

MAHESH CHANNAPATNA GIRISH

Speaker profile - Responsible AI | Data Privacy | Digital Trust | Technology Governance

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As a CIPM-, CISA- and AIGP-certified professional, I bring expertise across data privacy, information security and AI governance, helping organisations align business objectives with global standards and emerging regulatory requirements. I specialise in designing and implementing data protection and AI governance programmes that embed privacy-by-design, security-by-design and responsible AI principles into enterprise processes, while enabling regulatory compliance, managing digital risk and building a sustainable culture of trust, accountability and ethical technology use.

My speaking focus is built around one central question:

How can organisations use technology responsibly while maintaining trust, accountability and resilience?

I speak about the governance structures organisations need as they adopt artificial intelligence, process increasing volumes of personal data and operate in a rapidly changing digital environment.

My sessions combine:

- Regulatory and governance perspectives.
- Practical implementation considerations.
- Business and technology viewpoints.
- Real organisational challenges.
- Clear actions that audiences can apply.

I avoid presenting governance as a purely legal or compliance exercise. Instead, I explain how effective governance can support innovation, strengthen decision-making, manage risk and build long-term digital trust.

Speaking and thought-leadership highlights

Expert Talk: AI Security and Governance in Modern Enterprises

In 2025, I was invited to return to Seshadripuram College as a Resource Person to deliver an expert talk on “AI Security and Governance in Modern Enterprises.”

The session covered:

- AI security and data privacy.
- Risk management.
- Ethical AI practices.
- Governance frameworks for responsible AI adoption.

The session provided an opportunity to engage with students and faculty on the security, privacy and governance considerations associated with the growing use of artificial intelligence in modern organisations.

Building Trustworthy AI Webinar

- I planned and delivered the Building Trustworthy AI webinar, focusing on the governance, accountability, privacy, security and risk considerations organisations should address when adopting artificial intelligence.
- The session was designed to help business and professional audiences understand that trustworthy AI requires more than technology. It requires defined responsibilities, appropriate oversight, reliable data, effective risk management and ongoing monitoring.

AI Awareness Campaign

- I contributed to the launch of AI governance services through a structured 13-week awareness campaign.
- The campaign introduced audiences to important subjects across the AI landscape, including AI concepts, governance responsibilities, lifecycle risks, data considerations, infrastructure, regulatory developments and responsible adoption.

AI Flash

- I created AI Flash, a professional awareness publication designed to communicate emerging AI governance, regulatory and technology developments in a concise and accessible format.

Topics I speak on

1. Building Trustworthy AI

Artificial intelligence can create significant business value, but sustainable adoption depends on trust.

In this session, I explain the foundations of trustworthy AI and the responsibilities organisations must address when designing, procuring or deploying AI systems.

The session can cover:

- Accountability and ownership.
- Transparency and explainability.
- Privacy and data protection.
- AI security.
- Human oversight.
- Fairness and bias.
- Risk assessment.
- Ongoing monitoring.
- Responsible innovation.

Audience outcome - Participants will understand the key elements of trustworthy AI and the practical questions their organisations should ask before and after adopting AI.

2. AI Governance: From Principles to Practice

Many organisations have published responsible AI principles but have not yet established the processes required to implement them.

In this session, I explain how AI principles can be translated into a practical governance operating model.

The session can cover:

- AI governance roles and committees.
- AI policies and standards.
- AI use-case inventories.
- Risk classification.
- AI impact and risk assessments.
- Management reporting.
- Documentation requirements.
- Performance and risk monitoring.
- AI incident management.

Audience outcome - Participants will understand the core components of an operational AI governance programme and how those components fit together.

3. Data Governance vs AI Governance

Data governance and AI governance are closely connected, but they are not the same.

This session explains the relationship between the two disciplines and why responsible AI cannot be achieved without reliable data governance.

The session can cover:

- Data quality and AI performance.
- Data ownership and accountability.
- Data lineage and traceability.
- Privacy and lawful data use.
- Training-data considerations.
- Model-specific risks.
- Human oversight.
- Coordination between data and AI governance teams.

Audience outcome - Participants will understand where data and AI governance overlap, where they differ and how organisations can coordinate the two.

4. Managing Risk Across the AI Lifecycle

AI risk does not begin when a model is deployed. Risks can arise during strategy development, use-case selection, data preparation, model development, procurement, testing and ongoing operation.

In this session, I present a lifecycle-based approach to AI risk management.

The session can cover:

- AI strategy and planning.
- Use-case selection.
- Data sourcing and preparation.
- Testing and validation.
- Model development or procurement.
- Deployment and integration.
- Human oversight.
- Performance monitoring.
- Model changes.
- Retirement and decommissioning.

Audience outcome - Participants will be able to identify where AI risks can emerge and where governance controls should be introduced.

