

November 13th, 2025

Welcome to Our Distinguished Dinner Event Guest Book

Tonight, we come together to celebrate the dedication, expertise, and community spirit that define our chapter. This evening honors our speakers, members, board, and sponsors whose contributions make our mission possible. Please share your thoughts, memories, and messages of appreciation. Your words will become a lasting part of our chapter's story.

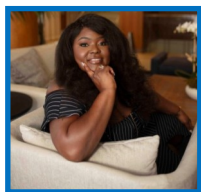


East Bay
Chapter

Here are some of our honored speakers, sponsors, and board members in attendance; name followed by page number. (25 people did not send in a bio.)

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Juliet Okafor, JD, CEO of RevolutionCyber, is the human-centered cyber resilience leader redefining how organizations secure their future. Utilizing her legal background and deep strategic security expertise, she acts as a boardroom closer, CISO-minded strategist, and digital warrior focused on Fortune 500 success. She guides enterprises through complex transformations, including security modernization, CMMC, and secure AI governance, using a hybrid model that aligns security with core business outcomes like resilience, trust, and revenue generation. Her firm provides playbooks for rapid incident response and makes security human, resilience scalable, and trust the default. Okafor holds a BA (UMass Amherst), an MA (Fordham), and a JD (Temple University – Beasley School of Law).



Dr. Alissa Abdullah (Dr. Jay), is Mastercard's deputy chief security officer. In this role, she leads the Emerging Corporate Security Solutions team and is responsible for protecting Mastercard's information assets as well as driving the future of security. Dr. Jay joined Mastercard in 2019 after serving as the chief information security officer of Xerox, where she established and led a corporate-wide information risk management program. She also served as the deputy chief information officer of the White House, where she helped modernize the Executive Office of the President's IT systems with cloud services and virtualization. She currently hosts Cybercrime Magazine's Mastering Cyber and CISO 500 podcasts. Dr. Jay is a member of Smartsheet's Board of Directors and Girls in Tech's Board of Directors. She also serves as vice chair of BITS, the technology policy division of the Bank Policy Institute (BPI). Dr. Jay holds a PhD in Information Technology Management from Capella University, a master's degree in Telecommunications and Computer Networks from The George Washington University, and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Savannah State University.



Ali Bouhouch is an accomplished technology executive with 20+ years of success leading consulting, software, and data engineering teams delivering cutting-edge solutions in e-Commerce, AdTech, BI, and Advanced Analytics. Deep experience leveraging Cloud, Big Data, In-Memory Processing, and Cognitive Computing to drive success throughout the customer journey in digital marketing and retail. Demonstrated ability to articulate strategic direction at all levels; from obtaining buy-in from board members to aligning team members and stakeholders with achievable goals. Valuable member of the senior executive team known for a consultative, data and results driven, customer focused approach. Champion of agile methodologies in both software development and the enterprise.



Bob Kolasky is the Senior Vice President of Critical Infrastructure at Exiger, where he directs the development and delivery of cutting-edge third-party and supply chain risk management technology for the critical infrastructure community. A widely-recognized expert with over two decades of experience, he was the Founding Director of CISA's National Risk Management Center. There, Bob established strategic, cross-sector government and industry approaches to cyber and supply chain threats and co-chaired the Information and Communications Technology Supply Chain Risk Management Task Force. He served as the OECD's High-Level Risk Forum Chair and holds senior associate positions with the Carnegie Endowment, CSIS, and Auburn University's McCrary Institute. Throughout his career, he has driven national and economic security initiatives at organizations including DHS, GAO, and Booz Allen Hamilton.



Neil Daswani, PhD, is a Co-Director of the Stanford Advanced Cybersecurity Certification Program. He has served in a variety of research, development, teaching, and executive roles at QuantumScape, Symantec, LifeLock, Twitter, and Google. Neil has been both a security entrepreneur having co-founded Dasient, which was acquired by Twitter, and has also served as a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at LifeLock, Symantec's Consumer Business Unit, and QuantumScape. Neil holds a dozen U.S. patents and has published dozens of technical articles in top industry and academic conferences. He is also co-author of two books on cybersecurity: "Big Breaches: Cybersecurity Lessons for Everyone" and "Foundations of Security: What Every Programmer Needs to Know." He earned Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Computer Science at Stanford University, and he holds a B.S. in Computer Science with honors with distinction from Columbia University.



Stephen Bartolini is an outcome-driven technology-risk management leader and Partner at Next Peak, adept at driving business transformation through reengineering and embracing cutting-edge technologies. With over two decades of experience, he is a trusted advisor to executive leadership on cybersecurity risks and response strategies. This includes significant leadership roles as Executive Director of Cybersecurity & Technology at JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Senior Director positions at CA Technologies. His expertise spans building global, cross-functional teams that deliver value by engineering innovative solutions within rapidly changing, highly regulated environments across Financial Services, Technology, and Telecommunications. Stephen holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University and is a Certified Information Security Manager (CISM).



Jim Dempsey is the Managing Director of the IAPP Cybersecurity Law Center, serving as the public voice and thought leader on cybersecurity law and policy. A leading expert in the field for three decades, he provides strategic direction and content for IAPP members, engaging with policymakers and industry leaders globally. Jim is currently a Lecturer at UC Berkeley School of Law, where he previously served as Executive Director of the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology (BCLT), helping secure Berkeley's top IP law ranking. His significant public service includes being appointed by President Obama to the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB); his extensive background also includes leadership roles at the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT) and Assistant Counsel to the House Judiciary Committee. He is the co-author of Cybersecurity Law Fundamentals and a frequent contributor to Lawfare. Jim holds a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from Harvard University.



