

Celebrating Technological Transformation in the Financial Industry

Hi, I'm Jigar Thakker, Chief Technology Officer and Head of Engineering at MSCI.

Before joining MSCI in 2018, most of my career of over 19 years was spent at Microsoft, most recently as the Co-founder and Head of Engineering for Microsoft teams. The financial industry is being disrupted at a rapid pace. Technology is at the center of this disruption, but is not always the central focus of companies in financial industry. When we look at industry transformations in any industry, the most successful companies are the ones who put technology at the core of their business. It is a differentiation among the winners and losers across all industries. I've always had a passion for financial solutions investing and MSCI allows me to bring my technology expertise to market leading investment solutions. In order to continue being a leader and pave the way for the future of the industry, MSCI recognizes the need to innovate at the base of technology. Given our ambitions, I'm excited by the challenge of our industry transformation and applying whatever I've learned over my career helping MSCI move forward in this new world. MSCI is a leader in serving the global financial community and has tremendous connectivity and dialog on the generational change occurring in our industry. We have spoken to many investment leaders on this topic over the years and the impact that it is having on their businesses. In reviewing the key challenges, technology always raises to the surface as a code enabler at the heart of a financial form of success in the future. Technology must be at the core. The world is changing. Forces such as indexing, quantitative investing and climate and risk models are going to transform the financial industry in the coming years. The intersection of data, technology, and unlocking quantitative investment methods is central and transformative when technology is at the core as an enabler to belay the future of investment solutions. The challenges our industry faces, whether they be data management, investment analytics, or scaling risk management processes. Technology innovations, such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, and cloud services are best positioned to lead us into the future state of our industry. I would stay starting fresh and adapting to change is the key challenge. We have tendencies to hold on to existing practices and methods at organizations that prevent radical, but necessary change, such as putting technology at its core. This is especially true in the financial services industry. The winners in bringing technology to the core and transforming businesses understand the radical change needed, but more so, are comfortable in doing things differently, allowing for technologies own merit to infiltrate through the solution. MSCI is in a unique position to help show the value of these changes and help move the industry in the direction it needs to go. As I mentioned earlier, this willingness to do things differently is exactly why I'm here.

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