

Event Overview

The Washington State IT Industry Forum & Al Summit was held on March 25, 2024 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Saint Martin's University Norman Worthington Conference Center and Marcus Pavilion.

The event was attended by 78 industry vendors and 42 state and local agencies. Of the 42 state agencies, 15 hosted tables for the networking sessions (a total of 22 tables). More than 250 people attended, which was over capacity for the venue, and last minute attendees had to be turned away.

This was the second IT Industry Forum event hosted by WaTech. The first one was held on Monday, June 5, 2023, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Lacey Community Center in Lacey, WA. The first event drew 87 registered industry vendors and 15 state agencies. Of the 15 agencies, 10 hosted tables for the networking sessions.

Agenda

The event kicked off with introductory remarks from State CIO Bill Kehoe and State Chief Privacy Officer Katy Ruckle. It featured two 1-hour **networking sessions** at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., where state agencies and IT industry vendors engaged in a "reverse" trade show format. Here, state agencies hosted tables and conducted one-on-one, 10-minute micro meetings with vendors to explore their projects and technology needs, allowing each agency to connect with up to 20 vendors across both sessions. This setup facilitated direct networking opportunities with industry leaders to discuss services, solutions, and collaborative efforts.

The agenda also included a **State & Local Government Panel** moderated by Bill Kehoe, featuring City of Tacoma Chief Data Officer Enzhou Wang, City of Seattle Privacy & Responsible AI Program Manager Sarah Carrier, and Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife Senior Manager of Infrastructure & Operations Mubina Raza. They discussed AI applications within their departments, sharing insights on current uses and future prospects for government

An **Industry Panel**, moderated by Deputy Director of Technology & Operations Mark Quimby, consisted of leaders from four prominent technology firms: Forrest McMahon of Netskope, Aaron Reich of Avanade, IBM's Romelia Flores, and Microsoft's Michael Cruz. They addressed topics such as generative AI use cases in government, patterns and pitfalls of AI applications, AI governance, and AI procurement strategies.

Following the second networking session, participants enjoyed a lunch and then proceeded to the **AI Summit** Roundtable Workshop in the afternoon.

Networking Sessions

Fifteen agencies hosted 22 tables to meet with IT vendors. WaTech hosted eight tables representing the:

- 1. Architecture & Innovation division
- 2. Contracts & Procurement
- 3. Enterprise Cloud Computing Program
- 4. State Data Program
- 5. Office of Cybersecurity
- 6. Strategy & Management division (Procurement Challenge)
- 7. Computing Services
- 8. Technology & Operations

State agencies hosting tables included:

- 1. County Road Administration Board (CRAB)
- 2. Department of Ecology
- 3. Department of Enterprise Services (DES)
- 4. Department of Health (DOH)
- 5. Health & Human Services Coalition (HHS) and Integrated Eligibility and Enrollment (IE&E) Modernization Program
- 6. Leg-Tech
- 7. Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE)
- 8. Secretary of State (SOS)
- 9. Washington Health Benefit Exchange (WAHBE)
- 10. Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)
- 11. Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA)
- 12. Washington State Ferries (WSDOT)
- 13. Washington State Gambling Commission (WSGC)
- 14. Washington State Healthcare Authority (HCA)

AI Summit

The AI Summit was a roundtable workshop to explore the integration and ethical considerations of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in government operations and services to enhance decision-making, service delivery, and policy development.

The AI Summit Roundtable Workshop was designed to cover 30 diverse topics for exploration and discussion. Due to varying levels of interest, some topics were merged. The workshop featured two 30-minute sessions, during which participants were invited to join different tables to ensure a variety of discussions. Following each session, participants were invited to share key insights from their discussions with the entire room.

These sessions yielded robust conversations and several interesting insights. Regrettably, not all tables documented their discussions, so this summary includes only those that did capture notes.

"I absolutely loved the "reverse tradeshow." What a great way to connect with folks."

