CISO EXECUTIVE NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Official Position/Title

CISO, RMS

Education/Certificates
CISSP, CRISC

BA English Literature, UC Berkeley

Brief History of your Experience in Infosec
I have been working in information security for over 20 years. I ran my own software company for 14 years, and during that time I developed a proprietary protocol for transmitting personally identifiable information and marketing profile data securely for both digital and printed transport methods. I was responsible for building out the security program, running all of our security operations and serving as the chief security architect for the company. After this I joined a Silicon Valley startup to run IT and Information Security for several years while also managing an internal software development team responsible for an internal ERP and order processing system, before landing in my current role as CISO for RMS.

Information Security Governing Philosophy
I believe Information Security rests on 4 main pillars: Application Security, Security Operations, Risk and Compliance, and Governance and Audit. Every Information Security program I have built from the ground up operates from these core verticals. But in order to not always be tin cupping with the C Suite, I also focus a huge amount of my program on Sales Enablement. Risk-based justification alone is rarely enough to get C Suite and Board members to commit to a huge expansion in resources and tool investments, but once they see the impact to the bottom line, typically it becomes a much easier sell for an increase in Information Security spending.

Most Important Project or Program
Currently it is all about data: data protection, data leak prevention and data privacy. With the passing of GDPR and now new legislation coming from the states, including CCPA in CA, and with the huge fines and penalties these regulations carry, the need to protect data is now more important than ever.

What Attracted You to InfoSec
I've always been a hacker at heart and seeing how clever the cybercriminals and hackers are getting these days made me want to be on the front line protecting against these types of attacks. I don't just see cybersecurity as a career path that provides multiple avenues for success (and there are so many paths a person can take in InfoSec)! I see it is a critical function that is important for preserving not only our democracy with the proliferation of information and user-generated content, but also potentially our civilization itself.

Best Advice You Have Received And Who Provided It
Don't get comfortable. Not sure this was told to me specifically, but it does harken back to the old adage of what CISO really stands for – Career Is Soon Over. Any one of us in this role is just one breach away from a new career change, intentionally or not. The best way to prevent that from happening is to humble enough to realize that this is true and always try to be prepared for what you can't anticipate.

Why Do You Participate In CISO Executive Network?

The topics in each of the roundtables are always thought provoking, and I walk away every time with some new insights or perspective on things. What is so valuable for me is having the opportunity to network with my peers and bounce around ideas for problems I know we are all facing or are about to face. Getting some practical advice from those that have been there and done that or even giving it myself is very rewarding and helps solidify the idea of community that networks like these strive to achieve.