

Transforming data readiness into mission success

Meeting the federal
data mandate with
speed and security



A quiet revolution in government technology

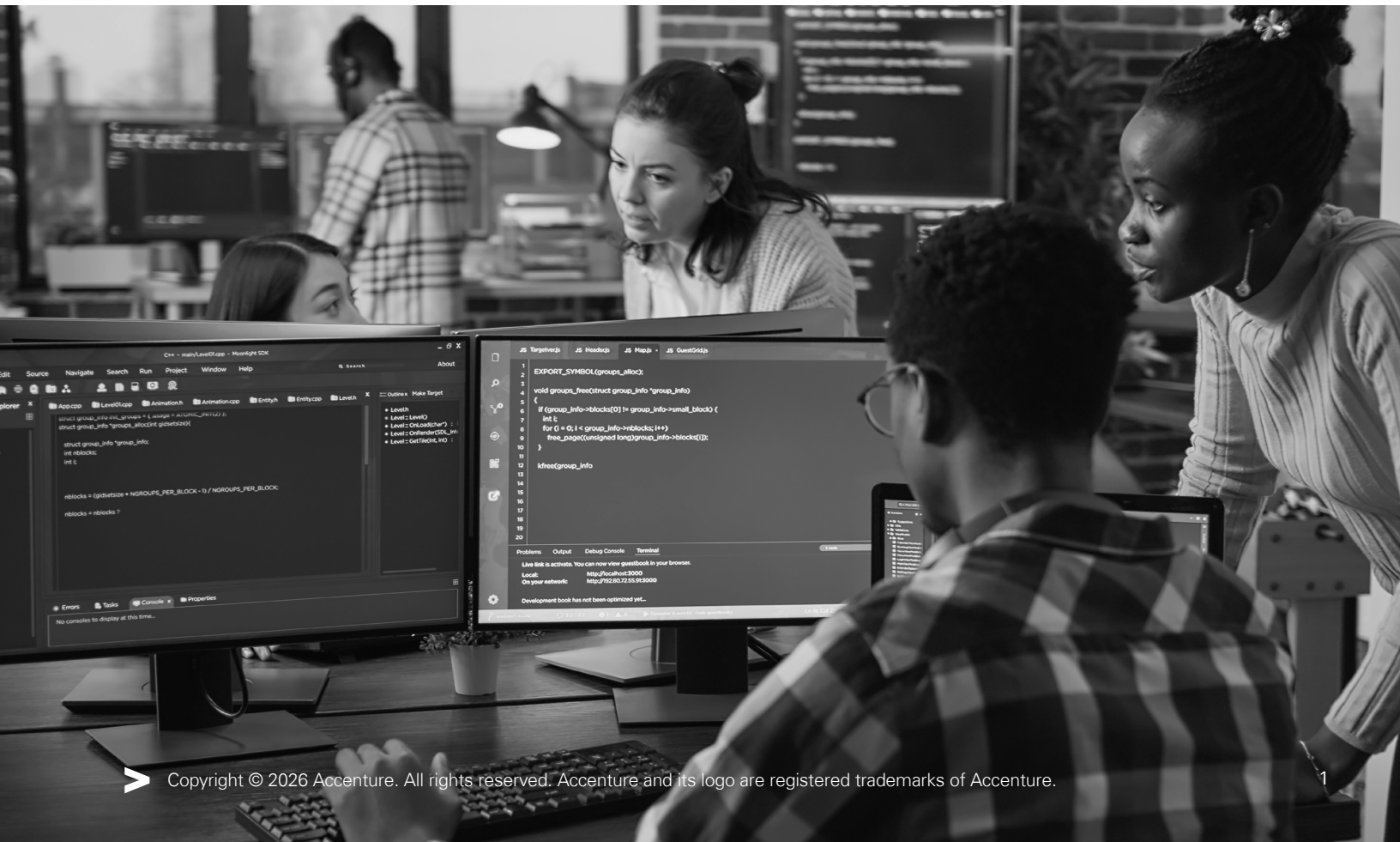
For decades, federal agencies operated in relative digital isolation. Data lived in disconnected systems, citizen services required in-person visits or paper forms, and the pace of technological change in government lagged years behind the private sector. This arrangement, while familiar, worked well enough in an analog era.

