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07-23-12 | INFOGRAPHIC OF THE DAY

## Infographic: The Slave-Ship Chart That Kindled The Abolitionist Movement

The diagram, which visualizes an overcrowded slave ship, was an early example of graphic design that has the power of words.



BY SUZANNE LABARRE

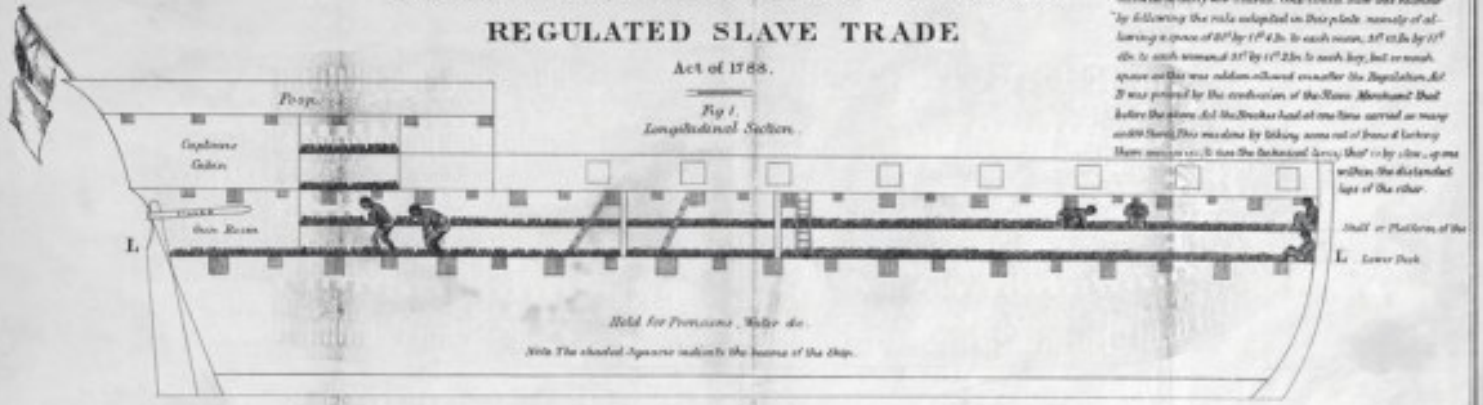
1 MINUTE READ

If you had to compile a list of the most important infographics in the history of western civilization, this cutaway chart of the 18th-century *Brooks* slave ship would rank right up there with [Charles Minard's flow map of the ill-fated Russian campaign of 1812](#) and pretty much anything by Ed Tufte.

# STOWAGE OF THE BRITISH SLAVE SHIP 'BROOKES' UNDER THE REGULATED SLAVE TRADE

Act of 1788.

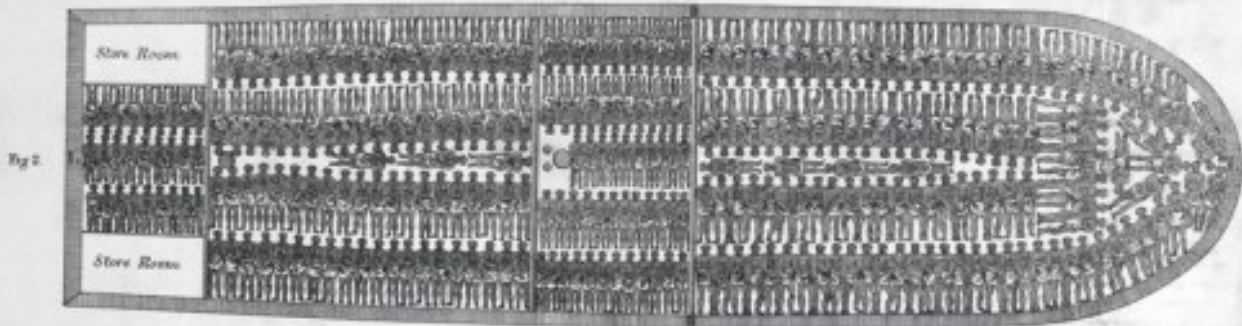
Fig 1. Longitudinal Section.