Yossi Applebaum is the CEO and co-founder of Sepio Systems, a company focused on unified hardware device risk management. Traveling from Israel, he has long been a friend to our chapter, sharing his decades of engineering and leadership experience. Sepio, derived from the Latin for "defend" and "guard," delivers solutions built on objective truth and infinite scalability. Yossi's background includes foundational work in the Israeli intelligence corps (Unit 8200) and successfully co-founding multiple startups. Under his leadership, Sepio developed multi-disciplinary SaaS solutions that combine practical physics, Machine Learning, and Big Data. His team has earned global recognition for fighting attacks through malicious hardware devices, including Rogue Device Mitigation (RDM) across IT, OT, and IoT environments. Sepio's work is highlighted by a featured use case from CISA.



Malcolm Harkins, is Chief Security and Trust Officer at HiddenLayer. Harkins has more than two decades of experience in information security leadership roles at top technology companies, notably Intel, and Cylance. He's written multiple books on risk management, information security, and IT and earned awards from the RSA Conference, ISC2, Computerworld, and the Security Advisor Alliance. Harkins has testified before the Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Harkins is a Fellow with the Institute for Critical Infrastructure Technology, a non-partisan think tank providing cybersecurity expertise to the House of Representatives, Senate, and various federal agencies. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California at Irvine and an MBA in finance and accounting from the University of California at Davis. Harkins also previously taught at UCLA's Anderson School of Management and Susquehanna University.



Indus Khaitan is CEO and founder of Redblock, an AI automation startup dedicated to eliminating the repetitive 'eye on the glass' work performed by cybersecurity teams. Previously, Indus co-founded BitzerMobile, a mobile security company acquired by Oracle. He holds a degree in computer science from the Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, and lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.



Alexia Everett is a Senior Manager of Partnerships at the San Francisco-based Stuart Foundation, where she manages an investment portfolio focused on improving educational outcomes for California's most underserved students. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2012, Alexia served as Senior Policy Officer at the College Success Foundation in Washington state, collaborating with K-12, postsecondary, and workforce stakeholders—including policymakers, practitioners, and young adults—to advance policy advocacy and implementation for underserved students. During the Biden-Harris Administration, Alexia served as a Strategy Advisor in the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education.



Dhawal Thakker, Principal and National Leader of Governance, Risk & Compliance at RSM US, brings 20+ years of experience in integrated risk management (IRM). He specializes in building and implementing comprehensive IRM programs across information security, privacy, IT, compliance, operations, and third-party management. Dhawal focuses on developing regulatory risk and compliance solutions, data protection programs, and strategic information security implementations. He has extensive experience in designing and managing GRC solutions, automating compliance programs using tools like AuditBoard, ServiceNow, Onetrust, and Archer.



Lance Turcato is a cybersecurity and IT risk executive known for leading enterprise governance, audit, and compliance programs across complex, regulated environments. He has built and matured cybersecurity governance frameworks, driven high-impact audit strategies, and advised senior leadership on risk, regulatory alignment, and emerging threats. With a reputation for pragmatic decision-making and collaborative leadership, Lance holds multiple technical certifications and is a licensed CPA. He is committed to advancing cybersecurity maturity and executive-level risk oversight.



Christer Swartz, Director of Industry Solutions at Illumio, brings extensive networking and security expertise from early-stage Cisco through Netflix's streaming transition and Palo Alto Networks. An early CCIE, he's witnessed the evolution of cybersecurity as a business imperative. At Illumio, he champions an application-centric security approach, emphasizing crucial visibility and robust breach containment strategies. Recognizing that breaches are inevitable, he focuses on preventing small incidents from escalating into widespread disasters, advocating for a proactive, zero-trust security posture.



Robert Kraczek is a Global Identity and Access Management (IAM) Strategist at One Identity, defining sales, innovation, and marketing direction for their leading products for over five years. He is a key spokesperson for major analyst firms and excels at forging technical alliances. With extensive pre-sales and post-sales experience across corporate, government, and educational environments, Robert helps clients accelerate the adoption of IAM and security software. His deep expertise covers hybrid cloud, enterprise solution design, and assessing operational impact. Certifications include ITIL and MCSE.



Anand Thangaraju is a technology evangelist and servant leader with expertise across AI, cybersecurity, risk management, and fintech. As Field CISO for a value-added reseller, he collaborates with CIOs, CISOs, and CTOs to drive security innovation. A recognized thought leader, he speaks at events (RSA, ISACA, OWASP) and contributes to industry bodies (NIST, ISMG). Anand also serves as a board member, strategic angel, and LP in SaaS startups. An IIM Ahmedabad alumnus with 50+ certifications, he advises university boards and enjoys amateur singing.



Carmen Parrish, CISSP, is a leading Computer Scientist and Cybersecurity Strategist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), leveraging 39 years of experience to drive cyber security excellence. Her foundational roles at LLNL include Information System Security Manager (ISSM), Organizational ISSO, and Computer Support Group Leader. She holds an advanced graduate degree from UC Davis. A dedicated community leader, Carmen has served eight years in the executive role of Secretary for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter. Her technical expertise is complemented by her involvement in the Society of Women Engineers and Tau Beta Pi.



Srinivas Akella is an entrepreneur and a technologist with a strong cyber security, cloud, and



SaaS background. He founded WootCloud Inc, an IoT Security company. In this role, he has architected the WootCloud product line and oversaw the execution of all phases of products and solutions across WootCloud's IoT Security portfolio. WootCloud is now acquired by Netskope Inc. Srinivas has 25+ years of experience in Engineering and Leadership roles. He holds four patents in IoT Security. His most recent roles have been in the cyber security industry as CTO/CPO, CEO at WootCloud, Principal Engineer at Elastica (BlueCoat, Symantec), Qualys, and Webroot.