But something fundamental has shifted. The same citizens who can summon a ride with a tap, stream entertainment personalized to their preferences, and manage their finances from a phone now find themselves navigating government websites that feel like relics from another decade. This gap between expectation and reality has grown from a minor inconvenience to a crisis of public trust.

At the same time, a less visible but equally profound transformation has been unfolding in the halls of Congress and the White House.

A wave of federal legislation—the Evidence Act, the OPEN Government Data Act, the Federal Data Strategy, and most recently the AI Action Plan—has fundamentally redefined how government must think about data. These aren't merely suggestions or best practices; they're legal mandates that require agencies to treat data as a strategic asset, not a byproduct of operations.

When Congress created the position of Chief Data Officer at every major agency and required them to develop comprehensive data inventories and governance frameworks, they signaled something important: the old way of managing data—scattered across silos, inconsistently documented, and difficult to share—is no longer acceptable. It's not just inefficient; it's now non-compliant with federal law.



The Architecture of Change

Meeting these dual pressures—citizen expectations and legal mandates—requires more than incremental improvements to existing systems. It demands a fundamental rethinking of how government manages and shares information. The solution emerging across leading agencies is a shift from centralized, monolithic data architectures to federated data ecosystems.

In this new model, agencies retain sovereignty over their data while participating in a broader network of collaboration. They can innovate independently, adopting technologies and practices that fit their unique missions, while still maintaining the ability to share data securely and seamlessly with partners across government. It's the difference between building a single massive system that tries to serve everyone and creating an ecosystem where diverse systems can communicate effectively.

This architectural shift aligns perfectly with the push to make federal data FAIR: findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable. As agencies race to catalog their data assets, establish clear governance policies, and implement the guardrails needed for responsible AI deployment, they're not simply checking compliance boxes. They're laying the groundwork for a government that can adapt quickly to new challenges, leverage artificial intelligence responsibly, and ultimately deliver services that earn rather than assume public trust.

The question is no longer whether federal data modernization will happen—the legal and practical imperatives are too strong. The question is whether agencies will seize this moment to build something transformative or merely meet the minimum requirements. The difference between those two paths will shape government effectiveness for a generation.



What we cover

This is an interactive document



To enable interactivity, viewing is recommended in Adobe Acrobat on PC and Google Chrome on Mac. Within the document, **clicking on any plus button reveals more information.**

01

The strategic case for data modernization

Why fragmented systems and manual coordination can no longer support the speed, scale, and complexity these operations demand—and what agencies stand to gain by building integrated data foundations now.

02

Building modern data foundations that unlock strategic value

The core capabilities agencies need to transform raw data into real-time intelligence, secure cross-agency collaboration, and operational advantages that persist long after events conclude.

