

NEWYORKCISO ORBIE AWARDS

A special section in partnership with NewYorkCISO



The annual NewYorkCISO ORBIE® Awards honors chief information security officers who have demonstrated excellence in security leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate & Corporate categories will be announced November 13 at Zeigfeld Ballroom.

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NATIONAL CISO CHAIR

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NEWYORKCISO
ORBIE
AWARDS

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GREG BARNES Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	ANTHONY ESPOSITO McKinsey & Company	MATT LAGANA MBIA	DAVID ORTIZ Church & Dwight Co.	JASON ROUSE Bloomberg	PETER TSE Natixis Corporate Investment Bank Americas
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2025 NATIONAL CISO CHAIR
▶ RON BANKS ◀

Collectively We Secure the Enterprise



RON BANKS
National CISO Chair
Deputy CISO, Brinks Incorporated

Successful CISOs appreciate the power of collaboration with peers facing similar challenges.

NewYorkCISO brings together preeminent CISOs from New York's largest organizations to enhance leadership effectiveness, mitigate risks, and recognize shared successes. Member-led, non-commercial programs foster meaningful professional relationships, empowering CISOs to protect their organizations and develop cyber resilience.

Through year-round, secure, member-focused events and interactions, the collective expertise of CISOs creates remarkable organizational value. The answer is in the room. Sharing best practices and experiences in a confidential, collaborative environment helps everyone win. Together, we are

building a collective defense.

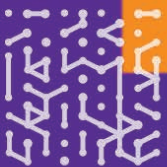
The Inspire Leadership Network connects CISOs with members across 15 chapters, with more to come in 2025. Experienced leaders understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships with other leading CISOs, which strengthens security and creates significant value across public and private businesses, government, education, healthcare, and nonprofit sectors.

The ORBIE® Awards honor outstanding CISO leadership in New York. On behalf of NewYorkCISO, congratulations to the nominees and finalists for their remarkable achievements. A special thank you to the sponsors and underwriters for their investment to make the NewYorkCISO ORBIE® Awards possible.



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LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

▶ Michael Palmer ◀

Relationships move technology forward

A Conversation with Leadership Award Recipient Michael Palmer, Chief Information Security Officer at Hearst



MICHAEL PALMER
Chief Information Security Officer
Hearst

Michael Palmer is Chief Information Security Officer at Hearst, one of the nation’s most diversified media, information and services companies. In this role, he leads enterprise-wide cybersecurity initiatives that safeguard Hearst’s global portfolio—spanning more than 360 businesses, including A&E, HISTORY, Lifetime and ESPN; financial services leader Fitch Group; and Hearst Health’s medical information and services network.

Palmer oversees strategy and governance designed to protect critical assets, ensure regulatory compliance, and strengthen resilience amid an evolving digital landscape. His leadership focuses on enabling secure innovation and aligning cybersecurity with business growth objectives across Hearst’s global operations.

Before joining Hearst, Palmer served as CISO for the National Football League, where he was responsible for protecting the digital ecosystem of one of the world’s most visible sports organizations. During his tenure, he advanced the NFL’s cybersecurity posture, enhanced incident response capabilities and implemented protections for high-profile events such as the Super Bowl. He also cultivated a league-wide security culture, working with teams, partners and vendors to strengthen digital trust.

A recognized thought leader in information security, Palmer is known for his expertise in risk management, threat intelligence and cross-functional collaboration. He is a frequent speaker at major industry conferences and an advocate for diversity, mentorship and leadership development in technology.

His achievements have been recognized with his induction into the 2024 Chief Security Officer Hall of Fame and receipt of the 2025 New York Leadership ORBIE Award—honors that underscore his influence and enduring contributions to the field.

Palmer holds multiple professional certifications and continues to drive forward-thinking cybersecurity strategies that anticipate emerging threats and promote innovation. His mission is to empower organizations to build secure, adaptive and resilient digital ecosystems that inspire confidence in a rapidly changing world.

Michael Palmer believes cybersecurity is a team sport. Relationships are key to developing effective security playbooks to stay one step ahead of emerging digital threats.