Key reoccuring themes:

- Ethical and Responsible Al Use: Emphasized across all discussions, with a focus on minimizing bias, ensuring privacy, and managing data responsibly to protect vulnerable communities and maintain public trust.
- Enhancing Efficiency and Service Delivery: Al's role in improving operational efficiency and service delivery is highlighted, including its application in healthcare, law enforcement, HR, and general government operations.
- Adaptive Governance and Regulatory Frameworks: The need for adaptive governance that can keep pace with the rapid evolution of AI technology is a recurring theme, stressing the importance of clear regulatory guidelines and cross-sector collaborations.
- **Privacy and Data Integrity Concerns**: Concerns about privacy, data integrity, and the potential for AI to infringe on individual rights were frequently mentioned, particularly in the contexts of healthcare, law enforcement, and general data collection.
- **Cross-Sector Collaboration**: The importance of fostering partnerships between public and private sectors to leverage knowledge, establish ethical standards, and ensure equitable outcomes in AI implementations was repeatedly underscored.
- **Training and Change Management**: The necessity of continuous training, skill development, and effective change management to help the workforce adapt to Aldriven changes and secure environments was highlighted in several sectors.

Marketing & Outreach

Pre-event activities:

- Networking initiatives began in November 2023 at the Washington Digital Government Summit in Tacoma, where Communications Director Vickie Sheehan engaged with potential vendors inviting them to the upcoming event.
- Outreach efforts included contacting past attendees starting in December 2023.
- A "save the date" notification was circulated to state agencies via the WaTech Agency Update newsletter in December 2023, with monthly reminders thereafter through emails and weekly CIO/CISO calls.
- Registration was open from January 22 to February 26, targeting state CIOs, CISOs, previous technology vendors, and attendees from the Digital Government Summit.
- WaTech's Architecture & Innovation division and the enterprise AI Community of Practice were enlisted to assist with organizing the AI Summit.

- WaTech partnered with the Department of Enterprise Services and the Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) to facilitate vendor engagement and provide essential information for doing business with the state.
- An event-specific <u>webpage</u> on watech.wa.gov served as a central information hub, featuring an event overview, date, time, contact details, a recap video from the previous year, and logos of confirmed sponsors. Daily updates were posted the week preceding the Forum.

During the event:

- The event minimized printed materials by promoting digital access to event resources via a QR code, though some printed agendas and roundtable assignments were distributed.
- A post-event survey was actively promoted throughout the event using a QR code.

Post-event follow-up:

- Appreciation messages were sent to all participants, sponsors, facilitators, and agencies, which included reminders to access event materials online, a request for feedback via the post-event survey, and a teaser for an upcoming September event.
- The post-event survey was highlighted in these thank you messages.
- A comprehensive event recap was featured in Bill's April message in the Agency Update newsletter.
- In April, a detailed summary of the event, including Bill's opening remarks, panel discussions, and AI Summit Roundtable Worshop summaries was shared along with a photo gallery and videos, accessible to attendees on the event webpage.

Social media promotion

- LinkedIn: The LinkedIn performance data for the period from March 27, 2024, to April 10, 2024, showcased a varied engagement across multiple posts. The highest engagement was recorded on March 27, with 1,674 impressions and significant interaction, including 74 clicks, 92 likes, 4 comments, and 4 reposts, highlighting a peak in user engagement. Video views were notably tracked on March 29 (696 views) and April 5 (401 views), indicating specific interest in video content. On April 10, multiple posts demonstrated lower engagement levels compared to earlier dates.
- X: The data spanning March 27 to April 15, 2024, highlights a predominantly low engagement level across posts. The most interactive day was March 29, 2024, where a single post garnered 42 impressions and 16 engagements, including 19 views and 9 engagements, indicating a notable but isolated spike in activity. Other dates, such as March 28 and April 15, showed minimal to no engagement, with several posts not

attracting any interaction at all. Noteworthy is the consistent low or zero activity in key engagement metrics such as retweets, replies, and likes throughout the period.

• YouTube: The YouTube analytics data reveals modest engagement levels. The channel recorded 35 views with a total watch time of 1.8 hours and an average view duration of approximately 3:05 minutes, indicating moderate viewer retention. It attracted 28 unique viewers, of which 10 were returning, suggesting a core group of consistent followers.

Sponsorship

We successfully secured commitments from a dozen companies, with sponsorships ranging between \$500 and \$2,000, amounting to a total of \$16,250. This generous support covered all the expenses for the event.