*Note: The Brookes under the Regulation Act of 1788 was allowed to carry 454 Slaves. She could stow this number by following the rules adapted in this plate, namely of allowing a space of 22" by 17" 4/8 to each man, 22" by 17" 4/8 to each woman, 22" by 17" 4/8 to each boy, but so much space as this was seldom allowed even after the Regulation Act. It was proved by the evidence of the Slave Merchant that before the above Act the Brookes had at one time carried as many as 600 Slaves. This was done by taking some out of boxes & taking them down to it, and the Deck was covered with the distended legs of the other.*

## PLAN OF LOWER DECK WITH THE STOWAGE OF 292 SLAVES

130 OF THESE BEING STOWED UNDER THE SHELVES AS SHEWN IN FIGURE 2 AND FIGURE 3.



PLAN SHEWING THE STOWAGE OF 130 ADDITIONAL SLAVES ROUND THE WINGS OR SIDES OF THE LOWER DECK BY MEANS OF PLATFORMS OR SHELVES (IN THE MANNER OF GALLERIES IN A CHURCH) THE SLAVES STOWED ON THE SHELVES AND BELOW THEM HAVE ONLY A HEIGHT OF 2 FEET 7 INCHES BETWEEN THE BEAMS AND FAR LESS UNDER THE BEAMS. See Fig 1.

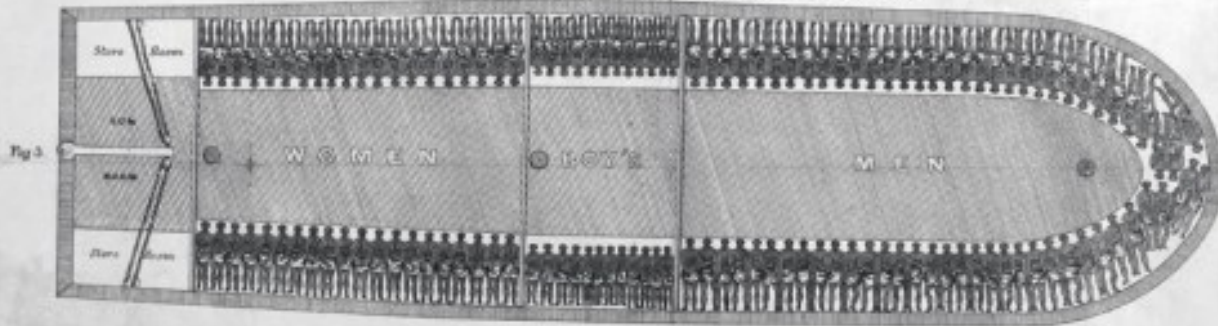


Fig 4. Cross Section at the Poop.

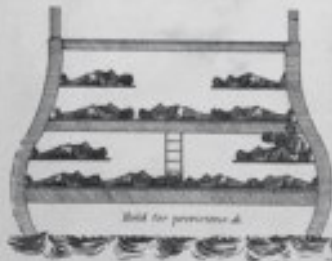


Fig 5. Cross Section amidships.

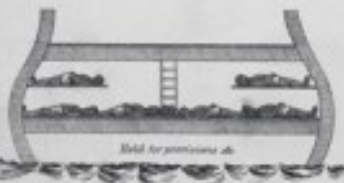


Fig 6.

Lower Part of Stowage under the Poop.

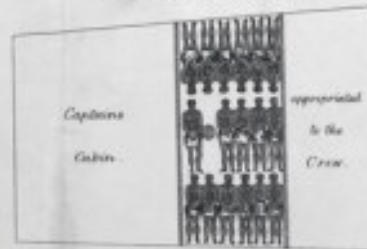
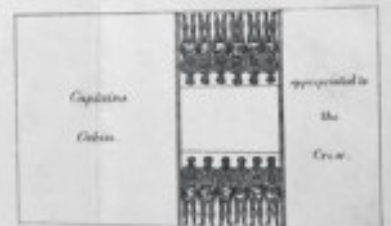


