

ORLANDO
LIVE! 360
TECH CON 2025
FLORIDA

ORLANDO 2025
NOVEMBER 16-21, 2025

ROYAL PACIFIC RESORT AT UNIVERSAL ORLANDO, FL

Visual Studio LIVE!
EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS

Data Platform LIVE!
INSIGHTS FOR MANAGING YOUR DATA ESTATE

TECHMENTOR
IN-DEPTH TRAINING FOR IT PROS

Cloud & Containers LIVE!
CLOUD-NATIVE, PAAS & SERVERLESS COMPUTING

Artificial Intelligence LIVE!
AI FOR DEVELOPERS AND DATA SCIENTISTS

Cybersecurity & Ransomware LIVE!
DEFENDING AGAINST RANSOMWARE AND OTHER ATTACKS

The Ultimate Destination for Tech Training is Back

Live! 360 Tech Con returns to Orlando this November—bringing together the IT, Developer, Data, and Cybersecurity communities for a jam-packed week of expert-led education, hands-on labs, and networking.



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WHAT IS LIVE! 360 TECH CON?

Your All-In-One Tech Training Experience

6 Co-Located Events.
1 Unbeatable Price.

Live! 360 Tech Con returns as the premier destination where the IT, Developer, Data, and Cybersecurity communities unite for immersive, real-world training and insights. Whether you're deep in development, securing systems, managing data, or supporting infrastructure—this is your opportunity to sharpen your skills across today's most critical technologies.

ONE CONFERENCE PASS. ENDLESS LEARNING.

Unlock access to 6 unique co-located events—all happening simultaneously—offering unmatched breadth and depth:



WHY CHOOSE LIVE! 360 TECH CON?

- ▶ Practical, skills-based training
- ▶ Expert-led sessions and labs
- ▶ Multi-discipline tracks to broaden your knowledge
- ▶ Intimate networking with peers and speakers
- ▶ Flexible format to design your own conference experience

Live! 360
Tech Con 2025

**THE ULTIMATE EDUCATION
DESTINATION—WHERE
INNOVATION MEETS ACTION.**

Visual Studio **LIVE!** EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS

VSLive! 2025 is your destination for deep, hands-on learning across the modern Microsoft developer stack. Join fellow developers, architects, and thought leaders in sunny Orlando for six days of immersive learning, peer networking, and future-focused development strategies that will elevate your coding, architecture, and innovation game.

Data Platform **LIVE!** INSIGHTS FOR MANAGING YOUR DATA ESTATE

The data landscape is evolving rapidly, and Data Platform Live! 2025 is your opportunity to stay ahead of that change. Whether you're modernizing your data architecture, unlocking real-time intelligence, or scaling your analytics to meet enterprise demand, you'll find actionable guidance here.

Artificial Intelligence **LIVE!** AI FOR DEVELOPERS AND DATA SCIENTISTS

Artificial Intelligence Live! 2025 is where cutting-edge AI meets real-world application. This year's lineup is designed to equip AI developers, data scientists, architects, and IT leaders with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the modern AI era.

TECHMENTOR IN-DEPTH TRAINING FOR IT PROS

As the IT landscape grows more complex, TechMentor 2025 delivers the hands-on training and expert insight you need to confidently manage, secure, and future-proof your infrastructure.

Cybersecurity & Ransomware **LIVE!** DEFENDING AGAINST RANSOMWARE AND OTHER ATTACKS

In today's AI-powered threat landscape, defending your digital assets takes more than just firewalls and patching. Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live! 2025 brings together elite security experts and real-world practitioners to deliver tactical, hands-on training and strategic insight into modern cyber defense.

Cloud & Containers **LIVE!** CLOUD-NATIVE, PAAS & SERVERLESS COMPUTING

The cloud-native ecosystem continues to evolve rapidly—blurring the lines between infrastructure, development, and operations. Cloud & Containers Live! is your ultimate guide to thriving in this modern, distributed world of software.

With over 195+ sessions, 10 hands-on labs, and 20 in-depth workshops, you can mix and match topics to build a personalized agenda aligned to your goals.



Top Reasons

TO ATTEND LIVE! 360 TECH CON 2025



AN IDEAL LOCATION & TIME

Hosted at the stunning Loews Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center at Universal Orlando, this attendee-favorite destination offers the perfect backdrop for learning and leisure. Bring the family to enjoy Orlando's attractions while you gain valuable skills.

UNMATCHED NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Connect with fellow professionals, thought leaders, and industry insiders from around the world. Live! 360 offers both formal and informal opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, collaboration, and career-long connections.

TAILORED FOR DIVERSE ROLES

With content aligned for 8 key job roles—including Developers, IT Pros, DevOps, Data Pros, Security Experts, Agile Teams, Database Admins, and IT Leaders—there's something for nearly every function and experience level.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Build your own agenda from over 225+ sessions and workshops spanning six co-located conferences. Mix and match tracks to fit your specific goals—whether you're deep into development, focused on cybersecurity, or leading infrastructure transformation.

FULL-DAY HANDS-ON LABS

Kick off your week with Pre-Conference Hands-On Labs on Sunday, November 16. Choose from 10 in-depth, instructor-led labs designed to help you learn by doing. Just bring your laptop and your curiosity! (Additional fees apply.)

VIBRANT EXPO EXPERIENCE

The Live! 360 Expo Hall connects attendees with leading solution providers. Discover new tools, services, and demos that can complement your tech stack or solve pressing challenges.

CROSS-DISCIPLINE ACCESS WITHOUT SILOS

Because Live! 360 Tech Con blends IT, development, data, and security tracks into one unified experience, attendees can easily explore content outside their primary domain. This is ideal for hybrid roles, IT generalists, and team leads who need broader exposure.

THE FULL CIRCLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Live! 360 Tech Con isn't just a name—it represents a full-circle approach to tech training. Gain insights from both Microsoft insiders and independent experts, ensuring a balanced, real-world perspective on current tools and trends.

6 CONFERENCES. 1 LOW PRICE.

One pass gives you unlimited access to all six events—maximizing value and learning potential in a single week.



THE FUN STUFF: LIVE! 360 ORLANDO EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

AT LIVE! 360 TECH CON, THE LEARNING HAPPENS EVERYWHERE—from the classroom to the coffee line. Connect with experts, swap ideas with peers, and don't miss these exciting activities throughout the week!

MIX & MINGLE @ LIVE! 360

Monday, November 17, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Hard Rock Cafe at Universal CityWalk

Kick off your conference experience with a relaxed and fun evening under the stars at the upstairs patio of the Hard Rock Café CityWalk! This is your chance to meet fellow attendees, chat with speakers, and spark connections that could last well beyond the week. Whether you're here to talk tech, trade ideas, or just unwind, this casual no-host mixer sets the perfect tone.

Enjoy complimentary light appetizers courtesy of Live! 360 while you soak in the lively CityWalk atmosphere. Grab a drink from the bar (beverages are self-pay), take in the views, and ease into the event with great conversation and good vibes.

EXHIBITOR WELCOME RECEPTION & LIVE! 360 PLINKO

Tuesday, November 18, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Expo Hall

Join us to kick off the conference at the Live! 360 Tech Con Welcome Reception. Enjoy drinks and snacks while you explore the Live! 360 exhibits and network with fellow attendees and speakers. This is your chance to check out the latest offerings from our exhibitors to help you in daily life when you return to the office.

Returning again @ Live! 360 – Live! 360 Plinko! Come on down and experience the thrill of Live! 360 Plinko! Win the chance to drop a chip down the Plinko board and see how much cash you can win. Attendees who collect stamps from every exhibitor on their expo raffle card during the reception and turn it in at the Plinko table before 6:45pm will be entered into a drawing to play. Six (6) attendees will be chosen at random to try their luck at Plinko during the reception - stay until the end or you might miss your chance to play!

LIVE! 360 SPEAKER CONVERSATION CORNER

Tuesday, November 18: 9:00 – 11:00am and 1:30 – 4:30pm

Wednesday, November 19: 9:00 – 11:00am and 2:00 – 4:30pm

Thursday, November 20: 9:00 – 10:30am and 1:00 – 4:00pm

One of the stand-out aspects of Live! 360 Tech Con is the approachable environment and access to speakers. The Live! 360 Speaker Conversation Corner is the perfect spot to chat with your favorite speaker or meet a speaker whose session you missed. This unique opportunity allows you more access to our industry leading speakers to clarify anything from a session or to dive deeper with questions you have.

WEDNESDAY TABLE TOPIC LUNCH

Wednesday, November 19, 12:30 – 1:30pm

Join other attendees at lunch to share ideas, talk about the issues of the day, and maybe solve a few. While you enjoy lunch, you can find and connect with other like-minded people at tables designated for certain languages, technologies, and interests.

We will also have designated speaker tables - noted with the speakers' name. Join your favorite speaker for a lunchtime discussion or to follow up on any questions from a session.

LIVE! 360 DESSERT LUAU

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 – 9:00pm

After a week of insightful sessions, new knowledge transfer, and networking, it's time to put it all together at the Live! 360 Wrap Party. Join us for a short and exciting closing presentation followed by a Q&A session with conference chairs and speakers. Don't miss this closing event and enjoy a final chance for networking and fun including games, photo booth, and refreshments.



CONFERENCE KEYNOTES

GET THE LOWDOWN ON CURRENT MICROSOFT STRATEGY, keep up with where technology is going, and hear different viewpoints on hot topics. Strengthen your career and sharpen your mind with awesome “insider” keynotes, and panel discussions.

LIVE! 360 TUESDAY KEYNOTE:

Agentic DevOps in Real Life - Build Faster, Ship Safer, Keep Humans in the Loop

Tuesday, November 18, 11:00am - 12:00pm



Mickey Gousset
Staff DevOps Architect,
GitHub



Brian A. Randell
Partner,
MCW Technologies

The AI wave isn't on the horizon, it's here, and it's already reshaping how we design, build, secure, and operate software. Good news: AI isn't here to replace you. It's here to amplify you, if you learn to direct it.

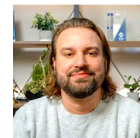
In this fast-paced keynote, Brian Randell and Mickey Gousset show how agentic DevOps brings AI into the flow of work: pairing with developers in Visual Studio and GitHub Copilot, automating infrastructure in VS Code, and strengthening security posture with GitHub Advanced Security and Azure—all while keeping humans in control. You'll see where AI shines, where to push back, and how to build security-first practices and audit trails into your AI-augmented workflows.

We'll tackle job-displacement fears head-on with practical strategies to uplevel your role, plus a 30-60-90 day playbook to pilot, measure, and scale. Whether you write code, manage infrastructure, or lead teams, you'll leave with concrete patterns to ship faster, reduce risk, and keep human judgment at the center.

LIVE! 360 WEDNESDAY KEYNOTE:

Azure at 15: What's Next for the Cloud, AI, and You

Wednesday, November 19, 11:00am - 12:00pm



Eric D. Boyd
Founder & CEO, responsiveX

Fifteen years ago, Microsoft introduced “Windows Azure”. What started as hopes and dreams of cloud computing has grown into one of the most trusted and transformative platforms in the world. Today, Microsoft Azure powers mission-critical applications, global enterprises, AI breakthroughs, and the digital transformation of every industry.

Join Eric D. Boyd as he takes us on a journey through the history of Azure, from its earliest days to the innovations shaping it right now. And you'll get a preview of the innovations shaping the cloud's future. Along the way, you'll see how Azure has evolved to meet the needs of developers, IT professionals, data experts, security teams, and business leaders alike.

Most importantly, you'll walk away with practical insights answering questions like:

- What should you be doing with Azure right now?
- How should you prepare for what's coming next?
- And how can you ensure you and your organization are ready for the next wave of cloud innovation?



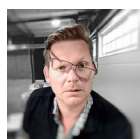
CONFERENCE KEYNOTES *(continued)*



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! & CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! KEYNOTE:

The Road to Visual Studio 2026: Building a Faster, Smarter IDE

Tuesday, November 18, 8:00am - 9:00am



Mads Kristensen
*Principal Product Manager,
Visual Studio,
Microsoft*



Nik Karpinsky
*Principal Software
Engineering Lead,
Microsoft*

Visual Studio 2026 is here, and behind the release is a technical journey worth sharing. In this keynote, we'll take you inside the work that made the IDE faster, smarter, and more intuitive - from the engineering breakthroughs that dramatically cut startup, load, and F5 times, to the deep integration of Copilot and AI agents that now feel like a natural part of your workflow.

We'll share stories from the trenches: how the team identified and fixed long-standing performance bottlenecks, how we wove AI into the very fabric of the IDE without disrupting the flow developers rely on, and what it took to deliver an IDE that feels lighter and more responsive across .NET, C++, and enterprise-scale solutions.

Along the way, you'll see live demos of the improvements in action - including the new groundbreaking Profiler Agent, which changes how developers diagnose and resolve performance issues.

This keynote isn't just about the features in Visual Studio 2026; it's about the journey to get here, the engineering that makes it possible, and the value it brings to you as a developer. Come see how Visual Studio 2026 was built, and why it's ready to help you build what's next.



TECHMENTOR KEYNOTE:

Through the Looking Glass – A Glimpse Ahead of What Could Be

Tuesday, November 18, 8:00am – 9:00am



Andy Malone
*Worldwide Speaker, YouTuber,
Tech Instructor, Author*

Artificial General Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Advanced Robotics, Osmotic Power Systems, and Autonomous Biochemical Sensors may sound like science fiction—but they're closer than you think.

In this fascinating 60-minute session, YouTuber and MVP Andy Malone will take you on a journey into the not-so-distant future to explore the technologies that could soon reshape our world.

Discover the possibilities these innovations bring, the benefits they promise, and the pitfalls we must prepare for. From mind-bending breakthroughs to real-world implications, this session offers a glimpse of the future that's just around the corner.

If you're ready to imagine a world transformed, buckle up—it's going to be a thrilling ride.



CONFERENCE KEYNOTES *(continued)*

Data Platform **LIVE!**

INSIGHTS FOR MANAGING YOUR DATA ESTATE

DATA PLATFORM LIVE! KEYNOTE:

 **When All you Have is a Nail,
Everything is a Hammer**

Tuesday, November 18, 8:00am - 9:00am



Buck Woody
*Applied Data Scientist,
Azure Data Services Team,
Microsoft*

Buck Woody, Applied Data Scientist from Microsoft, explains the main problem he's seeing in applying technology today. Come and learn how to apply the right tool to the problem at hand.

Artificial Intelligence **LIVE!**

AI FOR DEVELOPERS AND DATA SCIENTISTS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! KEYNOTE:

Rethinking the Possible - Breaking Free with AI

Tuesday, November 18, 8:00am – 9:00am



Marcel de Vries
*Global MD & CTO,
Xebia*

When we look at AI, it seems it is not just another productivity boost; it's a turning point. For developers, data professionals, and IT pros, the challenge is not how to do the same work faster, but how to rethink the work itself. In this keynote, we will look at where AI stands today, what it means for your role, and how embracing new ways of thinking can unlock real business impact. Don't retrofit old habits, reimagine them! The future belongs to those who transform, not just automate.



CONFERENCE KEYNOTES *(continued)*

Cybersecurity & Ransomware **LIVE!**

DEFENDING AGAINST RANSOMWARE AND OTHER ATTACKS

CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! KEYNOTE:

2026 Ransomware State of the Union

Tuesday, November 18, 8:00am – 9:00am



Sami Laiho
Chief Research Officer,
Adminize

“What you don’t know will hurt you.”

Ransomware isn’t just evolving—it’s industrializing. In this hard-hitting keynote, Sami Laiho delivers a frontline report on the state of ransomware in 2025/2026: the tactics, the targets, and the terrifying speed at which attacks are now executed. Drawing on real-world incidents, global trends, and his firsthand experience helping organizations recover (or fail to), Sami exposes the weak points attackers exploit and the critical missteps defenders still make. He’ll also reveal what’s actually working to stop breaches—and what’s just security theater. He will also dive into the current threat atmosphere when it comes weaponized AI.

Whether you’re in IT, security, or leadership, this keynote will change the way you think about cybersecurity readiness. It’s time to stop playing defense and start building resilience.

Expect straight talk, uncomfortable truths, and the clarity you need for the year ahead.





PANEL DISCUSSIONS

GET THE FULL 360 DEGREE PERSPECTIVE and hear different viewpoints on hot topics. Strengthen your career and sharpen your mind with these expert panel discussions.



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION:

Can You Keep Building Applications without Agile, DevOps, or AI?

Thursday, November 20, 11:00am – 12:00pm



Jason Bock
Staff Software Engineer,
Rocket Mortgage



Billy Hollis
Developer. Designer.
Speaker. Author.



Jeremy Clark
Developer Educator



Ted Neward
Principal,
Neward and Associates



Angela Dugan
Vice President, Product
Delivery, Red Foundry

In an industry obsessed with transformation and modernization, we're asking a heretical question: Can you still build exceptional applications in 2025 without embracing Agile methodologies, DevOps pipelines, or AI integration? This provocative panel challenges the conventional wisdom that has dominated software development for the past two decades.

This interactive panel will feature passionate debate between panelists with different perspectives, followed by extensive audience Q&A where you can challenge our contrarian viewpoints, share your own experiences, or explore specific scenarios you're facing in your organization.



DATA PLATFORM LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION:

Data Quality in the Age of AI: Challenges and Opportunities

Thursday, November 20, 11:00am – 12:00pm



Thomas LaRock [moderator]
Technical Advocate



Davide Mauri
Program Manager,
Microsoft



Meagan Longoria
Data Analytics Architect,
Procure SQL



Reza Rad
RADACAD, CEO

As AI becomes central to decision-making, the importance of high-quality data has never been greater. This panel brings together industry leaders to explore how AI is reshaping our approach to data quality—introducing new risks like bias and hallucination, while opening doors for smarter governance and automation. Join us to learn how to adapt your data quality practices to meet the demands of an AI-driven future.



PANEL DISCUSSIONS *(continued)*



TECHMENTOR PANEL DISCUSSION:

Top IT Issues Teams are Facing in 2025

Thursday, November 20, 11:00am – 12:00pm



Dave Kawula [moderator]
Principal Consultant,
TriCon Elite Consulting



Aidan Finn
Azure MVP, Principal
Consultant, Innofactor Norway



Karinne Bessette
Technologist, Product Strategy
Team, Veeam



John O'Neill Sr.
Chief Innovation Officer,
Azure Innovators



Émile Cabot
Principal Consultant,
TriCon Elite Consulting

The technology landscape is evolving rapidly, and IT teams are facing new challenges every day. In this engaging panel discussion, Dave Kawula will moderate a conversation with industry experts Karinne Bessette, Émile Cabot, Aidan Finn, and John O'Neill Sr as they explore the top IT issues that teams will face in 2025. From cloud migrations and cybersecurity threats to AI-driven automation and hybrid work environments, the panel will cover a wide range of topics that are shaping the future of IT operations. This session will provide valuable insights on how teams can adapt, innovate, and overcome these challenges in the coming years.

You will learn:

- A deeper understanding of the top IT challenges organizations will face in 2025, including cloud, security, and workforce transformation.
- Strategies and best practices from industry experts on how IT teams can effectively navigate these emerging challenges.
- The role of technology advancements like AI, automation, and hybrid infrastructures in shaping the future of IT management and security.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION:

Governance in the AI Age

Thursday, November 20, 11:00am – 12:00pm



Andrew Brust [moderator]
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights



Jean Joseph
Data & AI Engineer



Prashant G Bhoyar
Cloud Solution Architect,
Applied Information Sciences



Ken Muse
Staff DevOps Architect,
GitHub



Michelle Gilbert
Principal Cloud Solution
Architect, Copilot for M365,
Microsoft

Think mere data protection, security, and governance is tough? Governing AI ups the ante, significantly. In addition to the model governance, explainability and experiment management that machine learning requires, generative AI adds things like mitigating hallucination, avoiding prompt injection, and preventing data exfiltration. Now, ponder governing AI agents, which have the privilege of autonomy, the power of reasoning, and the ability to solve for—and modify—their own goals, and things orders of magnitude tougher. This isn't just about data cleansing and access control, it's about accountability, explainability, and control over autonomous processing. But if we think governance of AI through from the start, rather than layering it on as an afterthought, there's good reason to believe we can be both successful and safe. Join our panel of experts to hear their ideas around these important questions and share your own.



PANEL DISCUSSIONS *(continued)*

Cloud & Containers **LIVE!**

CLOUD-NATIVE, PAAS & SERVERLESS COMPUTING

CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION:

The Cloud in an AI World

Thursday, November 20, 11:00am – 12:00pm



Rockford Lhotka [moderator]
VP of Strategy, Xebia



Mike Benovich
Consultant, Cloud Architect,
Developer



Chris Ayers
Senior SRE,
Microsoft



Alex Thissen
Architect, Lead Developer,
and Mentor

The cloud, containers, Kubernetes, and an array of other technologies, has become the mainstream way to host and manage server-side software. Like everything else, AI has the potential to have a big impact on how we design, build, deploy and use the cloud. Join us in this panel discussion, where we'll talk about how to use AI to automate our use of the cloud, and how the cloud can host AI alongside our existing workloads. Bring your questions and thoughts, as this is an interactive panel and we want to hear from you.

Cybersecurity & Ransomware **LIVE!**

DEFENDING AGAINST RANSOMWARE AND OTHER ATTACKS

CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION:

How to Not Get Hacked in 2026

Thursday, November 20, 11:00am – 12:00pm



Sami Laiho [moderator]
Chief Research Officer,
Adminize



Michael Van Horenbeeck
CEO and Sr. Architect,
The Collective



Erica Burgess
Offensive Cybersecurity
Consultant / Software
Architect



Rod Trent
Senior Program Manager,
Microsoft



Michael Niehaus
Programme Director & Master
Inventor, 2Pint Software

The threats have evolved. Has your defense strategy?

Join moderator Sami Laiho and a powerhouse panel of security and IT experts as they tackle one of the most pressing questions of the year: How do you actually avoid getting hacked in 2026?

This candid, high-energy discussion will cover what's working (and what's not) in real-world environments—from zero trust and attack surface reduction, to identity protection, endpoint hardening, use or abuse of AI and securing the cloud. The panel will share war stories, unexpected lessons, and actionable insights that go beyond checklists and buzzwords.

Bring your toughest questions. Leave with practical, modern strategies to help your organization stay one step ahead of attackers.

This is the playbook you wish you'd had before the breach.

Modern Software Engineering				Database Development				Developing New Experiences				Human Factors in Engineering				The Core of .NET				Full Stack Web Development																							
Visual Studio LIVE! Pre-Conference Hands-On Labs: Sunday, November 16, 2025				Hands-On Lab Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries				Hands-On Lab Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries				Hands-On Lab Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries				Hands-On Lab Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries				Hands-On Lab Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries																							
START TIME	END TIME																																										
7:00 AM	9:00 AM																																										
9:00 AM	6:00 PM	VSHOLO1 Hands-On Lab: Build an ASP.NET Core MVC App with EF Core in a Day Hands-on Lab - Phil Appleby		VSHOLO2 Hands-On Lab: Design Thinking for Software Development Teams - Billy Hallis				VSHOLO3 Hands-On Lab: Take Your C# Skills to the Next Level - Jeremy Clark				VSHOLO4 Hands-On Lab: Get Started with .NET Aspire & ASP.NET Core for Distributed Application Building - Jeffery T. Fritz																															
10:00 AM	7:00 PM	Pre-Conference Registration - Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center																																									
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio LIVE! Pre-Conference Workshops: Monday, November 17, 2025																																									
7:00 AM	8:30 AM	VSM01 Workshop: Building Blazor Applications - Brian A. Randall		VSM02 Workshop: Mastering Human Factors - Benjamin Day & Angelo Dugan				VSM03 Workshop: DevOps, DevSecOps, Platform Engineering - Yep, All Three - Brian A. Randall																																			
8:30 AM	5:30 PM	Live! 360 First Timers Forum: A New Attendees Guide - Pacifica 6																																									
5:45 PM	6:15 PM	Mix & Mingle @ Hard Rock Cafe Universal CityWalk																																									
6:30 PM	8:00 PM																																										
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio LIVE! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025																																									
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries																																									
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! & CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! KEYNOTE: The Road to Visual Studio 2026: Building a Faster, Smarter IDE - Mads Kristensen, Principal Product Manager, Visual Studio, Microsoft & Nik Kapinsky, Principal Software Engineering Lead, Microsoft																																									
9:15 AM	10:30 AM	VST01 State of the AI World for Developers - Brian A. Randall		VST02 Injecting Innovation Into Applications - Billy Hallis				VST03 Useful New-ish Features in .NET 7 - Deborah Kurutz				VST04 Next-Level Debugging with GitHub Copilot in Visual Studio - Leonard Holte																															
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Networking Break Sponsored by Microsoft Azure - Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 / THREATLOCKER Demo Theater (10:35 - 10:50am) - Coral Sea 2																																									
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Agentic DevOps in Real Life - Build Faster, Ship Safer, Keep Humans in the Loop - Mickey Goussset, Staff DevOps Architect, GitHub & Brian A. Randall, Partner, MCW Technologies																																									
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Lunch - Oceana Ballroom - Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7																																									
12:45 PM	1:30 PM	Dessert Break - Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7																																									
1:30 PM	1:50 PM	Progress Demo Theater: Elevating Productivity and End User Satisfaction with AI - Sara Fazio (12:45 - 1:05pm) - Coral Sea 2 / JETBRANS Demo Theater (1:05 - 1:20pm) - Java Sea																																									
1:50 PM	2:00 PM	VST05 Fast Focus: Introduction to Angular Signals - Deborah Kurutz		VST06 Fast Focus: Building a Blazor MAUI Hybrid App - Rickard Lindro				VST07 Fast Focus: Time Traveling Data in .NET 7 - Chad Green				VST08 Fast Focus: Learn, Share, and Grow How to Become a Microsoft MVP - Mads Kristensen & Harshada Holte																															
2:00 PM	2:20 PM	VST09 Fast Focus: Deploying Web Apps to Azure Using CI/CD in ADO - Allen Conway		VST10 Fast Focus: Words for Leaders - Benjamin Day				VST11 Fast Focus: What's New in EF Core - Jim Woolley				VST12 Fast Focus: Caching options in .NET - Allen Conway																															
2:20 PM	2:45 PM	Networking Break - Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7																																									
2:45 PM	4:00 PM	VST13 Building Websites with ASP.NET Core Razor Pages - Phil Appleby		VST14 Create Multi-platform Apps with .NET MAUI and the MAUI Community Toolkit - Allen Conway				VST15 Design & Develop Test Cross-Platform .NET Apps with Uno Platform - Sam Batz				VST16 The Forgotten Features of Visual Studio YOU NEED in Your Life - Mads Kristensen & Harshada Holte																															
4:15 PM	5:30 PM	VST17 API FOMO: REST, gRPC or GraphQL - Rickard Lindro		VST18 Elevate SQL Development with VS Code - Carlos Robles				VST19 Build Hybrid Apps with .NET - Sam Batz				VST20 Navigating Your Career as a Software Engineer - Allen Conway																															
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10:45 AM	11:30 AM	Networking Break - Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7																																									
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Valden Demo Theater (10:50 - 11:05am) - Coral Sea 2 / Valden Demo Theater (11:05am - 11:25am) - Java Sea																																									
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Table Topics Lunch - Oceana Ballroom																																									
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Dessert Break - Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 / VJ VONAGE Demo Theater (1:35 - 1:50pm) - Coral Sea 2																																									
2:00 PM	3:15 PM	VSW09 Blazor Authentication the Right Way - Polina Gyl		VSW10 Busy Developers Guide to Writing (Prose) - Ted Neward				VSW11 On Storytelling, Crafting a Git Commit History Your Future Self Will Thank You For - Roy Casanova				VSW12 AI IDEs - What Do You Choose? - Brian A. Randall																															
3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Networking Break - Visit the EXPO Lounge - Expo Raffle @ 3:20 p.m. - Pacifica 7																																									
4:00 PM	5:15 PM	VSW13 Blazor for JavaScript Developers - Tim Pyram		VSW14 Building Confident Applications with .NET Aspire - Robert Bogue				VSW15 Hardening CI/CD: Essential Strategies to Mitigate Security Risks From Dev to Deployment - Jeffery T. Fritz				VSW16 LING - It's Not Just for Databases - Jeremy Clark																															
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7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries																																									
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	VSH01 Versioning and Documenting ASP.NET Core Services - Phil Appleby		VSH02 Influence: Lessons Learned from 10 Years of DevOps Advocacy - Simon Bessette				VSH03 Get the Message! Choosing a Messaging Framework for Your .NET Applications - David McDermott				VSH04 Abstract Art: Getting Abstracted Just Right - Jeremy Clark																															
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	VSH05 Build an AI-enabled Blazor App Using AI - Rickard Lindro		VSH06 Refactoring Your Developer Identity - Chris Ayers				VSH07 Busy Developer's Guide to Python - Mickey Goussset				VSH08 .NET in a WebAssembly World - Rickard Lindro																															
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	CAN YOU KEEP BUILDING APPLICATIONS WITHOUT AGILE, DEVOPS, OR AI? - Angela Dugan (Moderator), Jason Back, Jeremy Clark, Billy Hallis, & Ted Neward																																									
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Live! 360 DJ Lunch - Oceana Ballroom																																									
1:00 PM	2:15 PM	VSH09 State Management in Blazor - Tim Pyram		VSH10 Navigating the Project Storm: A Guide to Overcoming 10 Development Project Pitfalls - Mickey Goussset & Ken Muse				VSH11 Refactor or Refect? That is the Question! - Allen Conway				VSH12 Busting .NET Myths - Jason Back																															
2:30 PM	3:45 PM	VSH13 I'm Just Trying to Keep My Head Above Water - David Paul		VSH14 I'm Just Trying to Keep My Head Above Water - Chris Kug				VSH15 GitHub Copilot: Measure What Matters - Mickey Goussset				VSH16 Patterns and Tools for Parallel Programming in C# - Marcel de Vries																															
4																																											



Visual Studio® **LIVE!**

EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS



Modern Software
Engineering



Database
Development



Developing
New Experiences



Human Factors
in Engineering



The Core
of .NET



Full Stack
Web Development



A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

DEVELOPER TECHNOLOGY IS ON FIRE, and we're thrilled to once again gather in sunny, vibrant Orlando, Florida, from November 16–21, 2025. Whether you're a long-time attendee or it's your first trip, we're delighted you'll be joining us at Visual Studio Live!, an integral part of the larger, multi-faceted Live! 360 event.

