The metaverse is an interesting term. Its roots go back to a 1992 Neal Stephenson science fiction novel that envisioned blended environment wherein the physical and digital realms could be shared, persistent and immersive.

Today’s technological advances, as well as evolving consumer preferences, are now leading to a myriad of new elements including virtual stores, virtual products, NFTs, augmented reality, virtual reality, live streaming, and the increased importance of social channels represent an important digital frontier.

While many are exploring this new space and evaluating the potential value, some bold leaders have already developed and implemented new capabilities for engaging the customers and have learned important lessons.

How can (or should) IT leaders be trying to close that gap to become real players in this impending blended environment? Are you there yet? Have you even started yet? If not, what do you need to yet do to actually be there?

Please join us in this seventh session of our 2022 series. In this session you will hear first-hand lessons-learned from top-tier leaders who have been successful in addressing these very same challenges during these times of both revolutionary change and performance pressures.

The “Digital Solutions Gallery™” series is a nationally acclaimed ongoing forum where senior leaders and their business peers come together in a comfortable setting to share their experiences and insights, as well as collectively and collaboratively attack common issues. Throughout 2022, this series will be conducting a ten-session series of informative programs on the theme of “Developing Our Potential For 2025”, wherein participants will gain a better appreciation of not only what is coming, but also a better appreciation of just how its associated value might be captured.

There is no cost to invited senior leaders. Sponsoring opportunities are available for invited technology product and service providers.

Agenda:
10:00am Welcome And Opening Introduction

Mr. Bruce Barnes
DSG Program Co-Founder
The Ohio State University
and Co-Host For The Session
10:05am  Opening Presentation

Mr. Thornton May  
_DSG Program Co-Founder_  
*Internationally Acclaimed IT Futurist_  
*Co-Host For The Session*

Thornton May is a futurist, educator and noted author. He is the Co-Founder of the Digital Solutions Gallery, as well as the Founder of the Digital Value Institute.

His extensive experience researching and consulting on the role and behaviors of “C” level executives in creating value with information technology has won him an unquestioned place on the short list of serious thinkers on this topic.

Thornton combines a scholar’s patience for empirical research, a stand-up comic’s capacity for pattern recognition and a second-to-none gift for storytelling to address the information technology management problems facing executives.

The editors at eWeek honored Thornton, including him on their list of Top “100 Most Influential People in IT”. The editors at Fast Company labeled him ‘one of the top 50 brains in business.

10:20am  Showcased Presentations

Mr. Maziar Farzam  
*President and CEO*  
_Inhance Digital*

Maziar founded Inhance and has grown it organically (i.e., without any outside investment or VC funding), to a multi-million dollar digital agency with Fortune 500 companies.

Maziar has a passion for arts and sciences. It is at the nexus of these two worlds where he has thrived to conceive, design, and successfully produce and deliver more than 1000 breakthrough enterprise applications, AR/VR/XR, 3D visualization, and immersive game projects for leading global brands. He is a creative director, executive producer, and a business development leader. He has instilled a passion in his teams for innovation, high-quality work and exceeding customer expectations.

Maziar holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from Arizona State University. He is a member of Producers Guild of America (PGA) and was selected as one of the Top 100 Multimedia Producers in the U.S.

He currently sits on the advisory board of the School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering at Arizona State University.
Mr. Kashyap Kompella  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*RPA2AI Research*  
*Noted Author and Columnist*

Kashyap is an award-winning industry analyst, best-selling author, educator, and AI advisor to leading companies and start-ups in US, Europe and Asia-Pac.

Currently, Kashyap is the CEO of the global technology industry analyst firm, RPA2AI Research. RPA2AI advises global corporations, venture capital/private equity firms and government agencies on AI investments, Enterprise AI, AI Governance, AI Audits and AI Ethics.

He is also a Director and Contributing Industry Analyst

Mr. Kompella is a Chartered Financial Analyst, and he holds multiple degrees, including a Bachelors (with Honors) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, a Masters Degree in Business Administration, and a Masters Degree in Business Laws.

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Mr. Dave Cherry  
*Principal and Executive Advisor*  
*Cherry Advisory LLC*  
*DSG Program Co-Producer*

Dave Cherry is a well-recognized thought leader, executive strategist and speaker. He has helped many noted top Fortune organizations better define the customer experience industry, better define customer experience strategies, and institute analytics frameworks that drive deep customer relationships. Dave also advises private equity firms through strategic IT assessments.

Dave is a member of the International Institute of Analytics Expert Panel, serves on three Advisory Boards (Women in Analytics, CbusRetail, and CCAD Retail Advisory), co-leads the Innovation Pillar for the Columbus Fashion Alliance and is the Co-Producer of the Digital Solutions Gallery.

Dave has previously worked for many leading organizations such as LBrands, Polo Ralph Lauren, Nationwide Insurance, Deloitte Consulting, Price Waterhouse and First USA Bank

Dave holds a BS in Economics from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.
11:20am  Session Summary of Key Points/Action Items/Next Steps

Mr. Thornton May
DSG Program Co-Founder
Internationally Acclaimed IT Futurist
Co-Host For The Session

11:30am  Adjournment