

BIO & BACKGROUND

BIO



Faisal Hoque is the founder of SHADOKA and NextChapter and serves as a transformation and innovation partner for CACI, an \$8 billion company focused on U.S. national security. He is a #1 *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *USA Today* bestselling author with ten award-winning books to his name. His new book, *TRANSCEND: Unlocking Humanity in the Age of AI*, was named a ‘must read’ by the Next Big Idea Club and debuted as a *USA Today* and *Los Angeles Times* bestseller. For thirty years, he

has been developing commercial business and technology systems, and enabling leadership teams at MasterCard, American Express, GE, Home Depot, French Social Security Services, US Department of Defense (DoD), US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), PepsiCo, IBM, Chase, and others with sustainable growth.

Today, Faisal is a highly sought-after innovation and transformation (digital/AI, business, organization) partner for both public and private sector organizations, and recognized as one of the world’s leading management thinkers and technologists. As a founder and CEO of multiple companies, he is a three-time winner of the Deloitte Technology Fast 50™ and Fast 500™ awards. Faisal is a contributor at the MIT's IDEAS Social Innovation program, Thinkers50, and the Swiss business school IMD. His work has appeared in *Fast Company*, *Harvard Business Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *MIT Sloan Management Review*, *The Financial Times*, *Psychology Today*, *BIG Think*, *Business Insider*, *Fortune*, *Inc.*, *Kiplinger*, Yahoo Finance, Fox, ABC, CBS, and others.

Faisal’s work and life are profoundly influenced by a distinctive fusion of Eastern philosophy and American entrepreneurial spirit. He frequently speaks at international conferences, business schools, corporate gatherings, and business summits. Inspired by personal experiences, Faisal is a passionate advocate for cancer research, raising awareness and supporting research efforts to combat the disease.

You can learn more at his [website](#) and connect with him on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).

BACKGROUND

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION

"Talk about a trip: entrepreneur Faisal Hoque started his career in the U.S. as a "janitorial engineer" but eventually went on to raise millions for his businesses, despite setbacks like being ousted as CEO of his own company (sound familiar, Apple?)."

– *Fast Company*

Faisal's entrepreneurial journey began at 14, selling stereo components from his family home in Dhaka, Bangladesh to fund his dream of moving to the United States for college. By 20, while studying at the University of Minnesota, he was already building commercial software products, setting the stage for his rapid rise in the tech industry.

At 24, he became GE's youngest technology executive, spearheading the launch of their first B2B e-commerce platform just as the Internet was transforming global commerce. Fueled by his passion for innovation, he went on to found multiple startups, focusing on enterprise software, digital transformation, and AI-driven solutions.

Over the decades, his companies have pioneered solutions in:

- Middleware software for complex, secure transaction processing.
- Industry-first reusable software components for integrated B2B e-commerce.
- Comprehensive business value management frameworks and platforms for digital and AI transformation.

As a serial entrepreneur, he has successfully built and scaled multiple ventures. Beyond launching and scaling ventures, Faisal continues to influence the entrepreneurial landscape through thought leadership, mentorship, and investment in early-stage companies, reinforcing his commitment to fostering the next generation of innovators and business leaders.

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

"Faisal Hoque, the entrepreneur and innovator, was born in Bangladesh and found himself in the boardrooms of Fortune 100s by the time he was 27."

– MARSHALL GOLDSMITH, Thinkers50 #1 Executive Coach in the World, *New York Times* Bestselling Author

Faisal Hoque's customer engagements reflect the depth and impact of his leadership, innovation, and transformation expertise. For example, Faisal and his team provided frameworks, processes, and analytics for PepsiCo, achieving \$500 million in annual cost reductions, accelerating innovation, and enhancing management transparency. For Northrop Grumman, they enabled the ongoing creation of internal and external business architecture, driving innovation, growth, and value tracking. As a strategic partner for CACI International Inc., they support the U.S. Department of Defense (Army, Air Force), Department of Homeland Security, and other public agencies in organizational transformation, digital and AI-driven innovation, and governance.

Through thought leadership, frameworks, and platforms, Faisal continues to shape the strategic and technological evolution of some of the world's most complex organizations.