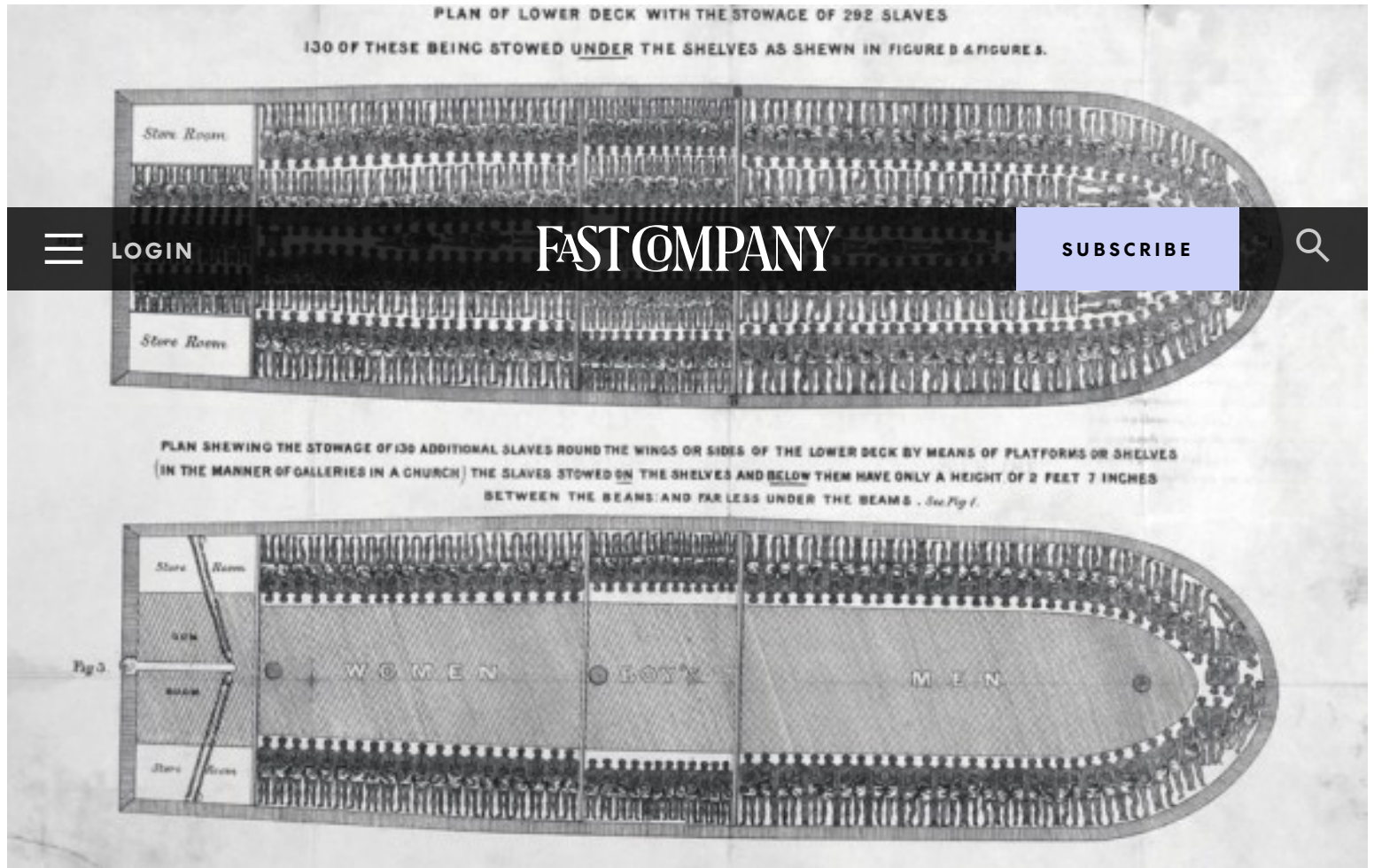
Fig 7.

Upper Part of Stowage under the Poop.