03

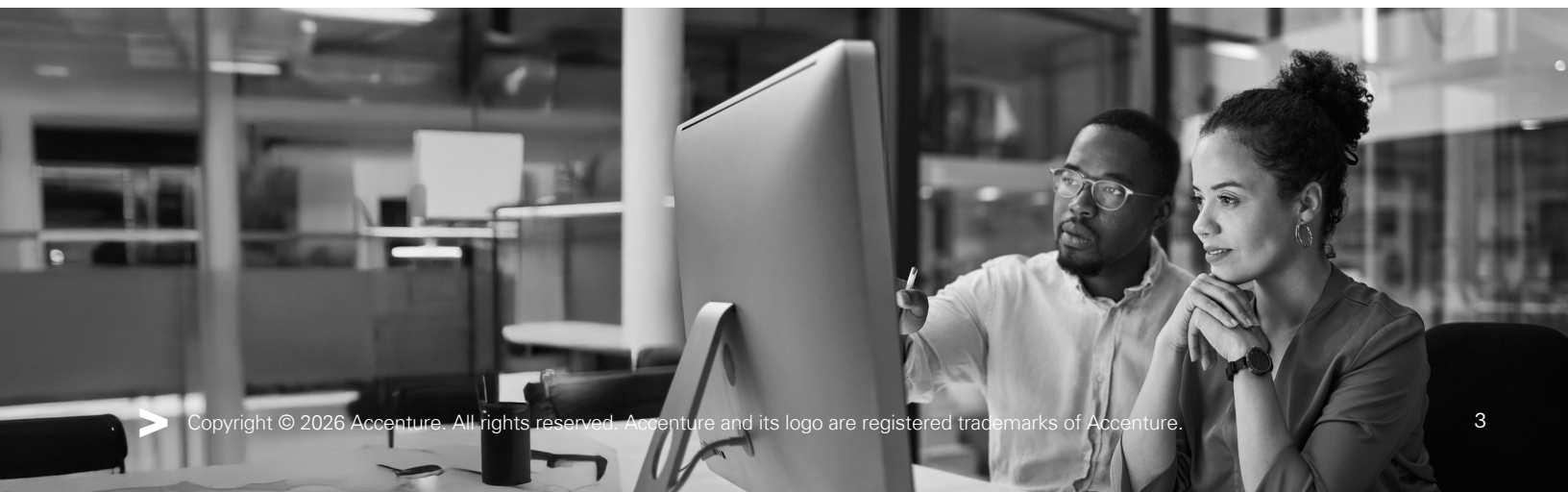
Data as a strategic asset in action

Concrete examples of how unified, accessible data enables predictive capabilities, intelligence fusion, and resource optimization that were previously impossible with siloed systems.

04

Secure interagency data sharing at scale

How modern data platforms enable multiple federal, state, and local agencies to securely share and access critical information across jurisdictional boundaries—transforming isolated security operations into one coordinated defense system while maintaining strict governance, privacy protections, and compliance requirements.



The case for data modernization

Modern government operations require agencies to confront an uncomfortable reality: fragmented systems, delayed data flows, and manual coordination cannot support the speed, scale, and complexity today's missions demand. When agencies must respond to emerging threats, coordinate resources across jurisdictions, deliver citizen services efficiently, or support complex scientific initiatives—data readiness becomes the foundation of mission success.

Data modernization provides the path forward: by establishing secure, federated data architectures, agencies can operate from a single, trusted view of information—improving situational awareness, strengthening coordination, and enabling real-time decision-making across their most critical missions.

But modernization at the scale and speed government requires is not theoretical—it has been proven in practice.

By establishing secure, federated data models, agencies can operate from a unified information foundation—improving decision quality, strengthening collaboration, and enabling rapid response to evolving conditions across diverse mission areas.

When mission-critical requirements demand rapid transformation, the right partnerships and platforms can deliver results in days, not years.



Building a modern data foundation for mission success

Complex operations requiring multi-agency coordination are not simply large-scale activities—they are organizational readiness tests that reveal how effectively agencies can act together under pressure.

To effectively execute high-stakes operations and deliver on critical missions, agencies must establish a modern data foundation that enables advanced capabilities, supports real-time decision-making, and facilitates rapid response to unexpected challenges. This foundation is not simply about collecting more data—it's about creating an integrated ecosystem where data becomes immediately actionable across organizational boundaries.

This foundation must provide the tools to securely share appropriately governed data across agencies, while strengthening privacy protections and compliance controls. Together, these capabilities ensure that data is trusted, protected, and available to the right teams and stakeholders at the right time—supporting effective planning, coordination, and rapid response when missions demand it most.

A robust data foundation must deliver several critical capabilities simultaneously:

Unified data architecture

Secure data sharing with governance

Real-time analytics and intelligence

Scalable infrastructure

Interoperability standards

When agencies invest in modern data foundations, they gain more than technology—they gain new operational capabilities. Coordination that once took days happens in minutes. Threats that would have gone undetected are identified and mitigated. Resources are deployed with precision rather than guesswork. Ultimately, an agency's ability to access, govern, and secure data will determine how effectively it prepares for, performs during, and responds to risks throughout these defining national moments.

As operational complexity increases and expectations for government performance rise, data-driven decision-making transitions from competitive advantage to mission-critical requirement.