As the 2025 New York ORBIE CISO Leadership Award winner, Palmer recently shared his thoughts on his successful approaches to cybersecurity.

Can you tell us about your background?

Palmer: I’ve built my career at the intersection of business, technology and risk. Early on, I held networking and infrastructure roles at Madison Square Garden, Group Health Incorporated, Ascom Timeplex and Dreyfus. I joined the National Football League in 1997, ultimately becoming the league’s first CISO in 2014. In 2019, I became CISO of Hearst, a diversified media, information and services company.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

Palmer: Being the NFL’s first CISO and building that function from the ground up was a milestone. At Hearst, orchestrating a unified, risk-based security program across a diverse global portfolio has been equally rewarding. My biggest insight: relationships and storytelling move security forward—people adopt controls when they understand the business “why” behind them.

What does your role at Hearst involve?

Palmer: I lead enterprise-wide cybersecurity strategy, governance and risk management across a federated organization with more than 360 businesses in 40 countries and over \$13 billion in annual revenue. We operate a lean central security team that partners with divisional technology and security leaders in each business to drive consistent standards, rapid incident response and measurable risk reduction.

How did you get interested in technology?

Palmer: As a child my first computer was an Atari 600XL. I copied code from magazines and taught myself how to program in languages like Basic and Pascal. I read The Cuckoo’s Egg by Clifford Stoll. The book fascinated me with its spies and investigations across computer networks and foreign governments. Early in my career, a retail job as a cashier gave me hands-on experience with an IBM Token Ring network. Troubleshooting outages led me to uncover control gaps—my first “vulnerability assessment,” before I knew the term. That experience hooked me on how systems work, where they fail, and how to design them to be resilient.

How has your perspective on technology evolved?

Palmer: I’ve moved from “keep the network up” to “enable the mission safely.” With the rise of cloud, SaaS and now AI, security has shifted from perimeter defense to focus on identity, data and resilience. The job today is about aligning controls to business outcomes, measuring risk in plain language and building security into how we deliver products and services.

What is the biggest technology/information challenge and biggest cybersecurity risk?

Palmer: The biggest challenge is the complexity and sprawl—multi-cloud, third parties, unstructured data and rapid change. The biggest risk is identity compromise often via phishing or supply chain attacks, leading to data breaches or ransomware. We must prioritize identity security, need-to-know access, continuous control validation and robust third-party risk management.

How companies are using AI? What are the risks?

Palmer: Organizations leverage AI to automate repetitive work, assist decisions, innovate faster creating new customer experiences. We’re moving toward AI embedded in every workflow, which demands strong governance and assurance frameworks. Risks include data leakage, model abuse, hallucinations, privacy issues and new attack surfaces. Guardrails matter. We need data classification, policy-based access, human-in-the-loop oversight, red-teaming and comprehensive logging of system activity.

What is your leadership style?

Palmer: I’m a servant leader. I focus on influence rather than authority. I prioritize clarity of intent, measurable outcomes and elevating people. I tailor the narrative to the audience—from encryption protocols for engineers to risk-reward tradeoffs for executives—so everyone understands their role in resilience.

How the CISO role has changed?

Palmer: CISOs today are enterprise risk leaders. We sit at the business table, shape product and data strategy, brief boards, oversee AI governance, address third-party risk, and ensure resilience. Success is less about blocking threats and more about enabling growth safely.

What advice would you give to CISOs and aspiring CISOs?

Palmer: Build trust first. Relationships unlock budget, adoption and speed. Learn the company’s business model and speak in outcomes, not acronyms. Measure what matters and show how risk is reduced over time. Focus on identity, data and detection engineering. Mentor others and help grow the next generation.

What does the ORBIE award mean to you?

Palmer: It’s a recognition of team excellence. Cybersecurity is a team sport that includes technology partners, business leaders and an engaged workforce. The honor reflects our collective effort, not individual achievement.

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

Palmer: We have a responsibility to grow the next generation of cybersecurity leaders. Expanding the talent pipeline—especially for women and underrepresented communities—makes our organizations more innovative and our defenses stronger. I’m committed to mentorship, sponsorship and opening doors for new leaders.