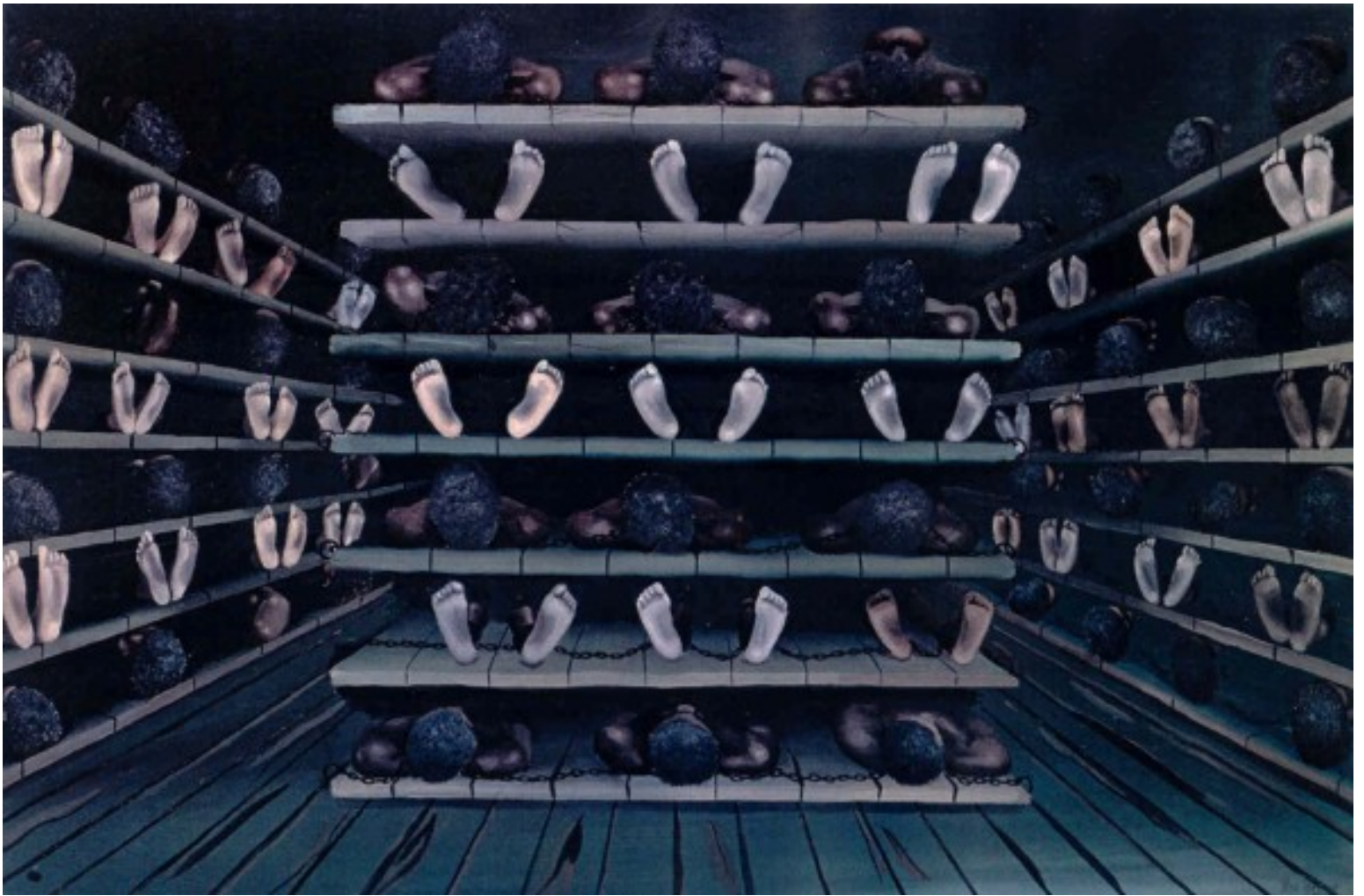


Scale of Feet

*Eye* magazine has a fascinating account of how the drawing became a key visual weapon in the 18th- and 19th-century fight against slavery, as part of a larger feature on **information design that changes minds**. First published by British abolitionists in 1788, the diagram depicts a vessel of 400 slaves packed in cheek by jowl, some with just 2 feet and 7 inches of headroom. The *Brooks* was **an actual ship** that schlepped enslaved Africans to Liverpool, England, and typified the slave vessels of the era: The Regulated Slave Trade Act of 1788, which was designed to reduce deaths due to overcrowding on slave ships, allowed each man 6 feet by 1 foot 4 inches of space (women and children were granted slightly less room). By those measurements, the *Brooks* was able to carry up to 454 slaves. The diagram's engraver could only squeeze in 400.