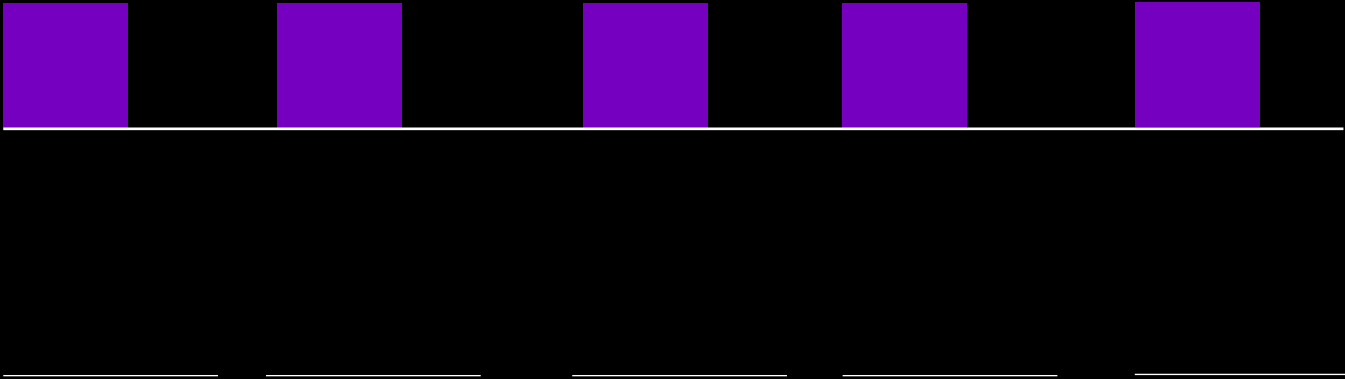
Now is the time to build that foundation.



Data is a strategic asset

Data has become one of the government's most valuable assets—informing decision-making, driving operational efficiency, and enabling agencies to achieve mission success. Yet for many government agencies, ensuring that data is accessible, accurate, trusted, and secure remains one of their most significant challenges.

Modern government operations demand that agencies treat data not merely as information to be stored, but as a shared operational capability that transforms organizational effectiveness. When data is integrated, accessible, and actionable in real time, it creates measurable improvements across diverse mission areas:



Proven at speed: Department of Energy

Last year, an executive order gave the Department of Energy (DOE) just weeks to analyze energy reserve margins across 90 program offices and legacy systems.

Working with Accenture and Databricks, DOE deployed Quanta—a unified data platform that migrated 1.4 billion records to the cloud and enabled secure, real-time analytics in just 72 hours.

The platform replaced manual, spreadsheet-based processes with live data sharing across analysts and program offices, allowing DOE to identify critical data, make it immediately actionable, and deliver intelligence to federal regulators on an impossibly tight deadline. This demonstrated that agencies can rapidly stand up integrated data environments without replacing existing infrastructure—proving modernization at mission speed is achievable when the right architecture and partnerships are in place.



