Ken Venner

Chief Information Officer
SpaceX

Ken Venner joined SpaceX in January 2012 as Chief Information Officer (CIO). Venner’s focus is to deliver IS/IT services that are “Like Air”. Enabling rocket scientists to propel mankind to be a multi-planet species. The challenge is having cost effective, high performance, always on IT tools and associated business processes that enable the business to achieve this goal. Supporting a business composed of rocket scientists and engineers, full scale USA based manufacturing, and a mission critical launch and mission control team creates unique challenges for an IT organization in terms of design, deployment and support. The SpaceX team expects/demands that the IT infrastructure be invisible to them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Venner’s organization is challenged to design and deploy capabilities that are available with 99.9% up time (planned and unplanned).

Prior to SpaceX, Venner was EVP of Corporate Services and Chief Information Officer at Broadcom Corporation from 2000-2011. During his time at Broadcom Venner’s team enabled a demanding group of electrical engineers to scale the company from $400M to $7.6B, from 1,000 employees to 10,000, from 5 locations to 80+ locations, and successfully acquired and integrated 50+ other companies. It was a time of massive, cost effective, scale. Venner’s team drove to create reliable, repeatable, scalable, maintainable platforms through technology implementation and process design. This is where Venner realized the needs for IS/IT services that are “Like Air”.

Prior to Broadcom, Venner was VP of Product Management and CIO for Rockwell Electronic Commerce from 1997-2000. In those positions he provided a unique perspective to the product development process, focused on delivering technologies and solutions that could be rapidly implemented allowing customers to focus on increasing revenues and reducing costs by efficiently and effectively managing all customer contacts. Before joining Rockwell, Venner worked at Lucent Technologies/AT&T Bell Laboratories from 1986-1997.