Paolo Marquez is a Cybersecurity Leader at RS Assurance, specializing in risk and compliance



for mid-size to enterprise companies. With over 13 years of advisory and management consulting experience at prominent firms like RSM and Grant Thornton, Paolo is an expert in industries including technology, financial services, and blockchain. He leverages his strong background in IT and federal attestation services to help clients achieve industry-defined cybersecurity standards. Paolo has led engagements for SOX 404, SOC 1/2, FedRAMP, NIST, and HIPAA/HITRUST, delivering robust solutions for complex business and IT environments.

Daniel Cheng is a Sales Engineering Leader at Stellar Cyber and Director of Cybersecurity



Awareness at the ISC2 East Bay Chapter, driving innovation and education in the cybersecurity landscape. With a rich background at Palo Alto Networks, Cisco, Check Point Software, and Lancope, he brings deep expertise as a solutions architect, specializing in Behavioral Analytics and security consulting. Daniel holds an Honors degree in Computer Science from Western University and is advancing his data science knowledge through a Professional Certificate from Harvard.

Varun Prasad is a Managing Director with BDO's Third Party Attestation practice. In his current



role, he works with tech companies to evaluate their cybersecurity posture and assess compliance with SOC 2 and various ISO standards to help them meet customer requirements and build trust with stakeholders. He focuses on complex and emerging requirements for security, privacy, cloud and AI assurance. Varun is the Vice President of the ISACA SF chapter and has presented/authored articles around cloud security, AI audits and compliance.



Mary Yip is the Privacy Officer at a state agency. She is currently responsible for the privacy program oversight of several state entities. She has years of experience in privacy, data protection, IT project management, business analysis, compliance audits, and risks management.



Donald E. Hester, a Cybersecurity Advisor to CISA and former ISC2 East Bay leader, has 25+ years in cybersecurity. He aligns cyber risk with business goals, consulting and auditing 180+ clients, primarily local governments, nationwide. Known for his strategic protection, he integrates risk tolerance and regulatory requirements. He's committed to building ethical cybersecurity cultures and fostering a cybersafe world through education and collaboration, focusing on effective security solutions.



Bryan Culp leads Trust & Quality within Box's GRC group, overseeing Customer Trust, GxP GTM, Third Party Risk Management, the company's Policy Program, and Quarterly Management Review, building upon his prior leadership of the Customer Trust team at Cisco. Passionate about fostering trust in SaaS companies, he advocates for ESG and actively engages in local ISC2 and ISACA chapters, with additional interests in reading, writing, travel, and nature.



Gopi Ramamoorthy, CISSP, CISA, CIPP/US, CISM, with 15+ years in information security and compliance, has progressed from engineering to leadership in Finance and Healthcare. At Fiserv, he managed security compliance for \$350 billion in annual transactions, maintaining zero findings. Gopi is active in infosec forums, and has sat on both ISACA and ISC2 chapter boards. He is now Head of Security and GRC Engineering at Symmetry Systems.



Jamie Garrison is the Enterprise Sales & MSSP Director at INTEZER, driving success with AI/Autonomous SOC products for the world's most trusted brands. A foundational player for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter and seven-year conference contributor, she has secured the highest non-board donation value. Her accomplished career includes key leadership roles at Intezer, Stellar Cyber, Securonix, and Electric Cloud, specializing in enterprise sales across cybersecurity solutions. Jamie holds a BA in Communication Design from Chico State and dedicates time to the American Heart Association, NFL Alumni, and serving as a Board Member for Ladies of the Empire.

Kyle Aitchison has spent the past seven years in offensive security and penetration testing,



working with teams to identify weaknesses in their environments and help strengthen their overall security posture. He enjoys taking an attacker's perspective and turning those insights into practical defense strategies that actually make a difference day-to-day, not just on paper. Over the years, he's partnered with security leaders across a range of industries to build proactive testing programs that give a clearer view of real-world risk beyond just checking compliance boxes.

Bill Danigelis, CISSP, is a founding member of RedBlock and a highly influential figure in



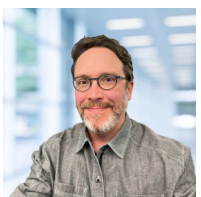
the information security community. As Vice President of ISSA International and a past International Board member, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication. A founding member of the Silicon Valley ISSA Chapter, he has held numerous leadership roles at both the local and international levels. With 14+ years of security experience, he is a trusted advisor and expert in vulnerability management, intrusion detection, and risk management.

Hillary Hernandez is an accomplished technology leader with 25 years of experience in IT



staffing, consulting, and business strategy. As a top-performing leader at Robert Half, she has helped Fortune 500 companies and emerging enterprises build high-impact technology teams across cybersecurity, cloud, AI, and enterprise applications. Hillary has consistently ranking in the top 1% of the company. Beyond her professional achievements, she is passionate about empowering others, to advance in leadership and innovation. Hillary is an active member of the ISC2 East Bay & Silicon Valley Chapters, community volunteer, and frequent speaker on the intersection of talent, technology, and human connection. Known for her relational leadership style and strategic insight, Hillary continues to champion collaboration and excellence within the Bay Area tech ecosystem.

Christian Everett, with over 20 years of tech-industry experience - including roles as software



architect, cloud architect, CTO and CIO - Christian brings deep expertise in ERP implementations, integrations, and enterprise technology solutions. In his current role as VP of ERP Business Development at Robert Half, his team helps clients assess, implement, and optimize ERP solutions to drive business efficiency.