In the years that followed, the *Brooks* slave ship drawing was republished in broadsheets, and as a poster, all over Britain, France, and the United States, and came to symbolize everything inhumane about the slave trade. Whether it swayed public opinion or simply articulated the sentiments of the already converted is, of course, impossible to know. (The U.K. didn't abolish slavery until 1833.) But the economy of the image, and the "intelligible and irresistible" way it conveyed information, as the abolitionist Thomas Clarkson said, made it an unusually resonant form of anti-slavery propaganda. It was design with the power of language.



It was that chart that put images like this one into the popular imagination

[Images: Sketch from Photograph National Archives U.K., From Slave Ship to Freedom Road]

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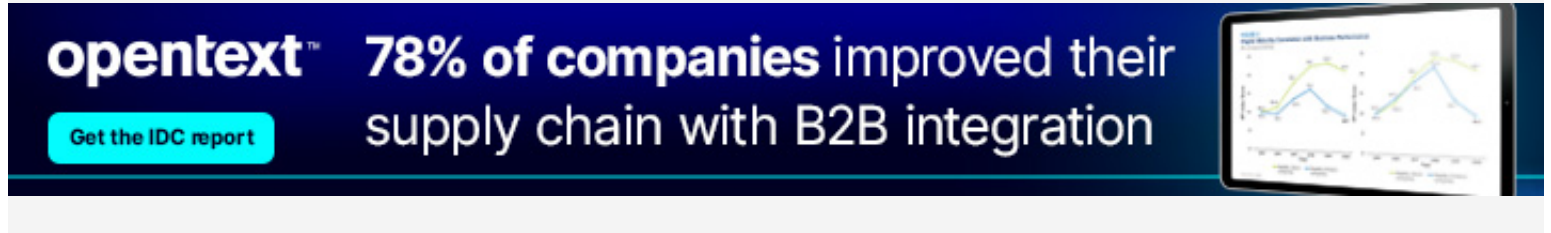
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Suzanne LaBarre is the editor of Co.Design. Previously, she was the online content director of Popular Science and has written for the New York Times, the New York Observer, Newsday, I.D [More](#)

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08-08-23 | OPENTEXT

# To work smarter you need an information advantage

OpenText helps companies of all sizes achieve an information advantage by eliminating complexity, breaking down information silos, and automating workflows



**BY SANDY ONO FOR OPENTEXT**

It's a complicated world out there for enterprises. Huge amounts of siloed information, sprawling and duplicative data sets, and disconnected applications are inhibiting innovation and causing digital initiatives to fail. Companies that want to thrive must manage information—all their information, everywhere—more effectively. However, a Foundry MarketPulse survey found that while 96% of companies think information management is critical or very important, more than 70% are struggling to achieve their information management goals.

What these companies need is to gain an information advantage that enables them to:

- Work smarter by finding, using, and gaining insight from information faster
- Adapt more quickly to changing economic conditions and customer requirements

- More effectively meet evolving requirements for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and equity, diversity, and inclusion (DEI) programs

## THE CHALLENGES

You can't gain an information advantage if you don't understand the specific roadblocks that keep you from changing.

### Macroeconomic headwinds and a skills gap

The current economic environment is forcing most companies to launch new information initiatives—such as those for customer experience, cybersecurity, or generative AI—with fewer resources. The problem, however, is deeper than that. A [2021 Gartner survey](#) found that 64% of companies felt talent availability was the biggest challenge to adopting emerging technologies. And [according to Mbula Schoen](#), a Gartner senior director analyst, “The IT skills shortage is critical, with CIOs losing their talented employees faster than they can hire them. In key function areas, like data science, software engineering, and cybersecurity, the talent supply remains as tight or tighter than before.”

To fill in their technology skills gaps, companies should focus on building out their process automation capabilities, allowing existing talent to stay focused on strategic instead of manual tasks and attracting new talent with meaningful work. Modern information management is where information and automation meet to democratize work and redistribute the workload. If we don't fundamentally change the equation, we will always be short of resources.