Orlando isn't just the home of world-class entertainment like Disney World and Universal Studios—it's also the annual epicenter of innovation, collaboration, and inspiration at Visual Studio Live! Your conference registration not only gives you full access to the Visual Studio Live! sessions but also unlocks all content across the entire Live! 360 Tech Con agenda, including Data Platform Live!, TechMentor, Artificial Intelligence Live!, Cloud and Containers Live!, and Cybersecurity and Ransomware Live!

The tech landscape is rapidly evolving, marked by groundbreaking AI advancements and continuous releases within the .NET ecosystem. To keep you ahead of the curve, Visual Studio Live! Orlando 2025 offers an unparalleled lineup of educational sessions, hands-on labs, expert panels, and vibrant social activities designed to energize, inform, and equip you with practical skills and strategic insights.

We—Andrew Brust, Angela Dugan, Rockford Lhotka, and Brian Randell—are honored to serve as your Conference Co-Chairs. We're personally extending our warmest invitation for you to join us at the wonderful Royal Pacific Resort in Orlando. Inside the

conference doors, you'll experience a dynamic multi-track event featuring comprehensive 75-minute breakout sessions, focused and interactive 20-minute Fast Focus sessions, and insightful panels tackling the most pressing industry challenges.

Your week begins with intensive hands-on labs and workshops, transitions into engaging keynotes and breakout sessions, and culminates with deep-dive workshops designed for maximum learning impact. Our diverse speaker lineup will guide you through cutting-edge sessions covering data management, serverless architecture, cloud technologies, cross-platform development (Windows, macOS, Linux), mobile platforms, and more. Every session is meticulously curated to provide the latest, most relevant content to enhance your development skills, teamwork, and leadership abilities.

Whether your interests lie deepening your C# expertise, learning how to design better systems, leveraging GitHub or Azure DevOps for better software delivery, or developing robust web applications using JavaScript, Angular, Blazor, and ASP.NET Core, we've got you covered. Confused about the rapid evolution of .NET? Our sessions will demystify recent changes and chart a clear path forward. Looking to boost your DevOps proficiency and learn about Agentic DevOps and agility? Our seasoned experts are here to share their practical insights. Do you want to excel in cloud development and emerging technologies? We've assembled sessions specifically designed

to elevate your skills and confidence. And we got a rich set of sessions, and a workshop, focused on the human aspect of software engineering.

At Visual Studio Live! Orlando 2025, step away from outdated blogs and static content—immerse yourself in an environment of real-time learning, direct interaction, and powerful networking opportunities. Together, leveraging our collective wisdom and passion for technology, we'll navigate the future, achieve greater success, and inspire transformative change.

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando!

Warm regards,

VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS



Andrew Brust
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights



Angela Dugan
Vice President, Product Delivery,
Red Foundry




Rockford Lhotka
VP of Strategy,
Xebia









Brian A. Randell
Partner,
MCW Technologies




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE









Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Modern Software Engineering		Database Development		Developing New Experiences		Human Factors in Engineering		The Core of .NET		Full Stack Web Development	
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio Live! Pre-Conference Hands-On Labs: Sunday, November 16, 2025									
7:00 AM	9:00 AM	Hands-On Lab Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
9:00 AM	6:00 PM	VSHOL01 Hands-On Lab: Build an ASP.NET Core MVC App with EF Core in a Day Hands-on Lab - Phillip Japikse			VSHOL02 Hands-On Lab: Design Thinking for Software Development Teams - Billy Hollis			VSHOL03 Hands-On Lab: Take Your C# Skills to the Next Level - Jeremy Clark		VSHOL04  Hands-On Lab: Get Started with .NET Aspire & ASP.NET Core for Distributed Application Building - Jeffrey T. Fritz	
10:00 AM	7:00 PM	Pre-Conference Registration - Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center									
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio Live! Pre-Conference Workshops: Monday, November 17, 2025									
7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:30 AM	5:30 PM	VSM01 Workshop: Building Blazor Applications - Allen Conway, Jason Bock, & Rockford Lhotka				VSM02 Workshop: Mastering Human Factors - Benjamin Day & Angela Dugan			VSM03 Workshop: DevOps, DevSecOps, Platform Engineering — Yep, All Three - Brian A. Randell		
5:45 PM	6:15 PM	Live! 360 First Timers Forum: A New Attendees Guide - Pacifica 6									
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Mix & Mingle @ Hard Rock Café Universal CityWalk									
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025									
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	 VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! & CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! KEYNOTE: The Road to Visual Studio 2026: Building a Faster, Smarter IDE <i>Mads Kristensen, Principal Product Manager, Visual Studio, Microsoft & Nik Karpinsky, Principal Software Engineering Lead, Microsoft</i>									
9:15 AM	10:30 AM	VST01 State of the AI World for Developers - Brian A. Randell			VST02 Injecting Innovation Into Applications Through Design - Billy Hollis			VST03 Useful New-ish Features in .NET/C# - Deborah Kurata		VST04  Next-Level Debugging with GitHub Copilot in Visual Studio - Harshada Hole	
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Networking Break Sponsored by  Microsoft Azure • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 / THREATL@CKER Demo Theater (10:35 - 10:50am) - Coral Sea 2									
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Agentic DevOps in Real Life - Build Faster, Ship Safer, Keep Humans in the Loop <i>Mickey Gousset, Staff DevOps Architect, GitHub & Brian A. Randell, Partner, MCW Technologies</i>									
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Lunch - Oceana Ballroom • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
12:45 PM	1:30 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
		 Progress Demo Theater: Elevating Developer Productivity and End User Satisfaction with AI - Sara Faatz (12:45 - 1:05pm) - Coral Sea 2 /  JETBRAINS Demo Theater (1:05 - 1:20pm) - Java Sea									




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*




Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Modern Software Engineering		Database Development		Developing New Experiences		Human Factors in Engineering		The Core of .NET		Full Stack Web Development	
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (Continued)									
1:30 PM	1:50 PM	VST05 Fast Focus: Introduction to Angular Signals - Deborah Kurata		VST06 Fast Focus: Building a Blazor MAUI Hybrid App - Rockford Lhotka		VST07 Fast Focus: Time Traveling Data: SQL Server Temporal Tables - Chad Green		VST08  Fast Focus: Learn, Share, and Grow: How to Become a Microsoft Learn Contributor - Alvin Ashcraft			
2:00 PM	2:20 PM	VST09 Fast Focus: Deploying Web Apps to Azure Using CI/CD in ADO - Allen Conway		VST10 Fast Focus: Words for Leaders - Benjamin Day		VST11 Fast Focus: What's New in EF Core - Jim Wooley		VST12 Fast Focus: Caching Options in .NET - Jason Bock			
2:20 PM	2:45 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
2:45 PM	4:00 PM	VST13 Building Websites with ASP.NET Core Razor Pages - Philip Japikse		VST14  Create Multi-platform Apps with .NET MAUI and the MAUI Community Toolkit - Alvin Ashcraft		VST15 Design & Develop True Cross-Platform .NET Apps with Uno Platform - Sam Basu		VST16  The Forgotten Features of Visual Studio You NEED In Your Life! - Mads Kristensen & Harshada Hole			
4:15 PM	5:30 PM	VST17 API FOMO: REST, gRPC or GraphQL? - Roland Guijt		VST18  Elevate SQL Development with VS Code - Carlos Robles		VST19 Build Hybrid Apps with .NET - Sam Basu		VST20 Navigating Your Career as a Software Engineer - Allen Conway			
5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Exhibitor Welcome Reception Sponsored by  Microsoft - Pacifica 7									
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio Live! Day 2: Wednesday, November 19, 2025									
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	VSW01 Angular for .NET Developers: Getting Productive with Angular & WebAPI - Benjamin Day		VSW02 The Extreme Risk of Generational Turnover - Billy Hollis		VSW03 Take Action: Go Fast with GitHub - Esteban Garcia		VSW04 C# Source Generators - Why and How - Jim Wooley			
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	VSW05 Zero to Hero: Blazor Web Apps - Allen Conway		VSW06 Burnout in Software Development - Robert Bogue		VSW07 CodeLogic: The Potential and Reality of Automated Software Development - Edwin Gnichtel		VSW08 GitHub Actions in Action - Marcel de Vries			
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
		 Vaiden Demo Theater (10:50 - 11:05am) - Coral Sea 2 /  Exclaimer Demo Theater (11:10am - 11:25am) - Java Sea									
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Azure at 15: What's Next for the Cloud, AI, and You Eric D. Boyd, Founder & CEO, responsiveX									
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Table Topics Lunch - Oceana Ballroom									
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 /  VONAGE Demo Theater (1:35 - 1:50pm) - Coral Sea 2									
2:00 PM	3:15 PM	VSW09 Blazor Authentication the Right Way - Roland Guijt		VSW10 Busy Developers Guide to Writing (Prose) - Ted Neward		VSW11 Git Storytelling: Crafting A Git Commit History Your Future Self Will Thank You For - Roy Cornelissen		VSW12 AI IDEs — What Do You Choose? - Brian A. Randell			
3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge • Expo Raffle @ 3:20 p.m. - Pacifica 7									



AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*

Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Modern Software Engineering		Database Development		Developing New Experiences		Human Factors in Engineering		The Core of .NET		Full Stack Web Development	
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio Live! Day 2: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 <i>(Continued)</i>									
4:00 PM	5:15 PM	VSW13 Blazor for JavaScript Developers - Tim Purdum			VSW14  Building Confident Application Systems with .NET Aspire: From Dev to Deployment - Jeffrey T. Fritz			VSW15 Hardening CI/CD: Essential Strategies to Mitigate Security Risks - Ken Muse		VSW16 LINQ - It's Not Just for Databases - Jeremy Clark	
7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Live! 360 Dessert Luau - Wantilan Pavilion									
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio Live! Day 3: Thursday, November 20, 2025									
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	VSH01 Versioning and Documenting ASP.NET Core Services - Philip Japikse			VSH02 Influence: Lessons Learnt from 10 Years of Developer Advocacy - Sam Basu			VSH03 Get the Message? - Choosing a Messaging Framework for Your .NET Applications - Roy Cornelissen		VSH04 Abstract Art: Getting Abstraction "Just Right" - Jeremy Clark	
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	VSH05 Build an AI-enabled Blazor App Using AI - Rockford Lhotka			VSH06  Refactoring Your Developer Identity - Chris Ayers			VSH07 Busy Developer's Guide to Python - Ted Neward		VSH08 .NET in a WebAssembly World - Jason Bock	
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION: CAN YOU KEEP BUILDING APPLICATIONS WITHOUT AGILE, DEVOPS, OR AI? <i>Angela Dugan [moderator], Jason Bock, Jeremy Clark, Billy Hollis, & Ted Neward</i>									
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Live! 360 DJ Lunch - Oceana Ballroom									
1:00 PM	2:15 PM	VSW09 Blazor Authentication the Right Way - Roland Guijt			VSH10 Navigating the Project Storm: A Guide to Overcoming 10 Development Project Pitfalls - Mickey Gousset & Ken Muse			VSH11 Rebuild or Refactor? That is the Question! - René van Osnabrugge		VSH12 Busting .NET Myths - Jason Bock	
2:30 PM	3:45 PM	VSH13  All the New Features for Developers in SQL Server 2025 - Davide Mauri			VSH14 I'm Just Trying to Keep My Head Above Water - Chris Klug			VSH15 GitHub Copilot: Measure What Matters - Mickey Gousset		VSH16 Patterns and Tools for Parallel Programming in C# - Marcel de Vries	
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	LIVE! 360 WRAP PARTY Tech Presentation - Billy Hollis, Developer. Designer. Speaker. Author. Q&A with Live! 360 Conference Chairs & Speakers: <i>Chris Ayers, Mike Benkovich, Karinne Bessette, Prashant G Bhoyar, Jason Bock, Andrew Brust, Erica Burgess, Émile Cabot, Jeremy Clark, Michelle Gilbert, Mickey Gousset, Dave Kawula, Sami Laiho, Thomas LaRock, Rockford Lhotka, Davide Mauri, Michael Niehaus, Ted Neward, John O'Neill Sr., Reza Rad, Brian Randell, Alex Thissen, & Rod Trent</i>									
START TIME	END TIME	Visual Studio Live! Post-Conference Workshops: Friday, November 21, 2025									
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	VSF01 Workshop: Modern Web Development with .NET - Chris Klug						VSF02 Hands-On Workshop: OAuth, OpenID Connect & .NET – the Good Parts - Roland Guijt			



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK



FULL DAY HANDS-ON LABS

These instructor-led, pre-conference Hands-On Labs offer attendees intensive in-depth training before the conference officially begins. Take advantage of in-person instruction as well as collaboration with peers.

- Attendance for each Hands-On Lab is limited, so be sure to sign up early for these special bring your own laptop pre-conference HOLs.

VSHOL01

Hands-On Lab: Build an ASP.NET Core MVC App with EF Core in a Day Hands-on Lab

Intermediate

PHILIP JAPIKSE

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Interested in ASP.NET Core and Entity Framework Core, but unsure where to start? Start here with an all-day Hands on Lab where you will build a complete solution using the latest development technology from Microsoft. You will create a data access library using Entity Framework Core, complete with repos and migrations. Next, you will build an ASP.NET Core web application using Razor Pages, leveraging all of the latest ASP.NET Core has to offer, including Tag Helpers, View Components, Dependency Injection, and more!

You will learn:

- Build a data access layer with EF Core
- Build a web app with ASP.NET Core Razor Pages
- Bring the web app and data access together

VSHOL02

Hands-On Lab: Design Thinking for Software Development Teams

Introductory

BILLY HOLLIS

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Billy Hollis has been teaching design and innovation concepts to software development teams for over fifteen years. As he approaches retirement, he has assembled the most valuable lessons, the best hands-on exercises, and the most critical insights about creating better applications by applying design thinking throughout the software development process. Previous attendees have said Billy's workshops have changed the entire way their teams look at software development, and helped them produce more valuable and more successful apps. Stop thinking about design in terms of visuals, layout, and aesthetics, and start thinking about it in terms of interaction, task flows, visualization of data, and mind-altering innovation. Come to this hands-on workshop ready to listen, think, sketch, imagine, collaborate, and innovate.

You will learn:

- Break with the past to learn a completely new way of approaching the design of applications
- The principles needed to guide you through a design thinking effort
- See techniques that will help you develop your design expertise and look like a pro the first time you do it

VSHOL03

Hands-On Lab: Take Your C# Skills to the Next Level

Intermediate

JEREMY CLARK

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Are you a C# developer eager to create software that is easy to maintain, has minimal bugs, and makes your users happy? This workshop is for you.

Through lectures, code samples, and hands-on labs, you will learn how interfaces, delegates, dependency injection, and unit testing can help you write applications that are easy to extend, change, and debug. Along the way you will also encounter C# topics such as nullability, switch expressions, and asynchronous code. In the end, you will take away

practical experience that you can immediately apply to your own projects.

Workshop Topics:

- Interfaces: Explore the art of writing clean, modular code through interfaces. Learn how interfaces enable code extension, make your applications more testable, and lead to fewer bugs.
- Delegates: Gain a deep understanding of delegates and learn how to use them to build flexible and extensible code.
- Dependency Injection: Dispel the magic of dependency injection and learn how it promotes loose coupling, making your codebase more flexible, testable, and maintainable.
- Unit Testing: Write tests that to make sure your code functions as expected and catch bugs early in the development process.

Key Benefits:

- Easier Maintenance: Explore practices for writing clean, maintainable code that's a breeze to work with, whether you're collaborating with a team or revisiting your own projects down the road.
- Fewer Bugs: Learn the art of writing resilient code that is easy to test. Find bugs before your users do, and be confident that code changes do not break existing functionality.
- Happier Users: The point of writing software is to meet your user's needs. With these tools in hand, you can create applications that not only meet but exceed user expectations.

Pre-Requisites:

Basic understanding of C# and object-oriented programming (classes, inheritance, methods, and properties). No prior experience with the primary topics is necessary; we'll take care of that as we go.

Take your C# development skills to the next level and build software that not only satisfies your users, but also simplifies your life as a developer. Say goodbye to frustrating bugs, hello to happier users, and welcome to the world of painless maintenance.

You will learn:

- Create loosely-coupled code using interfaces, delegates, and dependency injection.
- Find bugs quickly with unit tests (and make sure existing code continues to work).
- Write code that can be easily updated to meet your users' changing needs.



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

VSLHOL04

Hands-On Lab: Get Started with .NET Aspire & ASP.NET Core for Distributed Application Building

Intermediate

JEFFREY T. FRITZ

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Spend a day learning how to build distributed applications with the newly announced .NET Aspire stack and ASP.NET Core.

This workshop is for existing .NET developers looking to fully understand what .NET Aspire is, why they should use .NET Aspire, and how to integrate .NET Aspire into their applications.

In the morning, we will go through the basics of .NET Aspire and how to add it to an existing ASP.NET Core API backend and Blazor frontend application to take advantage of resiliency, observability, orchestration, service discovery, and the basics of .NET Aspire components. In the afternoon we will tackle deeper and richer telemetry, integrating databases, custom containers, advanced orchestration, testing, and so much more.

By the end of the day, you will have a grasp of all things .NET Aspire and how to integrate it into your applications and how to continue to deploy your application how you want.

You will learn:

- What is .NET Aspire
- Integration basics of .NET Aspire
- Advanced scenarios with .NET Aspire for enhancing apps

Attendee Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop computer (Windows or Mac) for this hands-on lab.

“I LOVE BEING ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND TALK TO SPEAKERS AT LIVE! 360 TECH CON.”

– Nik Stay, *Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals*



WORKSHOPS

Choose from a wide range of content and topics by expert presenters with Cloud & Containers Live! Orlando’s Pre- and Post-Conference full-day workshops.


VSM01

Workshop: Building Blazor Applications

Intermediate

ALLEN CONWAY, JASON BOCK, & ROCKFORD LHOTKA
Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Blazor is a modern .NET application framework, primarily used to build web applications. Since its release in 2020, it has evolved with new features and capabilities, enabling developers with the ability to produce high-quality applications for their uses. In this workshop, we’ll cover numerous features that Blazor brings to the table. We’ll discuss different hosting models and how you can use them to your advantage. At the end of the workshop, you’ll leave with a comprehensive understanding of the Blazor landscape.

 This is a lecture-based workshop, not a hands-on lab

You will learn:

- How to leverage Blazor on the server, in the browser, and on mobile devices
- How to effectively use the Blazor UI component model to build maintainable apps
- How Blazor fits into an overall app architecture, including authentication, authorization, data access, and more

VSM02

Workshop: Mastering Human Factors

Intermediate / Advanced

BENJAMIN DAY & ANGELA DUGAN
Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

You have solid DevOps pipelines, the best of breed tooling, your processes are well documented and discoverable, and your team rooms are full of comfy chairs and the tastiest

snacks! So why is it still so stinking difficult to meet your commitments and deliver high quality software? If it’s not a tooling problem it must be a people problem, and if it’s not a people problem it must be a system problem, right? It is easy to say that software delivery would be so easy...if it weren’t for all the humans. But why is that?

The technical stuff is easy by comparison. Humans need convincing and explanations and reasons for why they should embrace an Agile mindset, and follow DevOps leading practices, and work on this thing instead of that other more fun thing. If you’re in a leadership role, how can you tell if your teams are facing challenges, and what do you do about it? How do you know if your team members are productive? How can you prevent burnout, increase morale, and sustain a high performing team that crushes their commitments? What do we ALL need to know about being truly great team members, and why should we care?

In this workshop, Ben and Angela will connect the strategic, human-oriented reasoning to the tactical ‘nuts and bolts’ of a successful software organization. We’ll discuss process, metrics, communication, all of the typical Agile and DevOps concepts, and instead of focusing on any particular technology or framework, we’ll focus on how to help you and the humans around you to be happier, more effective, and truly productive.

You will learn:

- How to level up your communication and feedback to support continuous improvement, and minimize friction and conflict
- How to optimize delivery and maintain a healthy team morale by tracking the right metrics, not just the popular or common ones
- Understanding theories of complexity and constraints, and using that knowledge to manage and adapt to bottlenecks

VSM03

Workshop: Agentic DevOps: AI-Powered Development with Azure DevOps and GitHub

Intermediate / Advanced

BRIAN A. RANDELL, MICKEY GOUSSET, & KEN MUSE
Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

In this intensive 8-hour workshop, Brian, Mickey, and Ken will explore how intelligent agents are transforming the software



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

development lifecycle through “Agentic DevOps”. While many organizations have improved, the software development industry wants to try and move from weeks to plan, months to build, and quarters to launch; and instead transform to ideas become prototypes in hours and reach production in days. Modern teams need new strategies to harness AI throughout their DevOps practices.

We’ll begin by exploring how traditional DevOps, DevSecOps, and SRE principles evolve with AI integration. This represents the shift from basic DevOps to “Agentic DevOps”, one that is reimagined for a world where intelligent agents collaborate with you and with each other. Understanding this foundation is crucial as we build platforms that support AI-driven development workflows.

The workshop covers platform engineering strategies for the AI era, where teams must design systems that accommodate GitHub Copilot’s new Agent Mode that can analyze entire codebases, make edits across files, generate and run tests, fix bugs, and even suggest terminal commands—all from a single prompt. We’ll examine how to architect platforms that enable these capabilities while maintaining security and governance.

A significant focus will be on Azure DevOps and GitHub integration, exploring Microsoft’s “better together” story. We’ll cover how licensing and how you build a foundation where you code lives in GitHub Repos, but you still use Azure DevOps where you teams need it. We’ll show you how you can develop strategies for hybrid environments that maximize both platforms’ strengths. This includes demonstrations of Azure Boards and GitHub Projects for work item management, along with Azure Pipelines and GitHub Actions for CI/CD automation. We’ll show practical integration patterns that preserve existing investments while enabling AI capabilities.

Using live demonstrations, we’ll showcase GitHub Copilot’s newest coding agent that levels up GitHub Copilot from a pair programmer to peer—working like a full-fledged member of your team. You’ll see Agent Mode in action across Visual Studio, VS Code, and JetBrains IDEs, including how AI agents interact with Azure Boards work items and GitHub Projects for seamless workflow integration.

AI-powered operations and SRE practices form another critical component, featuring the new “Azure Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) Agent” that monitors production systems around the clock, responding to incidents in real time, and autonomously troubleshooting issues as they arise. We’ll demonstrate agent configuration and incident response

scenarios that show autonomous remediation capabilities working with both Azure Pipelines and GitHub Actions.

We’ll wrap up the workshop with modernization strategies, showing how to leverage GitHub Copilot for its app modernization capabilities across legacy systems. Interactive demonstrations will include migration scenarios from Azure Repos to GitHub, SRE agent configuration, and real-world app modernization projects that integrate Azure Boards, GitHub Projects, Azure Pipelines, and GitHub Actions.

You will learn:

- How to implement agentic workflows across your entire development lifecycle
- Strategic integration of Azure DevOps and GitHub Enterprise Cloud
- Practical deployment of AI agents for coding, testing, and operations
- Modern platform engineering patterns for AI-enabled teams
- Production-ready SRE automation with Azure and GitHub Copilot

VSF01

Workshop: Modern Web Development with .NET

Intermediate

CHRIS KLUG

Friday, November 21, 8:00 – 5:00pm

There are a lot of things going on in the .NET ecosystem, and a lot of it is has to do with the way that we build solutions for the web. However, it can sometimes be tricky to try and stay on top of all the new features, while at the same time try to stay productive at work... That’s where this workshop comes in!

For one day, Chris Klug, a developer, software architect and public speaker from Sweden, will walk you through some of the most interesting and useful features, tools and technologies in the ASP.NET ecosystem. Including both new features like .NET Aspire and minimal APIs, and some older ones that you might have missed, like Project Orleans and how to do integration testing of ASP.NET projects. It will even cover a few older, “basic” things, like authentication and authorization to make sure you understand how they work.

The goal is to give you an understanding of a wide a set of features and technologies that can help you build the best web-based solution possible.

Some of the included topics are:

- Authentication/Authorization
- YARP
- Minimal APIs
- Project Orleans
- .NET Aspire
- gRPC
- Integration testing
- Automated deployments

And it says “some of the included topics”, as the goal is to make it an interactive workshop to give you what you need. And to answer your questions!

You will learn:

- To understand that there is more out there than ASP.NET Core MVC
- To understand what other options might make your development life easier
- To have fun

VF02

OAuth, OpenID Connect & .NET – The Good Parts

Introductory

ROLAND GUIJT

Friday, November 21, 8:00 – 5:00pm

OAuth has been around for more than 10 years now, and has become the standard protocol for token-based security. Like every popular technology that has been growing with its requirements, there are some things which work really well, and some that did not quite stand the test of time.

2025 is an excellent year to either start learning OAuth & OpenID Connect from scratch or give them a refresher. With the upcoming OAuth 2.1 protocol revision, the protocol has been streamlined and simplified and the specification has been updated to meet modern application and security requirements. At the same time ASP.NET and .NET in general has excellent support for all the moving parts needed to implement an OAuth-based security system.

This full-day workshop teaches you all the OAuth you need utilizing the most common and practical techniques and libraries in the .NET ecosystem. Besides looking at built-in features of (ASP).NET, we will use popular frameworks like IdentityModel and IdentityServer, and we will learn how to use



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



them to secure native/desktop and web applications as well as SPAs, Blazor WASM applications, APIs and daemons.

Agenda:

Intro

- OAuth history and motivation
- OAuth terminology and architecture
- OAuth 2.1
- Typical protocol flows and application scenarios
- Machine to Machine Communication

Client Credentials Flow

- Access tokens
- Token Management
- Simplifying protocol interactions with IdentityModel
- Automatic token management
- Writing daemons using .NET Workers
- Securing APIs

JWT Bearer authentication handler for ASP.NET

- Authorization policies
- Interactive Applications

Authorization Code Flow

- Proof Key for Code Exchange (PKCE)
- The need for OpenID Connect
- Session management
- Refresh tokens
- Automatic token management with IdentityModel.AspNetCore
- Writing web applications using ASP.NET
- Bringing it all together

Integrating various applications into one coherent architecture

- Identity Providers & token services
- Federation gateways
- Daemons
- Web applications
- Native/desktop applications (e.g. Windows desktop or mobile apps)
- SPAs / Blazor applications

You will learn:

- Why OAuth exists and why it is essential to protect APIs and frontends
- Understand how and when the different OAuth flows are applied
- How to protect various application types



MODERN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

The heart of Modern Software Engineering is building and delivering software faster, reducing complexity and risk, all without sacrificing quality—quality of the software AND quality of the experience of everyone involved in building and delivering that software. The list of technical strategies, tools, and leading practices that enable modern software engineering is long and evolving rapidly. This track will help you stay on top of leading practices, tools, and strategies both with and without AI. You'll see how good practices today will make your future self and team members happy. You'll see how to build and deploy with modern tooling in Azure DevOps and GitHub, and how to weave AI into your coding and larger engineering practices.

You'll find coverage of:

- Busy Developer's Guide to Python
- Deploying Web Apps to Azure using CI/CD in ADO
- Get the Message? - Choosing a Messaging Framework for Your .NET Applications
- Git Storytelling: Crafting A Git Commit History Your Future Self Will Thank You For
- GitHub Actions in Action
- GitHub Copilot: Measure What Matters
- GitHub Models
- Hardening CI/CD: Essential Strategies to Mitigate Security Risks
- Rebuild or Refactor? That is the Question!
- Workshop: Agentic DevOps: AI-Powered Development with Azure DevOps and GitHub



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

VST09

Fast Focus: Fast Focus: Deploying Web Apps to Azure Using CI/CD in ADO

Introductory

ALLEN CONWAY

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

You will learn:

- The basics of CI/CD with ADO to deliver to Azure
- How to create .yaml pipelines for both builds and releases
- How configure and provision resources via scripting to deploy a web app to Azure

VSW03

Take Action: Go fast with GitHub

Level: Intermediate

ESTEBAN GARCIA

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- Adding Continuous Integration to your Software Development process
- Collaborating with your team through CI/CD
- Secure your software development supply chain

VSW08

GitHub Actions in Action

Intermediate

MARCEL DE VRIES

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- How to use GitHub Actions
- How to set up CI/CD pipelines in a traceable way
- How to secure your action workflows

VSW11

Git Storytelling: Crafting A Git Commit History Your Future Self Will Thank You For

Introductory / Intermediate

ROY CORNELISSEN

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- How Git works under the hood
- About the importance of a clean and readable Git history
- Techniques and tools for telling stories in Git

VSW15

Hardening CI/CD: Essential Strategies to Mitigate Security Risks

Introductory / Intermediate

KEN MUSE

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- Identify common security risks inherent in CI/CD pipelines and learn strategies to mitigate them
- To identify and rectify common misconfigurations in CI/CD tools and environments that can lead to security breaches
- Understand the risks associated with third-party dependencies and the best practices to prevent exploitation

VSH03

Get the Message? - Choosing a Messaging Framework for Your .NET Applications

Introductory / Intermediate

ROY CORNELISSEN

Thursday November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- About messaging and eventing as a concept
- How to introduce messaging in your architecture
- Get to know a few popular frameworks

VSH07

Busy Developer's Guide to Python

Intermediate

TED NEWARD

Thursday November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- How Python works
- Pick up much of Python's syntax and semantics
- Embrace the snake!