Attendee Feedback

The feedback from the post-event survey highlighted several strengths and areas for improvement:

Strengths:

- The event was well-facilitated and provided an excellent overall experience.
- The roundtable topics were diverse and well planned, including topics relevant to various roles, such as HR hiring considerations, which was particularly appreciated by those not directly involved in tech-heavy discussions.
- Positive remarks were made about specific features such as the "reverse tradeshow" and the engagement by WaTech and state/local teams.
- The venue and panel discussions were notably better compared to the previous year, and participants expressed enthusiasm for future events.

Areas for Improvement:

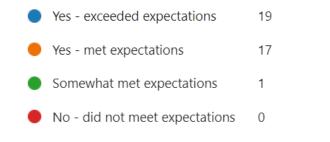
- Suggestions were made to modify the structure of the sessions to allow participants to engage with more topics by dividing the roundtable discussions into two separate sessions.
- Several attendees commented on the need for better name tags that include larger fonts and clear indication of roles/divisions to facilitate networking.
- The feedback called for more structured networking opportunities, such as a "speed dating" format, to help less outgoing participants engage more easily.
- Concerns were raised about the length of the networking sessions, with suggestions to include optional breakout workgroups like those available in the previous year.
- There were requests for more facilitated discussions as opposed to unstructured time.
- Participants were interested in receiving attendee lists for contact purposes and suggested sending use cases ahead of time to better prepare for discussions.

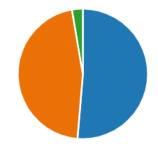
Overall, the feedback indicates a well-received event with clear opportunities for enhancement in networking structures and logistical details to better serve the diverse needs of the participants.

Post-survey results

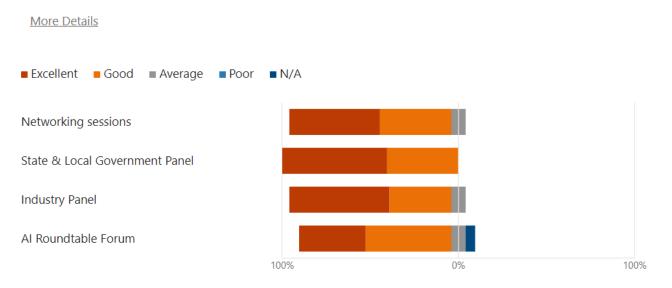
2. Did the event meet your expectations?

More Details



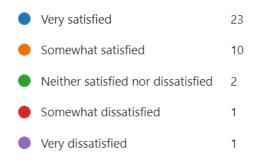


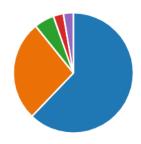
3. Please rank your level of satisfaction with the activities you participated in at the forum. If you did not participate, mark N/A.



4. How satisfied were you with the networking opportunities provided?

More Details





Appendix: Event agenda



March 25, 2024 | St. Martin's University Conference Center

AGENDA

8:30 - 9 a.m.	Check-in and refreshments
9 - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome and introductions Bill Kehoe, State CIO & WaTech Director
9:15 - 9:30 a.m.	Al Summit Overview Katy Ruckle, State Chief Privacy Officer
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Networking Session - Round #1
10:30 - 11 a.m.	State & Local Government Panel Moderator: Bill Kehoe Learn how state and local government are using AI in their organizations.
11 - 11:30 a.m.	Industry Panel Moderator: Mark Quimby, Deputy Director of Technology & Operations Best practices for procuring and deploying AI tools in government.
11:30 a.m 12:30 p.m.	Networking Session - Round #2
12:30 - 1:15	Lunch (hosted)
1:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Workshop intro/organization Katy Ruckle
1:30 - 2 p.m.	Roundtable Session #1
2 - 2:15 p.m.	Report out: Session #1
2:15 - 2:30 p.m.	Break
2:30 - 3 p.m.	Roundtable Session #2
3 - 3:15 p.m.	Report out: Session #2
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Closing remarks Bill Kehoe

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!





Appendix: State & local panelists bios

City of Tacoma | Enzhou Wang, Chief Data Officer



Enzhou Wang serves as the Chief Data Officer for the City of Tacoma, where he plays a pivotal role in leading the city's data and analytics initiatives to success. His responsibilities extend to managing the Geographic Information System (GIS) team along with the web and digital collaboration units. Prior to his tenure at Tacoma, Enzhou accumulated a wealth of experience in various roles, including senior IT manager, enterprise architect, and software developer, with esteemed organizations such as the City of Bellevue, Seattle City Light, Microsoft, and ESRI.

