## AN OUTSTANDING GUEST

## BRIAN WEAVER CEO OF TORCH.AI

Brian serves as CEO of Torch.AI and has more than 20 years of experience leading mission driven, high growth, technology-focused companies. Torch.AI helps leading organizations leverage artificial intelligence in a unique way via a proprietary enterprise data management software solution. Today, Torch.AI supports clients like H&R Block with fraud detection and mitigation, and the U.S. Department of Defense with machine learning enabled background investigations for all federal employees, supporting the determination of an individual's trustworthiness and security credentialing.

Prior to Torch.Al, Brian launched or acquired several companies all focused on technology enabled services and data connectivity. His companies serve nearly 1,300 clients and have been recognized as Small Business of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Brian has been featured in Forbes magazine for concepts around data encapsulation using blockchain technologies. He received the Defense Innovation Award at DITAC in 2017. In May, Brian will give the commencement speech for the 2019 class at his alma mater, Northwest Missouri State University, where he earned a degree in communications (minoring in Philosophy). He has raced numerous Ironman competitions at an elite amateur level in the US and Europe, ranking as high as No. 1 in the world for the class. He lives in Kansas City with his wife of 20 years and two teenage daughters.



## **QUESTIONS TO ASK**

- How did you start your first company?
- What work are you doing with the US Dept of Defense?
- What is the biggest lesson you've learned as an entrepreneur?
- What advice do you have for aspiring founders?
- How did you get into Ironman competitions?
- What was the darkest personal moment you've had as you've built the business?

## **TOPICS TO DISCUSS**

- Artificial Intelligence, Software & Data
- Business Startup & Entrepreneurship
- Dealing with Adversity
- Motivation & Resilience

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