VSH11

Rebuild or Refactor? That is the Question!

Intermediate

RENÉ VAN OSNABRUGGE

Thursday November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- Analyze the Technical Debt and Architecture Constraints
- Evaluate the Impact of Rebuilding vs. Refactoring on Development Workflow
- Apply Decision-Making Frameworks to Guide Technical Strategy

VSH15

GitHub Copilot: Measure What Matters

Intermediate

MICKY GOUSSET

Thursday November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- Understand how to leverage GitHub Copilot APIs to gather and analyze GitHub Copilot data within your organization.
- Which key productivity metrics to measure beyond what's available through GitHub Copilot APIs to assess the tool's value effectively.
- Explore various reporting options and techniques to gain deeper insights into the impact of GitHub Copilot on your development teams.



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

Working with data is critical to most applications and services. This track covers some essentials around Entity Framework and SQL Server, with the option to get hands-on working with the latest SQL Projects from Microsoft. For additional data and analytics content, look at the agenda for Data Platform Live!

This track includes coverage of the following:

- All the New Features for Developers in SQL Server 2025
- Entity Framework Performance Monitoring and Tuning
- Fast Focus: Time Travelling Data: SQL Server Temporal Tables
- Fast Focus: What's new in EF Core

VST07

Fast Focus: Time Travelling Data: SQL Server Temporal Tables

Introductory

CHAD GREEN

Tuesday, November 18, 1:20 – 1:50pm

You will learn:

- Understand the key scenarios around the use of SQL Server temporal tables
- Understand how to get started using temporal tables
- Understand best practices and limitations of temporal tables

VST11

Fast Focus: What's New in EF Core

Intermediate

JIM WOOLEY

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

You will learn:

- Explore the new features of EF Core since the last LTS release
- How to keep up with EF Core changes over time
- Understand how to provide feedback or contribute new features to EF Core

VSH13

All the New Features for Developers in SQL Server 2025

Intermediate

DAVIDE MAURI

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- About the new developers features added to SQL Server 2025
- Understand how the new features can be used in your applications
- Best practices about the new features



DEVELOPING NEW EXPERIENCES

The idea of “user experience” is more than just graphics. It involves design, visuals, UI frameworks, and implementations. In this track you'll learn how to build multi-platform apps and leverage AI IDEs.

This track includes coverage of the following:

- Injecting innovation into applications through design
- Building Blazor MAUI Hybrid apps
- Using the MAUI Community Toolkit
- Choosing between AI IDEs

VST01

State of the AI World for Developers

Intermediate

BRIAN A. RANDELL

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- What's the current state of AI as of November 2025
- What are the latest tools and frameworks you can use to build AI-enabled applications
- How to leverage AI agents and agentic systems in your development workflow
- What to consider when adding AI capabilities to your applications

VST02

Injecting Innovation Into Applications Through Design

Introductory

BILLY HOLLIS

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- Discover techniques to make your team innovation focused, allowing them to build more valuable applications
- See inspirational examples of innovation in apps that provided extraordinary value

“LIVE! 360 CONFERENCE INCLUDES A VERY IMPRESSIVE LIST OF SESSIONS, WITH VERY TALENTED PRESENTERS, AND EXCELLENT NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES. THANK YOU, LIVE 360!”

– Antonio Villafana, Virginia Department of Human Resource Management



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

- See how current processes and methodologies hamper innovation, and how to overcome that inertia

VST06

Fast Focus: Building a Blazor MAUI Hybrid App

Intermediate

ROCKFORD LHOTKA

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

Learn how to build a Blazor MAUI Hybrid app that can run natively on multiple types of device and operating system. This includes the use of per-platform APIs, authentication, authorization, and other important concepts.

VST14

Create Multi-platform Apps with .NET MAUI and the MAUI Community Toolkit

Introductory

ALVIN ASHCRAFT

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

You will learn:

- The benefits of using .NET MAUI for your next cross platform app.
- To implement the MVVM pattern painlessly with the MVVM Toolkit.
- To create a .NET MAUI app without writing any XAML.

VST15

Design & Develop True Cross-Platform .NET Apps with Uno Platform

Intermediate

SAM BASU

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

You will learn:

- Introduction to the Uno Platform stack
- Explore latest cross-platform tooling
- Understand code sharing and developer flexibility with Uno Platform

VST19

Build Hybrid Apps with .NET

Advanced

SAM BASU

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

Welcome to the hybrid mindset with .NET – let's mix & match technology stacks & move apps forward.

VSW07

CodeLogic: The Potential and Reality of Automated Software Development

Introductory / Intermediate

EDWIN "NED" GNICHTEL

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 - 10:45am

In this session, attendees will learn about the mechanics of how CodeLogic builds a comprehensive software and data architecture knowledge-graph, how the platform uses this data to generatively automate planning and execution workstreams, and how these workstreams are used to drive autonomous AI driven remediation and code generation.

VSW12

AI-enabled IDEs and Editors: What Do You Choose?

Introductory / Intermediate

BRIAN A. RANDELL

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- The current landscape of AI-powered IDEs and coding assistants from major vendors
- Key differences between AI plugins, standalone editors, and command-line tools
- Practical demonstrations of JetBrains, Google, and Anthropic AI coding solutions
- How to evaluate AI IDEs for your development needs and team
- Integration considerations for Microsoft development workflows

VSH05

Build an AI-enabled Blazor App Using AI

Intermediate

ROCKFORD LHOTKA

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- How to use AI to build a Blazor app
- How to incorporate AI into your Blazor app
- Use Blazor to build a desktop, mobile, and web app

“LIVE! 360 TECH CON HAD VERY GOOD SESSIONS COVERING A BROAD RANGE OF USEFUL AND IMMEDIATELY ACTIONABLE TOPICS. THE ABILITY TO ATTEND SESSIONS IN MULTIPLE DIFFERENT TRACKS MAKES THE CONFERENCE VERY FLEXIBLE, AND THEREFORE, MORE APPLICABLE TO MORE PEOPLE.”

– Anthony Reynolds, CHESS Health Solutions



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



HUMAN FACTORS IN ENGINEERING

Engineering software, systems, and processes are complex! One factor that is key to success that is particularly challenging to account for and that is often not focused on proactively – is the human factor. Drucker famously said that “culture eats strategy for breakfast”, meaning that the best laid system architecture, cloud strategies, and DevOps pipelines are only as effective as the people and teams who are implementing those brilliant plans. And to be effective, those individuals and teams need leaders who are connected and present and who provide clear vision and priorities for their teams to align to. They also need to work within a culture that embraces and encourages experimentation, learning, and continuous improvement, with access to tools and processes that reduce friction and boost collaboration. The sessions in the Human Factors in Engineering track focus on topics that will be relevant and useful for a lifetime regardless of the platform, languages, and “best practices” that you use along the way.

Topics in this track include:

- Mastering Human Factors Workshop
- Fast Focus: Words for Leaders
- Refactoring Your Developer Identity
- Navigating Your Career as a Software Engineer
- Navigating the Project Storm: A Guide to Overcoming 10 Development Project Pitfalls
- The Power of Influence: Lessons Learnt from 10 years of Developer Advocacy
- The Software Developer As an Agent of Corporate Change
- Burnout in Software Development
- I’m just trying to keep my head above water

VST10

Fast Focus: Words for Leaders

Intermediate / Advanced

BENJAMIN DAY

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

You will learn:

- What are linguistic frames?
- How do you use positive words vs negative words to lead change?
- How do you improve relations with unhappy, distrustful customers and stakeholders?

CRT08

Fear and (Self) Loathing in IT – A Healthy Discussion on Imposter Syndrome

Everyone

ANGELA DUGAN

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

In this session, I’ll share some of my own adventures in embracing my fears, learning to trust myself and others, getting comfortable with asking for help, and developing resilience.

VST20

Navigating Your Career as a Software Engineer

Introductory

ALLEN CONWAY

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- About career progression options as a software engineer
- How to weigh and consider options and decisions throughout your career
- About the tradeoffs of different decisions in your software engineering career

VSW02

The Extreme Risk of Generational Turnover

Introductory

BILLY HOLLIS

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- The concept of generational turnover of people and technology, and the risk it entails
- Get a blueprint for analyzing generational turnover in your own organization
- See the options for dealing with generational turnover, and the risks and benefits of each

VSW06

Burnout in Software Development

Introductory / Intermediate

ROBERT BOGUE

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Understand the factors that lead to burnout
- Identify activities and perspectives that reduce the incidence of burnout
- Synthesize interventions that will discourage burnout in your organization

VSW10

Busy Developers Guide to Writing (Prose)

Intermediate

TED NEWARD

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- Why writing prose is an essential developer skill
- Discover how writing benefits development and vice versa
- Embrace your inner Shakespeare!



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

VSH02

Influence: Lessons Learned from 10 Years of Developer Advocacy

Introductory

SAM BASU

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- Understand advocacy & building influence
- Explore human factors in software industry
- Explore real world strategies for developer advocacy

VSH06

Refactoring Your Developer Identity

Introductory / Intermediate

CHRIS AYERS

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Why tying your identity to a single stack can limit your career
- How to reframe new technical challenges as growth opportunities
- Ways to apply architecture and design skills across stacks
- Moving from “good developer” to “trusted problem solver”
- Adopting a mindset that keeps you resilient, relevant, and irreplaceable

VSH10

Navigating the Project Storm: A Guide to Overcoming 10 Development Project Pitfalls

Intermediate

MICKEY GOUSSET & KEN MUSE

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- Understand the principles of secure coding practices and how to apply them in real-world projects.
- To integrate security tools and methodologies into your GitHub and Azure DevOps workflows for enhanced project protection.
- Develop the ability to identify, mitigate, and respond to security threats, fostering a robust DevSecOps culture within your development teams.

VSH14

I’m Just Trying to Keep My Head Above Water

Introductory

CHRIS KLUG

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- To understand that mental health issues are common
- To understand that mental health issues hits people from all walks of life
- To see how mental health issues can impact peoples worklife



THE CORE OF .NET

Modern .NET 10 is the open-source and cross-platform for building nearly any kind of app. With .NET 10 recently released, you need to understand the major changes in the platform, not to mention the cool features being added to C#. These are the foundation-level topics you need to know for success in the Microsoft development world, and we’ve got sessions and hands-on options for you to explore! Whether it’s getting the most out of your editor or IDE or using the latest frameworks for building next-generation solutions, this track has the content you need to embrace.

Topics in this track include:

- New features in C# and .NET
- How to contribute to Microsoft Learn
- Caching options in .NET
- Building and using C# source generators
- Using VS Code to elevate SQL Development
- LINQ beyond databases
- Finding the right level of abstraction for your code
- .NET in a WebAssembly world
- Busting .NET mythsos
- Patterns and tools for parallel processing

VST03

Useful New-ish Features in .NET/C#

Introductory / Intermediate

DEBORAH KURATA

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- Discover the latest gems in C# and .NET
- Uncover the usefulness of these new(ish) features
- Master techniques to integrate these features into your current projects

VST04

Next-Level Debugging with GitHub Copilot in Visual Studio

Introductory / Intermediate

HARSHADA HOLE

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Use GitHub Copilot to accelerate and simplify debugging.
- Discover hidden gems in the Visual Studio debugger.
- Explore Copilot’s agent mode for AI-guided issue resolution.
- Apply practical tips to improve debugging speed and clarity.

VST08

Fast Focus: Learn, Share, and Grow: How to Become a Microsoft Learn Contributor

Introductory

ALVIN ASHCRAFT

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

You will learn:

- Basics of getting around a Microsoft Learn documentation page.
- How anyone can update the docs on Microsoft Learn.
- Several ways to provide feedback about the docs on Microsoft Learn.



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

VST12

Fast Focus: Caching Options in .NET

Introductory / Intermediate

JASON BOCK

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

You will learn:

- Understand the advantages and disadvantages to caching
- See what options are available to .NET developers
- Effective patterns and principles for caching in a .NET application

VST16

The Forgotten Features of Visual Studio You NEED In Your Life!

Introductory / Intermediate

MADS KRISTENSEN & HARSHADA HOLE

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 - 4:00pm

You will learn:

- Discover lesser-known tools, settings, and shortcuts in Visual Studio that can significantly improve daily development workflows.
- Practical tips and tricks that reduce context-switching and streamline debugging, editing, and project navigation.
- Walk away with a curated list of hidden features and extensions to immediately boost productivity.

VST18

Elevate SQL Development with VS Code

Intermediate

CARLOS ROBLES

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- Master a modern SQL development workflow with a revamped UI/UX and cloud-like local development experience.
- Efficiently design, manage, and compare schemas using Schema Designer and Schema Compare.
- Boost productivity with AI-powered assistance, leveraging GitHub Copilot for schema design, query generation, and performance optimization.

VSW04

C# Source Generators - Why and How

Advanced

JIM WOOLEY

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- Understand how to use existing source generators to reduce repetitive processes
- How replacing reflection based runtime code with compile-time code generation can improve your application performance and reduce application size.
- Discover how to build your own source generator for your specific use cases.

VSW16

LINQ - It's Not Just for Databases

Intermediate

JEREMY CLARK

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- How to use LINQ methods with lambda expressions as parameters.
- Combine LINQ methods to filter, sort, and aggregate data based on the user's needs at runtime.
- See LINQ lazy evaluation in action (and how to avoid "eager" evaluation).

VSH04

Abstract Art: Getting Abstraction "Just Right"

Intermediate

JEREMY CLARK

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- Understand the benefits and drawbacks to abstraction.
- Techniques for getting the right level of abstractions in your application.
- Find out whether you are an under-abtractor or over-abtractor.





VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

VSH08

.NET in a WebAssembly World

Intermediate

JASON BOCK

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Understand what WebAssembly is and how it works
- Discover how .NET targets WebAssembly
- Gain an understanding of what exists today (and potentially in the future) with .NET + WebAssembly

VSH12

Busting .NET Myths

Intermediate

JASON BOCK

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- Learn (or unlearn!) how key parts of .NET works
- Gain insight into language features and their implementations
- Develop new skills to apply in .NET applications

VSH16

Patterns and Tools for Parallel Programming in C#

Intermediate

MARCEL DE VRIES

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- Introduction to Parallel Programming in C#
- Deep dive into the Task Parallel Library (TPL)
- Patterns for optimizing CPU usage



FULL STACK WEB DEVELOPMENT

Web development is the dominant approach for building enterprise software. To provide your best on every project, you need to understand the server and browser client worlds. On the server, there's ASP.NET using .NET 10, Razor Pages, and support for building services. The browser client is evolving rapidly, with constant changes and updates to Blazor, JavaScript, TypeScript, and other related frameworks. You need to think about your apps “in production” and consider long-term versioning and security. Your need to keep up to date with all these technologies has never been greater, and we're here to give you the knowledge you need!

Topics in this track include:

- Building apps with ASP.NET Core MVC and EF
- Building Blazor apps
- Introduction to Angular Signals
- Building websites with Razor Pages
- When to use REST, gRPC or GraphQL
- Angular for .NET developers
- Blazor authentication
- Blazor for Javascript developers
- Versioning and documenting ASP.NET Core services
- State management in Blazor

VST05

Fast Focus: Introduction to Angular Signals

Introductory / Intermediate

DEBORAH KURATA

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

You will learn:

- What signals are and why they are useful
- Discover the benefits of a reactive approach to data retrieval
- Master techniques to integrate these features into your current projects

VST13

Building Websites with ASP.NET Core Razor Pages

Intermediate

PHILIP JAPIKSE

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

You will learn:

- Foundations of ASP.NET Core
- DI, configuration, the options pattern, and routing
- Razor Pages, page handlers, layouts, view components, and tag helpers

VST17

API FOMO: REST, gRPC or GraphQL?

Introductory

ROLAND GUIJT

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- Understand the differences between the 3 technologies
- How they are implemented in ASP.NET Core
- When to use which

VSW01

Angular for .NET Developers: Getting Productive with Angular & WebAPI

Intermediate

BENJAMIN DAY

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- How to use Reactive Forms in Angular to create maintainable code
- How to call WebAPI actions from Angular Services and handle common errors
- Write WebAPI controller actions to handle authorization / claims scenarios without breaking Angular



VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

VSW05

Zero to Hero: Blazor Web Apps

Introductory

ALLEN CONWAY

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Fundamentals of Blazor and creating a modern Blazor web application
- How to leverage client and server-side options seamlessly in Blazor Apps
- How to create modern web components for composable views using Blazor

VSW09

Blazor Authentication the Right Way

Intermediate

ROLAND GUIJT

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- Understand that the right way to protect Blazor applications depends on how you use it
- How to apply OAuth/OpenID Connect using the various Blazor “modes”
- Untangle the confusing information on the web about Blazor auth

VSW13

Blazor for JavaScript Developers

Introductory

TIM PURDUM

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- About the advantages and tradeoffs of using Asp.NET Core Blazor for web development.
- Compare and contrast Blazor with React and other popular front-end frameworks.
- How to get started with Blazor.

VSW14

Building Confident Application Systems with .NET Aspire: From Dev to Deployment

Intermediate

JEFFREY T. FRITZ

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- Scaffold and structure your app using Aspire’s development model
- Deploy systems to Azure or containerized environments with ease
- Integrate CI/CD pipelines using GitHub Actions
- Instrument your app with custom metrics to gain meaningful insights

VSH01

Versioning and Documenting ASP.NET Core Services

Intermediate

PHILIP JAPIKSE

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- Why Versioning and Documentation ASP.NET Core RESTful services is important
- Adding versioning into your ASP.NET Core RESTful services
- Adding OpenAPI documentation into your ASP.NET Core RESTful services

VSH09

State Management in Blazor

Intermediate / Advanced

TIM PURDUM

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- Identify the unique challenges of maintaining user and application state across server and client rendered components.
- Reusable patterns to abstract away state storage, caching, and database storage across client and server Razor components.
- How the Blazor component lifecycle works and how to harness lifecycle events to track, undo, and redo changes.





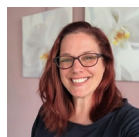
VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE CHAIRS



Andrew Brust
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights

Visual Studio Live!
Conference Co-Chair



Angela Dugan
Vice President, Product
Delivery, Red Foundry

Visual Studio Live!
Conference Co-Chair



Rockford Lhotka
VP of Strategy,
Xebia

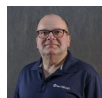
Visual Studio Live!
Conference Co-Chair



Brian A. Randell
Partner,
MCW Technologies

Visual Studio Live!
Conference Co-Chair

SPEAKERS



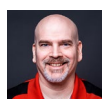
Alvin Ashcraft
Sr. Content
Developer, Microsoft



Chris Ayers
Senior SRE,
Microsoft



Sam Basu
Lead Developer
Advocate,
Uno Platform



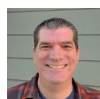
Jason Bock
Staff Software
Engineer,
Rocket Mortgage



Robert Bogue
President,
Thor Projects LLC



Andrew Brust
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights



Jeremy Clark
Developer Educator



Allen Conway
Principal Consultant,
Xebia



Roy Cornelissen
Cloud Solution
Architect, Xebia



Benjamin Day
Author, Trainer,
Developer



Marcel de Vries
Global MD & CTO,
Xebia



Angela Dugan
Vice President,
Product Delivery,
Red Foundry



Jeff Fritz
Program Manager,
Microsoft



Esteban Garcia
Agentic DevOps



**Edwin "Ned"
Gnichtel**
CEO, CodeLogic



Mickey Gousset
Staff DevOps
Architect, GitHub



Chad Green
Senior Systems Archi-
tect, Jasper Engines
& Transmissions



Roland Guijt
Microsoft MVP,
Trainer



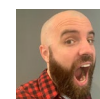
Harshada Hole
Sr. Product Manager,
Microsoft



Billy Hollis
Developer. Designer.
Speaker. Author.



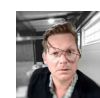
Philip Japikse
CTO/Chief Architect,
Pintas & Mullins



Nik Karpinsky
Principal Software
Engineering Lead,
Microsoft



Chris Klug
Developer,
Active Solution



Mads Kristensen
Principal Product
Manager, Microsoft



Deborah Kurata
Consultant, Speaker,
Author



Rockford Lhotka
VP of Strategy,
Xebia



Davide Mauri
Principal Product
Manager, Microsoft



Ken Muse
Staff DevOps
Architect, GitHub



Ted Neward
Principal,
Neward and
Associates



Tim Purdum
Engineering Manager
and Senior Software
Engineer, dymaptic



Brian A. Randell
Partner,
MCW Technologies



Carlos Robles
Principal Product
Manager, Microsoft



Rene van Osnabrugge
Chief Consulting
Excellence, Xebia



Jim Wooley
Senior Delivery
Principal for Slalom
Consulting



Data Platform[®] **LIVE!**

INSIGHTS FOR MANAGING YOUR DATA ESTATE



Business
Intelligence



Database
Administration &
Maintenance



Data
Management



Database Performance
Tuning and
Optimization



Database
Development



Streaming and Event
Data Techniques



Microsoft
Fabric



A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

THE DATA LANDSCAPE HAS TRANSFORMED

dramatically, and we're witnessing an unprecedented convergence of artificial intelligence, cloud-native architectures, and unified analytics platforms. At the heart of this revolution lies the Microsoft Data Platform—now a comprehensive ecosystem that spans everything from traditional databases to cutting-edge AI-powered analytics.

Whether you're diving deep into the latest SQL Server 2025 capabilities, exploring the rapidly evolving Microsoft Fabric ecosystem, or harnessing the power of AI through Azure OpenAI Service integrations, the modern data professional needs to navigate an increasingly sophisticated toolkit.

Perhaps you're focused on optimizing performance in hybrid cloud environments, mastering real-time analytics with Microsoft Fabric's unified Lakehouse architecture, or implementing responsible AI governance across your data estate. Maybe you're curious about the latest Power BI innovations, including natural language querying and automated insights, or you want to understand how Copilot is transforming data workflows across the platform.

Your interests might encompass Azure SQL Database for operational data, Fabric data warehouses for analytics, Microsoft Purview for comprehensive data

governance, or the game-changing capabilities of Azure Cosmos DB for globally distributed applications. Perhaps you're ready to explore how vector databases, RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation) and agentic AI patterns are reshaping data architecture, or how to implement REST and GraphQL Database Endpoints with Data API Builder.

Whether you identify as a database administrator embracing cloud-first strategies, a data engineer building modern data platforms, an analytics professional leveraging AI-assisted insights, or a developer integrating intelligent applications with robust data foundations, Data Platform Live! brings you a community of peers and experts ready to share the latest innovations.

This year's content reflects the industry's shift toward AI-first data platforms, with sessions covering everything from Using Copilot in SQL Server Management Studio to implementing enterprise-grade vector search capabilities. We've carefully curated presentations from the most respected independent experts in the Microsoft data ecosystem—practitioners who are actively solving the challenges you face every day.

The event's co-location within Live! 360 Tech Con creates unique cross-pollination opportunities,

allowing you to explore how modern data platforms integrate with cloud-native development, DevOps practices, and emerging technologies like Dev Containers and Azure AI Agent Service—all critical components of today's digital transformation initiatives.

Whether your goal is to master specific technologies or gain strategic insights for architecting next-generation data solutions, Data Platform Live! 2025 offers the depth and breadth you need to stay ahead of the curve.

We're excited to welcome you to what promises to be our most forward-looking conference yet.

See you in Orlando this November!

DATA PLATFORM LIVE! CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS



Andrew Brust
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights










Thomas LaRock
Data Professional and Consultant




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE












Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Business Intelligence	Database Administration & Maintenance	Database Development	Data Management	Database Performance Tuning and Optimization	Streaming and Event Data Techniques	Microsoft Fabric
START TIME	END TIME	Data Platform Live! Pre-Conference Hands-On Labs: Sunday, November 16, 2025				
7:00 AM	9:00 AM	Hands-On Lab Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries				
9:00 AM	6:00 PM	DPHOL01 Hands-On Lab: Building Modern Applications with SQL Server 2025: AI and New Developer Features - Leonard Lobel				
10:00 AM	7:00 PM	Pre-Conference Registration - Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center				
START TIME	END TIME	Data Platform Live! Pre-Conference Workshops: Monday, November 17, 2025				
7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries				
8:30 AM	5:30 PM	DPM01  Workshop: Maximizing Performance in SQL Server & Azure SQL - Bradley Ball, Thomas LaRock, & Daniel Taylor			DPM02  Workshop: ETL, KQL, and RTI - Harnessing Data in Motion with Microsoft Fabric - Matt Gordon & Christopher Schmidt	
5:45 PM	6:15 PM	Live! 360 First Timers Forum: A New Attendees Guide - Pacifica 6				
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Mix & Mingle @ Hard Rock Café Universal CityWalk				
START TIME	END TIME	Data Platform Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025				
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries				
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	 DATA PLATFORM LIVE! KEYNOTE: When All You Have is a Nail, Everything is a Hammer Buck Woody, Applied Data Scientist, Azure Data Services Team, Microsoft				
9:15 AM	10:30 AM	DPT01 Creating REST and GraphQL Database Endpoints with Data API Builder - Leonard Lobel			DPT02 PostgreSQL Fundamentals and Tooling - Rob Mandeville	
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Networking Break Sponsored by  Microsoft Azure • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 / THREATLOCKER Demo Theater (10:35 - 10:50am) - Coral Sea 2				
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Agentic DevOps in Real Life - Build Faster, Ship Safer, Keep Humans in the Loop Mickey Gousset, Staff DevOps Architect, GitHub & Brian A. Randell, Partner, MCW Technologies				
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Lunch - Oceana Ballroom • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7				
12:45 PM	1:30 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7				
		 Progress Demo Theater: Elevating Developer Productivity and End User Satisfaction with AI - Sara Faatz (12:45 - 1:05pm) - Coral Sea 2 /  JETBRAINS Demo Theater (1:05 - 1:20pm) - Java Sea				
1:30 PM	1:50 PM	DPT03  Fast Focus: Choosing the Right Azure PaaS Offering for Your SQL Server Workload - Kendal Van Dyke			DPT04 Fast Focus: Parameterizing Pipeline Connections in Microsoft Fabric - Meagan Longoria	




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*





Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Business Intelligence		Database Administration & Maintenance		Database Development		Data Management		Database Performance Tuning and Optimization		Streaming and Event Data Techniques		Microsoft Fabric	
START TIME		END TIME		Data Platform Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (Continued)									
2:00 PM		2:20 PM		DPT05  Fast Focus on the Data Landscape - Buck Woody					DPT06 Fast Focus: Migrating SQL Server from On-premises to Azure MI Using DMS / Log Replay - Gilda Alvarez				
2:20 PM		2:45 PM		Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
2:45 PM		4:00 PM		DPT07  Work Smarter, Not Harder: A Guide to Using Copilot in SSMS - Kendal Van Dyke					DPT08 Entity Framework Performance Monitoring and Tuning - Jim Wooley				
4:15 PM		5:30 PM		DPT09  Introduction to Real-Time Intelligence in Microsoft Fabric: A Dive into Event-Driven Architectures - Christopher Schmidt					DPT10 Empowering AI Applications with Vector Search in SQL Server and Azure Cosmos DB - Leonard Lobel				
5:30 PM		7:00 PM		Exhibitor Welcome Reception Sponsored by  Microsoft - Pacifica 7									
START TIME		END TIME		Data Platform Live! Day 2: Wednesday, November 19, 2025									
7:30 AM		8:00 AM		Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM		9:15 AM		DPW01 Microsoft Fabric: Defragmenting the Analytics Stack - Andrew Brust					DPW02  Understanding Vector Databases - Buck Woody				
9:30 AM		10:45 AM		DPW03 Data Visualization in Fabric Notebooks for the Power BI Pro - Meagan Longoria					DPW04  Indexing Internals for Developers & DBAs - Bradley Ball				
10:45 AM		11:30 AM		Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
				 aiden Demo Theater (10:50 - 11:05am) - Coral Sea 2 /  Exclaimer Demo Theater (11:10am - 11:25am) - Java Sea									
11:30 AM		12:30 PM		LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Azure at 15: What's Next for the Cloud, AI, and You Eric D. Boyd, Founder & CEO, responsiveX									
12:30 PM		1:30 PM		Table Topics Lunch - Oceana Ballroom									
1:30 PM		2:00 PM		Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 /  VONAGE Demo Theater (1:35 - 1:50pm) - Coral Sea 2									
2:00 PM		3:15 PM		DPW05 Implementing Azure Arc for SQL Server - Gilda Alvarez					DPW06  Becoming a Data Architect - Buck Woody				
3:15 PM		4:00 PM		Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge • Expo Raffle @ 3:20 p.m. - Pacifica 7									
4:00 PM		5:15 PM		DPW07  Real Time Monitoring with Real-life Use Cases Using Database Watcher - Daniel Taylor					DPW08 Four Things You Can Do with Semantic Link Labs and Power BI Reports - Meagan Longoria				
7:30 PM		9:00 PM		Live! 360 Dessert Luau - Wantilan Pavilion									



AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*

Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Business Intelligence	Database Administration & Maintenance	Database Development	Data Management	Database Performance Tuning and Optimization	Streaming and Event Data Techniques	Microsoft Fabric
START TIME	END TIME	Data Platform Live! Day 3: Thursday, November 20, 2025				
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries				
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	DPH01 Fast and Furious: Power BI Direct Lake in Fabric - Reza Rad			DPH02  SQL ❤️ JSON: The Best of Both Worlds - Davide Mauri	
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	DPH03 Built to Last; the Right Power BI Architecture - Reza Rad			DPH04 Locking, Blocking, and Deadlocks - Thomas LaRock	
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	DATA PLATFORM LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION: DATA QUALITY IN THE AGE OF AI: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES Thomas LaRock [moderator], Meagan Longoria, Reza Rad, & Davide Mauri				
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Live! 360 DJ Lunch - Oceana Ballroom				
1:00 PM	2:15 PM	DPH05  SQL Server 2025: Mastering High Availability, Disaster Recovery, and Business Continuity - Abdullah Mamun & David Pless			DPH06  SQL Server 2025: The Enterprise AI-Ready Database - Kendal Van Dyke	
2:30 PM	3:45 PM	DPH07  Tame the Beast: Scaling Azure SQL Virtual Machine with Premium Storage - David Pless			DPH08 Performance Tuning SQL Server Using Wait Statistics - Thomas LaRock	
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	LIVE! 360 WRAP PARTY Tech Presentation - Billy Hollis, Developer. Designer. Speaker. Author. Q&A with Live! 360 Conference Chairs & Speakers: Chris Ayers, Mike Benkovich, Karinne Bessette, Prashant G Bhoyar, Jason Bock, Andrew Brust, Erica Burgess, Émile Cabot, Jeremy Clark, Michelle Gilbert, Mickey Gousset, Dave Kawula, Sami Laiho, Thomas LaRock, Rockford Lhotka, Davide Mauri, Michael Niehaus, Ted Neward, John O'Neill Sr., Reza Rad, Brian Randell, Alex Thissen, & Rod Trent				
START TIME	END TIME	Data Platform Live! Post-Conference Workshops: Friday, November 21, 2025				
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries				
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	DPF01 Workshop: Microsoft Fabric for the Power BI Professional - Reza Rad				



DATA PLATFORM LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK



FULL DAY HANDS-ON LABS

These instructor-led, pre-conference Hands-On Labs offer attendees intensive in-depth training before the conference officially begins. Choose from nine extended 8-hour labs and take advantage of in-person instruction as well as collaboration with peers.