RESEARCH & FRAMEWORK

Faisal Hoque, with over 30 years of hands-on experience and rigorous research with venture firms, F500 companies, and governments, has developed multiple frameworks (such as BTM, LIFTS, OPEN/CARE, and others) and maturity models that assess leadership and management capabilities, linking them to financial performance and long-term success. Blending technology expertise with management science, his research fosters sustainable, transformational change. His financial indices—including the Convergence Index, Business Agility Index, Sustained Innovation Index, and Operational Excellence Index—provide data-driven insights on resilience, innovation, and efficiency. Integrating Eastern philosophy with American entrepreneurial spirit, Hoque emphasizes connectivity, mindfulness, and the collective good, shaping a leadership approach grounded in research, foresight, and ethical impact.

Recognized as one of the *Top 100 Most Influential People in Technology* by Ziff Davis Enterprise, he has also been named a *Top 100 Thought Leader* by Trust Across America.

CIO Quarterly dubbed him "*Mr. Convergence*" in 2008 for his work integrating business strategies with technology decisions.

PUBLICATIONS

He has authored 10 award-winning books (published by Cambridge University Press, Financial Times, Harper Collins Leadership, McGraw Hill, Fast Company Press, and others; his 30 plus awards include Axiom Gold, Nautilus, Foreword, Book Excellence, Thinkers50 Distinguished Achievement Awards 2023 Shortlist, and others) on humanity, business, and technology.

His books include the #1 Wall Street Journal best-seller "*REINVENT – Navigating Business Transformation in a Hyper-Digital Era*" published in association with IMD (Institute for Management Development) (Fast Company Press, 2023), the #1 Wall Street Journal and *USA Today* best-seller "*LIFT – Fostering the Leader in You Amid Revolutionary Global Change*" (with Jeff Wuorio and Shelley Moench-Kelly, Fast Company Press, 2022), and the #2 *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today* best-seller "*Everything Connects – Cultivating Mindfulness, Creativity, and Innovation for Long-Term Value*" (with Drake Baer, 2nd Edition, Fast Company Press, 2022). His ground-breaking first book "*e-Enterprise*" was released by Cambridge University Press in 2000.

His highly anticipated book, *TRANSCEND: Unlocking Humanity in the Age of AI*, has been praised by the likes of #1 New York Times bestselling author Daniel Pink, Babson College Professor Tom Davenport, futurist April Rinne, and many others.

Faisal volunteers for educational organizations around the world, including MIT's IDEAS Social Innovation program, and is a contributor at Thinkers50, the Swiss business school IMD, and the Project Management Institute (PMI). For decades, he has been regularly penning columns and articles for various global publications.

SPEAKING

Faisal's talks are focused on leadership, innovation, and transformation with particular focus on organizational mindset, technology, entrepreneurship, creativity, and mindfulness for long-term sustainable impact.

He has given speeches at the EU HR Director Summit, Department of Defense (DoD), US Marines, Airbus, CEO Summits at the NY Stock Exchange, Global China Summits, Forbes Business Leadership Forum, MIT Sloan Fellows Program in Innovation and Global Leadership, Thunderbird Sustainable Innovation Summit, BOOTH School of Business – Entrepreneurial Ventures, Chief Executive Magazine CEO Roundtables, Yale School of Management CEO Summits, Rutgers Business School, CIO Summit in Japan, Sino-American CIO Summit in Beijing, European CIO Summit in Monte Carlo, and CFO Magazine Technology Summit, among others.

PHILOSOPHY

Raised in Bangladesh, his approach to leadership, innovation, and business is deeply rooted in Eastern philosophical principles, particularly those emphasizing connectivity, mindfulness, the collective good, and constant transformation. He believes that sharing knowledge and experiences can provide clarity on improving our collective future.

He has a profound passion for travel, which he views as a multifaceted journey encompassing cultural, spiritual, intellectual, and culinary experiences. His travels have taken him across the globe, allowing him to immerse himself in diverse cultures and traditions. His visits to Zen monasteries in Japan had significant impact on him, triggering an internal transformation that influenced his outlook on work and life.

His love for cooking began out of necessity when he started college at 17, and it has since evolved into a joyful and creative pursuit. He believes that the ritualistic nature of cooking enhances one's ability to be mindful, which in turn improves focus and awareness in other areas of life.

SOCIAL

An engaging and popular global thought leader, Faisal has 40,000 followers on X. Faisal also speaks on a wide range of topics and has very active engagement, with over two million content impressions annually from more than 16,000 LinkedIn followers.

You can learn more at his [website](#) and connect with him on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).