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Congratulations to the 2025
New York CISO of the Year
Award Winners and Nominees

SUPER GLOBAL FINALISTS Over \$40 billion annual revenue & multi-national operations



SYDNEY KLEIN
SVP, CISO & Head of Enterprise IT
Bristol Myers Squibb

Sydney Klein is Global Chief Information Security Officer and Head of Enterprise IT at Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) where she leads cybersecurity, infrastructure, data, AI deployment, and digital workforce experience, balancing innovation and security to create trust among key stakeholders. Previously, Sydney spent nearly 20 years as VP, Cyber at Capital One. A sought-after thought leader and speaker, she has received numerous honors including Top 10 CISO (2022-2023), and Top 100 Women in Cyber (2024).

Success Story: As a key leader in BMS, Sydney has transformed the company's approach to secure digital innovation. Under her leadership, cybersecurity has evolved from a reactive function to a strategic enabler of resilience and trust. Sydney has steered BMS's Cyber Fusion Center to become a proactive, intelligence-driven command hub, integrating threat detection, incident response, and vulnerability management capabilities. This transformation enables incident response in minutes rather than hours, minimizing business impact. Her team's deployment of best-in-class security tools enhance detection of sophisticated phishing attempts, while the introduction of streamlined authentication tools has strengthened BMS's cybersecurity without compromising user experience.



PAT OPET
CISO
JPMorganChase

Patrick Opet is the Global Chief Information Security Officer at JPMorganChase, leading the firm's global cybersecurity strategy, overseeing the protection of critical assets, data and infrastructure. Pat is responsible for the strategy, development and delivery of the firm's technology controls. He joined JPMorganChase from Lockheed Martin in 2014 and has an M.S. from the University of Maryland in Computer Systems Management & Information Assurance and a B.S. from George Washington University in Computer Engineering.

Success Story: Patrick Opet, CISO at JPMorganChase, published An Open Letter to Third Party Suppliers calling for security in SaaS. Immediate reactions at RSA 2025: "One of the most talked-about moments at the RSA Conference wasn't a product launch or a keynote. It was a letter." (SC Media). "This tension between hard-edged risk realism and breathless AI evangelism sets an unmistakable tone for a bellwether conference where 40,000-plus gather to do business." (SecurityWeek). Months later, the conversation holds relevance. In September, Patrick was regarded as a "leader who has driven industry conversations and sparked debate around cybersecurity risk, accountability and resilience."



NASRIN REZAI
CISO
Verizon

Nasrin Rezai is Senior Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer for Verizon. She is responsible for setting information security strategy, policy, standards, architecture and processes. Nasrin and her team work with and across Verizon's business units to protect its customers and its leading networks. Prior to joining Verizon, Nasrin held the position of Global Chief Information and Product Cybersecurity Officer at GE.

Success Story: Her success story is being able to lead the technical aspects of cybersecurity at Verizon, but also to be included as a strategic business partner, ensuring the company's security program is robust, compliant and aligned with the overall business objectives.



TERRY RICE
VP, IT Risk Mgt & CISO
Merck & Co., Inc. (fmr)

Terry Rice is the former Vice President of IT Risk Management and Security and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Merck, where he led cybersecurity, risk management, IT policy, and threat response. He served on the IT Leadership Team and the board of H-ISAC and was formerly chairman of the Healthcare Sector Coordinating Council Cyber Working Group. A U.S. Army veteran, Terry served in the 101st Airborne and NSA before transitioning to the private sector. He held security roles in consulting and at Johnson & Johnson before joining Merck in 2007. He holds degrees from West Point and George Washington University.

Success Story: Cybersecurity discipline can at times feel isolated and removed from the core of the business. Part of his mission when first assuming the role was to be a visible evangelist for information security within the organization. He believed at the core of his responsibility is to spearhead the cultural change that ignites this. To make the intangible...tangible. By mirroring the language of the business, building trust and demonstrating how secure practices can proactively serve as a revenue defense mechanism. Their program has received visibility, praise and support from executive management.