LinkedIn Profile: www.linkedin.com/in/enzhou-wang/

City of Seattle | Sarah Carrier, Privacy & Responsible AI Program Manager



Over the past six years, Sarah has been instrumental in developing and enhancing the City of Seattle's Data Privacy & Surveillance Ordinance Compliance Programs. In her role as the City's Data Privacy & Responsible AI Program Manager, she ensures that city departments integrate best practices into their everyday operations and offerings to the public, keeping in line with relevant regulatory and policy guidelines.

Driven by her passion for the convergence of data privacy, ethics, policy, and cutting-edge technology, Sarah has spearheaded the creation of Seattle's Responsible AI Program. At the core of this initiative is a commitment to the transparent and conscientious use of AI tools, aimed at fostering innovation

and elevating public services for the community in Seattle. Sarah holds a master's degree in information management from the University of Washington, with a focus on data science and privacy.

LinkedIn Profile: www.linkedin.com/in/sarahecarrier/

Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife | Mubina Raza, Senior Manager of Infrastructure & Operations



Mubina Raza is a pioneering figure in the IT industry, steering varied and interdisciplinary IT groups in both the public and private sectors. Recognized as a leader in digital transformation, she champions the philosophy of engaging in equal partnerships with business units to catalyze change through collective effort and shared innovation. Holding a master's degree in both business administration and information technology, Mubina combines her keen business insight with her technical know-how to address intricate challenges and seize opportunities. Mubina is deeply motivated by the potential of AI and cutting-edge technologies to forge solutions that are not only efficient but also equitable.

LinkedIn Profile: www.linkedin.com/in/mubina-raza-82b561189/

Appendix: Industry panelists bios

Netskope | Forrest McMahon - Global GRC Officer



With over 20 years of experience in the information security industry, Forrest has played a pivotal role in developing and enhancing organizations' security and compliance frameworks, including leading the Governance Risk and Compliance (GRC) programs at Netskope for five years. During his tenure, he has successfully achieved and maintained certifications and compliance with SOC2, ISO 27001, FedRAMP, C5, HIPAA, GDPR, and ENS, while also helping customers utilize Netskope for their GRC needs. Before his current role, Forrest spearheaded a security and compliance services delivery practice at

Coalfire Systems, offering compliance audit and advisory services to cloud service providers.

Throughout his career, Forrest has been instrumental in assisting companies to assess, plan, implement, and manage security and GRC programs, developing comprehensive strategies and technical solutions to address compliance, risk management, network architecture, and various information security domains.

LinkedIn Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/forrest-mcmahon-23551420/

Avanade | Aaron Reich - Chief Technology Officer



As Chief Technology Officer, Aaron Reich is responsible for Avanade's technology strategy, driving innovation across the business and incubating emerging technologies to bring them to clients across the globe. He manages Avanade's global R&D function, oversees Avanade's participation in the startup ecosystem and drives our responsible technology approach and digital ethics practice, including for our client work with generative AI.

Aaron joined Avanade in 2012 and most recently served as the company's Emerging Technology Lead. Under Aaron's leadership, Avanade has embraced and scaled emerging technology capabilities including the reality continuum, 5G, digital twin, open source, robotics, and OpenAI, working closely with multiple product engineering teams at Microsoft. Prior to Avanade, Aaron worked across the high-tech, non-profit and telecommunications industries.

LinkedIn Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/aaron-reich/

IBM | Romelia Flores, Distinguished Engineer (DE) & Master Inventor, Public Market, Client Engineering



Romelia's industry experiences combined with her unique software development and design expertise make her Global Sales' most highly sought-after innovator. She has collaborated with leading clients in the design of Electric Vehicle Fleet Management, Social Services, Airports of the Future and more. She holds 85 U.S. patents and 10 patents pending. In 2021, she received the Dallas Business Journal's Women in Business Award. In 2018, she was the first female ever named to the Dallas Tech

Titan Hall of Fame and was the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award winner from Great Minds in STEM.