### Increasing technical complexity

Technology is evolving faster than ever, and businesses that want to remain competitive can't ignore the mind-numbing array of new systems and strategies: Hybrid multi-cloud computing infrastructures, data lake house/data fabric/data mesh, generative AI, and large language models, real-time integration of partner ecosystems, etc.

But in adopting new tech, a business can't just instantly toss out all the existing systems and processes they currently rely upon. As a result, companies that can't seamlessly integrate new systems with existing systems will simply create new information siloes. This can undermine the very benefits the company was hoping to achieve from the new systems and make it even harder to move information securely at the required speed and scale.

To survive, companies must work with partners that can help them untangle complexity and unify their infrastructures to make it easier to implement new tools and rapidly adapt their workflows.

## Increased governance and regulatory demands

The rapidly evolving regulatory environment is another critical layer of complexity for businesses, especially those in heavily regulated industries and those operating internationally. From GDPR, CCPA, and HIPAA for data privacy to SOX and FINRA for financial services, compliance can be overwhelming for companies that continue to rely on manual processes. Many companies are also under increasing pressure from customers, employees, and the board to make faster progress on their ESG and DEI goals.

For companies that want to grow without putting their organizations at risk, the solution is to build end-to-end, data-driven, and automated compliance into every information process.

With all these challenges, it's no wonder 70% of enterprises say they are struggling to achieve their information management goals. Fortunately, that's far from the end of the story.

## THE INFORMATION ADVANTAGE

Organizations can work smarter by gaining an information advantage. It starts with building a modern data architecture to automate and manage end-to-end workflows and break down the information silos. To work toward this goal, you want to become:

- *Intelligent*: Use AI-led solutions for content management, experience management, process automation, and application modernization that connect to existing systems, so you can break down siloes and provide users with seamless access to information.
- *Secure*: Ensure end-to-end information security and governance so you can use data without fear. Simplify your security stack of applications to limit the attack vectors.
- *Connected*: Better connect people inside and outside the organization by managing the exchange of information in a way that is simple and secure. Better see and manage your IT assets and applications across different environments.
- *Scalable*: Go small to go big. Take a Lego-block approach to technology deployments by using APIs that grow with you across multiple clouds, multi-tenant SaaS, and managed services.
- *Responsible*: Drive business decisions that align with your security, climate, ESG, and DEI goals and policies and that keep you ahead of new AI ethics standards.



If you plan to modernize your information management capabilities to work smarter, you need a trusted, experienced partner to guide you and help you choose the right approach and the right technologies. OpenText helps companies of all sizes work smarter by eliminating complexity, breaking down information silos, and automating workflows. With OpenText, you can overcome every major information management and integration challenge, so you can achieve a true information advantage.

*Sandy Ono is executive vice president and chief marketing officer at OpenText*

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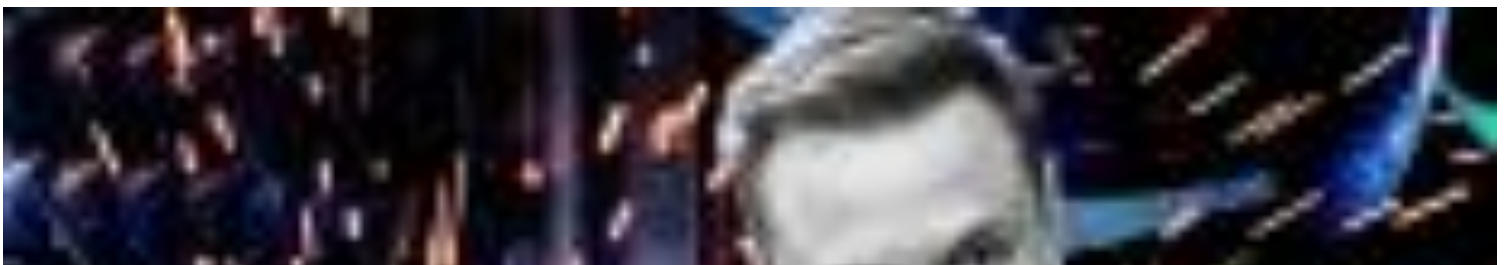