DAVIN DARNT
CISO
Louis Vuitton Americas

With a career spanning two decades, including 17 years with 2 global retail brands. Davin Darnt has served in high-impact roles as Head of IT Operations & Chief Information Security Officer. He currently leads execution of cybersecurity measures to protect the company's digital assets. His expertise extends across Cybersecurity, Privacy & Compliance, Enterprise Technical Operations. Known for his disciplined yet adaptable approach, refined through experience in the United States Marine Corps, he values communication and collaborative problem-solving.



ANTHONY ESPOSITO
CISO
McKinsey & Company

As the Firm's first CISO, Anthony spent nearly a decade building a global cybersecurity team that made security a business enabler—prioritizing risks, tailoring protections and earning trust through impactful outcomes, proving our value through outcomes that mattered. What he's most proud of is the culture they created: one of mentorship, sponsorship and growth. True legacy lies in the trust, innovation and exceptional talent that will continue driving this work forward.

Success Story: Over nearly a decade as the Firm's first CISO, he had the privilege of building a cybersecurity team of incredible professionals across the globe. Together, they made security a true enable, embedding it into business processes, prioritizing risks and tailoring protections to meet client needs. They earned trust by showing up with clarity and curiosity, proving our value through outcomes that mattered. What he's most proud of, though, is the culture we built, one of mentorship, sponsorship and growth. Their real legacy is the trust, innovation and amazing talent that will carry this work forward.



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CHRIS HOLDEN
SVP & CISO
Crum & Forster

Chris Holden is the Senior Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer at Crum & Forster, responsible for leading the enterprise cybersecurity strategy. With a consulting background in digital forensics, incident response, and penetration testing, he has advised organizations across financial services, healthcare, technology, and retail. Christopher brings deep expertise in securing complex environments and leading proactive defense initiatives. He is a trusted voice in cybersecurity and a frequent speaker at industry events nationwide.

Success Story: As Senior Vice President & Chief Information Security Officer at Crum & Forster, he lead a dynamic cybersecurity team dedicated to safeguarding our organization's data and ensuring operational continuity. Grounded in integrity, their approach combines proactive risk management, innovative security initiatives and a thriving talent pipeline. By fostering a collaborative, transparent culture and championing "security first" principles, they empower both individuals and the enterprise, enabling sustainable growth and resiliency.



ALEXANDER SCHUCHMAN
CISO
Colgate-Palmolive Company

Alexander has been working for Colgate-Palmolive Company for over 28 years. He started in their Global Data Center managing the corporate email and servers. He transitioned to business analyst implementing SAP ERP throughout Latin America. Next leading E-Commerce and Intranet development organization for a few years and then re-designing their analytics program for 7 years and consequently leading Enterprise Architecture for a few years. In 2018, he was asked to re-design the Information Security program.

Success Story: Alexander designed the entire information security organization from the ground up over the past 8 years. He's worked at Colgate-Palmolive for 28 years, so he knew what was needed to secure their business. In addition, he also merged all network operations and network engineering into the information security organization, building one combined team with security as the key focus point. They use a balance of proven technology with innovative startups to build out a comprehensive Infosec program, securing their business applications, data center and manufacturing plants.



BILL TAUB
SVP, Cybersecurity
Endeavor

Bill has served as the Cybersecurity leader for different Fortune and/or global organizations over the past three decades including CA Technologies, Cablevision, and Endeavor. Throughout his career, Bill has overseen the development, deployment, and impact assessment of cybersecurity and assurance programs across the globe. He has advised technology startups, conferences, help found the IT-ISAC (serving technical & executive roles), and contributed to NIST's Cybersecurity Framework for Protecting Critical Infrastructure.