LinkedIn Profile: <u>https://www.linkedin.com/in/romelia-flores-a905494/</u>

Microsoft | Michael Cruz, Director of Data and AI



Michael brings 30 years of extensive experience in the technology industry, having worked in both the private and public sectors to integrate technology into a diverse array of businesses and organizations, including his decade+ experience as the Enterprise Technology Architect at Snohomish County. He has devoted the last 12 years of his career at Microsoft in his role as a Data & AI Specialist, where he has collaborated with State and Local Governments across the country. His most recent endeavors include aiding organizations in modernizing their data estates, leveraging analytics, and positioning them for the upcoming wave of AI

advancements.

LinkedIn Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikecruz/

Appendix: Attendance

Agencies

	Reg.	Attended
City of Seattle	4	3
City of Tacoma	1	1
Department of Agriculture	1	1
Department of Children, Youth, and Families	2	2
Department of Commerce	2	2
Department of Ecology	4	4
Department of Enterprise Services	2	1
Department of Financial Institutions	4	4
Department Of Health	5	2
Department of Labor & Industries	3	1
Department of Licensing	8	4
Department of Natural Resources	3	3
Department of Social and Health Services	9	4
Health Care Authority	3	3
HHS Coalition IE&E	6	6
Leg-Tech	5	2
Office of Financial Management	2	2
Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises	3	3
Office of the Washington State Auditor	3	3
Public Disclosure Commission	1	1
Recreation and Conservation Office	2	2
Secretary of State	5	5
Washington Health Benefit Exchange	5	5
Washington State County Road Administration Board (CRAB)	2	2
WA State Senate	3	1
Washington State Conservation Commission	3	3
Washington State Department of Transportation	7	6
Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs	3	3
Washington State Gambling Commission	3	2
Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB)	1	1
Washington State Office of Public Defense	1	1
Washington Traffic Safety Commission	1	1
WaTech	43	42
TOTALS	150	127

Vendors

	Reg.	Attended
A&T Systems, Inc.	1	0
accel bi corporation	1	1
Accenture	3	3
Armada Systems	1	1
Armis	2	2
Avanade	3	3
AWS	2	1
Business Telecom Products, Inc.	1	1
CGI	1	1
City Innovate	2	2
Cohesity	1	1
Comcast	1	1
Commvault	1	1
CompuNet	1	0
Cradlepoint	1	0
Critical insight	2	1
CyberArk	4	3
Datadog	1	1
Dell Technologies	3	2
Druid Al	1	0
Dynatrace	2	2
Eight Eleven Group, LLC	1	1
f5	2	2
FirstRule	2	2
Gartner	3	2
Golden Bridge Strategies LLC	1	1
Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Relations	2	1
Haploos Inc	1	1
Hewlett Packard Enterprise	3	2
Holistic Information Security Practitioner Institute (HISPI)	2	2
IBM	4	4
ImageSource, Inc.	2	2
Info-Tech Research Group	4	4
Konica Minolta	1	1
LexisNexis	1	1
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	1	0
Microsoft	5	5
Model Solutions	1	1
Neat	1	1
Netskope	6	5
Nile Secure	1	1
Okta	1	1
Onit Management Consulting	1	0
Oracle	4	4

Outlook Insight	1	1
Palo Alto Networks	3	1
Pluralsight & A Cloud Guru	1	1
ProjectCorps	2	2
Proofpoint	1	1
Pure Storage	2	1
Qualtrics	1	1
Red Hat	2	2
Redapt	1	1
Right! Systems	1	0
Roboyo	1	1
Rubrik	2	2
Salesforce	1	1
Semperis	2	1
SentinelOne	1	0
ServiceNow	2	1
SimpliGov	1	1
Slalom	2	2
Snowflake	1	1
Socure	3	2
SoftwareOne	1	0
Taliferro Group	1	1
Tanium	2	1
TechPower Solutions Inc.	1	1
TEKsystems	1	1
The Cowies	1	1
T-Mobile for State Government	1	0
TokuSaku	2	1
UiPath	1	1
Woodburn Company	2	2
World Wide Technology, LLC	2	2
Yext	1	1
Zoom	1	1
Zscaler, Inc.	1	1
TOTALS	134	106