John Martinez is the Technical Evangelist at StrongDM and a long-time security practitioner



who translates complex authorization and Zero Trust principles into business value. His career includes leadership roles at Evident.io (acquired by Palo Alto Networks), where he managed Customer Success and Solutions Engineering for the product line that developed CSPM (Cloud Security Posture Management). John also led Cloud Platform Engineering at Adobe, focusing on AWS operations, platform development, and DevOps/Continuous Deployment practices. Earlier in his career, he focused on cloud security and operations as a practitioner at Netflix. He holds an AWS Solutions Architect certification and volunteers by teaching Cloud Security and ethical hacking to interns.

Jackie Kalter, Board member, Community builder, Thought Leader, bringing people together, getting things done, making things happen. A consultative strategic advisor in Cybersecurity for over 20 years, Jackie currently works with starts-ups on go to market strategies. She serves as President of the Cloud Security Alliance in OC, Co-Chair for CSA San Diego, Board member of OWASP OC. She most recently launched San Diego CyberCon 2026. A collaboration of over 12 San Diego cyber non-profits hosting a conference for the community, by the community, putting any proceeds back into the community for cyber scholarships, certifications, education/awareness and more.



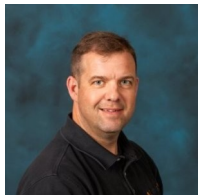
Sarvesh Deshmukh is the Director of Sales for Infrastructure Management & Security Services in North America at Happiest Minds Technologies. With 23 years of IT Sales leadership, he drives North American market growth, specializing in Digital Transformation, Security Services, and Infrastructure Management. He ensures effective sales-to-delivery transitions leveraging Happiest Minds' expertise in AI, cloud, and security. Focused on business efficiency and superior customer experience, he builds robust client relationships through strategic and collaborative execution.



Mitchem Boles is an executive and strategic Field CISO for Intezer. His experience includes leading Information Security for a large healthcare network, directing Security Operations for a major U.S. electric utility, and roles in security leadership for energy & critical infrastructure, MSSP Services, and consulting. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University; certified CISSP, CCSP, and AWS; and his background of expertise includes: security strategy, SOC deployment, AI strategic implementation, security operations and staff development, tools differentiation, and risk management.



Andy Paterson, CISSP, ISSO at LLNL, has 20+ years of field experience in Computer Network



Defense (CND) and security compliance. He is a retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 who led vulnerability assessment missions and developed ACERT training in direct support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. His expertise includes managing threat and vulnerability for Safeway and serving as an ISSO for U.S.

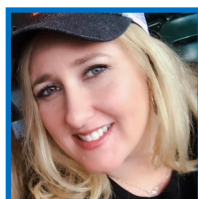
Coast Guard Classified LANs, where he developed DIACAP policy and maintained system accreditation. Andy specializes in RMF, Security Policy, and Computer Forensics. He holds a B.S. in Computer Science from Cal State East Bay.

Lauren Arce, lives at the intersection of cybersecurity, creativity, and community. She works as



an Enterprise Account Executive at Optiv, helping organizations solve complex security challenges, mostly to keep her cats fat and happy. Through Pacific Hackers & BSidesSF and her partner organizations, she create spaces where hackers, dreamers, and defenders unite because, in her own words, “I believe the heart of security is it’s community. It’s this passion for genuine connections that make security human, inclusive, and a hell of a lot more fun! “

Katherine Greathouse, CISSP, is a Cybersecurity Leader, AI enthusiast, and strategic advisor



with over two decades of technical expertise. She champions security as a business enabler, removing friction and building trust to support sustainable growth. Katherine currently drives Security Compliance and Customer Trust at Wordly and previously directed compliance and risk at Snowflake and dbt Labs. Her deep background spans six years at Intuit and five years at Chevron, where she specialized in IAM strategy, FedRAMP, SOC, and SOX compliance. A strong community supporter, Katherine frequently helps the chapter at our conferences and volunteers for major events like BSidesSF and DEF CON.

Adnan Dakhwe, CRISC, CDPSE, CISA, is a cybersecurity and technology leader with



15+ years of experience building and scaling security, GRC, privacy, and engineering programs globally. He combines technical expertise with business acumen, specializing in cybersecurity strategy, AI, infrastructure security, and GRC across cloud and on-premises environments. Adnan has held leadership roles at RingCentral, eBay, MuleSoft, and others, and advises startups and enterprises. He is an active advisor with HMG and SecureWorld, a researcher for the Cloud Security Alliance, and a lifetime member of OWASP.

Robin Basham, M.Ed., M.IT., CISSP, CISA, CGEIT, CRISC, is a veteran Cloud Cybersecurity and GRC executive. Her long career includes 25 years as an entrepreneur, founding and leading Cybersecurity Practices, alongside executive roles like CISO (AdaptHealth) and Officer at a major International Bank. As current Founder/CEO of Enterprise-GRC Solutions, she guides Fortune 500 clients through audit recovery and GRC maturation. She advances modern security architectures—including AI-driven GRC, Zero Trust—and actively contributes to the CSA Zero Trust Architecture and Cloud Controls Matrix Working Groups. Dedicating 40+ years to non-profit board leadership, Robin is serving her 8th year as President of the ISC2 East Bay Chapter. The East Bay community has growth from 100 to 1,100 members, notably with women in cyber approaching 400.



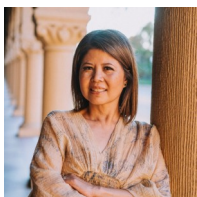
Cyrus Haghighi, MBA, is a Global IT and Security Leader who champions cybersecurity as a strategic enabler of innovation, not just a protective safeguard. As Head of Security at Confidential.io, he drives data protection and compliance for modern enterprises. With 15+ years in the field, Cyrus has helped secure over \$65 Billion in digital assets at companies including BitGo and Dfns. He specializes in building high impact security programs, focusing on data-centric Zero Trust, secure development, and selective encryption for sensitive data in AI and cloud environments. He directed global IT and security operations, ensuring compliance with SOC 1 and SOC 2 standards. Cyrus holds an MBA and serves as the Director of Marketing & Communications for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter.