Success Story: Appointed in 2018 as Endeavor's first cybersecurity leader, Bill established executive briefings to align mitigation with business goals and developed policies and awareness programs that defined clear operating standards. He implemented control frameworks ensuring compliance and client assurance, and created a Security Incident Response Process engaging IT, Cyber, Legal, and key stakeholders. Bill also enhanced acquisition diligence and integration, supporting Endeavor's successful merger of WWE, UFC, On Location, and IMG into the new TKO Group. Additionally, he launched a cybersecurity program for On Location, enabling its role as the exclusive global provider of ticketing and hospitality for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS Over \$9 billion in annual revenue



TOMÁS MALDONADO
CISO
NFL

Tomás Maldonado is Chief Information Security Officer of the National Football League and an independent board director with more than 25 years of experience across financial services, manufacturing, media, and sports. He has held senior leadership roles at JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, and International Flavors & Fragrances. Tomás advises startups in AI and enterprise risk and is recognized for translating complex risk into strategic guidance for boards and executive teams.

Success Story: At the NFL, cybersecurity is about more than defense, it's about enabling trust and innovation across the league. Over his seven seasons, his team has delivered secure and disruption-free Super Bowls, Drafts, and international series games, protecting some of the most visible events in sports. The Super Bowl, rated a SEAR 1 national special security event by the Department of Homeland Security, exemplifies the stakes of our work. They launched the Priority Controls Program across clubs and stadiums, strengthened vendor oversight and embedded security into new technologies while cultivating a resilient, security-aware culture that protects the integrity of the game.





RISHI TRIPATHI
SVP, CISO & CTO
Mount Sinai Health System

Rishi Tripathi is Senior Vice President, CTO & CISO at Mount Sinai Health System, where he leads 500+ professionals and manages a \$140M budget to drive cybersecurity and technology transformation across a \$11B+ enterprise. Previously, he served as CISO at the NBA, built global cybersecurity functions at Citigroup and Tyco International, and held leadership roles in finance, healthcare, and critical infrastructure. Recognized in the CSO Hall of Fame, Rishi also advises venture capital and cybersecurity boards.

Success Story: Rishi came to the United States in 2000 and began his career working construction in substations. From there, he earned a role at a local utility and pursued an MBA while working full time. He has approached every day as his first—eager to learn and ready for new challenges. That mindset propelled him through leadership roles at Citigroup, Tyco, and the NBA, where he built and led global cybersecurity functions protecting critical operations. Today, as CTO & CISO at Mount Sinai Health System, he leads more than 500 professionals and a \$140 million budget, driving transformation while remaining grounded in hard work and resilience.





VIVIN VARGHESE
CISO
Provident Bank

Vivin Varghese is an Information Security leader at Provident Bank, where he drives initiatives in regulatory compliance, risk management, and security operations. With experience guiding audits, bank conversions, and technology integrations, he is committed to building resilient programs that support both business and customer trust. Vivin values collaboration and team development, ensuring security maturity grows alongside organizational goals.

Success Story: Vivin has been fortunate to contribute to the growth of Provident Bank's Information Security program by supporting key initiatives such as regulatory compliance, audits, and risk assessments. Along the way, he has worked with a talented team to navigate bank conversions, strengthen processes, and build collaboration across departments. The progress achieved has been the result of collective effort, and Vivin is grateful to have played a role in helping lay a foundation for continued growth and improvement.





NICK VIGIER
CISO
Oscar Health

Nick Vigier is the CISO at Oscar Health, with 23 years in security and 15 years leading teams. He has served as CISO across industries including financial services, SaaS, identity and consulting and was previously CIO at Gemini, a regulated cryptocurrency exchange. His diverse experience gives him a unique CIO vs CISO perspective. Nick is passionate about building innovative security programs that drive resilience and business velocity.

Success Story: Oscar's commitment to technical excellence has extended to its investments in creating a secure and resilient cybersecurity program that fosters innovation and velocity while protecting our sensitive data. With a focus on AI and automation, Oscar's security organization has matured its capabilities across the security and risk management landscape with a culture of change and experimentation driven by courageous curiosity. Oscar's security team aims to be the coaches that help drive healthy habits in rhythms, much like they do with their members, to make the organization more resilient rather than being doctors treating cancer.