Appendix: Event marketing materials



Vertical banner



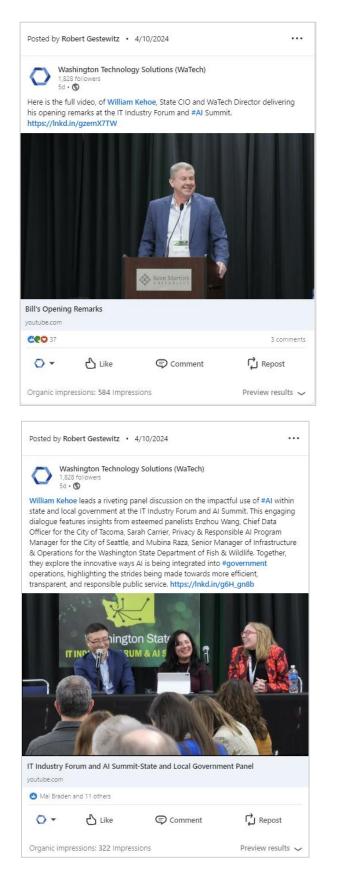
Horizontal banner

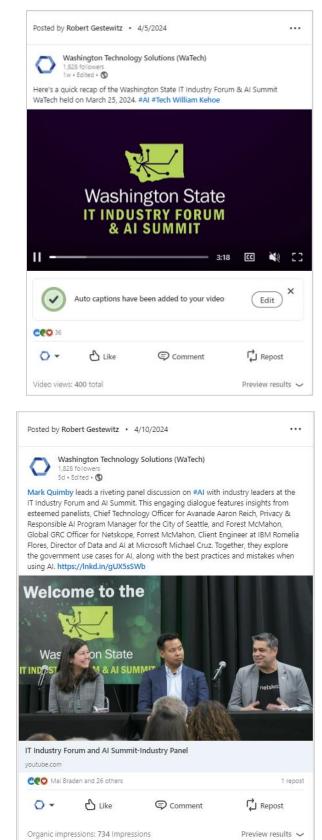


Presentation deck

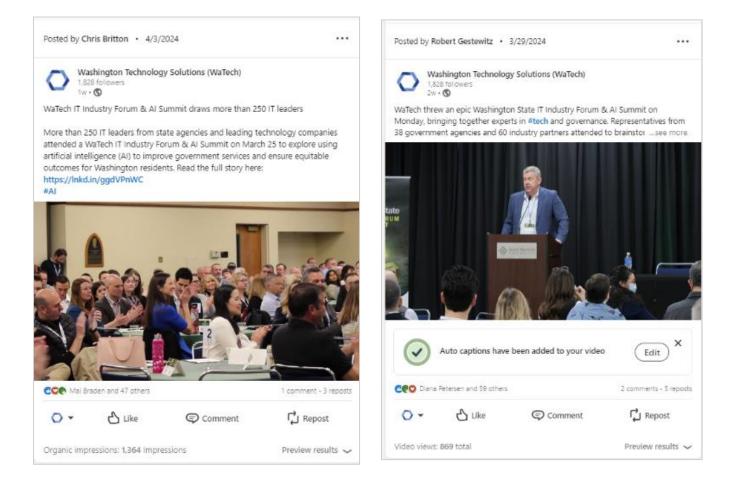
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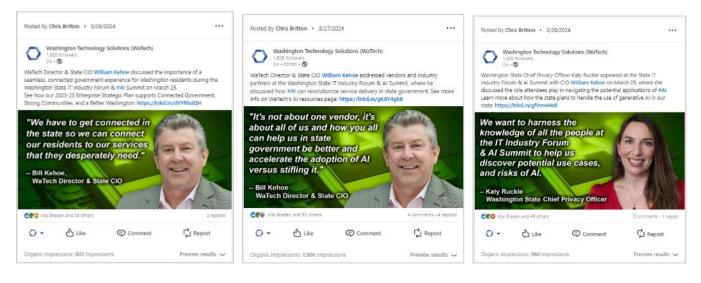
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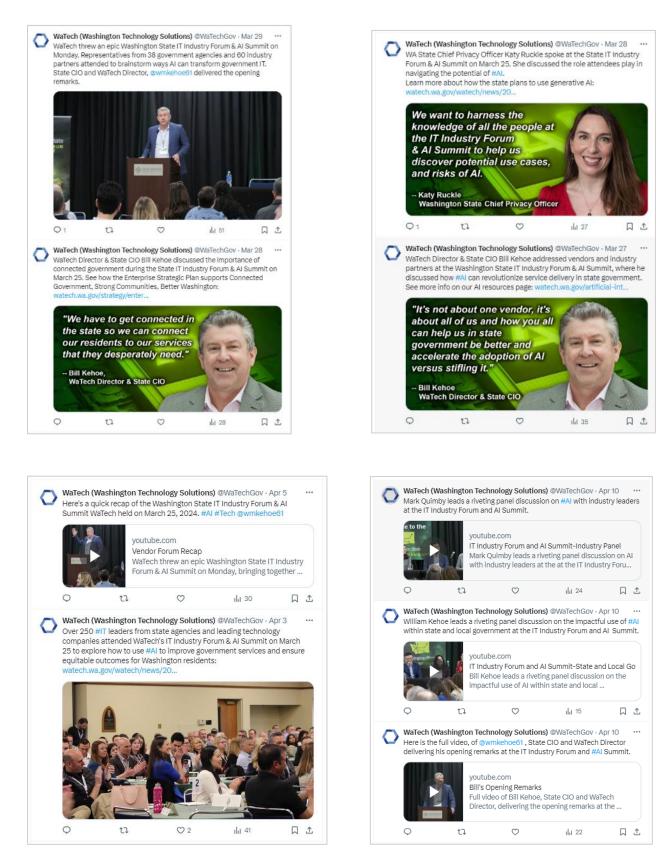


