

CTO Craft: Conversations

6th November 2024
etc.venues Chancery Lane, London

Agenda



AGENDA SNAPSHOT

12:00pm – 1:00pm:
Registration and Lunch

1:00pm – 1:15pm:
Welcome remarks

1:15pm – 2:15pm:
Session Group 1

2:15pm – 2:45pm:
Networking / Breather
Break

2:45pm – 3:45pm:
Session Group 2

3:45pm – 4:15pm
Networking / Breather
Break

4:15pm – 5:15pm
Session Group 3

5:15pm – 6:30pm
Networking Drinks

THE FORMAT

CTO Craft Conversations offers you a unique opportunity to connect with senior tech leaders, peers, and industry experts in an exclusive, intimate setting. This gathering allows you the freedom to openly discuss your most pressing challenges and explore potential opportunities, all while enjoying a relaxed, engaging atmosphere.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The format is simple. You'll join a pre-selected discussion with fellow senior executives, where you can share your insights, ask pressing questions, and benefit from the wealth of knowledge shared by others.

We'll begin with the moderator introducing the session topic and setting the context for the conversation. From there, we'll dive into a dynamic discussion focused on key questions, with plenty of time for thoughtful exchanges.

By the end of the event, you'll leave with actionable insights and fresh ideas that you can apply to your organisation straight away.

SESSION GROUP 1

1 Safeguarding Your Software Supply Chain – Why It Matters

- Explore how open-source software can introduce significant security risks to your organisation and the proactive measures CTOs can take to mitigate these vulnerabilities.
- Discuss strategies for securing CI/CD pipelines, ensuring that security is seamlessly integrated into your development workflow.
- Delve into the realities of zero-day threats and how to isolate malicious actors during a breach to minimise potential damage.
- Understand the implications of new legislation, such as the Cyber Resilience Act and DORA, and why Software Bill of Materials (SBOMs) are becoming crucial for compliance and security.

MODERATOR: Mackenzie Jackson, Developer Advocate, Aikido

2 GenAI Unleashed: Crafting a Competitive Edge

- Integrating GenAI into business operations requires a clear understanding of its capabilities to effectively enhance efficiency and spur innovation.
- The deployment of GenAI involves navigating ethical, privacy, and security risks, which are paramount for maintaining trust and compliance in tech operations.
- Future-proofing technology with GenAI requires strategic planning and adoption frameworks that ensure technology remains relevant and competitive in the face of rapid advancements.
- What are the key steps for developing a successful GenAI adoption roadmap that minimises disruption and maximises benefits?

MODERATORS: Yemi Olagbaiye, Director, Software
Laura Phillis, Delivery Director, Software

3 Effective Team Structures for Product Engineering – at any Size

- It's been 5 years since Team Topologies was published, and those ideas are becoming as ubiquitous in the software industry as agile practices. What do they look like when the rubber hits the road?
- Share and learn from other engineering leaders how they organise their teams for alignment, effectiveness and success – and how that has evolved as their organisation have grown.
- Engage in conversations about Team Topologies applied (warts and all) in the wild; how to align Engineering, Product and other disciplines (think “three amigos”); and patterns for scaling your team as your business grows

MODERATOR: Iago Martinez, Director of Engineering, FundApps

4 Prioritising for Impact: Time Management Strategies for Tech Leaders

- Techniques for distinguishing between urgent and important tasks, and focusing on initiatives that drive the most value for the organisation.
- Exploring methods for delegating effectively, enabling CTOs to empower their teams while freeing up time to concentrate on strategic leadership responsibilities.
- Strategies for managing distractions and staying focused on core objectives, especially in high-pressure, fast-paced environments.
- How can tech leaders ensure they remain aligned with their strategic goals while managing day-to-day operational demands?

MODERATOR: Oge Opara-Nadi, VP of Engineering, Hey Savi

SESSION GROUP 2

1 AI-Driven Decision Making – Navigating Expectations from CEOs and Investors Amidst a Skill Gap

- CTOs face increasing pressure from CEOs and investors to adopt AI quickly, but aligning these expectations with realistic capabilities and timelines is key to success.
- Leveraging AI for decision-making requires careful consideration of where human expertise remains essential, particularly in maintaining accountability.
- Hiring challenges in AI talent are significant, and CTOs must explore strategies like upskilling, external recruitment, and partnerships to build strong teams.
- Real-world examples of AI integration in leadership decisions reveal both the potential and operational challenges of using AI in executive-level decision-making.
- What strategies can CTOs adopt to balance AI integration, talent gaps, and stakeholder pressures?

