Washington State
IT INDUSTRY FORUM

AGENDA

Time	Session
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	**Registration & Networking Breakfast –** *Marcus Pavilion*
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	**Welcome and introductions -** *Marcus Pavilion* *Nick Stowe, State Chief Technology Officer* *Katy Ruckle, State Chief Privacy Officer*
9:15 – 9:45 a.m.	**Keynote: The Future of IT Resilience -** *Marcus Pavilion* *Bill Kehoe, State CIO & WaTech Director*
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	**Fireside Chat: Leadership in Times of Change -** *Marcus Pavilion* *Moderator: Deanna Brocker, Deputy Director for Strategy & Management - WaTech*
10:45 - 11 a.m.	**Break**
11 a.m. – Noon	**Agency-Vendor Networking Exchange –** *Marcus Pavilion*
Noon – 1:15	**Lunch (hosted) -** *Marcus Pavilion* Open Mic - Rapid Fire Tech Talks from our sponsors!
Breakout sessions **1:15 – 2 p.m.**	**Conference Center Room 1** **TOPIC: Cloud Computing & Infrastructure Readiness** How cloud computing can increase organizational resilience. *Moderator: Chris Lamb, Enterprise Cloud Computing Manager - WaTech* **Conference Center Room 2** **TOPIC: Cybersecurity & Risk Management** – How to bring business continuity, information systems security and organizational resilience together. *Moderator: Ralph Johnson, State Chief Information Security Officer*
Breakout sessions **2:15 – 3 p.m.**	**Conference Center Room 1** **TOPIC: AI & Automation in IT Operations** How AI-driven solutions enhance efficiency and resilience. *Moderator: Nick Stowe, State Chief Technology Officer* **Conference Center Room 2** **TOPIC: Modernization & Adaptability in IT** How to keep your modernization efforts forward in challenging times. *Moderator: Amy Pearson, Chief of Staff to the State CIO*
3 – 4 p.m.	**Wrap up / Social -** *Marcus Pavilion*

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Breakout sessions

ROOM 1

Cybersecurity and Risk Management: Addressing Security Challenges in an Ever-Changing Threat Landscape Through Resilience

Moderator: Ralph Johnson, Washington State Chief Information Security Officer

Cybersecurity and risk management are deeply connected as organizations navigate an evolving threat landscape. Cyber adversaries continuously refine tactics, exploiting vulnerabilities and emerging technologies. To stay ahead, organizations must adopt a resilient approach that integrates proactive risk management with the ability to respond, recover, and adapt.

This panel will bring together experts to discuss key challenges and best practices for strengthening security. Topics include integrating resilience into cybersecurity frameworks, leveraging threat intelligence, and addressing risks from AI, ransomware, and supply chain vulnerabilities. Panelists will also cover regulatory compliance and the role of collaboration in cyber resilience.

Attendees will gain practical insights on balancing security investments, fostering a culture of resilience, and enhancing incident response to stay ahead of emerging threats.

Panelists: Matt Frehner - Chief Information Security Officer, Port of Seattle
Gary Nichols - Chief Information Security Officer, Department of Retirement Services
Caroline Alper - Vulnerability Management Specialist, WaTech

Cloud Computing & Infrastructure Readiness

Moderator: Chris Lamb, Enterprise Cloud Computing Manager - WaTech

Cloud computing is a significant driver of organizational resilience, enabling businesses to scale, adjust, and maintain continuity in a dynamic technological world. This discussion will explore how cloud technologies enhance agility, mitigate risks, and ensure operational efficiency.

State technology experts will share their insights on how cloud technologies are enhancing their organization's resilience and positioning them to adapt to the ever-changing digital landscape.

Panelists: Matt Oram - Chief Information Officer, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Swathi Kovuri - Chief Information Officer, Secretary of State's Office
Mike Marty –Cloud & DR Program Manager, Department of Health
Jason Niemi – Enterprise Cloud Architect, WaTech

AGENDA

ROOM 2

AI & Automation in Operations

Moderator: Nick Stowe, State Chief Technology Officer

Discover how AI and automation are building organizational resilience by boosting efficiency, reliability, and speed. Hear from State leaders on how predictive analytics, machine learning, and intelligent automation can enhance IT resilience and improve service delivery. Walk away with insights on applying AI-driven solutions to improve the efficiency and resilience of IT organizations.

Panelists: James Galvin - Emerging Technology Program Manager, WaTech
Mubina Raza - Senior Manager, IT Services, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Cynthia Harry - Deputy Chief Data Officer, Department of Health
Tamar Joyeux - Chief Information Officer, Department of Enterprise Services

Modernization & Adaptability in IT

Moderator: Amy Pearson, Chief of Staff to the State CIO, WaTech

Keeping the momentum, energy, and focus to move modernization projects forward during challenging times requires strategic planning, adaptability, and strong leadership. This discussion will leave you with hope and strategies for managing, coping, and thriving during tumultuous times.

Panelists: Jason Leung - Executive Program Director, Integrated Eligibility & Enrollment Program
Lacy Fehrenbach – Chief of Prevention, Department of Health
George Williams – CIO and Director of IT Services, Liquor & Cannabis Board