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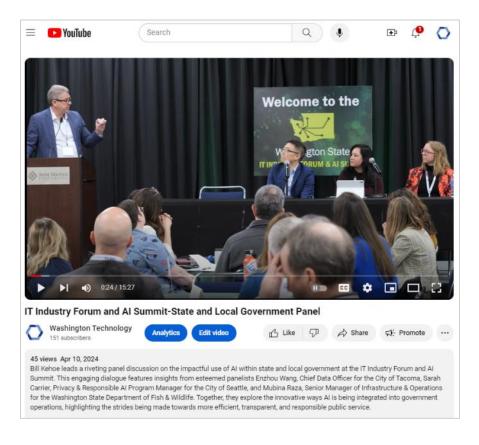


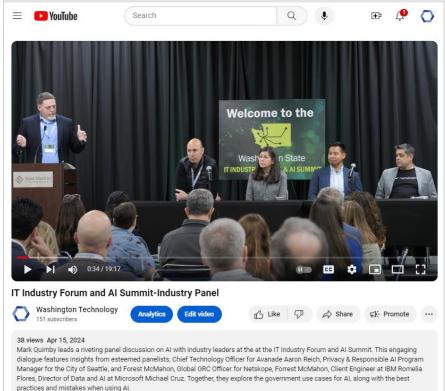












Appendix: Event photos/videos

Photo gallery



Videos

Overview of the Event



State and Local Government Panel



Bill Kehoe's Opening Remarks



Industry Panel



Appendix: Post-event survey participant feedback

- Great job hosting and facilitating.
- Excellent experience.
- Rather than repeat topics of roundtable, do 15 tops at two different tables in session one and 15 seperate at session 2.
- Good variety. Well planned. Would be useful to more easily see agencies and roles/divisions for state participants. Name tag font was small, and roles not indicated.
- Last year there were break out workgroups we could attend if we didn't have a table which I wish they had again. There is only so much networking you can do and the 2 hours was way too long and was wasted time.
- Thank you for hosting a great event. Love the idea of hosting a fall event and the use case round table. Recommend sending use cases ahead of time.
- Thank you for hosting the event, always appreciate events hosted in Thurston County. Would have liked some additional facilitated conversations vs so much unstructured time.
- I really appreciated having a roundtable for HR hiring considerations. As a systems analyst I work more on the user end of my agency, so sometimes tech events do not have as much relevant information for my role. I was very happy to see the round table topics branched into other areas that I am better versed in.
- The Networking sessions seemed too loose, it would have been nice to have a rotational 'speed dating' set up so that those that are shy or don't know many people get a chance to mingle
- Much better than last year all around starting with the venue, panel discussions etc.
- Great Event and CyberArk would would be definitely coming back in Fall.
- I absolutely loved the "reverse tradeshow." What a great way to connect with folks. Would like to see more agencies next time.
- You are going to need a larger facility going forward. Everybody is going to want to attend!
- The engagement by WaTech and state/local teams was very much appreciated. Much better than at other similar events I have attended. I especially found the AI Roundtable discussions very helpful.