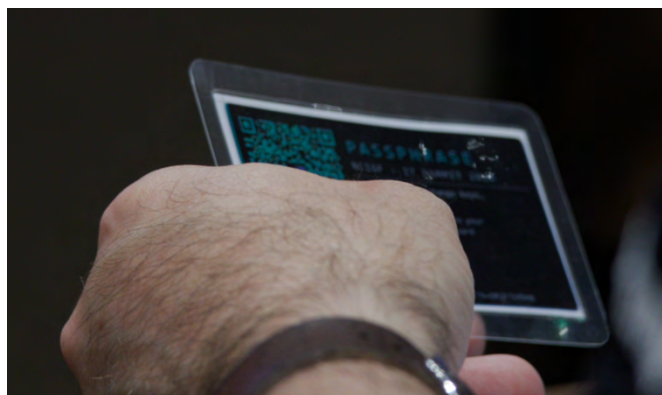




Here's a deeper dive into each speaker and panel at the 2026 NCIGF IT Summit.

Introducing Passphrase



This interactive icebreaker game was developed by Lee Minnear, Senior Systems Engineer from NCIGF. Attendees shared codes to unlock new words that they could use to develop longer and more secure passphrases. Community members enjoyed the social networking opportunities it provided and the friendly competition.

Securing the Crown Jewels: Data Loss Prevention & Classification



Taylor Greiner, Director of Innovation from US Signal, detailed how to identify sensitive data, its location, and why this fundamental aspect of security is important in an evolving technology landscape.

Key Highlights:

- A live demonstration of social engineering utilizing a brief innocuous sound recording that AI used to impersonate someone.
- Social engineering is easier now more than ever and it is everyone's job to be aware.

Digital Payment Modernization for Guaranty Funds



L-R Mo Awad, Johnathan Lindsey, Michael Karaca, Danny Thomassen, and Armineh Oganessian

The California Insurance Guaranty Association team gave a practical advice with their experience with digital payment platforms and ACH alternatives. Mo Awad, Chief Information Officer, Johnathan Lindsey, Director of Workers' Compensation, Michael Karaca, Claims Manager, Danny Thomassen, Director of Finance, and Armineh Oganessian, Program Manager, all presented together giving a full picture from IT, finance, and operations perspectives.

Breakout sessions

1. Navigating Technology Law

Bart Huffman from Holland & Knight and Ashley Rosenberger, General Counsel from NCIGF, covered the legal side of IT: contracts, data privacy, regulatory compliance, the stuff that doesn't always get enough attention until something goes wrong.

2. DevOps 101 with an AI Assist

Josh Taylor from DeveloperTown ran a session on AI tools in software development. Not the hype version, but a practical look at how tools like GitHub Copilot deliver value for lean teams.

3. A Pen Tester's Guide to Credential Compromise

Nick Pier from Ethos Technology offered a different perspective, explaining real-world penetration testing methods and how credential compromise occurs.

Day 2 Opening Remarks



Day 2 kicked off with a special recognition of Devo Heller for his many years of contribution and service. His knowledge of the guaranty fund and mentorship toward the next generation of IT professionals has been invaluable.

2026 NCIGF Member IT Landscape: Key Findings & Peer Insights

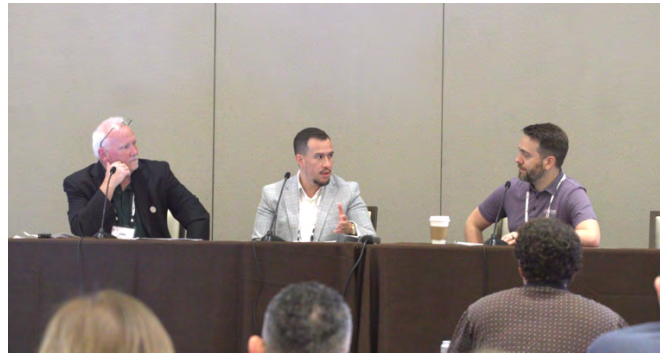


Mike Ulmer, NCIGF Vice President of Technology Services & Finance Operations, and Alex Rambau, IT and Administrations Manager from WFGS, gave an analysis of this year's annual IT Survey.

Key Highlights:

- Where are guaranty funds with technology.
- What Challenges continue to arise.
- How are priorities shifting across the community.

Cybersecurity Essentials: Scalable Strategies for Guaranty Funds



John Quinn from Waident Technologies, Gentian Mema from Pennsylvania P&C Insurance Guaranty Association, and Nick Pier from Ethos Technology picked up right where that left off with a cybersecurity session built specifically for this audience. Real frameworks, current threats, and controls that work whether an IT team is two people or twenty. The survey data gave the cybersecurity conversation a useful context connecting the dots between what is needed and what can be done.

IT in the Receivership Process: Navigating Data, Systems & Vendor Challenges



Jamin Dawes, Estate Director from Ellingson & Associates, and Josh Lively, Partner from Cantilo and Bennett, L.L.P, demonstrated the complexities of managing data and systems during receiverships. Their real-world perspective highlighted the importance of coordination and preparedness.

Cloud Migration vs. On-Premises – Finding the Right Path

Michael Dickey, IT Director from IIGF, Alex Rambau, and Lee Minniear shared real-world experiences weighing cloud vs. on-premises storage, the tradeoffs that each entail, and the journey of switching from one to the other.

Best Practices Still Matter in the Age of AI



Alex Hammerstone, Advisory Solutions Director from TrustedSec, detailed how AI is reshaping the threat landscape and why foundational security practices remain the strongest defense.

Key Highlights:

- AI hasn't changed what attackers want, but it makes them much faster.
- They target easy vulnerabilities: weak access controls, shadow IT, and outdated awareness training.

Bottom line: Fix the fundamentals first.

Level Up Your AI Game: Practical Tips for Everyone



Fabian Duarte, Associate CTO from Insight, shared practical, everyday techniques to level up your AI game; start with better prompts, from crafting stronger content to mastering context engineering.

Recent Insolvencies: Lessons Learned

As the 2026 NCIGF IT Summit came to a close, speakers Akeimi Love, Business Analyst & Programming Supervisor, Pieter Capozzi, IT Business Analyst Manager, and Joe Holloway, Chief Executive Officer, from Conservation and Liquidation Office (CLO) California, gave a presentation about their recent experiences dealing with insolvencies and how their hardships can be a lesson for everyone.