MODERATOR: Henry Draper, Director, Albany Partners

2 Navigating the Future: Strategic Leadership in Tech

- As the tech landscape evolves, identifying and implementing forward-thinking strategies is crucial for staying competitive, requiring visionary leaders to foresee future trends and their impact on current operations.
- Balancing cutting-edge technological innovation with practical execution is challenging but essential for ensuring that advancements are sustainable and effectively integrated into business models.
- How to collect and use data-driven insights in planning whilst fostering a collaborative culture and decision-making is key to driving successful outcomes in a rapidly changing industry.
- How can leaders cultivate adaptability and foresight to navigate and capitalise on market changes?

MODERATOR: Aaron Rice, CIO, Vorboss

3 Fostering Psychological Safety in Tech Teams

- Creating a safe environment for tech teams is challenging but vital for fostering innovation and employee well-being, significantly impacting productivity and retention.
- Developing strategies for diversity and inclusion involves overcoming biases and establishing practices that enhance team creativity and resilience, enriching the workplace culture.
- Managing conflicts and fostering collaboration are essential for maintaining a healthy team dynamic, which directly affects project success and employee satisfaction.
- What are effective ways to promote continuous professional development and keep pace with technological advancements?

MODERATOR: Alice Driscoll, Leadership & Conflict Coach, Alice Driscoll Coaching

SESSION GROUP 3

1 Moving Fast Without Breaking Things: Exploring Ways to Unblock Innovation

- Explore how CTOs can balance ongoing maintenance and business-as-usual tasks with experimenting and launching new ideas.
- Discuss strategies for enabling faster releases without sacrificing system stability or quality.
- Learn tips for transitioning away from legacy systems and adopting modern, agile tools to boost innovation.
- Explore methods for de-risking innovation, launching products quickly, and staying agile despite tech stack constraints.
- How can CTOs maintain speed and agility while ensuring stability and long-term success?

MODERATOR: Henry Kirkness, Technical Director, Planes Agency

2 Budget Mastery: Aligning Finance with Tech Innovation

- Aligning tech innovation with financial planning is challenging but vital, as it ensures that investments are both justifiable to stakeholders and aligned with long-term strategic goals.
- The management of tech resources without overspending requires innovative cost management strategies that can significantly enhance ROI while maintaining high standards of quality and efficiency.
- To continue growing, how can senior leaders adapt to budget constraints by optimising current assets and prioritising key projects?
- What tools and methodologies can be implemented to better forecast and manage tech investment ROI?

MODERATORS: Jennifer Bursack, VP of Engineering Operations, ComplyAdvantage
Oliver Butterfield, Director of Infrastructure, ComplyAdvantage

3 Navigating Career Planning and Burnout in Tech

- Achieving work-life balance as a leader is difficult due to the demanding nature of the industry, making it essential to implement strategies that promote sustainable working.
- Recognising and mitigating burnout requires proactive wellness programs and management practices that can significantly improve team morale and productivity.
- Facilitating career progression for tech leaders involves identifying growth opportunities within a rapidly evolving industry, essential for maintaining motivation and engagement.
- How can resilience be built among tech teams to manage stress and adapt to the fast-paced changes in the industry?

MODERATOR: Holly Donohue, Fractional CPO and Coach, Product Rebel

4 Strategies for Leaders to Engage with Executive Teams

- Understanding stakeholder perspectives and identifying the key concerns and priorities of the executive teams to tailor communications effectively.
- Techniques for crafting clear messages and distilling technical information into concise, impactful messages that resonate with top-level decision-makers.
- Strategies for establishing and maintaining credibility and trust as a tech leader, ensuring your insights and recommendations are valued and acted upon.

MODERATOR: Joel Chippendale, CTO Coach, Monkey's Thumb



VENUE INFORMATION

etc.venues Chancery Lane, London
50-52 Chancery Ln, London WC2A 1HL

By underground:

Chancery Lane & Holborn (Central line) and Covent Garden (Piccadilly) are the nearest stations.

By Bus:

Chancery Lane is served by a number of bus routes including, 4, 11, 15, 26, 76, 172, 341.

Parking:

There are many NCP car parks near the venue, the nearest is located on Cross Street (Saffron Hill NCP) with another close by in Covent Garden (Covent Garden, Parker Street).

Thank you to our Partners

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