- Attendance for each Hands-On Lab is limited, so be sure to sign up early for these special bring your own laptop pre-conference HOLs.

DPHOL01

Hands-On Lab: Building Modern Applications with SQL Server 2025: AI and New Developer Features

Intermediate

LEONARD LOBEL

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Join Lenni for this immersive full-day hands-on lab workshop designed to get you up to speed with the latest and most powerful developer features in SQL Server 2025 and Azure SQL Database. Bring your laptop and roll up your sleeves. You'll actively build, query, and explore your way through the exciting new capabilities of the platform, guided by expert instruction and real-world examples.

You'll learn about the latest T-SQL enhancements, including fuzzy matching and regular expressions, that let you write more expressive and intelligent queries. You'll also work with the new Change Event Streaming feature to stream data changes directly from SQL Server to Azure Event Hubs—enabling real-time, event-driven systems right on top of your database. And you'll dive into the brand-new native JSON data type, blazing-fast JSON indexing, and updated JSON functions that enable high-performance document-style querying in the database.

You will also dive into the advanced new AI capabilities introduced in SQL Server 2025. You'll build Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) solutions using the native

vector data type, vector search, and DiskANN indexing for high-performance semantic search capabilities. You'll also define and reuse AI models securely, enabling natural language querying directly in SQL Server.

By the end of this workshop, you'll have hands-on experience and working knowledge of SQL Server 2025's most important new developer features—and a collection of labs you can reuse long after the event.

What You'll Learn and Do:

- Write expressive and efficient T-SQL using fuzzy matching, regex, and pattern search
- Build JSON-based apps with the new native JSON type and JSON indexing
- Implement AI-powered search with native vector support, DiskANN vector indexing, and AI model definitions
- Capture change data using Change Event Streaming tables

You will learn:

- Use advanced T-SQL techniques—including fuzzy matching and regular expressions—to write smarter, more expressive queries
- Build modern apps with native JSON and vector data types for high-performance document querying and AI-based semantic search
- Enable real-time analytics, monitoring, and event-driven workflows using Change Event Streaming



WORKSHOPS

Choose from a wide range of content and topics by expert presenters with Live! 360 Orlando's Pre- and Post-Conference full-day workshops.

DPM01

Workshop: Maximizing Performance in SQL Server & Azure SQL

Introductory / Intermediate

BRADLEY BALL, THOMAS LAROCK, & DANIEL TAYLOR

Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

In this session, we will explore the intricacies of optimizing performance in SQL Server and Azure SQL. We will start with

an in-depth look at hardware and cloud resources, covering CPU, Memory, IOPs/JBODS, and Networking. Next, we will delve into understanding query performance by examining the SQL Query Optimizer, locking, blocking, indexing, and recovery models. We will also discuss how to size workloads, planning for both low-use and high-capacity systems, and gather metrics to project IOPs, Memory, and CPU utilization. Finally, we will cover scaling workloads through replication, AlwaysOn, and Microsoft Fabric Mirroring.

Hardware / How the Cloud works:

- CPU
- Memory
- IOPs / JBODs
- Networking

Understanding Query Performance:

- Review how the Query Optimizer works
- Locking
- Blocking
- Indexing
- Recovery Models

Sizing Workloads:

- Planning for low use to high-capacity system
- Gathering metrics to project IOPs, Memory, & CPU Utilization

Scaling Workloads via:

- Replication
- AlwaysOn
- Microsoft Fabric Mirroring

You will learn:

- Understand Cloud storage access patterns
- Understand query performance tuning
- Understand how to maximize performance

DPM02

Workshop: ETL, KQL, and RTI - Harnessing Data in Motion with Microsoft Fabric

Introductory

MATT GORDON & CHRISTOPHER SCHMIDT

Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Real-time Intelligence in Microsoft Fabric brings us into the next generation of data movement and event-driven architecture. As the arms race of cloud data platforms continues, make sure you know the weapons at your disposal, so you and your company are fully equipped for the future - because the future is not far away. While you may be familiar



DATA PLATFORM LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

with RTI's streaming data capabilities, did you know it can be an integral part of your ETL architecture? While you may have heard of KQL, did you know it can do data visualization? While you may have heard of RTI, did you know it can help you monitor your entire data estate?

Join RTI product group members and Microsoft Data Platform MVPs for a full day of learning.

You will learn:

- Loading a full medallion architecture using RTI components
- Use case by use case breakdown of the components of RTI and how customers are using them today across their data estate
- Data visualization and trend analysis with KQL
- Monitoring your entire data estate using Real-time Intelligence in Microsoft Fabric

DPF01

Workshop: Microsoft Fabric for the Power BI Professional

Intermediate

REZA RAD

Friday, November 21, 8:00am – 5:00pm

This is a workshop for Power BI Developers to learn how they can enhance their existing Power BI solution with the components of Microsoft Fabric and how each component takes part in the overall architecture of the analytical solution.

In this workshop, features such as Data Engineering, Data Warehousing, Data Integration, and One Lake will be discussed as their role in a multi-layered architecture solution for Power BI. Attendees will learn how to use Dataflows and data pipelines to build the ETL solution, load the data into staging Lakehouse, apply data engineering scenarios, transform it into Star schema and then load it into a data warehouse, the importance of medallion architecture, the Onelake feature of Shortcut to re-use components and finally the Power BI DirectLake to have a better connection type from Power BI to the underlying data. The concepts will be discussed in detail with many hands-on lab exercises. Reza developed the content of this workshop based on his work with current customer projects, best practices, and experiences.

This is not a workshop about all the features of Fabric. Only the features directly related to Power BI solution architecture will be discussed. These are data engineering, integration, warehousing, and Power BI.

Attendees will leave this workshop with a ready-to-use plan and an approach to enhance their existing Power BI solution architecture to a multi-layered, easy-to-maintain solution using Microsoft Fabric.

You will learn:

- Microsoft Fabric in general
- Areas of Microsoft fabric useful for Power BI, such as Lakehouse, Warehouse, Data Factory and Direct Lake
- How components of Fabric helps to build a better Power BI solution



BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Organizations are increasingly turning to Power BI, semantic link and data vizualization in Fabric notebooks, SQL Server Analysis Services and related technologies to help them understand their businesses better. Data Platform Live! presents great content to help you master the world of BI and analytics, and help your organization make every business decision a data-driven one.

DPW03

Data Visualization in Fabric Notebooks for the Power BI Pro

Introductory / Intermediate

MEAGAN LONGORIA

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Demonstrate how to create a notebook and import packages in Fabric
- Demonstrate how to build charts in Python with common libraries
- Compare strengths and weaknesses of Python notebooks with Power BI reports to identify ideal scenarios for each

DPW08

Four Things You Can Do with Semantic Link Labs and Power BI Reports

Intermediate

MEAGAN LONGORIA

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- How to import Semantic Link Labs in a Fabric notebook
- How to call the functions in the sempy_labs package
- See how to chain sempy_labs functions and basic python together to create useful solutions

DPH03

Built to Last; the Right Power BI Architecture

Advanced

REZA RAD

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Multi-layered architecture for Power BI
- How multiple developer work on the same Power BI solution
- How to re-use Power BI components





DATA PLATFORM LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



DATABASE ADMINISTRATION & MAINTENANCE

Looking to brush up on SQL Server administration fundamentals? Are you a “reluctant DBA” charged with supporting SQL Server and Azure SQL Database, but given no training? Data Platform Live! is here to help with a complete selection of core maintenance topics including brand new content for the just released SQL Server 2025.

DPT02

PostgreSQL Fundamentals and Tooling

Intermediate

ROB MANDEVILLE

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

Join us as we dive into a growing ask of DBAs to provide support for PostgreSQL databases.

DPT03

Fast Focus: Choosing the Right Azure PaaS Offering for Your SQL Server Workload

Intermediate

KENDAL VAN DYKE

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

You'll leave with a clear framework to make informed decisions and optimize your SQL Server deployments in the cloud.

DPW05

Implementing Azure Arc for SQL Server

Intermediate

GILDA ALVAREZ

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- Understand the role of Azure Arc in managing SQL Server across hybrid environments.

- How to register, configure, and monitor SQL Server instances using Azure Arc.
- Explore security enhancements, such as Azure Defender for SQL and automated updates.

DPW07

Real Time Monitoring with Real-life Use Cases Using Database Watcher

Introductory / Intermediate

DANIEL TAYLOR

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- Brief overview of Database Watcher architecture
- Create custom dashboards for custom scenarios
- Using the power of KQL to query the raw monitoring data

DPH05

SQL Server 2025: Mastering High Availability, Disaster Recovery, and Business Continuity

Intermediate

ABDULLAH MAMUN & DAVID PLESS

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- How to implement and utilize new features like persisted statistics, optimized locking, Fabric mirroring, and automatic backups via Azure Arc to enhance system availability, performance, and disaster recovery.
- Understand how to effectively use Azure's HA/DR options, such as Availability Groups, clusters, log shipping, and the SQL IaaS agent extension, to quickly set up and manage highly available SQL Server instances in the cloud.
- Discover strategies for maintaining business continuity using Azure Arc, including centralized management, automated patching, and monitoring of SQL Server deployments across on-premises, cloud, and hybrid infrastructures

DPH07

Tame the Beast: Scaling Azure SQL Virtual Machine with Premium Storage

Intermediate / Advanced

DAVID PLESS

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- To deploy and configure high-performance Azure VM series (such as Mbsv3, Mbds3, FXmsv2, FXmdsv2) and advanced storage options (Premium SSD v2, Ultra Disk, Azure Elastic SAN) to maximize SQL Server workload efficiency.
- Monitor and Optimize VM and Storage Health: Gain skills in using Azure Monitor metrics, the IO Analysis Feature, and CoPilot to proactively monitor and optimize the health of Azure SQL VMs and storage, ensuring peak performance and preventing bottlenecks.
- Balance Performance and Cost: Understand how to select cost-effective VM and storage configurations, including leveraging Azure Elastic SAN for storage consolidation and dynamic performance sharing, to achieve an optimal balance of performance and cost for SQL Server deployments.

“ I LOVED THE VARIED AND ORGANIZED TOPICS AVAILABLE AT LIVE! 360 TECH CON. THE SPEAKERS ALL SEEMED TO BE HONESTLY INTERESTED IN THEIR TOPIC AND SHARING IT WITH US.”

– Deanna Berry, Firesnap Ltd.



DATA PLATFORM LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



DATA MANAGEMENT

Everyone needs help when it comes to data management, and Data Platform Live! is here to help you navigate the current data management landscape. Coverage at Data Platform Live! includes two great Fast Focus sessions: Parameterizing Pipeline Connections in Microsoft Fabric, and Migrating SQL Server from On-Premises to Azure MI using DMS / Log Replay.

DPT04

Fast Focus: Parameterizing Pipeline Connections in Microsoft Fabric

Introductory / Intermediate

MEAGAN LONGORIA

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

You will learn:

- About Fabric Workspace variables
- Identify the pre-reqs for changing connections in a pipeline
- Understand how the connection parameterization affects logging and lineage

DPT05

Fast Focus on the Data Landscape

Intermediate

BUCK WOODY

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

There has never been a time when more data processing tools were available. How do you make sense of it all? What process and criteria do you need to learn to help your organization succeed with the right data technology? Buck will cover what he advises customers on.

DPT06

Fast Focus: Migrating SQL Server from On-premises to Azure MI Using DMS / Log Replay

Intermediate

GILDA ALVAREZ

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

You will learn:

- Understand the migration process from SQL Server to Azure SQL Managed Instance.
- How to use Azure Database Migration Service (DMS) and Log Replay Service (LRS) effectively.
- Explore strategies to minimize downtime and ensure a smooth migration.



DATABASE PERFORMANCE TUNING AND OPTIMIZATION

Get the most from your database—even if it's a third-party application database. Learn the insider tricks to performance tuning, indexing internals, and learn about performance tuning SQL Server using wait statistics. We also have sessions on configuration of Azure SQL virtual machines, content for high availability and disaster recovery, and data migrations. Data Platform Live! helps you maximize your SQL Server and Azure SQL Database investment.

DPH04

Locking, Blocking, and Deadlocks

Intermediate

THOMAS LAROCK

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Understand the difference between locking and blocking
- Understand how to identify concurrency issues
- Understand how to remediate concurrency issues

DPH06

SQL Server 2025: The Enterprise AI-Ready Database

Intermediate

KENDAL VAN DYKE

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- About new features in SQL Server 2025
- How to build an on-premises AI applications using your data
- About new capabilities specifically designed for developers

DPH08

Performance Tuning SQL Server Using Wait Statistics

Intermediate

THOMAS LAROCK

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- Understanding wait statistics
- Understanding performance tuning options
- Understanding how to track wait statistics for performance





DATA PLATFORM LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

Developers have an incredible amount of impact on database application functionality and performance, and Data Platform Live! shines a spotlight to help developers deliver more. From topics like JSON in SQL Server, Data API Builder, vector search, vector databases, indexing internals for developers & DBAs, and becoming a data architect, as well as a full-day hands-on-lab on AI and new developer features in SQL Server 2025, there's plenty of content to keep you busy—or to supplement your Visual Studio Live! agenda.

DPT01

Creating REST and GraphQL Database Endpoints with Data API Builder

Intermediate

LEONARD LOBEL

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- How to expose REST and GraphQL endpoints over your database model
- Effortlessly apply filtering, sorting, and pagination in your database API calls
- Secure your database API with authentication and authorization

DPT07

Work Smarter, Not Harder: A Guide to Using Copilot in SSMS

Introductory / Intermediate

KENDAL VAN DYKE

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

You will learn:

- Understand how Copilot integrates with SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS)
- To leverage Copilot for improved efficiency
- Discover best practices and future developments

DPT08

Entity Framework Performance Monitoring and Tuning

Intermediate

JIM WOOLEY

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

You will learn:

- Discover how to profile your database interactions through Entity Framework.
- Discover typical performance issues based on real-life examples and how to fix them.
- How different versions of EF generate different queries and how you need to modify your data access strategy as a result.

DPT10

Empowering AI Applications with Vector Search in SQL Server and Azure Cosmos DB

Intermediate

LEONARD LOBEL

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- Get familiar with retrieval augmented generation, vector indexing, vector search, and other foundational AI concepts
- See how to integrate your database with Azure OpenAI to deliver a rich AI experience
- Watch live demos that showcase these capabilities using SQL Server, Azure SQL Database, and Azure Cosmos DB

DPW02

Understanding Vector Databases

Advanced

BUCK WOODY

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- A solid understanding of the fundamental concepts of vector databases and their advantages over traditional databases.
- Become proficient** in using various tools to interact with vector databases, which will be beneficial in their data-related tasks.
- Understand the practical applications of vector databases in various fields, providing them with insights on how to leverage vector databases in their own projects.

DPW04

Indexing Internals for Developers & DBAs

Intermediate / Advanced

BRADLEY BALL

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Understand how Heaps work for Performance
- Understand how Clustered and non-clustered Indexes work
- Understand Index maintenance and behaviors

DPW06

Becoming a Data Architect

Intermediate

BUCK WOODY

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- The tasks required of a Data Architect
- Current options for data platform solutions, from OSS to Cloud
- Skills required from a Data Architect

DPH02

SQL ♥ JSON: The Best of Both Worlds

Intermediate

DAVIDE MAURI

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- JSON support in Azure SQL
- Understand the options to handle dynamic schemas
- Understand implicit schemas, schema flexibility and how Azure SQL enable those scenarios



DATA PLATFORM LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



STREAMING AND EVENT DATA TECHNIQUES

The need for real-time analytics is growing as more and more companies embrace Microsoft Fabric's Real-Time Intelligence to gain actionable insights from both structured and unstructured real-time streaming event data. Data Platform Live! has it covered with an introduction to Real-Time Intelligence and an all-day workshop on harnessing data in motion.

DPT09

Introduction to Real-Time Intelligence in Microsoft Fabric: A Dive into Event-Driven Architectures

Introductory

CHRISTOPHER SCHMIDT

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15pm – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- Grasp the basics of real-time data processing and event-driven architectures to measure the fabric of the business
- Understand how data transformations work in real-time messaging systems and how they differ from traditional data pipelines



MICROSOFT FABRIC

Microsoft Fabric is an end-to-end, unified data platform that brings together all the data and analytics tools organizations need, including data ingest and integration, SQL database, lakehouse, and warehouse, real-time intelligence, BI, and AI. While such a broad surface area means Fabric is covered in multiple tracks, general coverage for the platform at Data Platform Live! includes Microsoft Fabric: Defragmenting the Analytics Stack and an all-day workshop on Fabric for the Power BI professional.

DPW01

Microsoft Fabric: Defragmenting the Analytics Stack

Intermediate

ANDREW BRUST

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- Basic analytics concepts, including data lakes, columnar storage and dimensional analysis

- How Fabric combines elements of Azure services like Azure Data Lake, Data Factory, Event Hubs, Stream Analytics and Data Explorer, with Power BI and open-source technologies
- How analysts, data engineers and data scientists can collaborate on the same data, using their own toolchains and skillsets

DPH01

Fast and Furious: Power BI Direct Lake in Fabric

Intermediate

REZA RAD

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- Power BI Direct Lake and how it works
- About Delta Lake and parquet file format
- How to set up and use Direct lake with Fabric

“ I REALLY APPRECIATED ALL THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT LIVE! 360. AS A DEVELOPER IN A SMALL I.S. DEPARTMENT, MY RESPONSIBILITIES GO FAR BEYOND CODING. IT WAS GREAT TO ATTEND SESSIONS THAT TOUCHED ON EVERY PART OF MY ROLE. THANK YOU FOR PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER!”

– Marianne Young, Charlotte County Property Appraiser

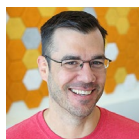


DATA PLATFORM LIVE! SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE CHAIRS



Andrew Brust
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights
Data Platform Live! Conference
Co-Chair



Thomas LaRock
Data Professional
and Consultant
Data Platform Live! Conference
Co-Chair

SPEAKERS



Gilda Alvarez
Founder and CEO



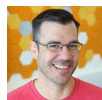
Bradley Ball
Sr. Cloud Solution Architect,
Microsoft



Andrew Brust
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights



Matt Gordon
Practice Director, Data &
Analytics, Apps Associates



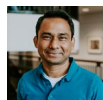
Thomas LaRock
Data Professional
and Consultant



Leonard Lobel
CTO,
Sleek Technologies, Inc.



Meagan Longoria
Data Analytics Architect,
Procure SQL



Abdullah Mamun
Program Manager,
Microsoft



Rob Mandeville
Product Manager,
SolarWinds



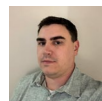
Davide Mauri
Program Manager, Microsoft



David Pless
Principal Program Manager,
Microsoft



Reza Rad
RADACAD, CEO



Christopher Schmidt
Principal Program Manager,
Microsoft



Daniel Taylor
Sr. Cloud Solution Architect,
Microsoft



Kendal Van Dyke
Senior Program Manager,
Microsoft



Buck Woody
Applied Data Scientist,
Azure Data Services Team,
Microsoft



Jim Wooley
Senior Delivery Principal,
Slalom Consulting



TECHMENTOR

IN-DEPTH TRAINING FOR IT PROS



Client and Endpoint
Management



PowerShell
and DevOps



Infrastructure



Soft Skills
for IT Pros



Security



Azure
(Public/Hybrid)



Office 365
for IT Pros



Cutting-Edge AI



A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME YOU to TechMentor Orlando, November 2025! As your co-chairs, we—Dave Kawula and Sami Laiho—are honored to guide you through what promises to be a transformative and enriching experience in one of Florida's most vibrant cities.

TechMentor is built to empower IT professionals like you with the practical skills and insights needed to thrive in today's fast-moving tech landscape. With carefully curated tracks, hands-on labs, and real-world scenarios, we've created a learning journey designed to level up your expertise.

Here's what awaits you:

- **Endpoint Management & User Productivity:** Dive into OS deployment, application and patch management, and secure device configuration to streamline operations and support end-users effectively.
- **PowerShell & Automation:** Unleash the full potential of scripting in a DevOps world. Learn to automate infrastructure management through interactive labs and workshops.
- **Infrastructure Management:** Build and maintain

secure, scalable systems. Topics include networking, storage, virtualization, server administration, and high availability—grounded in practical, hands-on learning.

- **Professional Skills for IT Pros:** Strengthen essential soft skills like communication, problem-solving, leadership, and project management—because being great at tech also means being great with people.
- **Cybersecurity:** Stay ahead of the threat curve. Explore network defense, IAM, vulnerability management, and incident response. Our co-located Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live! conference adds even more depth.
- **Microsoft Azure:** Master Azure in both public and hybrid setups. From architecture to automation, gain the knowledge to design, deploy, and manage cloud infrastructure confidently.
- **Microsoft 365 Administration:** Manage and secure Exchange, SharePoint, Teams, OneDrive, and compliance settings through real-world exercises and expert-led sessions.

And let's not forget—Windows Server 2025 is now in GA. We have new schema versions and Functional Levels for the first time since 2016! TechMentor is ready to show you how Microsoft is keeping its on-prem promises alive and well.

Whether you're looking to grow your technical skills, embrace new tools, or simply connect with like-minded pros, TechMentor @ Live! 360 Tech Con 2025 has something for you.

We can't wait to meet you in Orlando and kick off an unforgettable week of learning and inspiration!

Best regards,

TECHMENTOR CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS




Sami Laiho
*Chief Research Officer,
Adminize*






Dave Kawula
*Principal Consultant,
TriCon Elite Consulting*




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE








Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Client and Endpoint Management	PowerShell and DevOps	Infrastructure	Soft Skills for IT Pros	Security	Cutting-Edge AI	Azure (Public/Hybrid)	Office 365 for the IT Pro
START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Pre-Conference Hands-On Labs: Sunday, November 16, 2025					
7:00 AM	9:00 AM	Hands-On Lab Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries					
9:00 AM	6:00 PM	TMHOL01 Hands-On Lab: Deploy Windows 365 ASAP - Kevin Kaminski					
10:00 AM	7:00 PM	Pre-Conference Registration - Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center					
START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Pre-Conference Workshops: Monday, November 17, 2025					
7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries					
8:30 AM	5:30 PM	TMM01 Workshop: Microsoft Entra Identity PowerCamp 2025 - Andy Malone			TMM02 Workshop: PowerShell 101: Unleash the Power of Automation - James Petty		
5:45 PM	6:15 PM	Live! 360 First Timers Forum: A New Attendees Guide - Pacifica 6					
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Mix & Mingle @ Hard Rock Café Universal CityWalk					
START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025					
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries					
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	TECHMENTOR KEYNOTE: Through the Looking Glass – A Glimpse Ahead of What Could Be Andy Malone, Worldwide Speaker, YouTuber, Tech Instructor, Author					
9:15 AM	10:30 AM	TMT01 Defense Against the Dark Arts – Building Rock Solid Entra ID Security Solutions - Andy Malone		TMT02 Implementing Just Enough Administration in your environment - James Petty		TMT03 10 Techniques for Quicker Notetaking with Microsoft 365 - Heather Severino	
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Networking Break Sponsored by  Microsoft Azure • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 / THREATLOCKER Demo Theater (10:35 - 10:50am) - Coral Sea 2					
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Agentic DevOps in Real Life - Build Faster, Ship Safer, Keep Humans in the Loop Mickey Gousset, Staff DevOps Architect, GitHub & Brian A. Randell, Partner, MCW Technologies					
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Lunch - Oceana Ballroom • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7					
12:45 PM	1:30 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7					
		 Progress Demo Theater: Elevating Developer Productivity and End User Satisfaction with AI - Sara Faatz (12:45 - 1:05pm) - Coral Sea 2 /  JETBRAINS Demo Theater (1:05 - 1:20pm) - Java Sea					
1:30 PM	1:50 PM	TMT04 Fast Focus: Building a Rapidly Deployable Secure Network - John O'Neill Sr.			TMT05 Fast Focus: PowerShell Output Formatting That Doesn't Suck - James Petty		




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*


Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Client and Endpoint Management	PowerShell and DevOps	Infrastructure	Soft Skills for IT Pros	Security	Cutting-Edge AI	Azure (Public/Hybrid)	Office 365 for the IT Pro
START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (Continued)					
2:00 PM	2:20 PM	TMT06 Fast Focus: 10 Must Do Configurations for Autopilot - Émile Cabot			TMT07  Fast Focus: How to Talk to Executives - A Translation Guide for IT Folks - Greg Altman		
2:20 PM	2:45 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7					
2:45 PM	4:00 PM	TMT08 Microsoft 365 Copilot: Tips, Tricks and Tech Tales - Heather Severino		TMT09 How to Package for Intune - Kevin Kaminski		TMT10 To Be Announced	
4:15 PM	5:30 PM	TMT11 Learn What's New with Microsoft 365 Copilot - Heather Severino		TMT12 A Tale of Two Windows Autopilots - Michael Niehaus		TMT13 The Art of Technical Documentation - Cristal Kawula	
5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Exhibitor Welcome Reception Sponsored by  Microsoft - Pacifica 7					
START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Day 2: Wednesday, November 19, 2025					
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries					
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	TMW01 Essential Microsoft 365 Security Features Crash Course - Karinne Bessette		TMW02 Next-generation Windows Autopilot Troubleshooting - Michael Niehaus		TMW03  Setting Up PowerShell Password Management with Secret Vault - Greg Altman	
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	TMW04  How to (Not) Fail as a Conference Speaker - Greg Altman		TMW05 MSIX Application Packaging - Kevin Kaminski		TMW06 An Insider's Guide to Successful Copilot Deployment and Adoption - Stephen L. Rose	
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7					
		 Aiden Demo Theater (10:50 - 11:05am) - Coral Sea 2 /  Exclaimer Demo Theater (11:10am - 11:25am) - Java Sea					
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Azure at 15: What's Next for the Cloud, AI, and You Eric D. Boyd, Founder & CEO, responsiveX					
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Table Topics Lunch - Oceana Ballroom					
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 /  VONAGE Demo Theater (1:35 - 1:50pm) - Coral Sea 2					
2:00 PM	3:15 PM	TMW07 How to Efficiently Navigate Microsoft Teams Meetings and Applications - Karinne Bessette		TMW08 Windows 11 Debrief - Émile Cabot		TMW09 Active Directory Foundational Core Concepts - Derek Melber	
3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge • Expo Raffle @ 3:20 p.m. - Pacifica 7					
4:00 PM	5:15 PM	TMW10 Hacking Windows Autopilot - Michael Niehaus		TMW11 Fundamentals of DNS - Dave Kawula & Émile Cabot		TMW12 Deploying, Configuring, Securing, and Supporting Microsoft Entra Connect - John O'Neill Sr.	
7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Live! 360 Dessert Luau - Wantilan Pavilion					



AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*

Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Client and Endpoint Management	PowerShell and DevOps	Infrastructure	Soft Skills for IT Pros	Security	Cutting-Edge AI	Azure (Public/Hybrid)	Office 365 for the IT Pro
TechMentor Day 3: Thursday, November 20, 2025							
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries					
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	TMH01 Getting Private Endpoints to WORK In the Real World - Aidan Finn		TMH02 IT Career Change: Consulting and Pre-Sales - Émile Cabot		TMH03 Navigating Security Frameworks and Regulations: A Personal Journey Through NIS2, ISO 27001, and More - Michael Van Horenbeeck	
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	TMH04 Preventing A Tsunami with Azure DDoS Protection - Aidan Finn		TMH05 Building a Bulletproof BitLocker - Sami Laiho		TMH06  How to Get What You Want: The Art of Prompt Engineering for Copilot - Michelle Gilbert	
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	TECHMENTOR PANEL DISCUSSION: Top IT Issues Teams are Facing in 2025 <i>Dave Kawula [moderator], Karinne Bessette, Émile Cabot, Aidan Finn, & John O'Neill Sr.</i>					
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Live! 360 DJ Lunch - Oceana Ballroom					
1:00 PM	2:15 PM	TMH07 The Journey to Passwordless with Microsoft Technologies: Notes from the Field - John O'Neill Sr.		TMH08 Vibe Coding Security - Alton Crossley		TMH09 Securing Admin Accounts: Tier 0 and 1 Account Best Practices - Derek Melber	
2:30 PM	3:45 PM	TMH10 Conditional Access - Best Practices for Securing your M365 Environment - Émile Cabot		TMH11 Practical AI Everyday Applications for IT Life - Karinne Bessette		TMH12 Decentralized Identities: Unlocking the Future with Microsoft Verified ID - Michael Van Horenbeeck	
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	LIVE! 360 WRAP PARTY Tech Presentation - Billy Hollis, Developer. Designer. Speaker. Author. Q&A with Live! 360 Conference Chairs & Speakers: <i>Chris Ayers, Mike Benkovich, Karinne Bessette, Prashant G Bhoyar, Jason Bock, Andrew Brust, Erica Burgess, Émile Cabot, Jeremy Clark, Michelle Gilbert, Mickey Gousset, Dave Kawula, Sami Laiho, Thomas LaRock, Rockford Lhotka, Davide Mauri, Michael Niehaus, Ted Neward, John O'Neill Sr., Reza Rad, Brian Randell, Alex Thissen, & Rod Trent</i>					
START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Post-Conference Workshops: Friday, November 21, 2025					
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries					
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	TMF01 Workshop: Azure Operations for Small/Medium Businesses - Aidan Finn					



TECHMENTOR SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK



FULL DAY HANDS-ON LABS

TechMentor offers an instructor-led, pre-conference Hands-On Lab to help you take your IT skills to a new level. Get intensive, in-depth training to complete your conference experience.

