

Cloud & Infrastructure

Melbourne

▶ Building scalable cloud infrastructure for an AI-driven future

Cloud & Infrastructure Melbourne Tuesday 11 August 2026

08:15	<i>Register; grab a coffee. Mix, mingle and say hello to peers old and new.</i>
08:50	<i>Welcome remarks by Corinium & Chair's opening remarks</i> <i><u>Chair:</u> Dave Vinluan Head of Release and Service Delivery - Enterprise Data and Analytics ANZ (former)</i>
09:00	Speed Networking – Making new connections at Cloud & Infrastructure Melbourne!
09:10	Opening Keynote The AI-First Advantage: Architecting Specialized Agentic Workforces for Modern Financial Services <u>Speaker</u> Ryk Neethling CTO Send Payments
09:35	Beyond the Cloud: Modernising the IT Stack for Strategic Agility Luke Durham Regional Domain Strategist - Media, Entertainment, Gaming & AdTech, APAC Fastly

10:00	Panel Discussion Future-Proofing Infrastructure for Emerging Technologies Architect foundations that support both current operations and future innovations without requiring wholesale replacement. • AI-native architecture design: Accommodate AI workload demands through specialised hardware, distributed processing, and elastic scaling • Emerging technology talent strategies: Evolve organisational capabilities blending traditional expertise with AI operations and cloud-native architectures • Adaptive governance for innovation: Balance innovation enablement with operational stability, enabling rapid technology evaluation and integration <u>Moderator</u> Bernadeth Lucanas Cloud, Data, AI, & Cyber Security Expert <u>Panellists</u> Chandima Miyanadeniya Global Head of Enterprise Architecture Kennedys Darragh Kennedy Director, Software Engineering Zendesk Abhra Pal Solution Architect CareSuper
10:35	<i>Morning Coffee and Connect</i>
11:05	Architecting a Strategic AI Roadmap <u>Speaker</u> Krishna Soni GM Information Technology Village Entertainment
11:30	Building the Foundations for Industry Innovation <u>Speaker</u> Charles Ponniah Head of Portfolio Fujitsu

11:55	Panel Discussion Embrace Cloud Complexity for Innovation, or Demand Simplicity for Control? A strategic debate on where long-term business value truly lies, exploring: • Whether a complex cloud landscape is necessary for innovation, or if it creates operational friction and jeopardises control. • If best-of-breed approaches drive superior resilience, or whether standardisation offers a more secure and manageable foundation. • The greater strategic risk: vendor lock-in vs. the hidden cost and overhead of managing a diverse cloud ecosystem. <u>Moderator</u> Rajiv Shah Director Australian Information Security Association (AISA) <u>Panellists</u> Jason Smith Director, Enabling Technology Victoria University Dom Pietrzy Cloud & Infrastructure Architecture Lead Victorian Government Department Dilip Konar Former Application Service & Engineering Manager ex-Australia Post Rajesh Padmawar EM – Architecture The Salvation Army Australia
12:30	Modernising Network Services for Automation and AI Tim Hartman Head of Sales Engineering Australia and New Zealand Infoblox
12:55	<i>Lunch Break! Connect and Converse.</i>

	Track A: AI & Cloud Strategy	Track B: Cost & Operational Optimisation
	Chair: Dave Vinluan Head of Release & Service Delivery - Enterprise Data & Analytics ANZ (former)	Chair: Rajesh Padmawar EM – Architecture The Salvation Army Australia
13:55	From Cloud to AI <u>Speaker</u> Darragh Kennedy Director, Software Engineering Zendesk	FinOps in the Real World: From Cloud Cost Chaos to AI-Era Accountability <u>Speaker</u> Roberto Calero Cloud Operations Manager Blackwoods
14:20	Continuous Compliance in a World of Continuous Change <u>Speaker</u> Tony Green Manager, Sales Engineer Perforce	The next wave of optimisation: FinOps, platform engineering and agentic operations <u>Speaker</u> Leigh Stillard Director Cloud and Infrastructure CGI

14:45	Fireside Chat Driving Change in the Age of Agentic AI: Rethinking Cloud, Operations, and Ownership As organisations adopt agentic AI systems that can adapt and evolve independently, traditional cloud transformation and operating models are being challenged. The handover from build to run is no longer straightforward—leaving infrastructure and operations teams managing systems that continuously change behaviour. This session explores how organisations must rethink change management, ownership, and alignment to successfully embed AI into cloud environments by delving into: • Why agentic AI breaks traditional assumptions of cloud transformation—and what this means for infrastructure and operations teams • Redefining ownership and accountability when systems evolve beyond the teams that build them • Aligning business, IT, and operations to manage continuous change in AI-driven environments • Embedding governance, communication, and metrics to ensure AI initiatives deliver sustained business value <u>Speakers</u> Catherine Zhang FinOps Lead <i>Australian Federal Agency (Former)</i> Bhavisha Sharma Senior Data Delivery Lead GPC Asia Pacific	Strategic Hybrid Investment: Optimising Capital Across On-Prem, Public, and Private Cloud <u>Speaker</u> Phil Aerdeman Head of FP&A & Technology Finance Bupa
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15:10	How Slim Opinionated Architectures Help Out-Innovate Your Competition <u>Speaker</u> Volker Rath Field CISO Cloudflare	The attack starts in your pipeline <u>Speaker</u> Kartik Singh Accounts Director ANZ Chainguard
15:35	<i>Afternoon Coffee and Connect</i>	
16:05	Panel Discussion The Agile IT Operating Model: Cultivating a Culture of Continuous Evolution Evolve operating models, processes, and talent to accelerate digital business transformation. • Reinventing talent and processes: Reinvent teams for rapid delivery, continuous improvement, and modern tech talent • Redefining IT governance: Redefine governance to enable speed, empowerment, and agile experimentation • Scaling innovation: Create a culture that rewards experimentation and scales new applications quickly <u>Moderator</u> Dave Vinluan Head of Release and Service Delivery - Enterprise Data and Analytics ANZ (former) <u>Panellists</u> Rajesh Padmawar EM – Architecture The Salvation Army Australia Jan Cutts EM – Cloud & Hybrid Infrastructure nbn Australia	
16:40	<i>Closing Remarks by the Chair</i>	
16:45	Cheers with Peers: Drinks Reception <i>Continue the conversation over drinks.</i>	
18:00	Close of Cloud & Infrastructure Melbourne 2026	