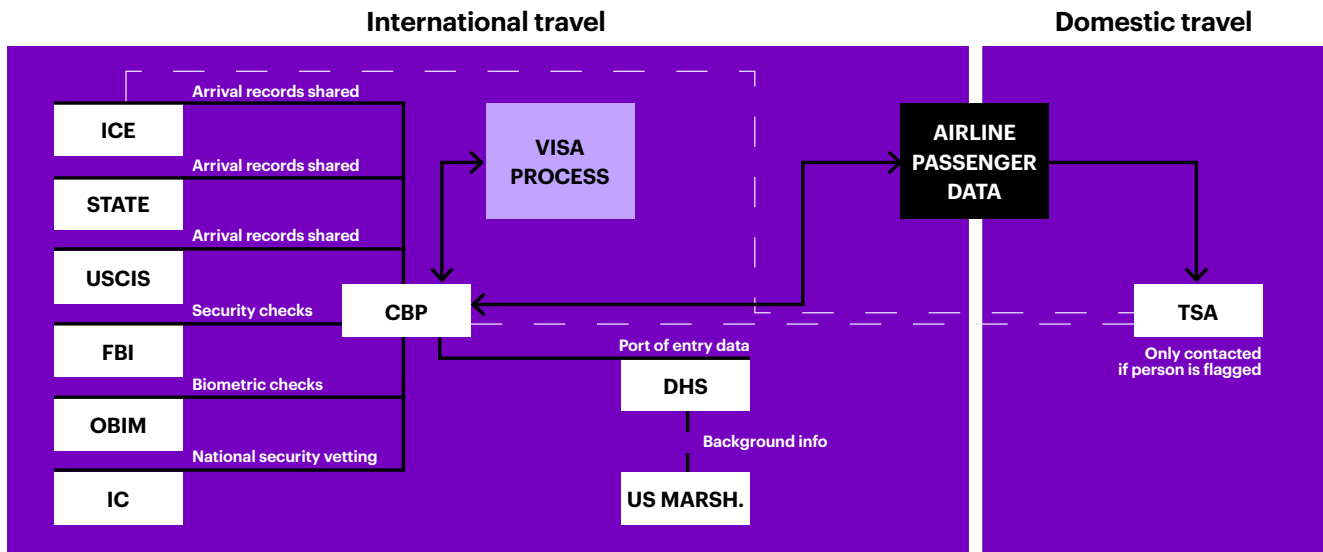
How the federated architecture works

Federal missions increasingly require real-time collaboration across organizational boundaries—sharing intelligence, coordinating resources, and synchronizing operations without compromising security or governance. The diagram below illustrates how Databricks enables secure, live data sharing across agencies while maintaining strict access controls, complete audit trails, and zero data duplication.

Consider international and domestic air travel coordination: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) maintains arrival records and port of entry data; the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) manages national security vetting and background information; the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) oversees security screenings and biometric checks.

Using **Delta Sharing**, these agencies can securely access each other's data in real time without creating duplicate copies—CBP shares arrival manifests that DHS enriches with threat intelligence, which TSA then uses to inform screening protocols. **Unity Catalog** ensures that each agency sees only the data they're authorized to access while maintaining complete audit trails of who accessed what information and when. **Clean Rooms** enable collaborative analytics across combined datasets—identifying potential threats through pattern analysis—without exposing sensitive intelligence sources or methods. The result: a unified security posture that leverages the full spectrum of available intelligence while protecting agency autonomy and maintaining strict compliance with federal privacy and security requirements.

Network Graph: Air Travel



This architecture transforms how agencies collaborate. Instead of waiting days for data requests or creating duplicate copies that introduce security risks, authorized users access live, governed data exactly when they need it. The result: faster decisions, stronger coordination, and mission success—all while maintaining the compliance and security federal operations demand.

Proven at speed: Real-world data modernization

**Large federal enforcement agency:
Executive decision-making in one week**

Facing imminent congressional testimony, a cabinet-level leader overseeing **200,000+ employees** needed rapid, defensible insight across fragmented systems.

Accenture and Databricks delivered a secure, federated analytics solution in under two weeks—from Monday kickoff to Friday demonstration—integrating siloed data and enabling real-time insight to support security operations, logistics planning, and resource allocation. This level of speed and coordination reflects the data readiness required to manage security and logistics during high-stakes mega events.



Federal agencies need partners who understand the mission, not just the technology.

Federal agencies don't need more technology promises—they need proven capabilities that work under pressure. That's what Accenture Federal Services and Databricks deliver: a partnership built on real mission outcomes.

We bring the federal expertise. Databricks brings the platform. Accenture Federal Services has spent decades helping agencies navigate the complexity of secure data environments—understanding compliance frameworks, clearance requirements, and the operational realities of cross-agency collaboration. Databricks provides the backbone: a unified data intelligence platform that handles the scale, security, and governance federal missions demand.

This isn't theoretical. We've deployed Databricks in national security environments, enabling real-time intelligence fusion across classification boundaries. We've built federated data architectures for public safety agencies coordinating across jurisdictions during critical events. We've stood up analytics pipelines for civilian agencies managing billions of records under strict privacy controls. In every case, the outcome was the same: faster decisions, better collaboration, and mission success.

