

Speaker Bio

Melanie Padron — Cyber Risk Strategist & Nationally Recognized Public Speaker

Most companies believe they're prepared. The ones that survive can prove it.

Melanie Padron challenges leaders to stop assuming they're protected and start proving they are. After more than 20 years in the insurance industry helping businesses recover from catastrophic losses, she now helps trucking executives shift from reactive recovery to proactive preparedness, before the attack ever happens.

She's been in the trenches. When fleets have called in the aftermath of a ransomware attack — systems encrypted, operations paralyzed, freight at a standstill — Melanie has helped them rebuild. For the companies that came to her proactively, the outcome looked very different: attacks stopped cold, zero data loss, zero encryption, zero ransom paid, and systems restored within minutes of the threat.

Melanie's connection to trucking runs deep. She grew up working in her family's convenience stores, watching the steady stream of trucks keeping shelves stocked and supply chains moving. Her aunt and uncle were owner-operators who crossed the country delivering freight, giving her a firsthand appreciation for the grit, sacrifice, and leadership it takes to run a fleet.

That credibility is recognized across the industry. Melanie is partnered with the NMFTA and an active member of their Freight Fraud Prevention Hub. She has spoken to audiences of more than 1,000 at industry conferences, been featured on the Women in Trucking Road Dog Truck Show and appeared on The Freight Coach podcast.

As Vice President of Strategic Growth at veteran-owned IT ArchiTeks, Melanie works with trucking leaders across the country to reduce risk, strengthen cybersecurity, and leverage AI to operate more profitably, efficiently, and safely.

Her message to leaders is simple: Preparation is leadership. Practice is proof. Protection without proof is just hope — and hope is not a strategy.

Session Description

Surviving a Cyber Crisis: Real Stories, Real Lessons, Real Money — and How AI Changes the Game

For the leaders who keep fleets moving and companies alive.

What would it cost your company if dispatch went dark tomorrow?

Not a hypothetical. Not a scare tactic. A question every person in this room needs to answer, before someone else answers it for them.

In this session, cybersecurity strategist and industry insider Melanie Padron shares real stories from trucking companies that faced ransomware attacks — some that never recovered, and some that faced the attack head-on and came out the other side intact.

The difference wasn't luck. It was preparation.

You'll leave this session with:

- The top 10 blind spots that make trucking companies easy targets and how to close them
- A cyber risk self-assessment you can put in front of your team today
- The questions you should be asking your IT provider and what their answers reveal
- A clear picture of how AI is reshaping cybersecurity from a cost center into a competitive advantage

Melanie doesn't speak tech. She speaks trucking. With deep roots in the industry and 20+ years helping companies survive their worst days, she brings straight talk that resonates in a room full of people who've built something worth protecting.

This isn't a session you attend. It's one you act on.