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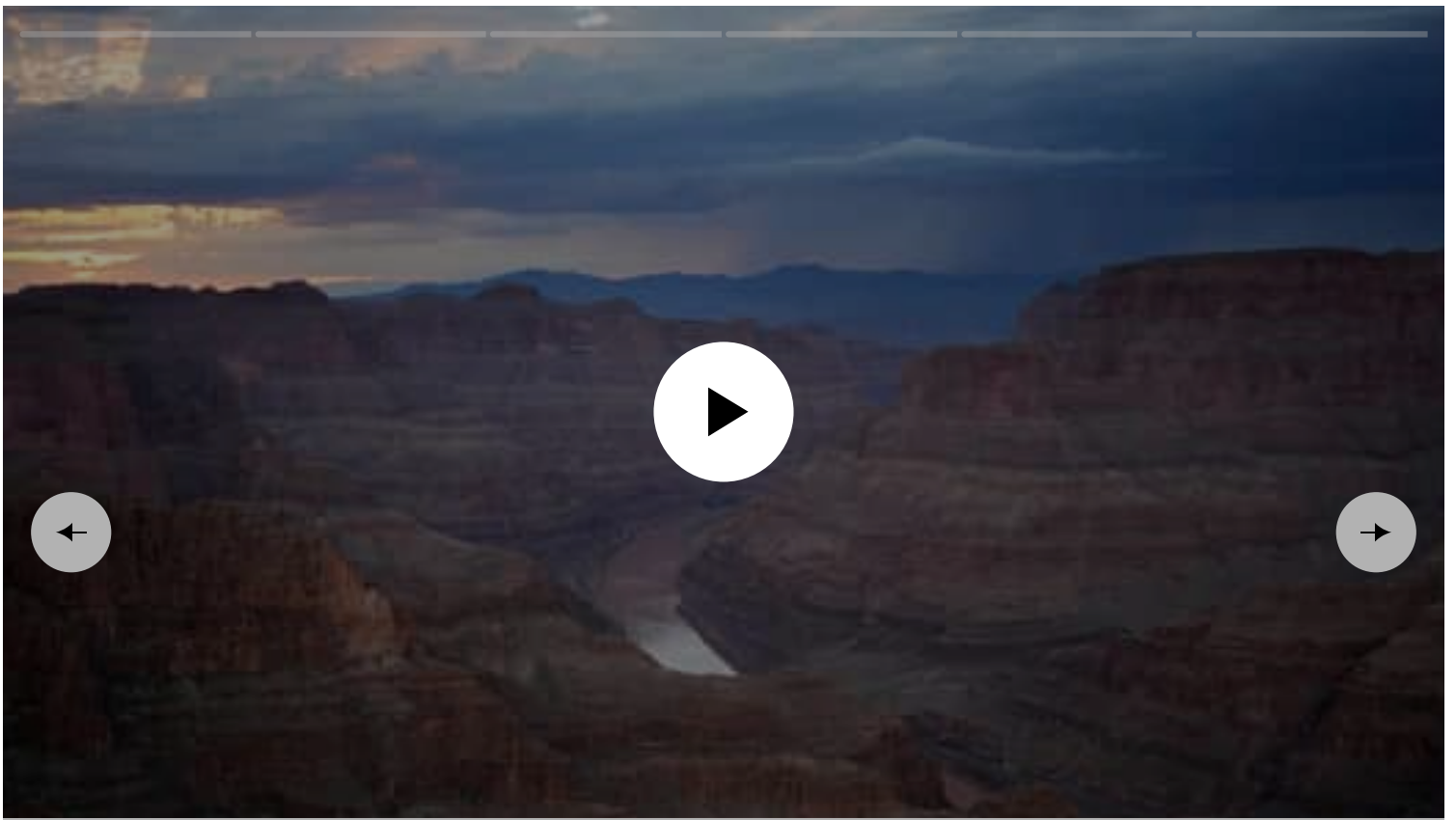
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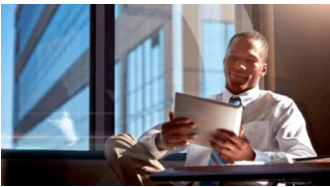
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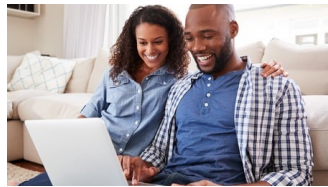
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