

Brian Charles has led digital-consulting and engineering organizations in various geographies around for over 25 years. He holds BA, MS and MBA degrees, was a Web developer well before there was a Web courtesy of a fortunate stint in a US government agency and helped deliver one of the first online distance-education platforms – which is where his true passion lies – in the democratization of knowledge. Today, while serving as President of Silver Lead Technologies and advising global corporations and government agencies on their furtherment of connected, intelligent systems, he is (again and perhaps finally) working toward his Ph.D. while also teaching classes in AI, ML and IOT technologies and strategy for MIT Sloan and MIT CSAIL.

Brian is married with two children and resides in the suburban-Chicago area.

[Longer version follow...]

In the 1990s, Brian was fortunate to have spent time in the high-energy physics domain where he helped solve *parts* of problems involving early artificial intelligence and “expert systems” applied to data-acquisition challenges in subatomic particle collisions. That experience led him to the telecom industry to address the less-pressing but more-rewarding challenges of revenue-assurance and billing models for telco operators. Nascent mobile device development in the 1990s caught his attention from his childhood days of building HeathKit radios, and he pursued mobile-phone development around the globe before that became commoditized. Fortunately, machine-to-machine communications caught Brian’s attention with the prospect of knowing inventory levels in Coke dispensers and marrying ERP and license-management systems to Redbox DVD machines. These forerunning systems and the combination of hardware, software and data with which Brian has worked underlies much of the **Internet of Things** and **Artificial Intelligence** systems that pervade our workplaces and society.

Today, Brian helps some of the industry's consulting and strategy firms deliver advisory services in the IOT and AI areas, *and he builds connected, intelligent, AI-driven systems, developing organizational-transformation plans for his clients through his strategy and product-engineering firm, Silver Lead Technologies.*