Speaker Biographies – Regional Showcase Panel: West Coast

Moderator: Renil Paramel
Co-Founder and Senior Partner
Strategy of Things

Renil is a co-founder of Strategy of Things, an IoT startup focused on innovation consulting, market intelligence and Innovation Lab. Renil has over 24 years of experience, including 22 years of professional consulting experience serving clients in Business and IT divisions of various Fortune companies. Prior to Strategy of Things, Renil was a Vice President with Gartner and worked for both Accenture's and Deloitte's IT strategy practices. Most recently Renil co-led the design, build and launch of a smart region innovation lab (San Mateo County's SMC Labs). Renil has contributed to the development of the Municipal IoT Network Blueprint as well as contributed to "Smart Cities for Dummies" book. Renil's company SoT is a NIST Grant awardee for a two year study to identify IoT infrastructure gaps across 10 industries.

Jon Walton
Chief Information Officer
County of San Mateo, CA

Jon Walton's passion is to look beyond the basics of traditional government approaches to using technology. His vision is to leverage County technology solutions into regional platforms that serve not only County employees, but also residents, businesses, and other agencies regionally. He rejects the idea of government as a technology dinosaur and strives to utilize the newest technology to solve problems. Aside from tech, Jon is passionate about ocean time with his sons and racing cars.

Dominic Papa
Vice President, Smart State Initiatives
Arizona Commerce Authority

Dominic Papa is the Vice President of Smart State Initiatives at the Arizona Commerce Authority. In the role Dominic leverages his expertise in emerging governance models and strategic partnerships to drive a broad portfolio of Smart State projects. Prior to the ACA, Dominic was the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Institute for Digital Progress, an innovation-driven, smart city nonprofit. In 2019, Dominic founded the Greater Phoenix Smart Region Consortium, an applied research and implementation partnership that allows local governments, private industry and academic research institutions to collaboratively design and develop new innovative technology pilots that advance solutions to public challenges. The Smart Region includes 22 cities and towns, Arizona State University, Maricopa Community College District, the Maricopa Association of Governments, the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, the Institute for Digital Progress, and the Arizona Commerce Authority.

Danielle Hughes
Capital Program Manager
Tahoe Transportation District

Danielle Hughes is the Capital Program Manager at the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD), a bi-state special district responsible for providing transit and facilitating and implementing safe, environmentally positive, multi-modal transportation plans, programs and projects for the Lake Tahoe Basin, California and Nevada. Prior to joining TTD, Danielle worked in private consulting throughout California and Nevada, as a senior project manager and hydrologist providing environmental services for projects and programs that span local and regional infrastructure improvements, general planning processes, site-specific development, and ecosystem restoration. She brings over 15 years of project management, stormwater, natural resource, transportation and land use planning. Ms. Hughes' interests include the integration of information and communication technology, unmanned aerial systems, automation, artificial intelligence, and remote sensing to improve efficiencies in land management. She has a B.S. and M.S. in geology.

Jerry Power
Chief Executive Officer
I3 Systems

Jerry Power is one of the founders of the I3 Consortium, a community driven non-profit organization that enables community information networks by democratizing data networks. He is also the founder of I3 Systems, a company which develops technologies for real-time data networks that span organizational and geographical constraints. The I3 concept was created while Jerry was at the University of Southern California in partnership with many private companies and government agencies. Prior to USC, Jerry spent more than 30 years in the telecommunications industry where he helped apply new technologies that helped shape the structure of the Internet we have come to depend upon.

Joyce Edson
Deputy Chief Information Officer
City of Los Angeles, CA

Joyce Edson has been a leader and technologist for the City of Los Angeles for the past 30+ years. She is an accomplished and experienced manager with extensive experience in application, infrastructure and new/emerging technology project management – Agile and Lean Six Sigma. Superior strategic-planning, creative leadership, and focused staff management skills. Ability to deliver innovative solutions for the successful completion, of the most challenged and challenging projects. Joyce is currently the Executive Officer and Deputy CIO with the City of L.A.'s Information Technology Agency (ITA). She provides City Departments with Application development and consultation for digital solutions.