Tolgay Kizilelma, MBA, PhD, is a business-driven IT/Cybersecurity GRC leader and trusted partner, bringing 30+ years of expertise across education, healthcare, distribution, and government. Tolgay is the founding Director of the MS in Cybersecurity program at Dominican University of California, an associate professor, former CISO for many UC system campuses. He has also managed IT operations for a national fuel systems integrator and holds over 50 industry certifications. Tolgay volunteers as a board member for non-profit organizations, presents at cybersecurity conferences, and was recognized with the 2022 C100 Award – Top 100 CISOs by CISOs Connect.



Brenda Bernal is the Chief Executive Officer of Compliagence Solutions Inc. She has 30+ years' experience in Compliance, Automation, Risk Management. Brenda was formerly the first Chief Compliance Officer for Symantec's Website Security Business Unit. She started her career as an external auditor for PwC (formerly C&L) and went on to varying leadership roles at Charles Schwab in their Internal Consulting and Audit Division and at Cisco where she deployed a modern IAM infrastructure which won industry awards and recognition.



Olga Zlatkova-Georgiev, a fraud prevention leader with 20 years of experience across banking,



credit unions, e-commerce, and lending, specializes in fraud investigations, strategic mitigation, and global team training. Having worked across Europe, North America, APAC, LATAM, and CAR, Olga brings a global perspective to reducing fraud losses and driving innovative solutions. A Subject Matter Expert in payments and fraud, she contributed to the CPFPP certification and helped launch California's Justice for Fraud Victims Project. As Training Director for the ACFE San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, she has led impactful events and built strong industry partnerships—committed to educating and empowering the next generation of anti-fraud professionals.

Abhishek Neelakanata, CISSP, serves as ISC2 East Bay's Conference Speaker Liaison and is a



highly experienced Cybersecurity Analyst with over a decade of experience spanning finance, technology, and utility sectors. With a background in Risk Analysis, Security Control Assessment, and Vulnerability Management, he drives enterprise security by providing risk-based actionable insights aligned with internal security policies and standards. His foundational experience as an IAM Support Specialist is complemented by a CISSP certification, a Master's in Information Systems (MSIS), and a Bachelor's in Engineering (BE).

Gary Dyлина is a seasoned compliance and operations executive with over two decades of experience



spanning internal audit, risk management, and infrastructure operations. His career includes leadership across higher education, biotech, and technology startups, directing internal audit, change management, and comprehensive compliance programs. Gary excels at leading global teams through complex environments, implementing governance frameworks, and streamlining processes to improve efficiency and control. Recognized for his strategic approach, he translates operational needs into scalable programs, partnering with business leaders to enable growth while mitigating risk and driving sustainable transformation.

Janel Schalk | Field CISO - West | CISSP | TRACE3 An innovative field CISO, Janel Schalk specialties include designing and executing security initiatives like Identity and Access Management



(IAM), Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC), Third Party Risk Management (TPRM), zero trust/adaptive security, insider risk management, endpoint protection, data protection, executive protection, physical security, privacy, secure development, and more. She focuses on leading high-performance teams, enabling clients across multiple industries for all things security, privacy, and compliance, and balancing risk mitigation while always keeping business enablement in mind.

Guido van Drunen is a retired KPMG Partner, forensic accounting expert, business strategist, and University Professor with decades of experience in high-profile investigative work. He has worked in law enforcement in two countries and has conducted investigations of all types around the globe. He has testified in several cases that he worked on and has also published articles related to white-collar crime. He is currently working to establish the Justice for Fraud Victims program at SJSU.



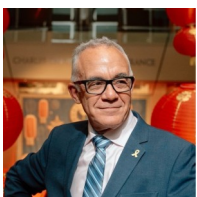
Irwin Cheng, CISSP, MBA, is an accomplished cybersecurity professional specializing in Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC). Based in San Ramon, he serves as a Cybersecurity Solution Analyst at Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), mitigating security risks across critical infrastructure. With over a decade of experience, including ten years at Chevron Corporation, he has a strong foundation in both technical and strategic enterprise risk. He successfully managed global compliance, automated audit processes, and implemented GDPR and CCPA frameworks. Irwin also contributes to the community as the Treasurer of the (ISC)² East Bay Chapter, fostering education and engagement in the Bay Area.



Bhavin Jayswal is a futurist network strategist and technology leader with over two decades of experience architecting the digital backbone of global enterprises. He has led large-scale transformations, moving organizations from legacy networks to cloud-first, AI-driven, and secure edge architectures. A recognized thought leader in digital infrastructure, Bhavin's expertise spans SD-WAN, SASE, multi-cloud ecosystems, AI-powered networking, security, and next-generation collaboration platforms. His vision bridges boardroom strategy with hands-on engineering—simplifying complexity, driving resilience, and delivering multimillion-dollar efficiencies. Beyond the enterprise, Bhavin mentors youth robotics teams and inspires the next generation of innovators shaping the future of intelligent, autonomous networks.



Ran Nahmias is a cybersecurity executive with over two decades of leadership across Microsoft, Check Point, Net Optics, and emerging innovators. At Sepio, he helps organizations strengthen their hardware-based security posture and defend against rogue devices and supply-chain threats. Ran previously co-founded a cloud-security company acquired in the EASM space and has built global go-to-market and partnership strategies bridging hardware, cloud, and AI-driven defense.



