

## IDC Hosts Middle East's Most Influential Technology Decision Makers at CIO Summit in Dubai

Dubai – International Data Corporation (IDC) today launched the 13th edition of its annual IDC Middle East CIO Summit at Dubai's Atlantis, The Palm. With more than 500 of the region's most influential ICT decision makers in attendance, the event is exploring the theme 'The Race to Reinvent: Connecting Leaders to Empower Digital Transformation' and is set to conclude tomorrow afternoon when the winners of the IDC Digital Excellence Awards 2020 will be announced during a dedicated ceremony.

With the event playing host not just to CIOs, but to executives from across the entire C-suite, IDC's global chief research officer, Meredith Whalen, opened the day's proceedings with a session titled 'The Future Enterprise: Planning for Enterprise-Wide Transformation'. Stressing the need for a roadmap that incorporates realistic expectations, she offered advice on determining the right digital capabilities to develop, creating detailed business cases, and planning a successful digital transformation strategy.

Jyoti Lalchandani, IDC's group vice president and regional managing director for the Middle East, Turkey, and Africa, then turned the focus onto the public sector, chairing a panel discussion on the topic 'Towards Digital Government: Building the Nation's Future', which featured exclusive insights from:

- H.E. Saeed Al Mulla, Executive Director of Government Affairs & Partnership Management at the Abu Dhabi Digital Authority
- Dr. Salim Al Ruzaiqi, Chief Executive Officer at Oman's Ministry of Technology and Communications
- Eng. Ali Nasser Alsiri, CEO of Saudi Arabia's eGovernment Program (YESSER)

"The last decade saw governments across the Middle East invest heavily in IT, with a focus on bringing services online and streamlining ICT infrastructure," said Lalchandani as he introduced the session. "The stage is now set for the sector to leap to the next level of digital transformation and become truly citizen-centric and paperless. This next step will require government agencies to build the required digital infrastructure, experiment with artificial intelligence, make blockchain a central part of their transaction systems, and protect against intrusions on digital trust."

Building on this theme, Ron Guerrier, CIO and Secretary of Innovation & Technology for the State of Illinois, took to the stage to present a session titled 'The Land of Lincoln's Silicon Prairie'. He explained how the likes of Google, Microsoft, Salesforce, and Uber are all expanding their operations in Illinois and that the state is now a thriving incubator hub for tech start-ups and alumni companies. He explained how the Department of Innovation & Technology is leveraging this strong core, with the aim of better serving the residents and businesses of Illinois.

The remainder of the day saw senior global and regional IDC analysts host a series of individually themed focus groups that enabled attendees to tailor

their Summit experience to address their own needs. These roundtable sessions offered advice on a broad range of issues such as enabling next-generation security and resilience, building a scalable and agile hybrid cloud, implementing enterprise-grade intelligent automation, harnessing data assets and infrastructure to accelerate digital transformation, and unlocking the information advantage with enterprise information management.

The IDC Middle East CIO Summit 2020 continues tomorrow (February 27), with delegates set to hear from special guest speaker Luke Williams, Professor of Innovation & Design at New York University Stern School of Business, as he presents a session titled 'Disruptive Thinking: How to Spark Transformation in Your Business'. There will also be sessions exploring the Future of Work and the role of artificial intelligence in driving digital disruption, as well as a series of dedicated vertical-focused tracks for the government, banking and finance, oil and gas, retail, ecommerce, and manufacturing industries.

The event will draw to a close with the IDC Digital Excellence Awards 2020, which have been designed to recognize and reward the Middle East's true digital pioneers. IDC's CIO Advisory Council will be on hand to distribute the awards,

with winners being announced in the following categories: Excellence in Digital Innovation; Excellence in Line-of-Business Transformation; CISO of the Year; and CIO of the Year.

IDC's valued partners for the IDC Middle East CIO Summit 2020 include: Host Partner – IBM; Strategic Partner – Dubai Internet City; ICT Partner – Ministry of Technology & Communications (Oman), Summit Partners – Riverbed and VMware; Digital Transformation Partner – Injazat Data Systems; Artificial Intelligence Partners – Intel, Salesforce, and UiPath; Future-of-Work Partners – Citrix and SAP; Technology Session Partners – Veeam, HCL Technologies, OpenText, Micro Focus, SentinelOne, FireEye, Rackspace, Blue Prism, IBM, OutSystems, and Hitachi Vantara; Industry Partners – Equinix, OpenText, Commvault, Intel, and IBM; Exhibit Partners – Mimecast, Freshworks, Symphony SummitAI, T2, CommScope, Qlik (in partnership with SquareOne Technologies), Jabra, Dropbox, Gulf Bridge International (GBI), Rimini Street, MDSap, ManageEngine, eHosting DataFort (in partnership with Software AG), TÜV Rheinland, and Datamato; Dinner Partner – DETASAD.

For more information about the IDC Middle East CIO Summit 2019, please contact Sheila

Manek at [smanek@idc.com](mailto:smanek@idc.com)  
/ +971 4 446 3154 or  
visit [www.idcciosummit.com/  
dubai](http://www.idcciosummit.com/dubai). You can join the  
conversation on Twitter using the  
hashtag #IDCMECIO.

#### About IDC

International Data Corporation (IDC) is the premier global provider of market intelligence, advisory services, and events for the information technology, telecommunications, and consumer technology markets. With more than 1,100 analysts worldwide, IDC offers global, regional, and local expertise on technology and industry opportunities and trends in over 110 countries. IDC's analysis and insight helps IT professionals, business executives, and the investment community to make fact-based technology decisions and to achieve their key business objectives. Founded in 1964, IDC is a subsidiary of [IDG](#), the world's leading technology media, research, and events company. To learn more about IDC, please visit [www.idc.com](http://www.idc.com). Follow IDC on Twitter at [@IDC](#).

#### IDC in the Middle East, Africa, and Turkey

For the Middle East, Africa, and Turkey region, IDC retains a coordinated network of offices in Riyadh, Nairobi, Lagos, Johannesburg, Cairo, and Istanbul, with a regional center in Dubai.

Our coverage couples local insight with an international perspective to provide a comprehensive understanding of markets in these dynamic regions. Our market intelligence services are unparalleled in depth, consistency, scope, and accuracy. IDC Middle East, Africa, and Turkey currently fields over 130 analysts, consultants, and conference associates across the region. To learn more about IDC MEA, please visit [www.idc.com/mea](http://www.idc.com/mea). You can follow IDC MEA on Twitter at [@IDCMEA](https://twitter.com/IDCMEA).

IDC is a subsidiary of IDG, the world's leading technology media, research, and events company. Additional information can be found at [www.idc.com](http://www.idc.com). All product and company names may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.

For more information contact:

Sheila Manek  
[smanek@idc.com](mailto:smanek@idc.com)  
+971 4 446 3154