ENTERPRISE FINALISTS Over \$3 billion in annual revenue



ARUN ABRAHAM
CISO
Bose Corporation

Arun Abraham is Chief Information Security Officer with 20+ years of experience leading global security programs across financial, media, consulting, and technology sectors. He specializes in security strategy, operations, risk management, and regulatory compliance, with hands-on technical security expertise. Arun holds a Master's in Technology Management from Columbia University and various certifications including CISSP. He partners with boards and executives to align cybersecurity with business goals and drive resilience and innovation.

Success Story: Arun's key accomplishment has been evolving the organization's security program from foundational capabilities into an enterprise strategy that drives resilience and agility. He strengthened core functions by establishing a robust SOC, codifying incident response playbooks, and implementing continuous monitoring with integrated threat intelligence. Building on that foundation, he advanced business-aligned initiatives, including comprehensive data governance and a Zero Trust architecture with identity-centric controls, microsegmentation, adaptive access, and continuous verification. These efforts reduced the attack surface, improved user experience, and aligned security with regulatory expectations and business objectives—transforming security from a perceived blocker into a trusted enabler.





DR. YONESY NUÑEZ
Managing Director,
Chief Cybersecurity
Risk Officer
DTCC (fmr)

Dr. Yonesy Núñez is a five-time CISO, board director, and global cybersecurity leader with 25 years of experience building and scaling security and risk management programs. He has led enterprise security strategies for top financial and technology organizations, earning recognition as a trusted advisor to boards, regulators, and industry leaders. Yonesy is deeply committed to developing diverse talent, advancing innovation, and shaping the future of cybersecurity through mentorship, advocacy, and executive leadership.

Success Story: As CISO and later Chief Cybersecurity Risk Officer at DTCC, Yonesy led global cybersecurity and risk management programs that safeguarded critical financial market operations. He built high-performing teams, launched a global Cyber Threat Fusion Center network and advanced zero trust and governance initiatives that strengthened resilience and regulatory confidence. His leadership philosophy is grounded in empathy, trust and accountability, empowering teams to deliver innovation and measurable results. A defining moment was bringing leadership to Chennai to launch the first global fusion center, reinforcing a unified mission and culture. These efforts enhanced security, reduced risk, and supported market stability worldwide.





ELY PINTO
Global CISO
Simpson Thacher

Ely is the Global Chief Information Security Officer at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, where he leads the firm's global cybersecurity program. He has more than 20 years of experience securing major financial institutions, including prior leadership roles at American Express and Bank Leumi USA (now Valley Bank). Ely is also a contributing author to several CIS Benchmarks, a volunteer CISSP exam writer, and publishes regularly on his blog, technicalCISO.com.

Success Story: Under Ely's leadership, the Information Security team has achieved critical milestones that strengthened the firm's security posture and reinforced client trust. The team built a proactive client security assurance program, enabling confident responses to audits across regulated industries and directly supporting business development with Fortune 500 clients. They also established a new incident response function that significantly reduced response times and enhanced threat containment and launched a firmwide security awareness program tailored to legal professionals, driving greater engagement with best practices. These accomplishments have reduced risk while enabling the firm's secure growth in an increasingly adversarial environment.





PETER TSE
Executive Director &
Head of IT Security
Natixis Corporate
Investment Bank
Americas

Peter leads initiatives to strengthen the cybersecurity posture and develop talent. With expertise in managing Infosec teams in an evolving cybersecurity threat landscape, threat mitigation and foster a culture of security through comprehensive training programs. Peter is committed to empowering employees and supporting the organization's mission of delivering exceptional services. Additionally, Peter actively volunteers and contributes to the cybersecurity community, sharing knowledge and best practices to help strengthen their collective defenses.

Success Story: As the Head of IT Security, Peter successfully led initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity posture while also focusing on developing talent within the organization. By managing teams dedicated to information security, they enhanced their ability to quickly mitigate threats. Their comprehensive Cyber Security Awareness training empowered employees to identify potential risks, fostering a culture of security and continuous learning. Additionally, Peter prioritized mentorship and professional development for his team, ensuring they have the skills needed to excel in their roles. These efforts not only improved their security framework but also supported the organization's mission of delivering exceptional services.



LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS Over \$1.5 billion in annual revenue



ROBERT DALRYMPLE
CISO
Maimonides Health

Robert is a seasoned Chief Information Security Officer with over a decade of executive leadership experience in healthcare and financial services. He has a proven record of building and executing enterprise cybersecurity strategies, aligning programs with NIST, ISO, and HIPAA frameworks. Holding an BSCS, MBA, CISSP, CISA, and HCISPP. He specializes in risk management, regulatory compliance, business continuity, and large-scale security technology implementations that strengthen organizational resilience.

Success Story: Robert's team delivered transformative impact by deploying Varonis and CrowdStrike, remediating all KEVs and partnering with the DHS. These initiatives hardened defenses, enhanced intelligence and ensured uninterrupted patient care. Aligned with HIPAA and NIST, they reduced enterprise risk while advancing resilience across critical infrastructure.





ADRIAN PETERS
CISO
Vista Equity Partners

Adrian A. Peters is Chief Information Security Officer at Vista Equity Partners, where he leads Cybersecurity, Technology Risk, and AI governance across a global portfolio of enterprise technology companies. A recognized cybersecurity industry expert instrumental in Vista's Agentic Factory, he serves on several cyber and AI Business Roundtable working groups and is co-author of The Purple Book and the NACD Cyber-Risk Oversight Workbook, and keynote speaker at RSA Conference and Black Hat.





PETER ROSARIO
CISO
USI Insurance Services, LLC

As a trusted CISO, Peter leads strategic cybersecurity initiatives for large, regulated organizations. He aligns security with business goals, drives innovation, and ensures compliance. At USI Insurance Services, he built a comprehensive cybersecurity program from the ground up, supporting the company's growth from 80 to 180 offices and more than 12,000 employees. Peter's leadership blends strategic vision with operational execution, fostering resilient, business-aligned security programs that evolve with organizational complexity.

Success Story: As CISO at USI since 2014, Peter has built a resilient cybersecurity program that has scaled with the company's growth and hybrid workforce. Leading a lean team of ten, he has driven innovation through enhanced SDLC practices, vendor risk management, and insider threat detection. Under his leadership, the organization transitioned from web-based to personalized training, significantly boosting engagement and awareness. Peter's leadership emphasizes strategic alignment, operational efficiency, and team empowerment—creating a dynamic, knowledgeable security function that supports more than 12,000 employees across 180 offices and adapts to USI's evolving cybersecurity landscape.





CHARAN SINGH
CISO
Zelis

Charan Singh is currently the CISO and head of Cyber Resilience at Zelis. As the CISO, Charan is accountable for all aspects of information security at Zelis. Prior to joining Zelis, Charan was head of security engineering, architecture and strategy at Bank of Montreal. Charan has over two decades of cyber security experience, working in global banks such as Citi Bank and JP Morgan Chase.

Success Story: Charan's success story is based on two key pillars – his team and his family. Both have been nothing but perfect on this journey. Without these two key ingredients, he would not be successful. Charan feels fortunate to build high performing teams. His team has supported him on their cyber journey, pushed him to drive higher and higher standards. His family has been supportive at every step of the way whether it's early morning calls, security incident calls during family events or family trips – they have given him the energy and motivation to grow and still love what he does.





MARINA SPYROU
CIO & CISO
Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Marina Spyrou serves as CIO & CISO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, directing technology and security strategy across the federation. Since 2019, she has transformed InfoSec into mission-critical infrastructure by pioneering a federated MSSP model, embedding cybersecurity into Accreditation Standards, and launching internationally recognized awareness campaigns. One of the few women to hold dual CIO/CISO roles, Marina is celebrated for her inclusive, strategic, and mission-driven leadership that strengthens resilience and advances PPFA's mission.