- This lab is presented on a Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) basis.
- Attendance for the Hands-On Lab is limited, so be sure to sign up early!

TMHOL01

Hands-On Lab: Deploy Windows 365 ASAP

Intermediate

KEVIN KAMINSKI

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

If you're looking for the fastest way to get a Cloud PC into the hands of users, this hands-on lab is your launchpad. Windows 365 represents a paradigm shift in virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)—offering simplicity, scalability, and speed via the cloud. In this immersive, full-day, hands-on workshop, you'll go from zero to production-ready with a fully deployed Windows 365 environment.

Under the guidance of Windows 365 expert Kevin Kaminski, you'll dive deep into the end-to-end process of designing, configuring, and deploying a Windows 365 Cloud PC using Microsoft Intune. You'll explore not just the "how," but the "why" behind critical design decisions—ensuring your environment is not only functional but optimized for real-world demands.

Through a blend of instruction, live demos, and lab time, you'll:

- Architect a scalable and secure Windows 365 environment suitable for production.
- Build and configure core components, including user policies, device compliance, and app deployment pipelines.
- Apply best practices for packaging and deploying applications to Cloud PCs.

Learn how to manage updates, secure endpoints, and monitor user experience using the Microsoft 365 ecosystem.

Whether you're piloting your first Cloud PC or looking to accelerate enterprise adoption, this session will leave you equipped with the practical skills and confidence to deliver Windows 365 quickly, securely, and successfully.

Attendee Workstation Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop for this hands-on lab
- Your machine must have a modern web browser



WORKSHOPS

Choose from a range of content and topics by expert presenters with TechMentor Pre- and Post-Conference workshops.

TMM01

Workshop: Microsoft Entra Identity PowerCamp 2025

Intermediate

ANDY MALONE

Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Entra ID is Microsoft's multi-tenant cloud-based directory and identity management service. For IT Admins, Entra ID provides an affordable, easy to use solution to give employees and business partners single sign-on (SSO) access to thousands of cloud SaaS Applications like Office365, Salesforce.com, Dropbox, and Concur. For application developers, Entra ID lets you focus on building your application by making it fast and simple to integrate with a world class identity management solution used by millions of organizations around the world.

Microsoft Entra ID also includes a full suite of identity management capabilities including multi-factor authentication, device registration, self-service group management, privileged account management, role-based access control, application usage monitoring, rich auditing and security monitoring and alerting. These capabilities can help secure cloud-based applications, streamline IT processes, cut costs, and help ensure that corporate compliance goals are met.

This intensive PowerCamp not only prepares you with real world skills but provides an opportunity to interact and learn from an industry expert. Join us for a full day of intensive

learning and discussions. The purpose of the PowerCamp is to fast-track through the maze of technology and get straight to the point in one jam-packed day.

TMM02

Workshop: PowerShell 101: Unleash the Power of Automation

Introductory

JAMES PETTY

Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

In the ever-evolving landscape of IT, automation has become the backbone of efficiency and productivity. PowerShell, Microsoft's versatile and powerful scripting language, is at the forefront of this automation revolution. It empowers IT professionals to manage, configure, and automate tasks in Windows environments, from small-scale to enterprise-level operations.

This one-day workshop, "PowerShell 101: Unleash the Power of Automation," is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive introduction to PowerShell. Whether you are a beginner looking to learn the basics or an experienced user wanting to enhance your skills, this workshop will equip you with the knowledge and practical experience to harness the full potential of PowerShell in your daily tasks.

Key Topics:

Introduction to PowerShell:

- Understanding the PowerShell environment.
- Navigating the console and basic commands.

Cmdlets and Functions:

- Mastering fundamental cmdlets.
- Creating custom functions for tailored automation.

Pipeline and Scripting:

- Leveraging the power of the pipeline.
- Writing and executing PowerShell scripts.

Managing Systems with PowerShell:

- Managing files and directories.
- Working with the Windows Registry.
- Configuring network settings.

Remote Administration:

- Remote server management using PowerShell.
- Best practices for secure remote management.

Practical Use Cases:

- Real-world examples of PowerShell automation.
- Hands-on exercises to reinforce learning.



TECHMENTOR SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

You will learn:

- How to develop proficiency in PowerShell fundamentals including basic syntax, cmdlets, and the pipeline to automate routine administrative tasks
- How to create and execute custom PowerShell scripts to solve specific IT challenges and improve workflow efficiency
- How to implement remote management techniques using PowerShell to securely administer Windows systems across the network

TMF01

Workshop: Azure Operations for Small/Medium Businesses

Intermediate

AIDAN FINN

Friday, November 21, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Are you ready to take your first steps into Microsoft Azure? This full-day workshop is specifically designed for IT professionals and technical staff working in small to mid-sized organizations who are new to Azure and cloud computing. Whether you're migrating from an on-premises environment or looking to build a hybrid infrastructure, this workshop offers foundational guidance to help you get started the right way.

Led by Azure expert Aidan Finn, this workshop draws on nearly a decade of refined content, shaped through real-world training and experience. You'll gain a clear understanding of what Azure is, how it fits into your IT strategy, and how to practically apply its tools and services to support core business operations.

Throughout the day, you'll explore key operational concepts and gain experience with:

- Understanding the Azure ecosystem, services, and architecture
- Building your first virtual networks and deploying virtual machine workloads
- Implementing effective monitoring strategies to keep your environment healthy
- Configuring patch management and backup routines to protect your systems

This workshop balances explanation with demonstration and is ideal for IT admins, system engineers, and technical leads seeking a practical, approachable introduction to Azure for SMBs. Walk away with the confidence to start running secure, well-managed cloud workloads and a roadmap to continue your Azure journey.



CLIENT AND ENDPOINT MANAGEMENT

In this track, participants will gain deep, hands-on insights into modern client and endpoint management strategies using Microsoft technologies. The sessions are designed to address real-world challenges and equip IT professionals with practical tools to manage, secure, and optimize enterprise endpoints.

Key topics include Windows Autopilot deployment and troubleshooting, with multiple sessions focused on mastering configuration (e.g., "10 Must-Do Configurations"), exploring diverse Autopilot strategies, and enhancing troubleshooting capabilities. Participants will also learn about Windows 365 deployment, Intune packaging, and MSIX application packaging, enabling streamlined application management and modern provisioning workflows.

By the end of this track, attendees will have practical experience with tools like Intune, Autopilot, MSIX, and Conditional Access, and will be well-prepared to modernize device management, enhance endpoint security, and increase operational efficiency in enterprise environments.

TMT06

Fast Focus: 10 Must Do Configurations for Autopilot

Intermediate

ÉMILE CABOT

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

Key Takeaways:

- Quick wins for delivering a seamless first-run experience with Autopilot.

- Insights into common enterprise deployment models and how to optimize them.
- A candid perspective on Hybrid Autopilot—its setup and why it often falls short.

TMT09

How to Package for Intune

Intermediate

KEVIN KAMINSKI

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

Key Takeaways:

- Proven strategies for architecting a robust Windows 365 environment.
- Best practices for building and managing application packages and policy configurations.
- Real-world guidance on preparing your Windows 365 deployment for production-scale operations.

TMT12

A Tale of Two Windows Autopilots

Advanced

MICHAEL NIEHAUS

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

Key Takeaways:

- A deep understanding of what Windows Autopilot Device Preparation (v2) can and cannot do.
- Practical guidance on choosing between Autopilot v1 and v2 based on real-world use cases.
- A detailed comparison of the deployment flows and operational differences between the two Autopilot versions.

“THE FOOD AT LIVE! 360 TECH CON WAS AMAZING, AND I ENJOYED THE QUALITY OF THE CONTENT.”

– Buddy Favors Jr, Skyepack



TECHMENTOR SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

TMW02

Next-Generation Windows Autopilot Troubleshooting

Intermediate / Advanced

MICHAEL NIEHAUS

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

Key Takeaways:

- A clear understanding of the Autopilot provisioning flows for both v1 and v2.
- A detailed overview of the diagnostic and troubleshooting tools available to IT administrators.
- Proven methods for identifying, analyzing, and resolving common Autopilot deployment issues.

TMW05

MSIX Application Packaging

Intermediate

KEVIN KAMINSKI

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

Key Takeaways:

- A comparison of App-V, UWP, and MSIX—what's changed and what each brings to the table.
- Common pitfalls and technical challenges in converting applications to MSIX.
- A step-by-step understanding of how to build a reliable MSIX package.

TMW08

Windows 11 Debrief

Introductory / Intermediate

ÉMILE CABOT

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

Join us as we explore:

- What worked—and what went sideways—during large-scale endpoint OS upgrades
- How Microsoft Intune stacks up against ConfigMgr in real-world upgrade scenarios
- The role of third-party tools, both as lifesavers and roadblocks
- What we're doing differently to prepare for Windows vNext

TMW10

Hacking Windows Autopilot

Advanced

MICHAEL NIEHAUS

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

Key Takeaways:

- A technical dive into the inner workings of Autopilot and the Out-of-Box Experience (OOBE).
- Techniques for extending and customizing the Autopilot process to meet enterprise requirements.
- Creative approaches for achieving IT outcomes beyond the defaults.

TMH10

Conditional Access - Best Practices for Securing your M365 Environment

Introductory / Intermediate

ÉMILE CABOT

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- How Conditional Access policies strengthen your overall security posture
- Which policies are must-haves for anyone using Microsoft 365
- A practical, guided approach to designing, deploying, and monitoring each recommended policy



POWERSHELL AND DEVOPS

This track is tailored for IT professionals seeking to strengthen their PowerShell scripting abilities and apply them effectively in real-world DevOps scenarios. The content is designed to guide participants from foundational concepts to advanced practices, with an emphasis on automation, security, and efficiency.

Throughout the track, participants will engage in interactive labs and applied exercises to reinforce learning and simulate real-world challenges. By the end, attendees will be equipped to harness PowerShell as a core DevOps tool—automating complex tasks, securing administrative workflows, and enhancing operational efficiency across their environments.

TMT02

Implementing Just Enough Administration in Your Environment

Intermediate

JAMES PETTY

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- The principles of Just Enough Administration (JEA) and how it implements the least privilege access model to enhance security while maintaining operational efficiency
- How to configure role-based access controls through JEA to provide targeted administrative capabilities to different IT roles (helpdesk, developers, admins) without granting unnecessary elevated privileges
- How to Implement a scalable JEA deployment strategy using remote PowerShell commands and Group Policy Objects (GPOs) to effectively integrate JEA into existing infrastructure environments

“THE CONTENT AT LIVE! 360 TECH CON IS A GOOD MIX OF EVERY LEVEL TECHNICAL THROUGH BLEEDING EDGE. I LIKE TO SEE ALL OF IT.”

— Brian Hall, Maricopa County Air Quality Department



TECHMENTOR SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

TMT05

Fast Focus: PowerShell Output Formatting That Doesn't Suck

Introductory

JAMES PETTY

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

You will learn:

- How to master advanced Format-Table techniques to transform complex PowerShell output into clean, readable table views with customized properties, grouping, and formatting
- How to design and implement professional HTML reports using PowerShell that effectively communicate technical data to both technical and non-technical stakeholders
- How to develop automated email reporting workflows that deliver consistently formatted, visually appealing PowerShell output for regular distribution and monitoring purposes

TMW03

Setting Up PowerShell Password Management with Secret Vault

Intermediate

GREG ALTMAN

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

Key Takeaways:

- Understand the role and importance of secure secret management in PowerShell.
- Learn how to install, configure, and manage the Secret Vault module.
- Gain practical skills for accessing and using secrets in both interactive sessions and automated scripts.



INFRASTRUCTURE

This track offers a practical foundation in core infrastructure technologies, focusing on critical services that underpin enterprise IT environments. Participants will explore the fundamentals of Active Directory and DNS, gaining a deeper understanding of how these essential components support identity, access, and network operations in modern organizations.

In addition to core infrastructure topics, the track introduces forward-looking skills with a session on prompt engineering for tools like Microsoft Copilot, helping IT professionals learn how to interact effectively with AI to enhance productivity and decision-making. Attendees will leave with the skills to manage traditional infrastructure while also embracing emerging tools that support modern IT operations.

TMW09

Active Directory Foundational Core Concepts

Intermediate

DEREK MELBER

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- About unique domain controller responsibilities
- How to uncover essential security concepts
- How to decrypt replication requirements

TMW11

Fundamentals of DNS

Intermediate

DAVE KAWULA & ÉMILE CABOT

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- The foundational concepts of DNS, including how DNS resolution and caching work to translate domain names into IP addresses.
- The different types of DNS records and how they are used to manage domain configurations.
- Practical skills to troubleshoot common DNS issues and implement best practices for securing and optimizing DNS infrastructure.

TMH06

How to Get What You Want: The Art of Prompt Engineering for Copilot

Introductory

MICHELLE GILBERT

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- About M365 Copilot
- Prompting Skills
- Advanced prompt engineering





TECHMENTOR SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



SOFT SKILLS FOR IT PROS

This track equips IT professionals with the essential soft skills needed to elevate their careers and impact. Participants will learn how to communicate effectively with executives, navigate career transitions into consulting or pre-sales, and master public speaking through practical guidance and real-world insights.

Whether you're looking to improve presentations, engage stakeholders, or lead with influence, these sessions will help you build confidence, refine your message, and thrive in both technical and non-technical environments.

TMT07

Fast Focus: How to Talk to Executives - A Translation Guide for IT Folks

Introductory

GREG ALTMAN

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

You will learn:

- To understand executive language in IT terms
- How to explain technical concepts in executive-friendly language
- How to improve communication between IT and executive teams

TMT13

The Art of Technical Documentation Intermediate

Introductory

CRISTAL KAWULA

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- Define the Objective: Initial Logical Scribbles
- Logical Order and Progression
- Validation and Iteration to Near Perfection

TMW04

How to (Not) Fail as a Conference Speaker

Introductory

GREG ALTMAN

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Effective tips and tricks for successful speaking
- How to overcome Imposter Syndrome
- How to identify and avoid common pitfalls in public speaking

TMH02

IT Career Change: Consulting and Pre-Sales

Intermediate

ÉMILE CABOT

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- How to deliver technical content to the C-Suite
- Tips and Tricks on socializing, marketing, and establishing yourself
- What to do from an education perspective to prepare for the transition



SECURITY

This track equips participants with practical, real-world strategies for securing today's complex IT environments. Topics include hardening identity systems like Entra ID, deploying secure networks at speed, strengthening endpoint encryption with BitLocker, and enabling secure remote workforces. Sessions also explore security frameworks and compliance standards (such as NIS2 and ISO 27001), along with emerging innovations like decentralized identities and Microsoft Verified ID.

Attendees will gain hands-on insight into building resilient security architectures, aligning with regulations, and leveraging the latest tools to defend against evolving threats. With AI playing an increasing role in both attacks and defenses, this track reflects the need for adaptable, forward-thinking security professionals.

TMT01

Defense Against the Dark Arts – Building Rock Solid Entra ID Security Solutions

Intermediate

ANDY MALONE

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30pm

You will Learn:

- How to defend Users against malicious attack
- How to secure Entra ID
- How to evoke Zero Trust principles



TECHMENTOR SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

TMT04

Fast Focus: Building a Rapidly Deployable Secure Network

Introductory / Intermediate

JOHN O'NEILL SR.

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

You will learn:

- Key principles and components of RDSN architecture
- Critical hardware and connectivity considerations for rapid deployment
- Real-world implementation strategies and common deployment scenarios

TMH03

Navigating Security Frameworks and Regulations: A Personal Journey Through NIS2, ISO 27001, and More

Introductory

MICHAEL VAN HORENBEECK

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- Why security frameworks and regulations matter
- How to get started becoming ISO (or NIS2) certified
- Tools and tips on how to get started right away

TMH05

Building a Bulletproof BitLocker

Intermediate

SAMI LAIHO

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- The critical security configurations required for a hardened and enterprise-grade BitLocker deployment.
- How to protect encryption keys and recovery mechanisms from exposure, abuse, or theft.
- Practical insights into defending against real-world attack scenarios, including device theft, firmware attacks, and bypass techniques.

TMH09

Securing Admin Accounts: Tier 0 and 1 Account Best Practices

Intermediate to Advanced

DEREK MELBER

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- What are the different tiers
- Why tiering is so important to secure your enterprise
- How tiering can reduce your attack surface

TMH12

Decentralized Identities: Unlocking the Future with Microsoft Verified ID

Introductory / Intermediate

MICHAEL VAN HORENBEECK

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- About decentralized identities
- Why decentralized identities become important
- How to get started with Microsoft Verified ID



AZURE (PUBLIC/HYBRID)

This track immerses participants in the practical realities of deploying and managing Microsoft Azure in both public and hybrid environments. Sessions focus on real-world implementations of Azure infrastructure, including private endpoints, DDoS protection, and operations for SMBs, offering actionable guidance for overcoming common deployment challenges. Identity management also takes center stage with a deep dive into Microsoft Entra ID.

Additionally, this track explores the cutting edge of Azure's capabilities with a two-part session on AI for IT, highlighting how to apply LLMs and SLMs to automate and enhance IT operations using Azure-native tools and demos. Whether you're securing your cloud perimeter or unlocking new efficiencies through AI, this track provides the insights and skills needed to build a resilient, future-ready Azure environment.

TMH01

Getting Private Endpoints to WORK In the Real World

Intermediate

AIDAN FINN

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- About Private Endpoint
- About Private Endpoint with some common resource types
- How to implement DNS to enable reliable Private Endpoint connectivity at scale

“LIVE! 360 TECH CON IS VERY WELL ORGANIZED. THE SPEAKERS ARE VERY INFORMATIVE, AND THE LOCATION IS AMAZING!”

– Gordon Carter, Allied Pilots Association



TECHMENTOR SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

TMH04

Preventing A Tsunami with Azure DDoS Protection

Intermediate

AIDAN FINN

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- How DDoS attacks can affect your organization
- About the features of Azure DDoS protection
- How to enable DDoS Protection for your Azure workloads



OFFICE 365 FOR IT PROS

This track equips IT professionals with the tools and insights to manage and optimize the Microsoft 365 ecosystem, with a focus on productivity, collaboration, and security. Participants will explore practical techniques for streamlining user experiences in Teams and Microsoft 365 apps, improving workflows through Copilot, and enhancing notetaking and meeting navigation.

On the security and identity front, sessions provide actionable guidance on Microsoft 365 security features, Entra Connect deployment, and the transition to a passwordless authentication model. Whether you're supporting end users or securing the backend, this track offers real-world strategies and expert tips to help you confidently manage and evolve your Microsoft 365 environment.

TMT03

10 Techniques for Quicker Notetaking with Microsoft 365

Intermediate

HEATHER SEVERINO

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- How to identify the best note-taking workflow for the content
- About timesaving shortcuts
- How to organize notes in a more structured way

TMT08

Microsoft 365 Copilot: Tips, Tricks and Tech Tales

Introductory

HEATHER SEVERINO

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

You will learn:

- How to refine communications with AI-assistance
- How to draft a new file with AI-assistance
- How to create a survey with AI-assistance

TMT11

Learn What's New with Microsoft 365 Copilot

Intermediate

HEATHER SEVERINO

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- How to identify new features being introduced to Microsoft 365Copilot
- How to increase productivity with Copilot prompting
- How to write more descriptive Copilot prompts to return more accurate information

TMW01

Essential Microsoft 365 Security Features Crash Course

Introductory

KARINNE BESSETTE

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- Understand Security Concepts: Learn the top concepts for securing and monitoring your Microsoft 365 environment
- Navigate Admin Centers: Understand which admin centers to find these tools, including Microsoft Purview compliance portal and Microsoft 365 Defender admin center
- Utilize Subscription Features: Learn how to leverage security features available in your subscription at no extra charge



TECHMENTOR SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

TMW07

How to Efficiently Navigate Microsoft Teams Meetings and Applications

Introductory

KARINNE BESSETTE

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- Optimizing Meetings: Discover tips and tricks to get the most out of meetings, including scheduling, joining, and managing them effectively
- Utilizing Integrated Tools: Explore how to use integrated tools like Power Automate, OneNote, and Loop to connect information seamlessly and improve workflow
- Mastering Navigation: Learn how to efficiently navigate Microsoft Teams to maximize productivity and streamline daily communication

TMW12

Deploying, Configuring, Securing, and Supporting Microsoft Entra Connect

Introductory / Intermediate

JOHN O'NEILL SR.

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- How to create a highly-available Entra Connect deployment
- About monitoring the health and stability of Entra Connect
- How to ensure seamless and secure connectivity between on-prem AD and Entra ID

TMH07

The Journey to Passwordless with Microsoft Technologies: Notes from the Field

Introductory / Intermediate

JOHN O'NEILL SR.

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

Key Takeaways:

- Strategic approaches to gradually phase out password dependence
- Best practices derived from successful enterprise deployments
- Insights into enabling passwordless authentication for macOS environments



CUTTING-EDGE AI

The Cutting-Edge AI track explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping IT and development workflows through secure, practical, and creative applications. From writing securable code with tools like GitHub Copilot to enhancing daily IT operations with ChatGPT-4, this track equips attendees with the skills to integrate AI responsibly and effectively. With a focus on prompt engineering, automation, and real-world use cases, participants will leave ready to harness AI's potential for smarter, safer, and more innovative work.

TMW06

An Insider's Guide to Successful Copilot Deployment and Adoption

Intermediate

STEPHEN L. ROSE

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

In this session we will share how real world companies have found success in not just planning and deploying Copilot but what they have done to secure their end users all while driving adoption.

TMH08

Coding with Safe Vibes – Making Copilot Write Securable Code

Introductory

ALTON CROSSLEY

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- How to include security in your prompts
- How to include security in your context
- How to make securable code a natural outcome, not an afterthought

TMH11

Practical AI Everyday Applications for IT Life

Introductory

KARINNE BESSETTE

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

Key Takeaways:

- Explore AI's Transformative Role: Understand how AI technology is revolutionizing Information Technology roles by offering unprecedented efficiency, creativity, and problem-solving capabilities.
- Enhance Creative Processes: Discover how AI can enhance creative processes within tasks, such as algorithmic design, user experience enhancements, and innovative solution development.
- Integrate AI into Daily Practice: Equip yourself with the knowledge to integrate AI into your daily practice, paving the way for smarter, more efficient work environments.





TECHMENTOR SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE CHAIRS



Sami Laiho
Chief Research Officer,
Adminize
TechMentor Conference Co-Chair

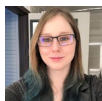


Dave Kawula
Principal Consultant,
TriCon Elite Consulting
TechMentor Conference Co-Chair

SPEAKERS



Greg Altman
Cloud Engineer, Author,
Speaker, Motorcyclist



Karinne Bessette
Technologist,
Product Strategy Team,
Veeam



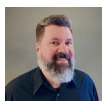
Mattias Borg
Cyber Security Geek



Erica Burgess
Offensive Cybersecurity
Consultant / Software
Architect



Émile Cabot
Principal Consultant,
TriCon Elite Consulting



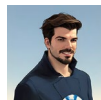
Alton Crossley
Software Engineer in Security



Aidan Finn
Azure MVP, Principal
Consultant, Innofactor Norway



Michelle Gilbert
Principal Cloud Solution
Architect, Copilot for M365,
Microsoft



Myron Helgering
CTO, Cloud Life



Kevin Kaminski
Consultant



Cristal Kawula
President,
TriCon Elite Consulting



Dave Kawula
Principal Consultant,
TriCon Elite Consulting



Sami Laiho
Chief Research Officer,
Adminize



Markus Lintuala
Public Cloud
and Security Hero



Andy Malone
Worldwide Speaker, YouTuber,
Tech Instructor, Author



Michael Niehaus
Programme Director & Master
Inventor, 2Pint Software



John O'Neill Sr.
Chief Innovation Officer,
Azure Innovators



James Petty
Director of Information
Technology, TextRequest



Stefan Schöring
Cloud Security and Infra Geek,
Onevinn AB



Stephen L. Rose
Consultant, stephenlrose.com



Tatu Seppälä
Blogger & Speaker



Heather Severino
Founder, TeachUTech



Rod Trent
Senior Program Manager,
Microsoft



Michael Van Horenbeeck
CEO and Sr. Architect,
The Collective



Artificial Intelligence[®] LIVE!

AI FOR DEVELOPERS AND DATA SCIENTISTS



AI Application
Development



Generative AI



ABCs - Agents, Bots,
& Copilots



AI Skepticism
and Caveats



Machine Learning



AI and
Structured Data



A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

WHETHER YOU'RE A PASSIONATE AI enthusiast or a seasoned technology professional, we warmly invite you to join us at Artificial Intelligence Live! 2025 in Orlando—the premier conference designed specifically for enterprise technologists like you.

In today's fast-paced technological landscape, AI, data science, machine learning, and deep learning are reshaping industries and redefining what's possible. With the rise of generative and agentic AI, these powerful tools are now within everyone's reach. Staying ahead and focusing on the transformative impacts of AI relevant to your professional role has never been more crucial.

Artificial Intelligence Live! 2025 cuts through the noise, delivering targeted insights and practical knowledge without the fluff. Whether you're an application developer, DBA, business intelligence specialist, data engineer, aspiring data scientist, or even a savvy technical manager, our conference provides the ideal platform to accelerate your AI journey.

Our esteemed speakers are seasoned developers and technologists who bring extensive experience and deep expertise, ready to guide you through today's most exciting and relevant AI topics. If you're eager to stay at the forefront of AI innovation—be it as a developer, database professional, or IT leader—Artificial Intelligence Live! is your ultimate destination.

The year 2025 is already brimming with groundbreaking AI tools and technologies. Just like last year, our expert speakers have prepared an extensive array of dynamic sessions and interactive workshops to keep you ahead of the curve.

Highlights of our rich, day-long content includes the following hands-on workshops:

- Elevate Your Career with Python and AI – a comprehensive two-day workshop covering everything from Python basics to practical AI applications.
- Unlock the Potential of AI in Your Applications with Semantic Kernel – an intensive one-day session.
- Mastering Azure AI Foundry with Agents – a detailed one-day exploration.
- Modern & Secure AI Engineering with C#, GitHub, and Azure – a focused workshop concluding the conference week.

