

# Women in Tech: Get Your Seat @ the Table

Diverse  
Panelists

**Name**  
Moderator  
Company 1  
Contact info

**Name**  
Panelist 1  
Company 2  
Contact info

**Name**  
Panelist 2  
Company 3  
Contact info

**Name**  
Panelist 3  
Company 4  
Contact info

## ABSTRACT

Three CTOs share their experiences working their way into their current tech leadership roles and getting their seats at the corporate table. You'll hear their perspectives and gain insight on overcoming the challenges that could have stood in their way but didn't. These passionate women @ the top of tech will tell what they wish they'd known early on that could have made their journeys easier, in the hopes that they can make *your* journey easier.

Tells reviewers what this submission is about

## AUDIENCE

This session is targeted to mid-career professionals. It will also be appreciated by professionals at all levels that want to hear the experiences of women who have defied the odds and worked their way up to the top of tech. The audience will also learn strategies to handle the challenges they may encounter in their own tech careers.

Tells reviewers who will benefit most from this submission

## INTRODUCTION

The CTO role has become increasingly visible and critical to business strategy and organizational success. It is now a highly coveted and competitive role. Yet the number of female CTOs remains abysmally low.

While there is no shortage of reasons offered as to why the CTO is such a male-dominated position, it is clear that the path to the top of tech for women comes with its challenges.

This panel presents diverse perspectives on identifying and addressing some of the challenges women in tech may face in moving up the career ladder.

The panelists will speak about being in the top tech role and

Any panel submission must have a specific core point of contention, and a clear indication of who will be taking which sides of that issue.

what it means to be a member of a company's executive team. But front and center will be the obstacles and challenges faced in getting there.

## PLAN OF ACTION

### Timeline breakdown for this session:

- **10 minutes - Opening Remarks** – the moderator and panelists will introduce themselves and each provide a brief overview of her experience advancing in the tech field.
- **30 min – Moderator-led Q&A** – the moderator will ask a set of questions to the panelists. Panelists will share stories and experiences to answer the questions.
- **15 minutes – Audience Q&A** – the moderator will direct questions from the audience to each of the panelists.
- **5 minutes – Closing Remarks** – the moderator and panelists will summarize key points, provide contact and follow-up details, and wrap up the session.

Reviewers can clearly visualize how this session will go

### Sample Questions from Moderator to Panelists:

*Panelists respond to questions sharing unique perspectives as senior level executives in Technology*

- Forming relationships with executive colleagues is critical to success. Men bond in multiple ways and many may feel exclusionary for women. How do you navigate and participate in these relationships?
- We often hear women speak about feeling dismissed or not heard. Can you tell us about how this impacted your ability to develop and grow? How did you or, looking back, how would you handle those situations today?
- Many women in Tech struggle with some degree of Imposter Syndrome. Have you ever felt as if you were not good enough or not technical enough to be where you are? If so, how do you handle that? Some people say “Act as if” or “Fake it, ‘til you make it”? Would you agree or disagree?
- Can you give an example of a challenge you faced as a woman rising through the ranks of a tech org that 1) you felt you handled successfully and 2) you would

have handled differently given the knowledge and experience you have today?

- Looking back on your career and the challenges you've faced being a woman in tech, has it been worth it to get where you are?

Content was previously limited to 3 pages but has been expanded to 4

## **REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The moderator and panelists are seasoned and experienced speakers who have attended and presented at past GHC events or other conferences. They will share personal experiences and stories as they answer questions about breaking barriers to move up in tech.

## **OUTCOMES/CONCLUSION**

Attendees will leave this session feeling motivated, inspired and hopeful about their ability to grow in their careers. They'll also have the opportunity to talk through some of challenges they encounter and gain insights into how those challenges can be most effectively overcome.

## **PARTICIPATION STATEMENT**

All panelists and the moderator have made a commitment to attend GHC 2016 and to participate in this panel session if it is accepted.

## **BIOS**

**Moderator Bio**

**Panelist 1 Bio**

**Panelist 2 Bio**

**Panelist 3 Bio**

Bios should not be generic but must pertain to the session. Let us know if the moderator has had any prior experience moderating a panel.