Success Story: Since 2019, Marina has transformed InfoSec at PPFA from a policy-focused function into a mission-critical, federation-wide program. They strengthened their MSSP model to improve detection, scaled endpoint protection across affiliates, and achieved near-universal MFA adoption. To build culture, they launched the award-winning InfoSec Defenders comic strip, nationally recognized for making cybersecurity accessible and engaging. These efforts shifted InfoSec from a back-office function to essential infrastructure. Today, security enables PPFA to deliver healthcare and advocacy with trust, resilience, and safety, ensuring their people, data, and mission remain protected in an increasingly complex threat landscape.



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GOLAN BEN-ONI
Global CIO & CISO
IDT

Golan Ben-Oni is a seasoned technology leader with extensive experience in the telecommunications and cybersecurity sectors. As the CIO of IDT Corporation, he is at the forefront of integrating innovative technology solutions to enhance organizational efficiency and security. His educational contributions as an adjunct professor at UC Berkeley highlight his commitment to shaping the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.



SAI IYER
CISO
Ziff Davis Inc.

Sai Iyer is a leader with a consistent record of building and transforming IS programs to manage risk and deliver value aligned with business objectives. Sai is currently the CISO at Ziff Davis for the past 6 years and was Senior Director of Cybersecurity at Wyndham Destinations prior to that. Sai's experience also includes IT risk management at KPMG and E&Y. Sai serves as an advisor to organizations and cyber security communities.

Success Story: Sai's team has developed and matured a risk management program that surfaces risk from various tools, sources and aspects of our portfolio of businesses, evaluates the risk, and communicates cyber risk in the language of the business: risk, capital, and opportunity. They provide context and quantification around cyber risk to help their business leaders understand the risk, prioritize it and make appropriate decisions to manage it. They have had remarkable success and positive impact with this approach.



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JOSH LANE
VP, IT & CISO
Veeco Instruments

Josh Lane is a distinguished CISO with a background spanning multiple regulated and highly targeted industries. With over 20 years of experience, he combines commitment to business enablement, deep technical knowledge, and a demonstrated history of building high performing teams to achieve resilient and repeatable security success. At Veeco, he leads both the enterprise Information Security and Information Technology functions with this dedication to empowering his teams to build repeatable, resilient program success.

Success Story: When Josh conducted his introductory interviews with leaders across Veeco in 2020, he was told that Information Security was something that "happened to people" at Veeco. His success has focused on bringing Information Security out of the back room of the IT organization and into the daily business conversation. Through transparently communicating their weaknesses, giving business leaders the knowledge and information to enable them to understand their security challenges, and empowering them to own the risk of their functions they have created a culture where security is now a shared goal and improvement is often led by business leaders.





KEVIN LI
CISO
Cohen & Steers

Kevin Li has worked in various technology related roles within global financial services organizations for over 25 years. He has a BS in Computer Science from New York University and is currently the CISO for Cohen & Steers Capital Management. Additionally, he is an active member in many CISO related peer and networking groups to share information, learn new technologies and build relationships.

Success Story: Growing up in New York City as a first-generation Asian American and a product of the city's specialized public schools (Mark Twain, Stuyvesant), Kevin never imagined he would one day become a C-level executive at a world-class global investment management firm. Over the past 25 years, he has worked at some of the leading financial services companies, learning from many influential and intelligent professionals who have shaped the person and leader he is today.





PARTHIV SHAH
SVP & CISO
Customers Bank

Parthiv Shah is a Senior Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer at Customers Bank. He has over 25 years of experience working in information technology and information security as a practitioner and leader. He has helped design and implement an enterprise-wide information security program based on risk management best practices and global regulatory requirements including compliance to the NIST Cyber Security Framework and ISO 27001 international standards and frameworks.

Success Story: One of Parthiv's proudest accomplishments was leading the Bank's initiative to modernize its security operations center (SOC) while addressing workforce challenges. When he assumed responsibility, the SOC relied heavily on manual processes and was strained by high attrition, creating operational inefficiencies and increased risk exposure. By hiring local talent and implementing a comprehensive technology modernization initiative, Parthiv strengthened business continuity, protected customer trust, and enabled the organization to scale securely. His efforts also reinforced the Bank's ability to attract, retain, and develop top cybersecurity talent while aligning with its long-term business strategy.



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