

Bring me your CHCOs, your CISOs, your data officers: ACT-IAC's new CEO aims for more inclusion

By [Carten Cordell](#)
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Issues like IT modernization, data analytics and emerging technologies are driving technology discussions outside of the CIO's domain and into the C-suite, and that's where [Dave Wennergren](#) wants to take ACT-IAC.

The organization — a non-profit public-private partnership between federal IT executives and their industry counterparts — tapped the former [Deloitte](#) Consulting managing director as its first official CEO on Thursday, signaling its move to modernize amid roiling transformation.

“The pace of technology change is so extraordinary,” said Wennergren, who succeeds ACT-IAC executive director [Ken Allen](#), who retired in March.

“There's this conversation around how government and industry partner together to take advantage of these technologies to drive more effective mission results, and that is just the absolute sweet spot for ACT-IAC.”

ACT-IAC's mission has historically been to foster conversations between two parties that are heavily regulated by federal acquisition statutes: federal IT professionals and the vendors who supply them. But the increasing incursion of emerging technologies is expanding the pool of people who have a stake in solutions agencies adopt.

Between the growing emergence of CIOs in agency leadership and the impact of technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, automation and others on the nature of work, ACT-IAC has been focused on expanding its membership to include professionals concerned with interest areas like workforce development, customer experience, telecommunications, shared services and others. It created its first CEO position to drive that change.

Enter Wennergren, an executive with experience on both sides of the public-private sector divide, having stints as Navy CIO and Department of Defense

assistant deputy chief management officer as well as holding positions at [CACI International](#) Inc. (NYSE: CACI), the [Professional Services Council](#) and Deloitte.

He said that as agencies are striving to be more collaborative in determining their technology investments and possible impacts to the workforce, ACT-IAC must also become a broader forum to address the best practices of those changes.

“These are rich conversations that, I think, demand the attention of [wider] audiences,” he said. “There are so many new centers of energy beyond the long, rich history that ACT-IAC has had with CIOs. Now you have chief data officers, chief technology officers, the expanding role of chief information security officers and the establishment of innovation cells.

“Even beyond those new tech jobs, you have the profound impact technology is having on [chief financial officer] community, the [chief human capital officer] community and the chief acquisition officer community. So I think there’s a way to continue to broaden the reach that ACT-IAC has in government.”

Wennergren added that he has his eyes set on welcoming more technology companies into the fold, seeking to capitalize on the growth of solution providers entering the market when he officially takes the helm of the organization May 13.

“If there was one job in this town that was perfectly suited for my passions and interests,” he said, “it was this job.”