What makes this partnership work is operational accountability. Databricks delivers enterprise-grade technology. Accenture Federal Services delivers the integration, the change management, the security accreditation, and the on-the-ground support that turns technology into mission capability. We don't hand you a platform and walk away—we stay with you through deployment, adoption, and scale.

When your mission depends on data—and every mission does—you need partners who've proven they can deliver under real-world conditions. That's Accenture Federal Services and Databricks.

Key considerations for agency leaders

Do you have an existing governance model designed to support the sharing of internal & external data?

Do you have tooling in place to support enforcement of that government model across the systems that hold your data products?

What visibility do you have into usage when sharing data with external partners?

Are your teams empowered to make decisions with high-quality, AI-ready data?

Have you built the data governance framework needed to protect privacy and comply with federal mandates?

Can your data foundation supply the detailed metadata required to support agentic workflows?

Are you prepared to unlock cross-agency insights that improve safety, mobility, and citizen experience at scale?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'no', now is the time to modernize.

About Databricks

As the #1 data and AI platform used across the federal government, Databricks works together with agencies to deliver a transformative modern data foundation that enables secure collaboration at scale. Through its zero-copy architecture and native connectors, Databricks allows agencies to securely access and analyze data where it resides—eliminating the need to move or duplicate sensitive information while enabling real-time, cross-agency federation.

The Databricks Data Intelligence Platform provides the unified architecture agencies need to modernize their data infrastructure, streamline operations, improve mission outcomes, and power AI strategies. By bringing data, analytics, governance, and zero-copy data access together in one secure environment, Databricks enables agencies to turn their data into a true strategic advantage—driving efficiency, innovation, and impact without requiring agencies to abandon existing systems or compromise security and compliance standards.

2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019
Global Partner of the Year

2025
AMER Industry Leader of the Year

2025
EMEA Partner of the Year

2025
APJ Industry Leader of the Year

2025
Healthcare Partner of the Year

About Accenture Federal Services

Accenture Federal Services is a leading U.S. federal services company and subsidiary of Accenture LLP. We empower the federal government to solve challenges, achieve greater outcomes, and build a digital core that is agile, smart, and secure. Our 17,000 people are united in a shared purpose to advance our clients' mission-critical priorities that make the nation stronger and safer, and life better for people.

We draw out the best of Accenture's global network in nearly every industry, bringing proven commercial innovation to solutions built with advanced R&D, emerging technologies, and user-centered design at speed and scale.

Together, we help clients create lasting value for their workforce, customers, and partners and make a difference for the country and our communities. See how we make change that matters at accenturefederal.com.

Accenture is Databricks' top global partner and has been recognized as Global Partner of the Year for seven consecutive years, from 2019 through 2025.

As a core member of the Databricks Partner Program, we bring deep Databricks-specific implementation and delivery expertise, supported by more than 300 trained and certified Databricks professionals. This technical capability, combined with Accenture's deep federal mission knowledge, allows agencies to adopt and scale Databricks securely and effectively.



Accenture Federal Services

Barnett Koven

Managing Director, Databricks Alliance Lead

Marjorie Willner

AI LLM Technology Architecture Senior Manager

Alexander Webb

Data Architecture Senior Manager

Databricks

Mike Daniels

Vice President and General Manager, Public Sector

Parth Vakil

Director, Field Engineering

Christopher Anello

Senior Manager, Field Engineering

JK Gola

Senior Director, Partners

Disclaimer: The material in this document reflects information available at the point in time at which this document was prepared as indicated by the date in the document properties, however the global situation is rapidly evolving and the position may change. This content is provided for general information purposes only, does not take into account the reader's specific circumstances, and is not intended to be used in place of consultation with our professional advisors. Accenture disclaims, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, any and all liability for the accuracy and completeness of the information in this document and for any acts or omissions made based on such information. Accenture does not provide legal, regulatory, audit, or tax advice. Readers are responsible for obtaining such advice from their own legal counsel or other licensed professionals. This document refers to marks owned by third parties. All such third-party marks are the property of their respective owners. No sponsorship.