5. Privacy by Design in Practice

Privacy by design requires organisations to address personal data risks before a new project, system, product or service is implemented.

This session explains how privacy can be integrated into business and technology projects from the beginning.

The session can cover:

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| ▪ Identifying personal data. | ▪ Access control. | ▪ Privacy impact assessments. |
| ▪ Defining processing purposes. | ▪ Data retention and deletion. | ▪ Security requirements. |
| ▪ Data minimisation. | ▪ Third-party processing. | ▪ Collaboration between privacy, business and technology teams. |

Audience outcome - Participants will understand how to identify privacy risks early and convert privacy requirements into practical project actions.

6. Navigating Data Protection in the GCC

Data protection expectations are developing rapidly across the GCC, requiring organisations to establish clear governance, accountability and operational controls.

Drawing on my practical consulting experience, I discuss how organisations can approach privacy implementation in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The session can cover:

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| ▪ Privacy governance structures. | ▪ Privacy impact assessments. | ▪ Policies and procedures. |
| ▪ Data ownership. | ▪ Retention and deletion. | ▪ Training and awareness. |
| ▪ Records of processing activities. | ▪ Third-party management. | ▪ Implementation roadmaps. |
| ▪ Data-subject rights. | | |

Audience outcome - Participants will gain a practical understanding of the organisational capabilities required to implement a sustainable privacy programme.

7. Digital Trust: Connecting Privacy, Security, Data and AI

Privacy, cybersecurity, data governance and AI governance are often managed separately, even though they address interconnected risks.

This session explains how these disciplines can be brought together under a broader digital trust approach.

The session can cover:

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| ▪ The foundations of digital trust. | ▪ AI-related trust risks. | ▪ Regulatory preparedness. |
| ▪ Privacy and security dependencies. | ▪ Organisational accountability. | ▪ Coordinated governance and reporting. |
| ▪ The role of data governance. | ▪ Customer and stakeholder confidence. | |

Audience outcome - Participants will understand why fragmented governance creates risk and how a coordinated approach can strengthen trust and resilience.

8. From Policy to Practice

Policies establish direction, but policies alone do not create effective governance.

In this session, I explain how organisations can convert regulatory requirements and internal policies into practical operating mechanisms.

The session can cover:

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| ▪ Roles and responsibilities. | ▪ Evidence requirements. | ▪ Training and awareness. |
| ▪ Procedures and workflows. | ▪ Performance indicators. | ▪ Compliance monitoring. |
| ▪ Internal controls. | ▪ Management dashboards. | ▪ Continuous improvement. |
| ▪ Assessments and checklists. | | |

Audience outcome - Participants will understand how to move from written requirements to measurable and sustainable implementation.

9. Building a Career in Technology Governance

My career has progressed across software development, enterprise systems, IT management, information security, privacy, data governance and responsible AI.



In this career-focused session, I share practical lessons on:

- Moving from technical roles into governance.
- Developing multidisciplinary expertise.
- Selecting relevant professional certifications.
- Building business and communication skills.
- Learning through project experience.
- Developing professional visibility.
- Identifying a long-term specialisation.

Audience outcome - Students and technology professionals will gain a practical perspective on building a career across technology, risk, security and governance.

Audiences - My sessions can be tailored for:

- Boards and executive leadership.
- Senior management.
- AI, data and digital transformation teams.
- Privacy, compliance and legal professionals.
- Cybersecurity and information technology teams.
- Risk management and internal audit functions.
- Project and programme managers.
- Professional associations.
- University students.
- Early-career technology professionals.

Speaking formats - I am available for:

- Conference presentations.
- Webinars and virtual events.
- Corporate seminars.
- Panel discussions.
- Expert roundtables.
- Executive awareness sessions.
- Professional association events.
- Internal training programmes.
- University and student sessions.
- Fireside discussions.

The subject, duration and level of technical detail can be adapted to the audience and event objectives.

My speaking approach - My sessions are practical, structured and audience-focused.

I aim to:

- Make complex subjects easier to understand.
- Connect regulation with business and technology.
- Balance opportunities with risks.
- Use practical implementation examples.
- Encourage collaboration across organisational functions.
- Leave audiences with clear questions and actions to consider.

Education

Master of Computer Applications, MCA - 2022

Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Bachelor of Computer Applications, BCA - 2020

Bangalore University, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Certifications

Artificial Intelligence Governance Professional (AIGP)

IAPP

Certified Ethical Hacker v11

EC – Council

Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM)

IAPP

Certified in AI Security and Governance, PrivacyOps
security.ai

Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)

ISACA

Speaking enquiries

I welcome opportunities to contribute to conferences, webinars, seminars, panel discussions, corporate awareness programmes, professional associations and university events.

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