Murali Chandrasekhar, President of ISACA Silicon Valley, results-driven Information Security



Professional with over 20 years experience in cyber defense, risk, and vulnerability analysis. Industry and Regulatory Standards expert: ISO 27001/2, NIST, PCI DSS, HITECH HIPAA, SOC, SOX, IL4/IL5, CJIS, ITAR. Key achievement: built comprehensive compliance program for Business Application Platform (Apigee / Appsheet), expanding certifications to over a dozen global standards, including ISO 27001, FedRAMP, HiTRUST, DMA & DSA.

Chris Bollerud, MBA, CISSP, is the Chief Information Security Officer at AppZen, where he



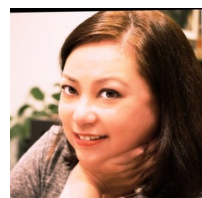
leads global cybersecurity, compliance, and AI governance programs supporting Fortune 500 enterprises. A former software engineer and HP Master Engineer, Chris integrates technical depth with executive leadership to align security with business growth. He has guided AppZen through ISO 27001, SOC 2, PCI-DSS, and TISAX certifications, modernized its Zero Trust and AI governance frameworks, and advanced secure SaaS scalability. As President of the ISC² Silicon Valley Chapter, Chris promotes collaboration, mentorship, and practical leadership in cybersecurity and responsible AI.

Ron Herardian has a 20 year track record of success in enterprise software as a founder, in-

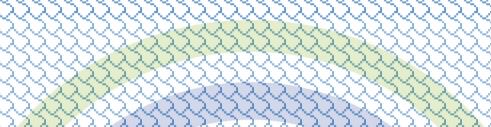


vestor, board member and advisor serving in multiple engineering, consulting and CxO roles. In his last role, Ron was responsible for operations including DevOps and InfoSec, including SOC 2 and GDPR compliance. Ron is a member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), a Senior Member of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), a speaker, and a published author.

Dawn Ona, ISC2 East Bay's Conference Hospitality Coordinator, and Senior Compliance Analyst



specializing in Cybersecurity, Risk Management, and Procurement at Veeva Systems, is a security-conscious compliance and procurement leader. She has proven ability to identify and mitigate risks within the supply chain with expertise developing and implementing robust vendor vetting processes and Third-Party Risk Management. Dawn is a master at safeguarding sensitive data, and ensuring compliance with stringent security standards. Her roles involve monitoring compliance, advising management on control issues, and coordinating complex external security assessments, including HIPAA, SOC2 Type 2, and ISO 27001 audits. Dawn is skilled in commercial contract review and negotiation, provides training on contracting policies, and is Certified in Cybersecurity from ISC².



Denise Bonds, CISSP; leverages her technical engineering and operations experience to enable productive, business-focused discussions with stakeholders on future investments in technology and people. She led Workday's CISSP Mentorship Program, supporting colleagues in achieving their CISSP certification. She has volunteered as a competition official for the Western Region Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (WRCCDC), helping design the event to identify and develop the next generation of security practitioners. Inspired by her work with WRCCDC, she also coached teams of middle school girls in the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot competition, a feeder program into WRCCDC.



Dennis Esselsagoe, MBA, MPP, is a results-driven investment professional with over a decade of experience in financial analytics, portfolio strategy, and risk management. A strong advocate for financial literacy and innovation, he also serves as a City Finance Commissioner and leads a fintech firm focused on advancing crypto intelligence. Dennis is passionate about integrating technology with finance to drive smarter investment decisions and financial empowerment. Dennis is the ISC2 East Bay Chapter Director of Outreach.



Travis Johnson is a results-driven Enterprise Technology Sales Professional who translates elite competitive experience into measurable business outcomes. As a former collegiate All-American, WAC Defensive Player of the Year, and NFL athlete, he leverages discipline and teamwork to drive success. Throughout his sales journey, Travis consistently surpasses quota by building strong customer relationships and strategically aligning technology solutions to specific business objectives. His approach is rooted in trust, strategy, and execution. As part of a high-performing team, Travis is committed to mentorship and elevation, collaborating closely across internal teams to ensure collective success for the customer and the organization.



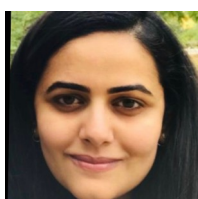
Craig Porter, is an AI and Cybersecurity Analyst at Gartner, where he advises CISOs and security leaders worldwide on securing AI use across their organizations. He brings a deep strategic focus to security, rooted in a 15-year career that began in eCommerce development and technical project management. This hands-on foundation enabled him to successfully lead IT projects and cybersecurity teams. Craig also serves as the Director of Technology for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter, where he manages the technology supporting our member community. When he's not researching AI innovation, he's perfecting Neapolitan pizzas at home, biking across the Bay Area, or spending time with family.



Nachiket Deshpande, CISSP, is a Principal Security Architect at Workday with over 15 years of experience in Infrastructure and Cloud Security. Holding key certifications, including AWS and GCP, he is an expert in designing robust frameworks and implementing cutting-edge enterprise, cloud, and AI security measures to safeguard organizational assets. Nachiket previously spent seven years as a Manager in Cybersecurity, Risk & Regulatory at PwC. He is stepping in as the ISC2 East Bay Chapter Membership Chair for the remainder of 2025. He is an active contributor to the chapter's goals for membership integrity, strategic governance, and organizational stability ahead of the 2026 conference.



Neha Dhage is a cybersecurity and technology audit professional with over nine years of experience in IT audit and risk management. She is pursuing a Master of Information and Cybersecurity (MICS) and a Certificate of Applied Data Science at the University of California, Berkeley, where her research focuses on adversarial machine learning and AI-crafted phishing attacks. Previously, Neha was part of the Technology Internal Audit team at the Bank of Montreal (formerly Bank of the West) and worked at Ernst & Young LLP in Risk Advisory. With an early career in software engineering, she holds CISA, CDPSE, CTPRA, CC, and CSXA certifications and earned her Master of Science (MS) in Information Systems from University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and Bachelor of Engineering (BE) from Nagpur University, India.