Want a quicker hit? Our engaging 75-minute sessions address critical topics, including:

- The State of AI Today
- Vectorization Techniques (with and without Graphs)
- Enterprise AI with Azure AI Foundry
- AI in Microsoft Fabric with Data Agents, Notebooks, and More
- AI Without Fear: Secure Code Execution for LLMs in Azure Container Apps
- Unlocking Potential in M365 with Semantic Kernel & Copilot Agent Plugins
- Building Custom Copilots and Agents
- Practical Strategies for Enhancing RAG System Accuracy
- Creating AI Agents with Azure AI Agent Service
- AI-Powered Software Development Lifecycle
- Copilot: A Year in Review

- AI Vulnerabilities in 2025 – Addressing Emerging Threats
- Building AI-Powered Applications with Azure Database for PostgreSQL
- Plus, targeted 20-minute fast-focus sessions for quick yet impactful insights

As part of the broader Live! 360 Tech Con experience, Artificial Intelligence Live! offers unmatched opportunities to explore complementary areas including the Microsoft Data Platform, IT professional topics, .NET development with Visual Studio, Cybersecurity and Ransomware defense, and cloud-native/server-side computing—all conveniently co-located under one roof.

Whether your goal is in-depth expertise in a particular AI technology or a broader understanding of strategies to address your organization's challenges, Live! 360 2025 promises an experience packed with value and insight.

We can't wait to welcome you in Orlando!

Warm regards,

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS




Andrew Brust
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights



Brian A. Randell
Partner,
MCW Technologies




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE







Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

AI Application Development		Generative AI		ABCs Agents, Bots, & Copilots		AI Skepticism and Caveats		Machine Learning		AI and Structured Data	
START TIME	END TIME	Artificial Intelligence Live! Pre-Conference Hands-On Labs: Sunday, November 16, 2025									
7:00 AM	9:00 AM	Hands-On Lab Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
9:00 AM	6:00 PM	AIHOL01 2-Day Hands-On Lab: Elevate Your Career with Python and AI - Day 1: Getting Started with Python - Eric D. Boyd					AIHOL02 Hands-On Lab: Unlock the Potential of AI in Your Applications with Semantic Kernel - Marcel de Vries, René van Osnabrugge, & Roy Cornelissen				
10:00 AM	7:00 PM	Pre-Conference Registration - Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center									
START TIME	END TIME	Artificial Intelligence Live! Pre-Conference Workshops: Monday, November 17, 2025									
7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:30 AM	5:30 PM	AIHOL01 2-Day Hands-On Lab: Elevate Your Career with Python and AI - Day 2: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Using Python - Eric D. Boyd					AIM01 Hands-on Workshop: Mastering Azure AI Foundry with Agents - Lino Tadros				
5:45 PM	6:15 PM	Live! 360 First Timers Forum: A New Attendees Guide - Pacifica 6									
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Mix & Mingle @ Hard Rock Café Universal CityWalk									
START TIME	END TIME	Artificial Intelligence Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025									
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! KEYNOTE: Rethinking the Possible - Breaking Free with AI Marcel de Vries, Global MD & CTO, Xebia									
9:15 AM	10:30 AM	AIT01 Agents at Work: Rethinking Azure DevOps from the Ground Up - Asif Sharif, Rebecca Walbecq, Shihan Fernando, Randall Racely					AIT02 No code, Low Code Generative AI with Flowise AI - Lino Tadros				
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Networking Break Sponsored by  Microsoft Azure • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 / THREATLOCKER Demo Theater (10:35 - 10:50am) - Coral Sea 2									
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Agentic DevOps in Real Life - Build Faster, Ship Safer, Keep Humans in the Loop Mickey Gousset, Staff DevOps Architect, GitHub & Brian A. Randell, Partner, MCW Technologies									
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Lunch - Oceana Ballroom • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
12:45 PM	1:30 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
		 Progress Demo Theater: Elevating Developer Productivity and End User Satisfaction with AI - Sara Faatz (12:45 - 1:05pm) - Coral Sea 2 /  JETBRAINS Demo Theater (1:05 - 1:20pm) - Java Sea									
1:30 PM	1:50 PM	AIT03 Fast Focus: Jupyter Notebooks in VS Code - Eric D. Boyd									
2:00 PM	2:20 PM	AIT04 Fast Focus: When Not to Use AI Agents - Andreas Erben									




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*



Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

AI Application Development		Generative AI		ABCs Agents, Bots, & Copilots		AI Skepticism and Caveats		Machine Learning		AI and Structured Data	
Artificial Intelligence Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (Continued)											
2:20 PM	2:45 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
2:45 PM	4:00 PM	AIT05 Vectorization with and without Graph - Lino Tadros					AIT06 From Specs to Screens: How AI & Specification-Driven Development Are Transforming Frontend Engineering - Omkar Choudhari & Chris Patterson				
4:15 PM	5:30 PM	AIT07 Enterprise AI with Azure AI Foundry - Eric D. Boyd					AIT08  What Is Model Context Protocol (MCP) and Why Should You Care? A Beginner's Guide - Fabian Williams				
5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Exhibitor Welcome Reception Sponsored by  Microsoft - Pacifica 7									
Artificial Intelligence Live! Day 2: Wednesday, November 19, 2025											
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	AIW01 AI Without Fear: Secure Code Execution for LLMs in Azure Container Apps - Carey Payette					AIW02  Unlocking Potential in M365 with Semantic Kernel & Copilot Agent Plugins - Fabian Williams				
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	AIW03 Maximizing Productivity with Copilot: Tips, Tricks, and Real-World Use Cases - Stacy Deere & Diego Domingos da Silva					AIW04 AI Vulnerabilities in 2025: Exploring the Darker Sides of Generative AI - Andreas Erben				
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
		 Demo Theater (10:50 - 11:05am) - Coral Sea 2 /  Exclaimer Demo Theater (11:10am - 11:25am) - Java Sea									
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Azure at 15: What's Next for the Cloud, AI, and You Eric D. Boyd, Founder & CEO, responsiveX									
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Table Topics Lunch - Oceana Ballroom									
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 /  VONAGE Demo Theater (1:35 - 1:50pm) - Coral Sea 2									
2:00 PM	3:15 PM	AIW05 Practical Strategies for Improving RAG System Accuracy - Carey Payette					AIW06 Agentic AI for Developers: Creating AI Agents with Azure AI Agent Service - Eric D. Boyd				
3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge • Expo Raffle @ 3:20 p.m. - Pacifica 7									
4:00 PM	5:15 PM	AIW07 The AI-Powered Software Development Lifecycle - René van Osnabrugge					AIW08 Copilot: One Year Later – The Good, The Bad, and What's Next - Stacy Deere				
7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Live! 360 Dessert Luau - Wantilan Pavilion									



AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*

Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

AI Application Development	Generative AI	ABCs Agents, Bots, & Copilots	AI Skepticism and Caveats	Machine Learning	AI and Structured Data
START TIME	END TIME	Artificial Intelligence Live! Day 3: Thursday, November 20, 2025			
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries			
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	AIH01 Build Custom Copilots and Agents with Azure OpenAI, ChatGPT, Deepseek, and Copilot Studio - Prashant G Bhoyar		AIH02 Building AI-Powered Applications with Azure Database for PostgreSQL - Jean Joseph	
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	AIH03 Model Behavior and Explainability - What Can You Do? - Andreas Erben		AIH04 Build Multimodal Agents to Talk with Your Data & Take Actions Using Azure SQL, Cosmos DB, Azure AI - Prashant G Bhoyar	
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION: Governance in the AI Age Andrew Brust [moderator], Prashant G Bhoyar, Michelle Gilbert, Jean Joseph, & Ken Muse			
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Live! 360 DJ Lunch - Oceana Ballroom			
1:00 PM	2:15 PM	AIH05  Managing Change in a Microsoft World: Copilot Governance & Change Management - Michelle Gilbert		AIH06 AI in Fabric with Data Agents, Notebooks and More - Andrew Brust	
2:30 PM	3:45 PM	AIH07  Boost Your Personal Productivity with M365 Copilot - Michelle Gilbert		AIH08 Transforming Data Workflows with Agentics AI: The Future of Engineering and Analytics - Jean Joseph	
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	LIVE! 360 WRAP PARTY Tech Presentation - Billy Hollis, Developer. Designer. Speaker. Author. Q&A with Live! 360 Conference Chairs & Speakers: Chris Ayers, Mike Benkovich, Karinne Bessette, Prashant G Bhoyar, Jason Bock, Andrew Brust, Erica Burgess, Émile Cabot, Jeremy Clark, Michelle Gilbert, Mickey Gousset, Dave Kawula, Sami Laiho, Thomas LaRock, Rockford Lhotka, Davide Mauri, Michael Niehaus, Ted Neward, John O'Neill Sr., Reza Rad, Brian Randell, Alex Thissen, & Rod Trent			
START TIME	END TIME	Artificial Intelligence Live! Post-Conference Workshops: Friday, November 21, 2025			
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries			
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	AIF01 Workshop: Engineering AI Native Solutions - Mickey Gousset, Ken Muse, & Brian A. Randell			



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK



FULL DAY HANDS-ON LABS

These instructor-led, pre-conference Hands-On Labs offer attendees intensive in-depth training before the conference officially begins. Take advantage of in-person instruction as well as collaboration with peers.

- Attendance for each Hands-On Lab is limited, so be sure to sign up early for these special bring your own laptop pre-conference HOLs.

AIHOL01

2-Day Hands-On Lab: Elevate Your Career with Python and AI - Day 1: Getting Started with Python

Introductory / Intermediate

ERIC D. BOYD

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

According to the TIOBE Index, Python currently stands as the most popular programming language. It's remarkable trajectory over the past three decades can be attributed to its inherent simplicity, an expansive ecosystem of libraries and packages, and its remarkable versatility across a diverse array of domains including data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, IoT, robotics, and automated task execution.

Embark on a two-day journey to learn a new programming language with far-reaching applicability. As the language of choice for data science, advanced research, and the expanding field of AI, Python will propel you into the heart of machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Join Microsoft Azure MVP, Eric D. Boyd, for an immersive hands-on lab, a two-day expedition into the world of Python, AI, and ML. You don't need to have any prior knowledge of Python or AI to attend. We'll begin with the bedrock principles of Python. And on day two, we will explore the foundations of artificial intelligence and machine learning through many types of problems, scenarios, and algorithms.

Day 1 – Getting Started with Python

On Day 1, we will begin by getting our development environment set up for Python development with Visual Studio Code. Once everyone is up and running, we will spend the rest of the day exploring the Python language and writing Python code together. We will start exploring fundamental language constructs including variables, data types, functions, conditionals, loops, and guidelines for writing Python code according to the conventions established by the Python community.

Next, we will explore Python data structures for working with collections of data and learn how we can work with these data structures effectively and efficiently using powerful Python language features. We will also explore exceptions and how to handle errors in your Python programs.

From there, we'll explore how you can structure and reuse code with Python modules. We will explore what's available in the built-in Python standard library, and we will explore the ecosystem of Python packages and libraries including popular libraries like NumPy, Pandas, and Matplotlib.

As a developer, one of the things you should do to create great software is test your code. In addition to exploring the troubleshooting and debugging capabilities of Visual Studio Code, we will explore how to create automated tests to test your Python code.

Closing out Day 1, we will explore how to use Python to create programs and apps beyond the terminal window. We will use Notebooks for interactively working with Python and see how Microsoft Fabric enables you to bring your Python skills for data engineering and analytics. We will explore how you can consume Python from other languages like C# and how Python can integrate with your C# apps. And lastly, we will explore how to create web apps and web APIs with Python using Flask and FastAPI.

Attendee Workstation Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop for this hands-on lab
- Your machine must have a modern web browser
- Visual Studio Code needs to be installed on your machine: <https://code.visualstudio.com/>
- Git needs to be installed on your machine: <https://git-scm.com/downloads>

AIHOL02

Hands-On Lab: Unlock the Potential of AI in Your Applications with Semantic Kernel

Intermediate

MARCEL DE VRIES, RENÉ VAN OSNABRUGGE, & ROY CORNELISSEN

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Semantic Kernel is an open-source SDK by Microsoft that helps you build AI-infused applications and agents in C#. It enables developers to seamlessly integrate existing code and applications with AI models from OpenAI, Azure OpenAI, and Hugging Face.

Enterprises use Semantic Kernel for its flexibility, modularity, and observability. It offers security features like telemetry support, hooks, and filters, ensuring responsible AI at scale. Designed to be future-proof, it allows easy integration with the latest AI models without rewriting the entire codebase when new models emerge.

In this workshop, you will explore how the Semantic Kernel can help you integrate AI capabilities into your applications. The workshop also highlights Semantic Kernel's extensibility, allowing the integration of memories, AI models, and plugins, making it a key player in AI development. The workshop is created so you can start with no experience and end the day with all the knowledge you need to embrace LLMs in your applications and even build full-fledged Agents that help you change the way your customers and users have ever interacted with your systems before.

You will learn:

- How to integrate AI capabilities into existing applications using Semantic Kernel
- The extensibility of Semantic Kernel through memories, AI models, and plugins
- Best practices for implementing AI at scale with features like telemetry support, hooks, and filters

Attendee Workstation Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop for this hands-on lab



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

AIHOL01

2-Day Hands-On Lab: Elevate Your Career with Python and AI - Day 2: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Using Python

Introductory / Intermediate

ERIC D. BOYD

Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Day 2 – Introduction to Artificial Intelligence using Python

To attend Day 2 of this lab you must have either attended Day 1 of this workshop or have a strong working knowledge of Python with a functional Python development environment. There will not be any time spent on day 2 teaching Python fundamentals or setting up Python development environments.

Artificial intelligence is a machine's ability to perform the cognitive functions we usually associate with human minds. And there are many challenging problems that we face as developers of technology solutions that can be simplified using techniques and algorithms from the field of artificial intelligence.

On Day 2, you will immediately get to employ your newfound knowledge of Python to craft innovative solutions across the pivotal domains of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Together, we will delve into the foundations of artificial intelligence spanning the topics of search algorithms, knowledge representation, uncertainty modeling, optimization strategies, machine learning, neural networks, and natural language processing. This dynamic learning experience will be underpinned by the utilization of established libraries such as Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, NLTK, and more.

We will also explore other platforms like Azure Machine Learning to create and deploy machine learning models and solutions how you can use your Python knowledge and skills with Azure Machine Learning.

And our journey won't conclude there. You'll get to embark on a journey through the emerging world of generative AI, large language models, and prompt engineering. We will explore the OpenAI models, using LLMs with your private data, and how to navigate the world of prompt engineering using tools like LangChain, opening doors to novel applications and possibilities in language-driven AI systems.

Unlock the potential of Python and AI over the course of two-days in a hands-on environment where theory evolves into tangible skills, and where your career potential gains an invaluable edge.

Attendee Workstation Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop for this hands-on lab
- Your machine must have a modern web browser
- You need the ability to install and configure other things on your laptops throughout the workshop
- Visual Studio Code needs to be installed on your machine: <https://code.visualstudio.com/>
- Git needs to be installed on your machine: <https://git-scm.com/download>

AIM01

Hands-on Workshop: Mastering Azure AI Foundry with Agents

Introductory

LINO TADROS

Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

In this full-day, in-depth workshop, we will discuss, demonstrate, and go through labs with all attendees for understanding and mastering the Microsoft Azure AI Foundry and Agent development.

Topics to master during the day:

1. Creating an Azure AI Foundry resource in the Azure Portal
2. Creating an Azure AI Foundry Hub and what its purpose
3. Creating an Azure AI Foundry Project and its purpose
4. Explain all resources created to accompany the Hub like Azure Key Vault and Azure Storage and what service they provide to the Projects.
5. Introduction to a simple Prompt Flow Completion and dissecting all the nodes involved
6. Adding an Azure AI Search resource and vectorizing multiple documents in the portal.
7. Explaining the Azure AI Foundry Management Portal and how to connect external resources to a project.
8. Create a second Prompt Flow with Chat completion using Lookup resource against the vectorized documents
9. Explain the file structure of a Prompt Flow and use it in Visual Studio Code
10. Evaluating a Prompt Flow against multiple LLM and multiple Prompts
11. Deploying a tested Prompt Flow to Serverless compute and Managed compute and explain the difference
12. Monitor the deployed Prompt Flow in Application Insights
13. Consume the deployed Prompt Flow from Python and JavaScript based applications.

The labs during the day will give you a chance to experiment, try things yourself, and ask tons of questions.

Attendee Workstation Requirements:

- You must provide your own computer (Windows or Mac) for this hands-on workshop
- Laptop running Visual Studio Code, node.js (latest), Python 3.13 and newer
- You need to be admin on your machine
- You need to be owner or Global Admin on your Azure Subscription for all labs to work



WORKSHOPS

Choose from a wide range of content and topics by expert presenters with Artificial Intelligence Live! Orlando's Pre- and Post-Conference full-day workshops.

AIF01

Workshop: Modern & Secure AI Engineering with C#, GitHub, and Azure

Intermediate / Advanced

MICKY GOUSSET, KEN MUSE, & BRIAN A. RANDELL

Friday, November 21, 8:00am – 5:00pm

In this jam-packed, one-day lecture and demo-focused workshop, Brian, Micky, and Ken will take you on a journey through building intelligent AI-powered applications using C#, GitHub Copilot, Azure AI services, and modern DevOps practices. You'll explore essential AI concepts, practical architectural patterns, and best practices for integrating powerful AI models into your applications. The team will demonstrate state-of-the-art techniques, including Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), semantic search, advanced prompt engineering, and responsible AI practices. You'll also see how DevOps, MLOps, and Platform Engineering come together seamlessly, enabling secure, reliable, and continuous deployment of intelligent applications.

We'll start with an overview and AI Fundamentals. This will provide you with an introduction to the transformative power of Large Language Models (LLMs) and essential AI tools available



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

for developers. You'll see live demonstrations of GitHub Copilot and other tools that enhance coding productivity directly within Visual Studio, Visual Studio Code, and github.com. We'll explore how LLMs are reshaping software engineering and cover key AI tools including GitHub Copilot, Azure OpenAI Service, and Semantic Kernel. We'll also cover model selection strategies for choosing between OpenAI models, Anthropic, Google (and more) as well as local models. Plus, we'll provide an overview of self-hosted options like Ollama, LM Studio, and other enterprise deployment patterns.

Next, we'll explore the AI Development Environment Landscape to help you understand the rapidly evolving world of AI-powered development tools and how to choose the right environment for your team. We'll compare AI IDEs including GitHub Copilot, Cursor, JetBrains AI Assistant, and Google Gemini Code Assist. You'll see demonstrations of command-line AI agents like Claude Code and terminal-based development workflows, along with integration strategies for hybrid development environments.

We'll then cover architectural patterns for AI-enhanced apps, exploring practical architectural patterns crucial for integrating AI capabilities into modern applications. You'll learn about key components like LLM services, embedding models, vector databases, and the powerful Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) technique. We'll cover pattern overviews for LLM services, embeddings, vector databases, and semantic search, along with an introduction to RAG. We'll dive into advanced RAG techniques including hybrid search, reranking, and multi-modal RAG for text and images, plus memory and state management for conversation history.

From there, we'll dive into AI agents and autonomous workflows, covering the hottest area of AI development—autonomous agents that can handle complex, multi-step tasks. You'll discover how chained reasoning, state management, and tool integration create powerful AI workflows. We'll demonstrate GitHub Copilot's Agent Mode evolution from pair programmer to autonomous teammate, explore multi-agent workflows and collaboration patterns, and cover tool integration, planners, and state management in AI agents. We'll include examples of agentic workflows with MCP (Model Context Protocol) servers.

Our focus will then shift to practical prompt engineering, covering the principles of effective prompt engineering to ensure accurate and reliable results from AI models. You'll learn techniques like crafting clear system and user prompts, employing few-shot examples, and leveraging function-calling capabilities. We'll demonstrate crafting effective prompts

for accurate results, explain the differences between system and user prompts, few-shot prompting, and function calling. We'll also cover cost optimization strategies including token management and caching techniques.

We'll address testing and evaluating AI applications, looking at essential practices for ensuring AI application quality and reliability through systematic testing and evaluation approaches. We'll cover evaluating AI outputs and testing strategies for non-deterministic systems, A/B testing prompts and automated testing frameworks, plus performance monitoring and quality assurance for AI applications.

Moving into operations, we'll explore how DevOps meets MLOps, showing how modern DevOps practices integrate seamlessly with Machine Learning Operations (MLOps) to enhance AI-driven development. The team will showcase continuous integration and automated workflows specifically tailored to deploying intelligent applications with examples using GitHub Actions. This includes integrating AI and ML into modern DevOps pipelines, continuous integration for AI-driven projects, and continuous deployment for AI-driven projects.

Security is critical, so we'll cover securing AI applications with GitHub Advanced Security, highlighting security considerations unique to AI-driven applications and emphasizing how GitHub Advanced Security (GHAS) helps maintain secure codebases. The team will show how GHAS can help you produce more secure code and how it works with Copilot to help you build better solutions. We'll cover security challenges unique to AI-driven codebases and demonstrate leveraging GHAS for automated vulnerability detection and remediation.

We'll address responsible AI, governance, and data privacy, covering responsible AI practices, ethical considerations, and essential privacy protections necessary for AI applications. We'll demonstrate practical methods for implementing content moderation and data privacy controls. This covers content moderation and filtering in AI-driven apps, best practices for ethical AI usage and privacy preservation, enterprise AI governance, audit trails, and compliance considerations, plus Azure content-filtering options.

Finally, we'll conclude by deploying AI-powered applications to Azure, exploring deployment strategies for AI applications and weighing the pros and cons of Azure-managed versus self-hosted options. Practical demonstrations will show you how to deploy and monitor a live, production-grade AI-powered application on Azure. This includes choosing between Azure and self-hosted deployments, practical

deployment options using Azure App Service, Containers, and Azure Functions, hybrid solutions using cloud and edge computing, plus cost monitoring and optimization for production AI applications.

Key Takeaways

- Clearly understand essential AI development concepts and architectural patterns
- Learn practical techniques to integrate AI into your development workflows effectively
- Grasp modern DevOps and MLOps practices tailored for secure, AI-driven application delivery
- See real-world, production-grade AI applications deployed to Azure and secured through GitHub Advanced Security
- Understand the AI development tool landscape and how to choose the right environment for your team





ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



AI APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

You want to build AI-enabled applications? This track is for you. It offers a rich blend of immersive sessions, a workshop, and a comprehensive two-day, hands-on-lab. Start your custom development with modern AI frameworks, come up to speed on the latest development practices, build next-gen AI apps with .NET and Azure, and master Python development in our comprehensive hands-on-lab. From seasoned IT professionals to tech enthusiasts, this track presents a unique opportunity to navigate the dynamic landscape of AI development with a futuristic vision and practical skills.

This track includes coverage of the following:

- The AI-Powered Software Development Lifecycle
- No code, Low code Generative AI with Flowise AI
- Practical Strategies for Improving RAG System Accuracy
- Workshop: Engineering AI Native Solutions
- 2-Day Hands-On Lab Elevate Your Career with Python and AI
- Day 1: Getting Started with Python
- Day 2: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Using Python

AIT02

No code, Low code Generative AI with Flowise AI

Introductory

LINO TADROS

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- About mastering FlowiseAI
- How to incorporate Langchain in FlowiseAI
- Vector Stores and deployment of FlowiseAI

AIT06

From Specs to Screens: How AI & Specification-Driven Development Are Transforming Frontend Engineering

Introductory / Intermediate

OMKAR CHOUDHAR & CHIRS PATTERSON

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

You will learn:

- Shift-Left with Specifications – How specification driven development (using Spec Kit) helps align requirements, compliance, and design early in the lifecycle to reduce late-stage churn.
- AI-Powered Frontend Acceleration – How AI Pundit Magic turns Figma designs into enterprise-ready React code within Visual Studio, keeping developers focused on business logic instead of pixel work.
- Seamless DevOps Integration – How Azure DevOps user stories, tasks, and wireframes can be orchestrated with AI to maintain sync between requirements, design, and code execution.

AIW05

Practical Strategies for Improving RAG System Accuracy

Intermediate / Advanced

CAREY PAYETTE

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

Topics include:

- Advanced chunking strategies and document preprocessing techniques
- Vector store guidance
- Hybrid retrieval approaches combining semantic and keyword search
- Graph-based retrieval techniques

AIW07

The AI-Powered Software Development Lifecycle

Introductory

RENÉ VAN OSNABRUGGE

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- How to identify AI Opportunities Beyond Code Generation
- How to analyze the Impact of AI on Different Roles in Software Development
- How to develop a Strategic Approach for Integrating AI Across the SDLC





ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



GENERATIVE AI

Generative AI (GenAI) offers an incredible frontier to expand your capabilities, enabling the creation of dynamic, personalized content ranging from text to images, music, and even code, based on learned patterns. In this track, you can unpack the dynamics of Azure AI Foundry and modern AI services, learning about their unique features and applications. Explore advanced techniques for vectorization, graph-based approaches, and secure code execution for LLMs. Investigate enterprise-grade AI solutions and discover how to maximize productivity with Copilot technologies. By mastering this cutting-edge technology, you can pioneer innovative solutions and user experiences, thereby increasing the value and impact of your applications in an increasingly AI-driven digital world.

This track includes coverage of the following:

- AI Without Fear: Secure Code Execution for LLMs in Azure Container Apps
- Boost Your Personal Productivity with M365 Copilot
- Enterprise AI with Azure AI Foundry
- Maximizing Productivity with Copilot: Tips, Tricks, and Real-World Use Cases
- Vectorization with and without Graph
- Workshop: Mastering Azure AI Foundry with Agents

AIT05

Vectorization with and without Graph

Intermediate

LINO TADROS

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

You will learn:

- About Naive RAG
- About GraphRAG
- When to use which technology

AIT07

Enterprise AI with Azure AI Foundry

Introductory / Intermediate

ERIC D. BOYD

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- About Azure AI Foundry
- About the model catalog within Azure AI Foundry
- How to build intelligent apps with Azure AI Foundry SDK

AIW01

AI Without Fear: Secure Code Execution for LLMs in Azure Container Apps

Intermediate / Advanced

CAREY PAYETTE

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- About cutting Edge AI
- How Azure Container Apps dynamic sessions provide a secure, isolated environment for executing code within AI applications, mitigating risks associated with untrusted code
- To differentiate between code interpreter sessions and custom container sessions, and identify appropriate use cases for each

AIW03

Maximizing Productivity with Copilot: Tips, Tricks, and Real-World Use Cases

Introductory

STACY DEERE & DIEGO DOMINGOS DA SILVA

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- To unlock Copilot's Full Potential – Learn how to effectively use Copilot across Microsoft 365 apps to automate tasks, generate content, and enhance collaboration
- How to apply Real-World Use Cases – Discover practical scenarios and success stories where Copilot has improved productivity, reduced manual effort, and streamlined workflows
- How to overcome Common Challenges – Understand best practices for ensuring accuracy, managing AI-generated content, and addressing limitations to get the most out of Copilot

AIH07

Boost Your Personal Productivity with M365 Copilot

Introductory

MICHELLE GILBERT

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- About M365 Copilot and Copilot Chat
- Prompting Skills
- About Personal Productivity with AI



THE SESSIONS AT LIVE! 360 WERE ROCK SOLID AND VERY APPLICABLE TO ME. THESE WERE THE BEST SESSIONS I HAVE EVER HAD AT ANY CONFERENCE I'VE ATTENDED, AND I'VE ATTENDED ALL KINDS OF CONFERENCES FROM IGNITE TO LITTLE LOCAL TECH SEMINARS."

– Joshua Morden, Evans Consulting



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



ABCS - AGENTS, BOTS, & COPILOTS

Conversational Q&A, summarization, completion and asset creation, both on-demand and running autonomously in the background, help boost productivity and are well within today's AI state of the art. Whether agents do the work on your behalf, or bots and copilots do it in response to your requests, these technologies deliver on the promise of GenAI. Artificial Intelligence Live! covers this technology for you, from the developer perspective, so you'll know how to build copilots yourself, build AI into your own applications and leverage the power of modern AI agent frameworks and services.

This track includes coverage of the following:

- Agentic AI for Developers: Creating AI Agents with Azure AI Agent Service
- Build Custom Copilots and Agents with Azure OpenAI, ChatGPT, Deepseek, and Copilot Studio
- Copilot: One Year Later – The Good, The Bad, and What's Next
- Unlocking Potential in M365 with Semantic Kernel & Copilot Agent Plugins
- What Is Model Context Protocol (MCP) and Why Should You Care? A Beginner's Guide
- Hands-On Lab: Unlock the Potential of AI in Your Applications with Semantic Kernel

AIT01

Agents at Work: Rethinking Azure DevOps from the Ground Up

Introductory / Intermediate

ASIF SHARIF, REBECCA WALBECQ,
SHIHAN FERNANDO, & RANDALL RACELY

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- How to accelerate delivery with AI-driven agents across work items, repos, pipelines, artifacts, and wikis.
- How to transform agents into true team collaborators, supporting planning, coding, testing, and releasing.
- How to apply actionable scenarios that boost productivity, traceability, and innovation in your own DevOps environment.

