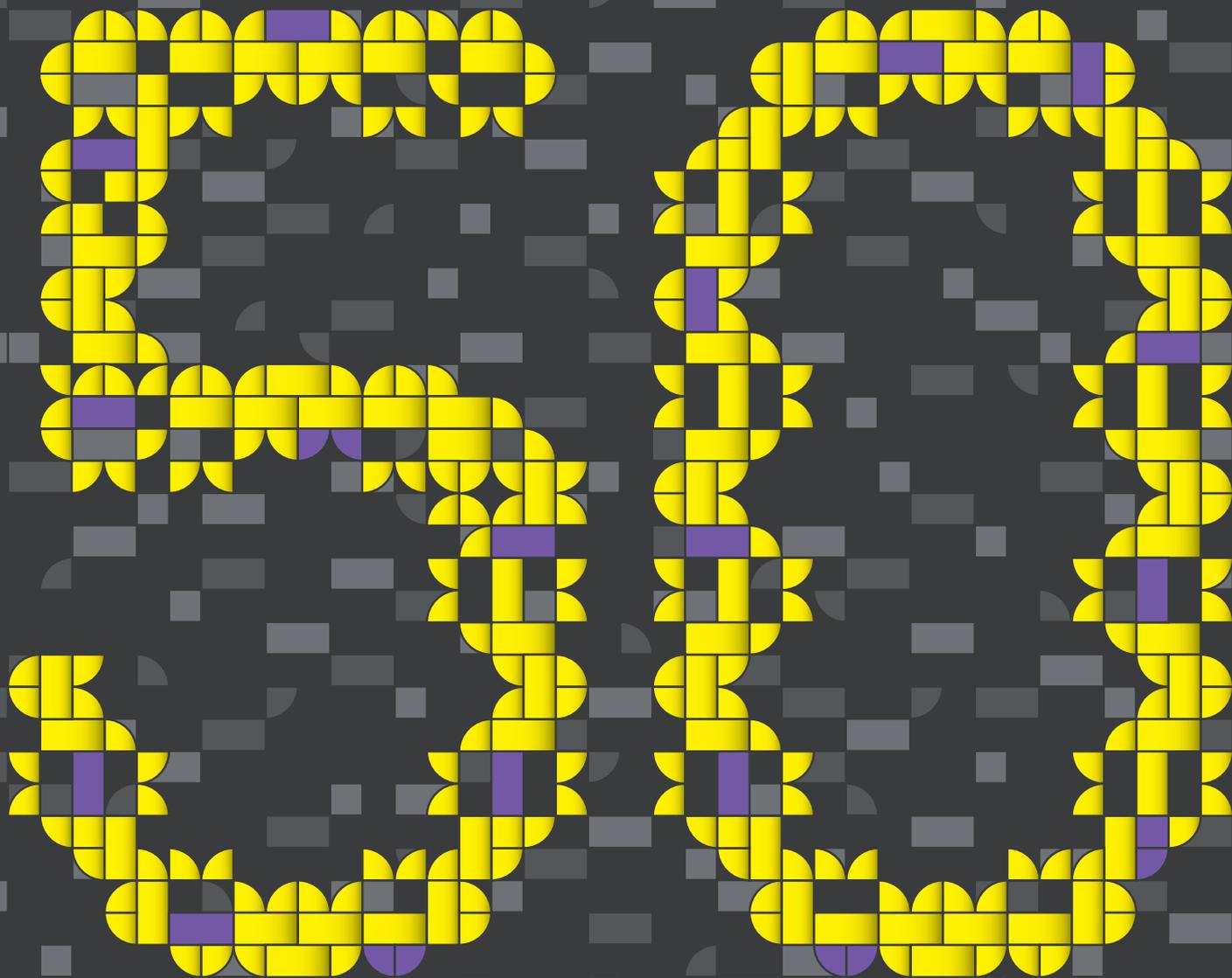


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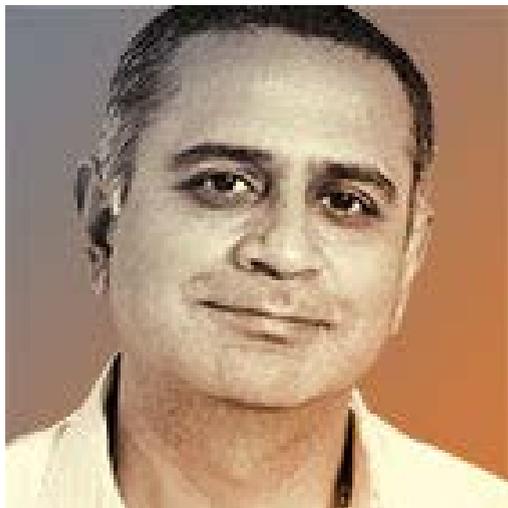
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The Tech 50

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY STANLEY CHOW



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GAURAV SURI
 HEAD OF INFORMATION
 TECHNOLOGY AND
 SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
 D. E. SHAW GROUP
 LAST YEAR: 21

Some firms are reluctant to centralize development for fear that it will slow innovation. “On the one hand, centralization is good because you don’t have people doing duplicate effort,” explains D.E. Shaw Group’s Gaurav Suri. “On the other hand, it in some ways increases your distance from the business.” As head of information technology and software development for the New York–based multistrategy hedge fund firm, Suri, 43, has sought to strike a balance by implementing a “federated structure.” His team of more than 450 technologists develops software and systems for middle- and back-office functions and trading infrastructure shared by all of D.E. Shaw’s investment businesses. Suri’s group speeds up the time it takes the businesses to get new ideas implemented by providing sophisticated quantitative research tools and prescrubbed data. “It is a lot faster for them to be able to plug in some of their forecast ideas and do all the research and backtesting they need to figure out whether the forecast is good,” says Suri, who worked at Bell Laboratories before being recruited to D.E. Shaw in 1996. “The fundamental guiding principle today is to increase the idea-to-implementation velocity.”

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