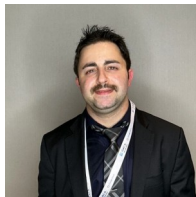
Jake Solis is an Account Executive and Identity Security Consultant, serving as a trusted advisor and problem solver with 25 years of technology experience. As an accomplished entrepreneur, he co-founded 1+1 Technology, generating \$5M in revenue and earning a spot on the CRN "Next-Gen 250" list. As Managing Partner at All Systems Global, he drove 700% revenue growth. Jake specializes in identity-first solutions, actively evangelizing security best practices as the founder of the Bay Area Zero Trust Networking Group. He is a dedicated community host for the ISC2 chapter.



Dan Farmer, a security and sales expert, is a familiar face at ISC2 East Bay social gatherings and a highly valued friend, mentor, and sponsor. As Regional Sales Director at Illumio, he focuses on solving the challenge of security segmentation by decoupling it from network architecture, resulting in faster, safer, and less expensive solutions. Dan built his expertise at companies like VMware (where he led the Western US Global Accounts team for the SDDC Practice, delivering significant revenue goals and team mentorship), and Cisco Systems. He specializes in Solution Selling, Channel strategy, and SaaS.



John Lazar, CISA, is a Senior Cyber Security Controls Assessor at PG&E, specializing in SOX IT General Controls testing. John has extensive experience mapping security policies to frameworks like NIST SP 800-53, NERC CIP, ISO 27002, SOC 2 and PCI DSS. He serves on the ISACA Silicon Valley Chapter Board of Directors as Vice President of External Affairs, supporting all portfolios and connecting with the C-Suite.



Robert Cunningham, CISSP, CCSP, CISM, is a Client Security Architect at Optiv Inc and the Director of Sponsorship for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter. With 17+ years of experience, Robert specializes in partnering with executives to build best-in-class Security Architecture for global organizations using multiple cloud environments. As former Head of Cyber Security at Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Companies, he was responsible for developing a risk register and administering a security program for 2,000+ users. Robert is an expert strategist, defining security standards based on industry frameworks like NIST, CSA CCM, and CIS, spanning the entire CIA Triad.



Al Lavassani, CISSP, CIPP/US, is a visionary data protection executive and consultant specializing in technology ethics, compliance, and responsible innovation. He currently serves as Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) for the University of California Office of the President and previously held executive leadership roles at Meta, SoFi, Lyft, Visa, and Wells Fargo. Al is an expert in AI Governance and data ethics, having advised organizations on preventing bias and regulatory fallout. He designed and implemented privacy programs ensuring compliance with complex regulations, including GDPR, CCPA, and HIPAA, while managing cross-functional security and privacy reviews for payment products. Holding an MBA, he specializes in establishing governance frameworks and driving organizational accountability.



Karl Schneider, CISSP, RHCE, MCSE, is a veteran IT and Security executive with 15+ years of leadership and consulting experience across manufacturing, technology, pharma, and finance sectors. As Founder and President of Diablo Technology Group, he serves as a fractional CIO/CISO, focusing on strategic technology roadmaps, cost reduction through automation, and risk management. Previously, as a fractional CIO/CISO for ENOVIX, he achieved SOX 404 compliance with zero violations and implemented the CIS Top 20 Critical Security Controls. Karl is the incoming Director of Operations and a crucial player in the design and execution of this conference, leveraging his expertise in building critical programs from scratch, including cybersecurity and disaster recovery.



David Affonso is an Offensive Security Specialist and high-performing Enterprise Account Executive in Northern California. He currently drives strategic customer success at Horizon3.ai, focusing on autonomous penetration testing to help organizations find and fix attack vectors across external, identity, and cloud environments. David's expertise spans the SaaS security landscape, having held key sales roles at high-growth companies including JupiterOne and Synack. An award-winning leader, he has achieved President's Club recognition and holds ITIL and AWS Technical Accreditation certifications.



Peter Chen is a Senior IT Engineer at EBMUD and a highly credentialed leader in the Bay Area security community. He holds the CISM, CRISC, CISA, and GIAC, reflecting mastery in security management, audit, and risk control. Peter previously spent an extensive career at Oracle as a Security Analyst and Manager. He has provided significant service to the ISC2 East Bay Chapter for nearly eight years, currently serving as Director of Operations. In this capacity, he secures our conference and meeting spaces, assures the physical safety of all in-person operations, and mentors chapter members. He holds an MS in Information Security from Lewis University.



Marco Palacios is the Pacific Hackers Association President and the Global MDR Customer Success Manager at Fortinet. He started his career in IT and spent over a decade in IT operations before transitioning to Cybersecurity. A Blue teamer by heart, Marco has spent the last eight years specializing in defending organizations and building and implementing modern Security Operations. Marco is also a co-founder of the non-profit Pacific Hackers Association (PHA). Through the PHA, he mentors veterans and underrepresented communities to help them find non-traditional paths in the cybersecurity industry. He served in the United States Air Force and deployed as part of "Operation Enduring Freedom." M.CyberSec, GCIH, GMON, GNFA, GISF, GSEC, GCED, SSCP, CySA+, Net+, and A+.



Erica Cunningham is an accomplished cybersecurity professional with over 20 years of experience spanning cyber security, network operations, compliance, and governance. As former VP of the ISC² East Bay Chapter, she has contributed to the community of bay area professionals. Erica holds a masters CyberSecurity, Bachelors in IT and multiple certifications and certificates, including ISC² Certified in Cybersecurity (CC). As a Sales and Technology Leader she has advanced training in DevOps, and AI certificates in most LLM platform technologies. Her career reflects a deep commitment to building resilient IT environments, mentoring emerging professionals, and bridging the gap between business strategy and cybersecurity innovation.