AIT08

What Is Model Context Protocol (MCP) and Why Should You Care? A Beginner's Guide

Introductory

FABIAN WILLIAMS

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- What MCP Is and Isn't: Understand how Model Context Protocol works and where it fits in the ecosystem of plugins and AI tools
- Why You Should Care: Learn how MCP makes assistants like ChatGPT, Claude, and Copilot smarter by giving them secure access to your apps and data
- Where to Start: Get beginner-friendly resources, examples, and inspiration to build or integrate your first MCP plugin

AIW02

Unlocking Potential in M365 with Semantic Kernel & Copilot Agent Plugins

Intermediate

FABIAN WILLIAMS

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- About harnessing Semantic Kernel: Understand how to utilize Semantic Kernel to create extensible and customizable plugins that integrate Microsoft Graph for solving complex user scenarios
- About Dynamic Query Handling: Learn how to leverage natural language queries to identify and dynamically select appropriate Graph API endpoints to address nuanced business needs
- About Real-World Applications: Explore best practices for using Microsoft 365 Copilot extensibility to unlock hidden value from organizational and personal data to meet end-user demands

AIW06

Agentic AI for Developers: Creating AI Agents with Azure AI Agent Service

Introductory / Intermediate

ERIC D. BOYD

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- About the architecture and design patterns behind AI agents
- About creating agents using the Azure AI Agent Service
- How to integrate agents with enterprise data and applications

AIW08

Copilot: One Year Later – The Good, The Bad, and What's Next

Introductory

STACY DEERE

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- How to evaluate Copilot's impact – Understand the key improvements and challenges Copilot has introduced over the past year, including productivity gains, user adoption trends, and real-world success stories
- How to identify limitations & Pitfalls – Recognize the common challenges, limitations, and areas where Copilot has fallen short, including accuracy concerns, security implications, and user frustrations
- About the future of Copilot – Gain insights into upcoming enhancements, best practices for maximizing Copilot's potential, and strategies to navigate its evolving role in the workplace

AIH01

Build Custom Copilots and Agents with Azure OpenAI, ChatGPT, Deepseek, and Copilot Studio

Intermediate / Advanced

PRASHANT G BHOYAR

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

In this session, you'll learn:

- Key concepts and capabilities of Copilot Studio



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

- How to manage authentication and authorization for secure enterprise-grade AI assistants
- Practical steps to build and customize copilots and agents using Azure OpenAI, ChatGPT, DeepSeek, and Copilot Studio

Whether you're a developer, solution architect, or IT leader, you'll walk away with the knowledge and tools to start building AI copilots that boost productivity, enhance customer experience, and transform how your users interact with your systems.

AI SKEPTICISM AND CAVEATS

In an era of rapid AI advancement, it's crucial to maintain a balanced perspective on artificial intelligence capabilities and limitations. This track provides a critical examination of AI technologies, addressing potential risks, vulnerabilities, and governance challenges. Explore the current state of AI with honest assessments of what works and what doesn't, understand security vulnerabilities and darker aspects of AI implementation, and learn about change management strategies for AI adoption in enterprise environments. This track ensures you approach AI with both enthusiasm and appropriate caution.

This track includes coverage of the following:

- AI Vulnerabilities in 2025 - Some of the Darker Sides of AI
- Managing Change in a Microsoft World: Copilot Governance & Change Management
- The State of AI Today
- Fast Focus: Do Not Use AI Agents

AIT04

Fast Focus: When Not to Use AI Agents

Intermediate

ANDREAS ERBEN

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

You will learn:

- The common drawbacks and risks of using AI Agents
- Alternative tools and strategies that may offer better results
- Real-world scenarios where AI Agents should be avoided

AIW04

AI Vulnerabilities in 2025: Exploring the Darker Sides of Generative AI

Introductory / Intermediate

ANDREAS ERBEN

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- The breadth of AI-specific attack vectors you may face in 2025
- How to test and probe your AI system for hidden vulnerabilities
- Effective mitigation strategies to reduce exposure and improve safety

AIH05

Managing Change in a Microsoft World: Copilot Governance & Change Management

Introductory / Intermediate

MICHELLE GILBERT

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- About M365 Copilot
- About Copilot governance
- Strategies for user adoption of Copilot



MACHINE LEARNING

With all the excitement over GenAI, we should not forget the power, utility and economy of the machine learning (ML) work we've been doing for the last several years. ML is established and proven, with highly mature platforms. For well known, structured datasets, and predictive tasks, ML is often the best solution, with lower costs than GenAI, both for training models and inferencing/running predictions against them. ML fundamentals and platform specifics are important, and Artificial Intelligence Live! covers them both for you, alongside all our GenAI content.

This track includes coverage of the following:

- Fast Focus: Jupyter Notebooks in VS Code
- Model Behavior and Explainability - What Can You Do?

AIT03

Fast Focus: Jupyter Notebooks in VS Code

Introductory

ERIC D. BOYD

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

You will learn:

- Jupyter notebooks
- How to setup Visual Studio Code to work with Jupyter notebooks
- About getting started with interactive Python development

AIH03

Model Behavior and Explainability - What Can You Do?

Intermediate

ANDREAS ERBEN

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

You will learn:

- Key principles and dimensions of explainability in generative AI
- How to analyze and interpret model behavior through structured testing
- Techniques to steer models toward desired outputs and minimize undesirable behavior



AI AND STRUCTURED DATA

The integration of artificial intelligence with structured data represents a powerful convergence that unlocks new possibilities for data-driven applications. This track explores how to build AI-powered applications that leverage structured databases, from traditional SQL databases to modern NoSQL solutions. Learn how to create multimodal agents that can interact with your data and take meaningful actions, discover AI capabilities within data platforms like Fabric, and explore how agentic AI is transforming data workflows in engineering and analytics contexts.

This track includes coverage of the following:

- AI in Fabric with Data Agents, Notebooks and more
- Building AI-Powered Applications with Azure Database for PostgreSQL
- Build Multimodal Agents to Talk with Your Data & Take Actions Using Azure SQL, Cosmos DB, Azure AI
- Transforming Data Workflows with Agentic AI: The Future of Engineering and Analytics

AIH02

Building AI-Powered Applications with Azure Database for PostgreSQL

Introductory

JEAN JOSEPH

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- How to integrate large language models (LLMs) with Azure Database for PostgreSQL to perform advanced NLP tasks such as sentiment analysis and named entity recognition
- About the powerful features of Azure Database for PostgreSQL, including generative AI capabilities for enhanced data analysis and insights
- How to augment your database with Azure AI Search to improve search capabilities and user experience in AI-powered applications

AIH04

Build Multimodal Agents to Talk with Your Data & Take Actions Using Azure SQL, Cosmos DB, Azure AI

Intermediate / Advanced

PRASHANT G BHOYAR

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

This session will cover:

- What are Multimodal Agents?
- Overview of Azure AI Services
- Creating Enterprise-Level Multimodal Agents: Practical guidance for developing agents that interact with your data and take actions using Azure SQL, Cosmos DB, and Azure AI.
- Best Practices

AIH06

AI in Fabric with Data Agents, Notebooks, and More

Intermediate

ANDREW BRUST

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- How to use Fabric's data agent, from the UI and from your own code
- How to do code-first generative AI in notebooks with the OpenAI API and Python
- See several Fabric co-pilots in action, learn their strengths, and see where they need to improve
- Come up to speed on Fabric's AutoML and MLOps tools

AIH08

Transforming Data Workflows with Agentics AI: The Future of Engineering and Analytics

Introductory

JEAN JOSEPH

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- How to leverage Agentics AI, powered by Microsoft Autogen, PHI-3 Mini, and Azure OpenAI, to optimize the entire data engineering lifecycle, from SQL code generation to data storage.
- Advanced analytical techniques used by the second AI agent to extract insights, create visualizations, and deliver actionable business intelligence
- Practical experience through demonstrations on streamlining data workflows and enhancing backend operations using cutting-edge AI solutions



I REALLY LIKED THE WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS AT LIVE! 360 TECH CON. I FEEL LIKE I CAN BRING A WELL-ROUNDED VARIETY OF INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE BACK TO MY TEAM."

– Tyler Olechnowicz, NBC Sports Next



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIVE! SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE CHAIRS



Andrew Brust
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights
Artificial Intelligence Live! Conference
Co-Chair

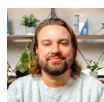


Brian A. Randell
Partner,
MCW Technologies
Artificial Intelligence Live! Conference
Co-Chair

SPEAKERS



Prashant G Bhoyar
Cloud Solution Architect,
Applied Information Sciences



Eric D. Boyd
Founder and CEO,
responsiveX



Andrew Brust
CEO and Founder,
Blue Badge Insights



Omkar Choudhari
CTO, wai technologies



Roy Cornelissen
Cloud Solution Architect @
Xebia



Marcel de Vries
Global MD & CTO,
Xebia



Stacy Deere
Solutions Architect,
Focal Point Solutions LLC



Diego Domingos da Silva
Solutions Architect |
Community Speaker



Andreas Erben
CTO, MR | Applied AI,
daenet



Shihan Fernando
SVP, Global Sales & Marketing,
Copilot4DevOps



Michelle Gilbert
Principal Cloud Solution
Architect, Copilot for M365,
Microsoft



Mickey Gousset
DevOps Architect,
GitHub



Jean Joseph
Data & AI Engineer



Ken Muse
Staff DevOps Architect,
GitHub



Chris Patterson
CTO,
Florida Orthopaedic Institute



Carey Payette
Principal Engineer,
Financial Finesse



Randall Racely
Sales Director,
Copilot4DevOps



Brian A. Randell
Partner,
MCW Technologies



Lino Tadros
Co-Founder & CEO,
Tahubu



René van Osnabrugge
Chief Consulting Excellence
@ Xebia



Asif Sharif
CEO and Founder,
Copilot4DevOps



Rebecca Walbecq
Modern Requirements
Implementation Consultant,
Dale Workforce Solutions (DWS)



Fabian Williams
Principal Product Manager
on the M365 Copilot team,
Microsoft



Cloud & Containers[®] LIVE!

CLOUD-NATIVE, PAAS & SERVERLESS COMPUTING



Cloud-Native
Development



Cloud-Native
Infrastructure



Cloud-Native
DevOps



A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

There may be no better place than Orlando to attend a tech conference. You have access to Universal, Disney, and other entertainment options, and the best coverage of cloud and container focused content. Even better, you can network with peers from around the world, interact with well-known expert speakers on topics important to your job and career, and learn how to be more effective and productive, today and in the future.

And the best thing about Live! 360 Tech Con? Cloud and Containers Live! is just one part of the larger event -- which also includes Data Platform Live!, TechMentor, Artificial Intelligence Live!, Visual Studio Live!, and Cybersecurity and Ransomware Live! -- and your registration gives you access to all the content available at Live! 360 Tech Con, across all six of its fantastic shows.

I am Rockford Lhotka, Conference Chair for Cloud and Containers Live! I am personally inviting you to

join me in person at the Loews Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center in Orlando from November 16-21, 2025. I'm very excited to have you join me for an in-person experience.

The content lineup for Orlando includes infrastructure topics covering Kubernetes, API gateways, Azure Container Apps, ensuring Azure resiliency, and using Azure in a cost-effective manner. When it comes to cloud devops, you'll learn about monitoring apps and infrastructure, GitHub Actions, and infrastructure as code. If your focus is on cloud-native development you'll enjoy topics covering modernization of compute resources, Kubernetes from a developer perspective, leveraging Azure audio/video features, and how to avoid the fallacies of distributed computing.

You can also take advantage of workshop content with coverage of building .NET 9 apps using Azure, Bicep, and GitHub Actions, and real-world CI/

CD with GitHub Actions. Want to get your hands dirty? Sign up for the hands-on lab on building microservice applications using .NET on Azure Container Apps.

Our industry continues its march toward the future. To keep up, you need to absorb rapidly and adapt. Go beyond Internet-based content to a live experience, where you get to ask questions in real-time and engage directly with the experts and your peers. Find a way to get to Cloud and Containers Live! in Orlando and get the tools to help yourself grow.

I hope to see you there!


CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! CONFERENCE CHAIR





Rockford Lhotka
VP of Strategy, Xebia




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE


Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Cloud-Native Development		Cloud-Native Infrastructure	Cloud-Native DevOps
START TIME	END TIME	Cloud & Containers Live! Pre-Conference Hands-On Labs: Sunday, November 16, 2025	
7:00 AM	9:00 AM	Hands-On Lab Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries	
9:00 AM	6:00 PM	CCHOL01 Hands-on Lab: Accelerate, Aspire, Achieve Next-Level Cloud Solutions with Azure and .NET - Chad Green	
10:00 AM	7:00 PM	Pre-Conference Registration - Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center	
START TIME	END TIME	Cloud & Containers Live! Pre-Conference Workshops: Monday, November 17, 2025	
7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries	
8:30 AM	5:30 PM	CCM01 Workshop: From Zero to Production in Record Time Using AI and Azure Container Apps - Alex Thissen & Loek Duys	
5:45 PM	6:15 PM	Live! 360 First Timers Forum: A New Attendees Guide - Pacifica 6	
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Mix & Mingle @ Hard Rock Café Universal CityWalk	
START TIME	END TIME	Cloud & Containers Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025	
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries	
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	 CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! & VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! KEYNOTE: The Road to Visual Studio 2026: Building a Faster, Smarter IDE Mads Kristensen, Principal Product Manager, Visual Studio, Microsoft & Nik Karpinsky, Principal Software Engineering Lead, Microsoft	
9:15 AM	10:30 AM	CCT01 .NET Aspire - Beyond the Basics - Loek Duys	
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Networking Break Sponsored by  Microsoft Azure • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 / THREATLOCKER Demo Theater (10:35 - 10:50am) - Coral Sea 2	
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Agentic DevOps in Real Life - Build Faster, Ship Safer, Keep Humans in the Loop Mickey Gousset, Staff DevOps Architect, GitHub & Brian A. Randell, Partner, MCW Technologies	
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Lunch - Oceana Ballroom • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7	
12:45 PM	1:30 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7	
		 Progress Demo Theater: Elevating Developer Productivity and End User Satisfaction with AI - Sara Faatz (12:45 - 1:05pm) - Coral Sea 2 /  JETBRAINS Demo Theater (1:05 - 1:20pm) - Java Sea	
1:30 PM	1:50 PM	CCT02  Fast Focus: Building an LLM Agent Using Cloud Native Infrastructure - Siri Varma Vegiraju	




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*


Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Cloud-Native Development		Cloud-Native Infrastructure	Cloud-Native DevOps
START TIME	END TIME	Cloud & Containers Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 <i>(Continued)</i>	
2:00 PM	2:20 PM	CCT03  Fast Focus: Enforcing Cloud Compliance with Policies - Siri Varma Vegiraju	
2:20 PM	2:45 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7	
2:45 PM	4:00 PM	CCT04 Automating Cloud Infrastructure: When to Use Infrastructure as Code—and When to Keep It Simple - Brandon Bigford, Adam Eldred, & Kevin Tompkins	
4:15 PM	5:30 PM	CCT05 Closing the Loop: Instrumenting Your .NET Applications with OpenTelemetry - Alex Thissen	
5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Exhibitor Welcome Reception Sponsored by  Microsoft - Pacifica 7	
START TIME	END TIME	Cloud & Containers Live! Day 2: Wednesday, November 19, 2025	
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries	
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	CCW01 From Zero to Production in Record Time with Dapr & Radius on Azure - Loek Duys	
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	CCW02 GitOps and Platform Building with Pulumi IaC - Billy Thompson	
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7	
		 Vaiden Demo Theater (10:50 - 11:05am) - Coral Sea 2 /  Exclaimer Demo Theater (11:10am - 11:25am) - Java Sea	
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Azure at 15: What's Next for the Cloud, AI, and You Eric D. Boyd, Founder & CEO, responsiveX	
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Table Topics Lunch - Oceana Ballroom	
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 /  VONAGE Demo Theater (1:35 - 1:50pm) - Coral Sea 2	
2:00 PM	3:15 PM	CCW03 Introduction to Actor-based Development with Project Orleans - Chris Klug	
3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge • Expo Raffle @ 3:20 p.m. - Pacifica 7	
4:00 PM	5:15 PM	CCW04 Azure Infrastructure Mastery: Implementing IaC with Bicep, Terraform or Pulumi - Mike Benkovich	
7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Live! 360 Dessert Luau - Wantilan Pavilion	



AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*

Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Cloud-Native Development		Cloud-Native Infrastructure	Cloud-Native DevOps
START TIME	END TIME	Cloud & Containers Live! Day 3: Thursday, November 20, 2025	
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries	
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	CCH01 DevContainers: Development Environments as Code - Alex Thissen	
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	CCH02  .NET in a Box: Containerizing .NET Applications - Chris Ayers	
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION: The Cloud in an AI World Rockford Lhotka [moderator], Alex Thissen, Chris Ayers, Mike Benkovich	
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Live! 360 DJ Lunch - Oceana Ballroom	
1:00 PM	2:15 PM	CCH03 Living with AKS - Lessons Learned! - Mike Benkovich	
2:30 PM	3:45 PM	CCH04 Kubernetes: A Great Place to Host .NET Apps - Rockford Lhotka	
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	LIVE! 360 WRAP PARTY Tech Presentation - Billy Hollis, Developer. Designer. Speaker. Author. Q&A with Live! 360 Conference Chairs & Speakers: Chris Ayers, Mike Benkovich, Karinne Bessette, Prashant G Bhojar, Jason Bock, Andrew Brust, Erica Burgess, Émile Cabot, Jeremy Clark, Michelle Gilbert, Mickey Gousset, Dave Kawula, Sami Laiho, Thomas LaRock, Rockford Lhotka, Davide Mauri, Michael Niehaus, Ted Neward, John O'Neill Sr., Reza Rad, Brian Randell, Alex Thissen, & Rod Trent	
START TIME	END TIME	Cloud & Containers Live! Post-Conference Workshops: Friday, November 21, 2025	
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries	
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	CCF01 Workshop: Journey to a Well Governed Cloud - Mike Benkovich	



CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK



FULL DAY HANDS-ON LABS

These instructor-led, pre-conference Hands-On Labs offer attendees intensive in-depth training before the conference officially begins. Choose from nine extended 8-hour labs and take advantage of in-person instruction as well as collaboration with peers.

- Attendance for each Hands-On Lab is limited, so be sure to sign up early for these special bring your own laptop pre-conference HOLs.

CCHOL01

Hands-on Lab: Accelerate, Aspire, Achieve Next-Level Cloud Solutions with Azure and .NET

Intermediate

CHAD GREEN

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Immerse yourself in a full-day interactive workshop that empowers you to harness the true potential of serverless computing on Azure using .NET. Designed for innovative developers and forward-thinking architects, this session blends in-depth theory with hands-on labs that walk you through architecting, developing, and deploying production-grade serverless applications. Discover how Azure's native services and the .NET framework work to build scalable, resilient, and cost-efficient solutions. With this experience, you'll accelerate your development and aspire to create groundbreaking cloud architectures that drive digital innovation.

You will learn:

- Master End-to-End Serverless Development: Gain a deep understanding of serverless principles and learn how to architect robust solutions on Azure using .NET—from initial concept to full-scale deployment.
- Acquire Real-World, Hands-On Expertise: Engage in immersive labs that simulate production scenarios, empowering you to implement, troubleshoot, and refine serverless applications in real-time.

- Optimize for Scalability and Cost-Efficiency: Learn best practices for building resilient, high-performance architectures that scale seamlessly, maximize cost savings, and set the stage for your next significant innovation.



WORKSHOPS

Choose from a wide range of content and topics by expert presenters with Cloud & Containers Live! Orlando's Pre- and Post-Conference full-day workshops.

CCM01

Workshop: From Zero to Production in Record Time Using AI and Azure Container Apps

Intermediate / Advanced

ALEX THISSEN & LOEK DUYS

Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Modern applications need more than just robust business logic—they need to go live quickly and efficiently, leveraging AI to deliver smarter experiences faster.

Azure Container Apps paired with Azure Cognitive Services like Vision and OpenAI enables you to rapidly build, deploy, and scale AI-driven applications without complex infrastructure management.

In this hands-on workshop, you will see how Azure Container Apps simplifies building and deploying AI-enabled Apps to production. You are going to learn how to quickly integrate Semantic Kernel to run large language models (LLMs) during development and seamlessly transition to Azure Container Apps with OpenAI in production without changing your codebase.

Additionally, you'll experience prompt engineering using Promptly, testing and optimizing prompts to enhance the accuracy of your AI assistant.

We will start by developing an AI-powered app locally using container technology and Ollama. Next, you are going to refine the AI prompt, and effortlessly move to Azure Container Apps. We will cover configuration management

and versioning and you will also learn to use the Azure Container Apps extension of Dapr to easily implement state management in distributed applications. In addition, you will get a hands-on experience with Azure Container Apps features like autoscaling, blue/green deployments, and seamless integration with Azure OpenAI models.

Join this interactive workshop and go from zero on your laptop to a fully operational AI-powered application, architecture and implementation in Azure Container Apps, reducing your time to production drastically.

You will learn:

- Develop container-based distributed AI-enabled applications with Large Language Models and Azure AI services
- Deploying cloud applications to Azure Container Apps and utilize features of autoscaling and blue/green deployments for fast release to production
- Use architectural, design patterns and semantic kernel to transition efficiently between environments, from local development to staging and production

CCF01

Workshop: Journey to a Well Governed Cloud

Introductory

MIKE BENKOVICH

Friday, November 21, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Explore cloud adoption with Azure as a developer and architect. We'll talk about the principles of a well-run cloud, including resource consistency, observability, and access management. This session includes live demos on setting up Azure landing zones, integrating cloud services, and using Infrastructure as Code tools like ARM, Bicep, and Terraform. You'll also learn about automating processes with tools like Azure DevOps and GitHub, and how Azure Policy fits into the picture. Whether you're honing your skills or reshaping your cloud governance strategy, this workshop is your guide to exploring Azure's cloud governance landscape.

You will learn:

- Understand the principles of a well governed cloud and how to implement them using Azure services and tools
- Develop skills in managing and governing cloud applications, focusing on resource consistency and automation within the Azure environment
- Gain hands-on experience with Azure tools and services



CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



CLOUD-NATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Modern server-side code is almost always built using cloud-native principles. Running server-side software in a container and orchestrating containers in Azure, AWS, and Kubernetes (aka k8s) has a large impact on software architecture and deployment. Our industry is finding a balance between microservice and more cohesive software architectures, learning how they can effectively leverage cloud- and container-based environments. It is hard to imagine any enterprise development scenario where one or more of these trends would not be high on the list of critical skills.

You'll find coverage of:

- Leverage .NET Aspire to accelerate development
- Dapr and Radius on Azure
- Actor-based development with Project Orleans
- Use containers in development with DevContainers
- Hosting .NET apps in Kubernetes
- .NET in a Box: Containerizing .NET Applications

CCT01

.NET Aspire - Beyond the Basics

Advanced

LOEK DUYS

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- About the .NET Aspire Developer Control Plane
- Understand networking features that allow connecting to integrations, and scaling
- Custom integrations

CCW01

From Zero to Production in Record Time with Dapr & Radius on Azure

Introductory

LOEK DUYS

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- How Radius speeds up cloud-native development by providing reusable templates and an application model
- How Dapr helps building distributed applications
- How Platform Engineering simplifies building cloud-native systems

CCW03

Introduction to Actor-based Development with Project Orleans

Introductory

CHRIS KLUG

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- What Project Orleans is
- How using an actor model can simplify certain development scenarios
- How to get started with Project Orleans

CCH01

DevContainers: Development Environments as Code

Intermediate

ALEX THISSEN

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- How to using DevContainers and GitHub CodeSpaces for a modern development experience
- Specifications and inner workings of DevContainers
- Personalizing development environment for DevContainers

CCH02

.NET in a Box: Containerizing .NET Applications

Intermediate / Advanced

CHRIS AYERS

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- Containerization
- .NET Containers
- .NET configuration

CCH04

Kubernetes: A Great Place to Host .NET Apps

Intermediate

ROCKFORD LHOTKA

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- How to package your .NET code into a Linux container
- How to host your containers in Kubernetes
- How to access other services in your Kubernetes cluster from your .NET code



CLOUD-NATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Cloud-native has a major impact on traditional infrastructure roles and skillsets. Where servers used to be treated like unique individuals, they are now commodity resources that should all be identical (at least within a class). Cattle, not pets. This means rethinking a lot of processes and management of hardware, operating systems, monitoring, and many other aspects of enterprise infrastructure.

This track includes coverage of the following:

- Enforcing Cloud Compliant Policies
- Implement Infrastructure as Code with Bicep, Terraform or Pulumi



CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

CCT03

Fast Focus: Enforcing Cloud Compliance with Policies

Intermediate

SIRI VARMA VEGIRAJU

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

You will learn:

- Compliance enforcement in Cloud
- Azure Policies
- Policy deployment at scale

CCT04

Automating Cloud Infrastructure: When to Use Infrastructure as Code—and When to Keep It Simple

Introductory / Intermediate

BRANDON BIGFORD, ADAM ELDRED, & KEVIN TOMPKINS

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

In this session, we'll explore where IaC shines—such as in large, complex, or frequently changing environments—and discuss situations where alternative approaches, like simple automation scripts, ARM/Bicep templates, or even manual configuration, may be more practical and efficient.

CCW02

GitOps and Platform Building with Pulumi IaC

Introductory / Intermediate

BILLY THOMPSON

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- How to define and manage Kubernetes infrastructure with Pulumi IaC
- How to create and manage users, teams, and workload environments
- How to build a catalog of team-scoped quick-start deployments and apps

CCW04

Azure Infrastructure Mastery: Implementing IaC with Bicep, Terraform or Pulumi

Intermediate

MIKE BENKOVICH

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- Why do we need Infrastructure as Code, and what problems does it solve
- What tradeoffs do we make when we choose one over another
- How does AI and Copilots impact how we leverage IaC



CLOUD-NATIVE DEVOPS

Cloud-native software and infrastructure can't succeed without solid DevOps processes and related technologies. Microservice architectures mean you are deploying at least an order of magnitude more apps than ever before. Cloud-native runtimes like Kubernetes require a whole new set of monitoring and management technologies, which ideally feed back into automated adjustments of the runtime environment.

This track includes coverage of the following:

- Building an LLM Agent using Cloud Native Infrastructure
- Instrumenting your .NET apps with OpenTelemetry
- Take Action: Go fast with GitHub for DevOps
- Lessons learned using AKS (Azure Kubernetes Service)

CCT02

Fast Focus: Building an LLM Agent Using Cloud Native Infrastructure

Introductory / Intermediate

SIRI VARMA VEGIRAJU

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

You will learn:

- About Agents
- Cloud Native Agent development
- Cloud Native Tools

CCT05

Closing the Loop: Instrumenting Your .NET Applications with OpenTelemetry

Advanced

ALEX THISSEN

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- OpenTelemetry concepts, tooling and implementation
- Instrumenting .NET applications using logs, tracing and metrics libraries
- Providing and consuming telemetry and distributed trace data

CCH03

Living with AKS - Lessons Learned!

Advanced

MIKE BENKOVICH

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- Understand the common issues encountered when managing and operating AKS clusters in production
- Architectural decisions that have long lasting impact and how to address them
- See demos of solutions for common AKS challenges



CLOUD & CONTAINERS LIVE! SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE CHAIR



Rockford Lhotka
VP of Strategy, Xebia
Cloud & Containers Live! Conference
Co-Chair

SPEAKERS



Chris Ayers
Senior SRE,
Microsoft



Mike Benkovich
Consultant, Cloud Architect,
Developer



Brandon Bigford
Solutions Architect,
CompuNet



Loek Duys
Founder,
LoekD Consultancy BV



Adam Eldred
Director of Enterprise
Technology Architecture,
CompuNet



Chad Green
Senior Systems Architect,
Jasper Engines
& Transmissions



Chris Klug
Developer, Active Solution



Rockford Lhotka
VP of Strategy,
Xebia



Alex Thissen
Architect, Lead Developer,
and Mentor



Billy Thompson
Senior Field Compute
Technology Manager,
Akamai Cloud Computing



Kevin Tompkins
Enterprise Architect,
CompuNet



Siri Varma Vegiraju
Security Tech Lead,
Microsoft



Cybersecurity & Ransomware[®] **LIVE!**

DEFENDING AGAINST RANSOMWARE AND OTHER ATTACKS



Blue Team



Human Intelligence /
Security for Dev's



Incident
Response



Purple Team



Ransomware
Industry



Red Team Tactics
and Techniques



A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

With great enthusiasm, we welcome you to the third annual Cybersecurity and Ransomware Live! conference—returning to the vibrant city of Orlando, Florida, this November. We, Dave Kawula and Sami Laiho, are honored to return as conference co-chairs for what has become a can't-miss gathering for security professionals focused on real-world solutions to real-world threats.

This year, we've built on the momentum of our previous events to deliver a program that's even more robust, relevant, and hands-on. Our goal remains simple yet essential: to equip you with the practical skills, strategic insights, and timely knowledge you need to protect your organization from today's most aggressive and fast-moving cyber threats.

What You Can Expect This Year

We've curated a diverse set of tracks—each led by respected industry experts—to give you end-to-end visibility across the cybersecurity landscape:

Blue Team Tactics

Step into the defensive front lines. You'll deepen your expertise in network security, vulnerability management, threat intelligence, and incident detection and response. With dwell time (the window between breach and action) now shorter than ever, being prepared to respond swiftly isn't optional—it's essential. And the best way to be ready? Practice. Practice. Practice.

Human Intelligence & Internal Threats

Learn how to gather and interpret security intelligence to detect breaches, track insider threats, and respond to increasingly common

social-engineering and bribery tactics. This year's expanded track puts a spotlight on the growing risk of internal compromise.

