Chris Topazi

Technology & Operations Executive

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Executive Summary

Technology and operations executive with leadership experience inside super-regional and regional banks and advisory engagements with regional financial institutions. Focused on building reliable, well-governed enterprise platforms that support growth without compromising credit culture, regulatory alignment, or operational stability. Known for strengthening vendor accountability, change discipline, and service reliability during periods of acquisition, scale, and leadership transition.

Enterprise Leadership Scope

- Executive ownership of enterprise application portfolios (200+ systems)
- Vendor and contract governance across core banking, lending, ERP, and Microsoft platforms
- Board-aligned IT risk governance and regulatory examination support
- Change, incident, and problem management operating discipline
- Capital planning integrated with strategy and risk frameworks
- Post-acquisition stabilization and operating model integration
- Executive committee participation and board-level communication

Renasant Bank – Head of Application Development, SVP

Led enterprise application development and operational governance as the bank scaled from approximately $4B to over $10B in assets.

- Ownership of 230+ enterprise applications and supporting vendors
- IT change management and release governance aligned to board-approved risk structures
- Capital planning discipline mapped to growth appetite and risk oversight
- Senior leadership role during acquisition of ~$2B asset bank
- Designed and implemented Commercial Lending System integrated with FIS IBS core
- Delivered Treasury pricing and e-signature platform integrated with core systems

Regions Bank – Technology Leadership Roles

Progressed through multiple enterprise technology leadership and continuous improvement roles within a $100B+ super-regional bank.

- Led mission-critical platforms supporting Chief Risk Officer and Chief Credit Officer functions
- Directed regulatory projects and credit risk data environments during 2008
- Planned and managed capital projects of up to $10M
- Supported post-merger integration (Regions–AmSouth) ensuring operational continuity
- Partnered with executive leadership on cost discipline, Agile governance, and RPA initiatives

Advisory & Interim Leadership

FirstBank – Regional Commercial Bank
Confidential Multi-State Regional Bank (> $50B in assets)

- Served as Interim Director of Enterprise Platforms, provided Fractional CIO services, acted as confidential arbiter to C-Suite business leaders
- Supported post-acquisition operating risk model stabilization and enterprise portfolio governance in a regulated environment
- Maximized value of legacy bank cores, and engineered innovative financial products on next generation bank cores (FinXact, and others)
- Rationalized Application Inventories for redundant business capabilities

Core Leadership Capabilities

- Enterprise Technology Leadership
- Vendor & Third-Party Governance
- Change, Incident & Service Reliability Discipline
- Core Banking, Lending & Treasury Platforms
- Microsoft Ecosystem Governance
- Regulatory & Audit Readiness
- Post-Acquisition Integration
- Executive & Board Communication

Leadership Philosophy

In regulated environments, durable success is driven by disciplined operating models. I lead with clarity of ownership, measured innovation, and a bias toward reliable execution that executives and regulators can trust.