

## **Panel Discussion**

# **National Defense Perspectives**

### **ABSTRACT**

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The Government has a full spectrum of data-related programs, from logistics and human resources to life-threatening situations. The panel will discuss information and data quality challenges on a variety of these Government programs. The issues discussed will include making quality data accessible and visible to users in a net-centric environment, how to resolve data inconsistencies when data comes from multiple sources, the impact of providing quality data when the need for the data is immediate, the advantages/disadvantages of metadata tagging, and the value of data standards.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

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#### **John Hohwald**

Principal Research Engineer and Fellow Emeritus  
Lockheed Martin Corporation

John Hohwald is a principal research engineer and Fellow Emeritus for the Lockheed Martin Corporation. He is a data and systems architect with experience in software engineering designing and developing commercial statistical software packages, database analysis and design, supporting database systems for financial applications, and developing large IT systems for commercial and Government customers. Mr.

Hohwald has an BA and MA in Statistics and Econometrics from the University of Pennsylvania.



#### **Susmit H. Patel**

Senior Principal Engineer  
The MITRE Corporation

Dr. Susmit H. Patel is a Senior Principal Engineer with the Army Information Systems within the Command and Control Center (C2C) at MITRE Corporation in McLean, VA. He currently supports tasking and projects for the Army CIO/G6. In this capacity, he provides technical assistance to assignments for network/system architecture definition and development, technology forecast and strategic planning, communications network design and assessment, modeling & simulation, performance engineering, and technology evolution planning. Dr. Patel holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Information Technology. He is a senior member of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) and has held elected position as a Director for the IEEE Northern Virginia Section. He is an adjunct faculty and teaches in the Systems



Engineering/Operations Research (SEOR) department at George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, VA. Dr. Patel's main area of interest and research is in network communications and computing technologies. As such, Dr. Patel has published several technical papers, has participated in invited sessions, and has been a peer reviewer for technical journal publications.

**Frank Ponzio, Jr.**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Symbolic Systems, Inc.



Frank Ponzio, Jr. is President and CEO of Symbolic Systems, Inc., an information services company he founded in 1968. Frank has guided Symbolic Systems through the multiple transformations of the computer and software industries, evolving it into an IT services company providing global services touching such countries as Russia, France, Belgium, Mexico, and Costa Rica.

With over 100 employees, Symbolic Systems is organized into high performance teams located in six cities across the United States supporting its customers in project, data, and quality management; process development and operations; and problem solutions. Competencies include commercial and business applications, real-time data collection and process control systems, defense acquisition systems, and knowledge management systems. Business areas have encompassed automotive, pharmaceutical, medical, biometrics, C2, and C4ISR.

Frank has architected, designed, and built processes and directed the operation of teams for data fusion, data mediation, and data quality. He is the author of the Authoritative Data Source (ADS) Framework and the ADS Maturity Model for assessing and ranking data providers, which enables data users to identify and rank sources of quality data. He holds several patents for his invention and design of DATAMRI® and is currently directing Symbolic's DATATIVITY® effort, an innovational web service cloud computing technology for data analysis. Frank is a frequent speaker to the software industry on various IT topics.

Frank has a Bachelors degree in Engineering and a Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering from Notre Dame University and a Masters degree in Technology Management from Stevens Institute of Technology. He is a member of ACM, IEEE, and Automotive Industry Action Group. Frank also serves on the Board of Directors of International Research and Exchanges (IREX), headquartered in Washington, DC, and of the Project for Ethnic Relations, headquartered in Princeton, NJ.