Incident Response & Forensics

From fast-moving ransomware to year-long targeted attacks, modern incident response requires speed, structure, and realism. You'll work through simulated scenarios to develop the skills needed to detect, contain, and recover from attacks of all kinds.

Purple Team Collaboration

Discover how red and blue teams can work together to build more resilient defenses. Learn offensive techniques like threat modeling and pen testing to identify vulnerabilities—then use those insights to strengthen your organization's overall security posture.

Ransomware Defense Strategies

Gain tactical knowledge and frameworks for detecting, preventing, and recovering from ransomware attacks. This includes live exercises, real-world case studies, and planning techniques you can take back to your team immediately.

SOC Operations & Threat Monitoring

Explore what it takes to run an effective Security Operations Center. Learn about log analysis, SIEM tools, threat detection, identity protection, and more—all through hands-on labs and real-life case reviews.

Red Teaming & Offensive Tactics

Go beyond the basics with advanced red team training. Learn to think like an attacker, explore AI-driven offensive capabilities, and engage in challenges and simulations designed to sharpen

your ability to uncover critical gaps in security.

Security in a Changing World

From the continuing global unrest in Ukraine and Gaza to the rise of identity-based attacks and supply chain vulnerabilities, the cybersecurity landscape is rapidly evolving. Yet the fundamentals still matter: asset visibility, identity protection, and efficient execution.

This year's conference brings you a practical, prioritized to-do list for securing your organization—designed by some of the most respected experts in the field. We believe security should be cost-effective, outcome-driven, and always aligned to its role: a support function, not a siloed one.

We're confident that Cybersecurity and Ransomware Live! @ Live! 360 Tech Con will deliver invaluable education, hands-on experience, and meaningful networking to elevate your career and strengthen your defenses.

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando this November—Let's build safer systems, together.

Best regards,

CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS




Sami Laiho
Chief Research Officer,
Adminize






Dave Kawula
Principal Consultant,
TriCon Elite Consulting




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE








Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Ransomware Industry		Incident Response		Human Intelligence / Security for Dev's		Red Team Tactics and Techniques		Blue Team		Purple Team	
START TIME	END TIME	Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live! Pre-Conference Hands-On Labs: Sunday, November 16, 2025									
7:00 AM	9:00 AM	Hands-On Lab Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
9:00 AM	6:00 PM	CRHOL01 Hands-On-Lab: Protect, Detect, Respond with Microsoft Defender XDR - Stefan Schörling & Mattias Borg									
10:00 AM	7:00 PM	Pre-Conference Registration - Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center									
START TIME	END TIME	Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live! Pre-Conference Workshops: Monday, November 17, 2025									
7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:30 AM	5:30 PM	CRM01 Workshop: Designing a Privileged Access Management Solution - Sami Laiho					CRM02 Workshop: Red Teaming and Blue Teaming with Defender XDR - Dave Kawula & Émile Cabot				
5:45 PM	6:15 PM	Live! 360 First Timers Forum: A New Attendees Guide - Pacifica 6									
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Mix & Mingle @ Hard Rock Café Universal CityWalk									
START TIME	END TIME	Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025									
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! KEYNOTE: 2026 Ransomware State of the Union Sami Laiho, Chief Research Officer, Adminize									
9:15 AM	10:30 AM	CRT01 Improve Client Resilience with Defender Boys - Mattias Borg & Stefan Schörling					CRT02 Using Security Copilot and Defender XDR to Streamline Your SOC - John O'Neill Sr.				
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Networking Break Sponsored by  Microsoft Azure • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 / THREATLOCKER Demo Theater (10:35 - 10:50am) - Coral Sea 2									
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Agentic DevOps in Real Life - Build Faster, Ship Safer, Keep Humans in the Loop Mickey Gousset, Staff DevOps Architect, GitHub & Brian A. Randell, Partner, MCW Technologies									
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Lunch - Oceana Ballroom • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
12:45 PM	1:30 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
		 Progress Demo Theater: Elevating Developer Productivity and End User Satisfaction with AI - Sara Faatz (12:45 - 1:05pm) - Coral Sea 2 /  JETBRAINS Demo Theater (1:05 - 1:20pm) - Java Sea									
1:30 PM	1:50 PM	CRT03 Fast Focus: Developing Securable Code - Alton Crossley					CRT04 Fast Focus: Connect Securely to Your Home Network Without a Single Firewall Port Open - Sami Laiho				
2:00 PM	2:20 PM	CRT05 Fast Focus: Reducing Friction Between AppSec and Development - Alton Crossley					CRT06 Fast Focus: Elevate to Admin on Demand - Sami Laiho				




AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*

Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Ransomware Industry		Incident Response		Human Intelligence / Security for Dev's		Red Team Tactics and Techniques		Blue Team		Purple Team	
START TIME	END TIME	Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live! Day 1: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (Continued)									
2:20 PM	2:45 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
2:45 PM	4:00 PM	CRT07 When Hackers Collide – Unleashing Sticky Data Protection - Andy Malone					CRT08 Fear and (Self) Loathing in IT – A Healthy Discussion on Imposter Syndrome - Angela Dugan				
4:15 PM	5:30 PM	CRT09 Most Common Misconfigurations Identified During our Red Team Engagements - Mattias Borg & Stefan Schörling					CRT10 Unlocking Next-Gen Cloud Security: What's New in Microsoft Defender for Cloud - Markus Lintuala				
5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Exhibitor Welcome Reception Sponsored by  Microsoft - Pacifica 7									
START TIME	END TIME	Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live! Day 2: Wednesday, November 19, 2025									
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	CRW01  Crafting Effective Prompts for Security Copilot: Best Practices and Techniques - Rod Trent					CRW02 What Security Engineers and Developers Must Know About Azure AI Solutions - Markus Lintuala				
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	CRW03  Securing the Future: Integrating Microsoft Security Copilot with Microsoft Intune - Rod Trent					CRW04 Automated Data Security: Identifying Sensitive Data with Microsoft Purview - Myron Helgering				
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7									
		 aiden Demo Theater (10:50 - 11:05am) - Coral Sea 2 /  Exclaimer Demo Theater (11:10am - 11:25am) - Java Sea									
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	LIVE! 360 KEYNOTE: Azure at 15: What's Next for the Cloud, AI, and You Eric D. Boyd, Founder & CEO, responsiveX									
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Table Topics Lunch - Oceana Ballroom									
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Dessert Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge - Pacifica 7 /  VONAGE Demo Theater (1:35 - 1:50pm) - Coral Sea 2									
2:00 PM	3:15 PM	CRW05 Design Effective Endpoint DLP Solutions with Advanced Hunting & Generative AI - Tatu Seppälä					CRW06  Securing the Future: Harnessing Microsoft Purview to Protect Generative AI Systems - Rod Trent				
3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Networking Break • Visit the EXPO Lounge • Expo Raffle @ 3:20 p.m. - Pacifica 7									
4:00 PM	5:15 PM	CRW07 Insider Threat: First Aid for a Misunderstood Risk Vector - Tatu Seppälä					CRW08 BYOA! Bring Your Own AI to the Cybersecurity Fight - Michael Van Horenbeeck				
7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Live! 360 Dessert Luau - Wantilan Pavilion									



AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE *(continued)*

Sessions and speakers subject to change.  Microsoft Sessions

Ransomware Industry		Incident Response		Human Intelligence / Security for Dev's		Red Team Tactics and Techniques		Blue Team		Purple Team	
START TIME	END TIME	Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live! Day 3: Thursday, November 20, 2025									
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	CRH01 Securing, Managing and Hacking Microsoft Copilot - Stephen L. Rose					CRH02 Improve Your Resilience with Cybersecurity Table-top Exercises - Stefan Schörling & Mattias Borg				
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	CRH03 Building a Resilient Incident Response Team: Beyond Playbooks and Tools - John O'Neill Sr.					CRH04 Off the Chain: Kill Chains for 0-Day Exploits - Erica Burgess				
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! PANEL DISCUSSION: How to Not Get Hacked in 2026 Sami Laiho [moderator] Erica Burgess, Michael Niehaus, Michael Van Horenbeeck, & Rod Trent									
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Live! 360 DJ Lunch - Oceana Ballroom									
1:00 PM	2:15 PM	CRH05 Six Methods to Protect Your Business from the Threat of Unmanaged Devices - Myron Helgering					CRH06 The AI Force Multiplier: Weaponized AI for Hackers - Erica Burgess				
2:30 PM	3:45 PM	CRH07 The Challenge of Providing Secure Access to External Admins - Myron Helgering					CRH08 Why Domain Tiering is Critical to Prevent Ransomware - Sami Laiho				
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	LIVE! 360 WRAP PARTY Tech Presentation - Billy Hollis, Developer. Designer. Speaker. Author. Q&A with Live! 360 Conference Chairs & Speakers: Chris Ayers, Mike Benkovich, Karinne Bessette, Prashant G Bhoyar, Jason Bock, Andrew Brust, Erica Burgess, Émile Cabot, Jeremy Clark, Michelle Gilbert, Mickey Gousset, Dave Kawula, Sami Laiho, Thomas LaRock, Rockford Lhotka, Davide Mauri, Michael Niehaus, Ted Neward, John O'Neill Sr., Reza Rad, Brian Randell, Alex Thissen, & Rod Trent									
START TIME	END TIME	Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live! Post-Conference Workshops: Friday, November 21, 2025									
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Morning Pastries									
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	CRF01 Workshop: Mastering Microsoft 365 Security: A One-Day Deep Dive into Securing Your Digital Workspace - Michael Van Horenbeeck									



CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK



FULL DAY HANDS-ON LABS

These instructor-led, pre-conference Hands-On Labs offer attendees intensive in-depth training before the conference officially begins. Take advantage of in-person instruction as well as collaboration with peers.

Attendance for each Hands-On Lab is limited, so be sure to sign up early for these special bring your own laptop pre-conference HOLs.

CRHOL01

Hands-On-Lab: Protect, Detect, Respond with Microsoft Defender XDR

Intermediate

STEFAN SCHÖRLING & MATTIAS BORG

Sunday, November 16, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Level Up Your Security Operations with Real-World Defender XDR Skills

Take your security operations skills to the next level in this immersive, hands-on lab focused on Microsoft Defender XDR, designed for security analysts, SOC teams, and IT professionals. Led by instructors renowned in the community for their extensive experience with Defender XDR and security operations, this full-day workshop will put you in the driver's seat as you work through real-world attack scenarios, threat investigations, and response workflows using Microsoft's integrated extended detection and response platform.

You'll step into the role of a modern Security Analyst and get direct experience with the tools and techniques used to protect, detect, and respond to cyber threats across endpoints, identities, email, and cloud apps. Whether you're looking to build foundational knowledge or sharpen your advanced hunting capabilities, this lab is packed with actionable content.

Through instructor-led and hands-on exercises in the Microsoft 365 Defender Portal, you will:

- Learn how to harden Defender configurations for maximum protection against common attack vectors

- Execute end-to-end incident response workflows, from alert triage to containment and remediation
- Leverage built-in analytics and threat intelligence to understand attacker behavior and trace activity across your environment
- Practice proactive threat hunting, using advanced query techniques and real-time data correlation to uncover threats that evade automated detection
- Explore cross-platform threat visibility through integration with Microsoft Sentinel, Defender for Endpoint, Defender for Identity, and more
- Understand how to develop use-cases and custom detections

This lab balances guidance and incident response concepts with open-ended exercises, allowing you to follow best practices while applying your own problem-solving skills in simulated breach scenarios. You'll leave with a stronger grasp of Microsoft Defender XDR's capabilities—and the confidence to apply them in your own environment.

Attendee Workstation Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop computer (Windows or Mac) for this hands-on lab.
- Laptop must have a modern browser installed (Chrome / Edge / Firefox / Safari)



WORKSHOPS

Choose from a wide range of content and topics by expert presenters with Cybersecurity and Ransomware Live! Orlando's Pre- and Post-Conference full-day workshops.

CRM01

Workshop: Designing a Privileged Access Management Solution

Introductory / Intermediate

SAMI LAIHO

Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Privileged accounts are the crown jewels of your IT environment—and when compromised, they become the attacker's golden ticket. In this hands-on workshop, world-

renowned security expert Sami Laiho guides you through the essential building blocks of a rock-solid Privileged Access Management (PAM) solution. You'll walk away with practical insights into designing a real-world PAM architecture that balances usability, scalability, and security. From defining access tiers and implementing just-in-time privileges, to enforcing least privilege and hardening jump hosts, this workshop blends strategy with deep technical know-how. Whether you're starting from scratch or improving what you have, you'll leave equipped with a tested blueprint that keeps your administrators productive—and attackers out.

You will learn:

- The different ways of implementing Privileged Access Management
- How to identify your needed level of Privilege Access Management solutions
- How to build PAM that is easy enough to use but secure

CRM02

Workshop: Red Teaming and Blue Teaming with Defender XDR

Intermediate

DAVE KAWULA & ÉMILE CABOT

Monday, November 17, 8:30am – 5:30pm

In this workshop, Dave Kawula and Émile Cabot, authors of Red Teaming and Blue Teaming with Microsoft Defender XDR, provide IT professionals with a foundational understanding of Red Teaming concepts and how to defend against these attacks using Microsoft Defender XDR. Red Teaming focuses on simulating real-world cyberattacks to identify vulnerabilities, while Blue Teaming involves defending and responding to these threats. Attendees will learn how to set up and run Red Team exercises using open-source tools such as Covenant C2 and Mimikatz, and then transition to Blue Team practices, where they will utilize Microsoft Defender XDR to detect, alert, and respond to simulated threats.

By the end of the session, participants will have a clear understanding of both offensive and defensive cybersecurity techniques.

You will learn:

- Basic Red Teaming concepts and how simulated attacks are performed using open-source tools.
- How to defend against these attacks from a Blue Team perspective using Microsoft Defender XDR for detection, alerting, and response.



CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

- Skills to build and tune custom detections, alerts, and remediation workflows to strengthen cybersecurity defenses in real-world environments.

CRF01

Workshop: Mastering Microsoft 365 Security: A One-Day Deep Dive into Securing Your Digital Workspace

Introductory / Intermediate

MICHAEL VAN HORENBEECK

Friday, November 21, 8:00am – 5:00pm

In today's interconnected world, your organization's security is only as strong as its weakest link. With Microsoft 365 at the heart of modern workplaces, ensuring its robust protection is more critical than ever.

This masterclass will empower you to master the tools and techniques to secure your Microsoft 365 environment against evolving threats. Led by an industry expert, this immersive session covers essential topics such as identity and access management, advanced threat protection, compliance, and insider risk management.

You'll learn how to harness Microsoft 365's security features to mitigate risks, enhance data protection, and build a resilient digital workspace through real-world examples, hands-on demonstrations, and actionable strategies.

Whether you're an IT professional, security specialist, or business leader, this masterclass will equip you with the knowledge and skills to take your organization's security posture to the next level. Don't miss this opportunity to gain the confidence and expertise to safeguard your organization in a constantly changing threat landscape.

You will learn:

- About Microsoft's security features and products
- How to build and implement a lasting zero-trust strategy with Microsoft
- Common pitfalls and challenges when deploying and using Microsoft's security products



BLUE TEAM

This track immerses attendees in advanced, real-world cybersecurity defense strategies with a practical, blue-team focus. Participants will gain hands-on experience with Microsoft Defender XDR in live labs, learn how to detect and respond to threats in complex environments, and explore proactive approaches to securing client endpoints and remote networks without exposing firewall vulnerabilities.

Sessions will delve into building resilience through cybersecurity tabletop exercises, leveraging Microsoft Purview for data protection, designing endpoint DLP solutions with generative AI, and safeguarding against unmanaged device risks. Attendees will also tackle the challenges of secure access for external admins and explore demand-based admin elevation techniques. Whether you're defending digital workspaces or fine-tuning threat detection with advanced hunting, this track will equip you with the skills, insights, and tools needed to proactively protect your organization and become a highly effective member of the blue team.

CRT01

Improve Client Resilience with Defender Boys

Intermediate

MATTIAS BORG & STEFAN SCHÖRLING

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

Key Takeaways:

- Strategies to leverage Microsoft Defender for Endpoint for proactive measures against configuration errors
- and simplify the client hardening.
- Common configuration pitfalls and how to identify them.
- Practical steps to improve endpoint security posture and client resilience.

CRT04

Fast Focus: Connect Securely to Your Home Network Without a Single Firewall Port Open

Intermediate

SAMI LAIHO

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

You will learn:

- How to enable secure remote access to internal devices and services without opening inbound firewall ports.
- The principles behind reverse-initiated connections and how they differ from traditional VPN or port forwarding methods.
- Discover practical tools and configurations to implement this approach at home or in lab environments using real-world, security-focused examples.

CRT06

Fast Focus: Elevate to Admin on Demand

Intermediate

SAMI LAIHO

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

You will learn:

- The risks of always-on administrative privileges and why they remain a major attack vector.
- How to implement on-demand elevation of privileges using built-in Windows features and third-party tools.
- Practical insights for reducing user resistance while increasing endpoint security and operational control.



THE BEST PART OF LIVE! 360 IS ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE, THE CONNECTIONS, AND THE FRIENDLY PEOPLE AND PRESENTERS."

– Sean Fleming, LCO Tribal Government



CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

CRW04

Automated Data Security: Identifying Sensitive Data with Microsoft Purview

Intermediate / Advanced

MYRON HELGERING

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- About Sensitive Information Types, Custom SITs, Fingerprint SITs, Exact Data Match SITs, Trainable Classifiers, and more!
- The skills to create classifiers in Microsoft Purview from scratch, enabling you to efficiently identify sensitive data for your organization!
- About the right classifier for any type of sensitive data.

CRW05

Design Effective Endpoint DLP Solutions with Advanced Hunting & Generative AI

Advanced

TATU SEPPÄLÄ

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- How to manage and account for complexity in Endpoint DLP solutions
- Essential KQL techniques for Endpoint DLP solution design
- How to utilize generative AI to help with solution design efforts

CRH01

Securing, Managing and Hacking Microsoft Copilot

Intermediate

STEPHEN L. ROSE

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

In this session, we will discuss how customers managing, securing and providing governance to Copilot content and data.

CRH02

Improve Your Resilience with Cybersecurity Table-top Exercises

Intermediate

STEFAN SCHÖRLING & MATTIAS BORG

Thursday, November 20, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- How to succeed with table-top exercises
- What works and what doesn't work - experience from the field
- What are relevant scenarios

CRH05

Six Methods to Protect Your Business from the Threat of Unmanaged Devices

Intermediate / Advanced

MYRON HELGERING

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- How to choose an effective method to protect your business against threats such as data leakage, unauthorized access, and even cyber-attacks.
- About app protection policies, session policies, app enforced restrictions, and more!
- Why dealing with unmanaged devices is important in 2025.

CRH07

The Challenge of Providing Secure Access to External Admins

Intermediate / Advanced

MYRON HELGERING

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- How to balance and adjust security policies for external administrators to protect administrative permissions effectively.
- Best practices and common mistakes when dealing with external administrators.
- How to deal with external admins working from unmanaged and non-compliant devices.



HUMAN INTELLIGENCE / SECURITY FOR DEV'S

The Human Intelligence / Security for Devs track explores the critical intersection of secure development, AI-driven defense, and the human factors that influence cybersecurity. Attendees will gain practical insights on embedding security throughout the development lifecycle, with sessions focused on writing securable code, reducing friction between development and AppSec teams, and defending sensitive data through advanced protection strategies. Emphasis is also placed on understanding employee-driven vulnerabilities, with content addressing the risks of insider threats and social engineering.

As AI becomes increasingly integrated into enterprise environments, this track also prepares developers and security professionals to responsibly secure and leverage tools like Azure AI and custom-built models in the cybersecurity fight. Whether mitigating human error or managing machine learning risks, participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how to protect systems and data by strengthening both code and culture.

CRT03

Fast Focus: Developing Securable Code

Intermediate

ALTON CROSSLEY

Tuesday, November 18, 1:30 – 1:50pm

A software engineer's introduction to building securable software. No need to learn how to translate Security lingo from test results. Build safe, secure code through a time proven methodology.



CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

You will learn:

- About Securable Software Engineering Model
- How to apply securable attributes to your code
- How to extract actionable requirements from Security

CRT05

Fast Focus: Reducing Friction Between AppSec and Development

Intermediate

ALTON CROSSLEY

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 – 2:20pm

Attendees will learn how to craft actionable, developer-friendly fix requests, navigate the challenge of conflicting priorities, and set realistic expectations that foster trust and accountability.

CRT07

When Hackers Collide – Unleashing Sticky Data Protection

Intermediate

ANDY MALONE

Tuesday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:00pm

You will learn:

- How to protect data in the cloud
- Where and how your data is stored
- How to keep tabs on who and where your data is being used

CRW02

What Security Engineers and Developers Must Know About Azure AI Solutions

Intermediate / Advanced

MARKUS LINTUALA

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- What components are often included in AI solutions and how those should be protected
- Why it is necessary to ensure that AI tools are published in correct manner
- The pain points that AI developers face in security during development and how to avoid those

CRW08

BYOAI: Bring Your Own AI to the Cybersecurity Fight

Intermediate / Advanced

MICHAEL VAN HORENBEECK

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- How to get started with AI
- How to leverage open-source AI models
- About building AI solutions without breaking the bank



INCIDENT RESPONSE

In this track, participants will dive deep into incident response, learning how to respond to security incidents and minimize their impact efficiently. They will gain an understanding of incident detection, containment, eradication, and recovery strategies. In addition, the track will cover incident handling procedures, incident management frameworks, digital forensics, and incident reporting. Through practical exercises and real-world scenarios, participants will develop the necessary skills to respond effectively to cyber incidents, mitigate damages, and restore normal operations. This track aims to empower participants to become proficient incident responders, playing a vital role in safeguarding organizations against cyber threats.

CRW07

Insider threat: First Aid for a Misunderstood Risk Vector

Intermediate / Advanced

TATU SEPPÄLÄ

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 – 5:15pm

You will learn:

- The link between poor identity and access hygiene and insider threat
- To collect the most vital event logs that make up typical sequences of risky insider activity
- How to use Data Loss Prevention to weed out negligence-driven risky data handling practices

“THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DIRECTLY INTERACT WITH SPEAKERS AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS WAS THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVE! 360 TECH CON.”

– Jared Kuehn, Heartland Business Systems



CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

CRH03

Building a Resilient Incident Response Team: Beyond Playbooks and Tools

Introductory / Intermediate

JOHN O'NEILL SR.

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- How team dynamics and effective leadership significantly impact incident response outcomes beyond technical capabilities and playbooks
- Practical methods for implementing cross-team training exercises that prepare your organization to maintain composure and make sound decisions during security crises
- Communication strategies that maintain team cohesion, support clear decision-making, and preserve morale during high-pressure security incidents



PURPLE TEAM

This year's Purple Team track bridges offensive and defensive strategies through a practical lens, showcasing how threat intelligence, AI integration, and Microsoft's security ecosystem can be harnessed to strengthen your organization's cyber resilience. Attendees will explore the evolving tactics behind modern cyberattacks—including zero-day kill chains and weaponized AI—while gaining the tools to proactively defend against them using Microsoft Defender XDR and Security Copilot.

Sessions will guide participants through next-gen cloud security techniques, crafting effective AI prompts for threat detection, and integrating tools like Microsoft Intune and Purview to safeguard systems against emerging threats. With a mix of threat emulation, AI-driven response strategies, and defense-first thinking, this track is built for security professionals ready to operate in the blended mindset of the purple team—where offensive insights directly inform and elevate defensive actions.

CRT02

Using Security Copilot and Defender XDR to Streamline Your SOC

Introductory / Intermediate

JOHN O'NEILL SR.

Tuesday, November 18, 9:15 – 10:30am

You will learn:

- About configuring and tuning Defender XDR for threat monitoring
- About correlating and analyzing security data with Security Copilot
- About creating synergistic defenses that accelerates incident response times

CRT10

Unlocking Next-Gen Cloud Security: What's New in Microsoft Defender for Cloud

Advanced

MARKUS LINTUALA

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- The latest features and enhancements in Microsoft Defender for Cloud
- How to activate and effectively implement the new capabilities in real-world Azure environments
- Best practices and lessons learned for maximizing security and operational value

CRW01

Crafting Effective Prompts for Security Copilot: Best Practices and Techniques

Intermediate

ROD TRENT

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 – 9:15am

You will learn:

- The Core Principles of Prompt Engineering
- How to apply Prompt Design to Enhance Cybersecurity Outcomes
- Skills to Drive Actionable Security Results

CRW03

Securing the Future: Integrating Microsoft Security Copilot with Microsoft Intune

Intermediate

ROD TRENT

Wednesday, November 19, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- About the Integration of Microsoft Security Copilot with Microsoft Intune
- How to enhance Security Posture through AI-Driven Solutions
- How to empower IT Administrators for Greater Efficiency



CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

CRW06

Securing the Future: Harnessing Microsoft Purview to Protect Generative AI Systems

Intermediate

ROD TRENT

Wednesday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:15pm

You will learn:

- About Data Governance in the Context of Generative AI
- How to implement Risk Management Strategies for Generative AI Security
- How to maintain Compliance Across AI-Powered Operations

CRH04

Off the Chain: Kill Chains for 0-Day Exploits

Intermediate

ERICA BURGESS

Thursday, November 20, 9:30 – 10:45am

You will learn:

- How to reproduce the traversal chain to harvest back-end artifacts from the presenter's real world original exploits and discuss how different job roles across an organization can do for attack mitigation
- How to map distinct vulnerabilities into a coherent kill chain, prioritize chaining opportunities with the highest business impact, and draft a red-team checklist and a blue-team break-chain playbook for continuous defense
- How to attack chaining works in web application hacking, and how low severity vulnerabilities chained together create severe exploits, especially when combined with generative AI tool orchestration (defense and offense using Azure OpenAI API)

CRH06

The AI Force Multiplier: Weaponized AI for Hackers

Intermediate

ERICA BURGESS

Thursday, November 20, 1:00 – 2:15pm

You will learn:

- The GPT prompt engineering and script building process that helps automate the mental gymnastics of adjusting false positive results of a vulnerability scanner report into true positives to create high impact exploits (including actionable items for defense)
- How to deconstruct the guard-rail mechanisms used in modern vision-based AI censorship and moderation systems and craft payloads that bypass or disable content-safety filters, and understand other ways that AI filter systems can be manipulated
- How to build a threat model that maps weaponized-AI techniques (i.e. custom 0-days or targeted known exploits) onto an enterprise environment and recommend layered defenses, such as policy and technical implementations—to reduce the maximum impact of these cyberattacks



RANSOMWARE INDUSTRY

Learn defensive strategies explicitly tailored for the ransomware industry. First, understand the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) employed by threat actors behind ransomware attacks. Next, explore how to effectively defend against such attacks through simulation exercises, incident response planning, and case studies. Topics covered include incident detection and response, ransomware prevention, mitigation techniques, and recovery strategies. Finally, equip yourself with the knowledge and practical skills to fortify an organization's defenses against ransomware.

CRH08

Why Domain Tiering is Critical to Prevent Ransomware

Introductory / Intermediate

SAMI LAIHO

Thursday, November 20, 2:30 – 3:45pm

You will learn:

- About the concept and purpose of Active Directory tiering and its role in protecting privileged credentials and core infrastructure.
- How ransomware spreads laterally—and how tiering stops it by limiting privilege escalation paths.
- Practical guidance to implement and enforce a tiered admin model across servers, workstations, and accounts without disrupting operations.



RED TEAM TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES

The red team track focuses on offensive security techniques and strategies to identify vulnerabilities and weaknesses in an organization's security posture. Participants will learn to think like an attacker and perform comprehensive security assessments. The track will cover reconnaissance, vulnerability exploitation, privilege escalation, lateral movement, and post-exploitation topics. In addition, participants will engage in practical exercises, capture-the-flag challenges, and simulated attack scenarios, honing their skills as red team members and enabling them to provide valuable insights to organizations on potential security gaps and risks.

CRT09

Most Common Misconfigurations Identified During our Red Team Engagements

Intermediate

MATTIAS BORG & STEFAN SCHÖRLING

Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 – 5:30pm

You will learn:

- Actionable recommendations
- How threat actors move in your environment
- About remediation



CYBERSECURITY & RANSOMWARE LIVE! SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE CHAIRS



Sami Laiho
Chief Research Officer,
Adminize
Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live!
Conference Co-Chair



Dave Kawula
Principal Consultant,
TriCon Elite Consulting
Cybersecurity & Ransomware Live!
Conference Co-Chair

SPEAKERS



Mattias Borg
Cyber Security Geek



Erica Burgess
Offensive Cybersecurity
Consultant / Software
Architect



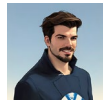
Émile Cabot
Principal Consultant,
TriCon Elite Consulting



Alton Crossley
Software Engineer in Security



Angela Dugan
Vice President, Product
Delivery, Red Foundry



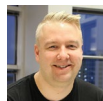
Myron Helgering
Microsoft MVP, Solution Lead
Security, Pink Elephant



Dave Kawula
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CONFERENCE LOCATION

Loews Royal Pacific Resort Conference Center
6300 Hollywood Way
Orlando, Florida, 32819

HOTEL INFORMATION

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CONFERENCE VENUE, HOTEL DEALS & TRAVEL *(continued)*

TRAVEL

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Universal's Superstar Shuttle: 800.823.4733

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**Rates shown are discounted for Live! 360 attendees and subject to change without prior notice.*

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CONFERENCE AND HOTEL PRICING PACKAGES *(continued)*

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