Michelle Hercules is the creator of Hercules Innovative Technology Solutions (HITS), a cybersecurity consulting and mentorship company focused on creating technology training and talent placement pathways for success. Her cybersecurity experience spans 20+ years, starting as an application developer and transitioning into IT consulting for Fortune 100 companies. She managed an Information Technology Compliance & Privacy Program for 15+ years and currently works in the IT Workforce Development Strategic space, where she is developing a comprehensive IT Workforce Upskilling Framework. Michelle is deemed a change management, cybersecurity compliance Subject Matter Expert (SME), providing innovative approaches to effectively implement regulatory mandates and industry best practice standards.



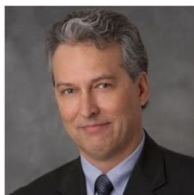
Brian Kennedy is a veteran Information Security executive with 20+ years of experience in Enterprise and Mid-Market technology sales, encompassing Direct and Channel strategies. He is a two-time Platinum Sponsor and a trusted presenter for our community, sharing expertise on reducing risk and building robust security programs. Brian specializes in key domains, including Privilege Account Security, Container/Cloud Security, and Data Protection. A recognized top performer, he has earned multiple sales awards, including President's Club and Over Achiever's recognition across his tenure at CyberArk and RSA. He also served as Vice President of the ISSA Silicon Valley Chapter, leading the speaker vetting process to bring relevant topics to the community.



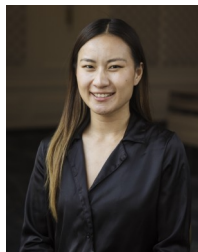
Robert Huff, JD, is a Senior Vice President at Exiger, specializing in Third-Party and Supply Chain Risk Management Solutions. With a career spanning 17+ years in executive risk consulting and 5 years as a Special Agent for the FBI, Robert advises clients on enhancing their TORM and SCRM operations using AI and compliance technology. His expertise, built across roles at Kroll, Navigant, and Aon, spans complex regulatory areas including FCPA, AML, Fraud, and Corporate Investigations. Robert is an expert strategist who partners with C-level executives to define standards and mitigate exposure based on emerging security threats and regulatory changes.



Victor Ramensky - Current ISC2 North Bay Chapter Treasurer and former Chapter President Retired ISO Bank of Marin - IT & Security Professional with over 35+ years in IT Management. Computer technologies expertise in areas such as Cybersecurity, BI, IT management, software programming, office suites, internet/intranet, communications, networking, databases, business software, and data analysis, and has held CISSP, CSM, PMP and ITIL certifications.



Catherine Lo, Senior Solutions Engineer, StrongDM



Catherine Lo is a Senior Solutions Engineer at StrongDM, where she helps organizations implement secure, unified access across complex infrastructure. With nearly a decade of experience in cybersecurity — including a focus on cloud security from her time at Palo Alto Networks — she brings practical insights into modern access management and DevSecOps practices. An active participant in the security community, Catherine regularly engages at events such as BSides, KubeCon, AWS re:Invent, and RSA. She is based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

East Bay Chapter



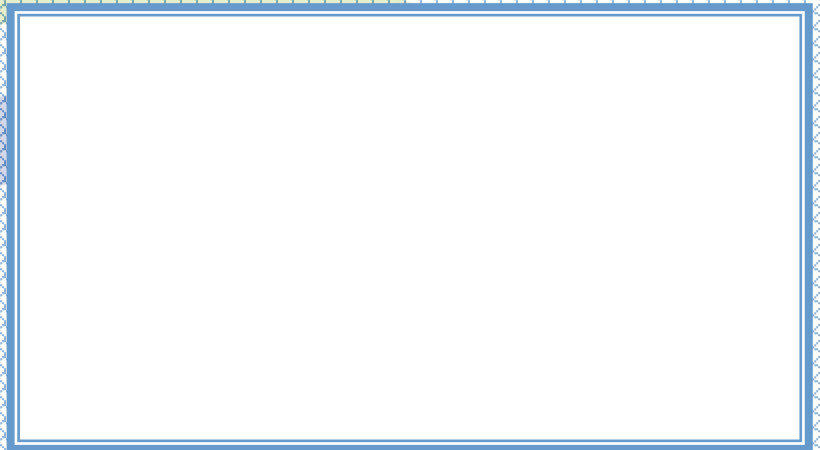
Bob Gilbert, VP of Platform Strategy & Chief Evangelist at Netskope, brings 30+ years of Silicon Valley experience as a recognized leader in security and networking transformation, specializing in SASE and Zero Trust. A dynamic speaker and product demonstrator, he has delivered presentations in 63+ countries, driving innovation. Passionate about education, Bob has lectured on cybersecurity at ESADE's International Business School and served as a guest lecturer worldwide, shaping future cybersecurity leaders.



Bo Ros is an Account Executive at One Identity,



specializing in helping organizations strengthen their identity and access management (IAM) strategies. He works closely with clients and partners to deliver scalable security solutions that simplify compliance, reduce risk, and enhance operational efficiency across hybrid and cloud environments.



Jean, O'Neil, Kristin Vanderhoof, Anita Bhatia, Jeffrey Weichert, and Bethany McCormack are the drivers behind the ISC2 East Bay Chapter and Las Positas College partnership. We would not be able to provide our conferences without the support of our community.



Please become a sustaining sponsor and member at
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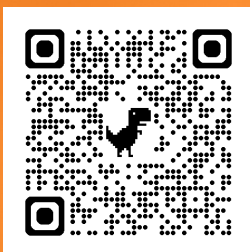
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