



Let's Grow



Distinguished Dinner Event
in celebration of
Nine Live Labs: *The Secure AI Revolution Conference*
at Las Positas College

March 12th, 2026
at McKay's Taphouse & Beer Garden

ISC2 East Bay Chapter thanks Las Positas College and our Sponsors

NINE LIVE LABS
The Secure AI Revolution
March 13th, 2026



Welcome to the 4th Semi-Annual, ISC2 East Bay Chapter, Distinguished Dinner

Name someone who speaks Spanish or Portuguese

Name someone who has box seats for the 49ers

Name someone who grew up in the same town as you

Name someone who is a twin

Name someone who can't sit out their favorite jam

Name someone who used to work for you

Name someone who has a son or daughter in the chapter

Name someone who can explain Zero Trust to a five-year-old

Name someone who has a home lab that costs more than their first car

Name someone who speaks Mandarin or Cantonese

Name someone who dated your ex

Name someone who is an amazing cook

Name someone who has twins

Name someone who went to the same elementary, high school, or college as you

Name someone who speaks Russian or Farsi

Name someone who used to report to you

Name someone who actually enjoys reading 50-page regulatory update whitepapers

Name someone who recently said "Let's circle back" in a meeting

Name someone who treats their home network security like they're defending a Tier 1 data center

Name someone who is the "hidden architect" behind a framework we all use every day

Name someone who owns more than five identical black t-shirts for their "tech uniform"

Name someone who can identify a phishing email just by the font choice

Name someone who has survived a 48-hour incident response marathon

Name someone who is the "calm in the storm" when a critical system goes down

Name someone who sings opera

...

And now, we are known.

A note: Bios are not in alphabetical order, although they started that way. In some cases, the late bloomers have been added where space would allow. For all those members we missed, we will try to add you to the digital version.





Abhijit Tannu is the co-founder of Mavs AI, a platform helping enterprises adopt GenAI securely by preventing sensitive data leakage, prompt injection, and misuse, without slowing teams down. He brings over two decades of experience building enterprise cybersecurity products that win on trust and scale globally. An IIT Kharagpur alumnus, Abhijit co-founded Seclore and Herald Logic, where he helped grow businesses from the first customer to tens of millions of dollars in ARR, competing successfully with the largest global players. Deeply customer-focused, he has built product and Customer Success teams from scratch and worked hands-on with Fortune 500 customers across the US, Europe, the Middle East, and India.

Abhishek Neelakanata, CISSP, serves as ISC2 East Bay's Director of programs 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).



Akram Sheriff is a seasoned technology, Product leader and innovator with 16+ years of experience in AI/ML, generative AI, Enterprise networking, Wireless, IoT, and cloud-native software. He is currently Co-Founder and CTO of a stealth-mode startup in the bay area, building next-generation AI-driven platforms at the intersection of agentic AI and security. Akram holds 70+ USPTO patents and has led large-scale engineering & product initiatives across enterprise and AI infrastructure domains in his career so far. [Ex-Cisco Systems, Ex- Aruba Networks/HPE, Ex- Robert Bosch, Ex-Hippocratic.ai]

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.





Amit is a cybersecurity entrepreneur and co-founder of Mavs AI, building next-generation runtime security for Generative AI use. With over a decade of experience in data-centric and enterprise security, Amit has played a foundational role in scaling global security platforms across BFSI, manufacturing, pharma, and government sectors. His work spans product strategy, go-to-market leadership, and deep customer engagement across North America, Europe, the Middle East, and India. At Mavs AI, Amit is focused on solving emerging GenAI risks, including sensitive data exposure, prompt-level attacks, and lack of runtime visibility, helping enterprises adopt AI with confidence and control.

Ana Colocho is a Senior Solution Architect at SAP, specializing in Key Management Service, Data Protection, and Enterprise Key Management Services. With 20+ years of experience in IT security, she brings deep expertise in cloud services, IAM, and infrastructure services. Prior to SAP, she was a Senior Security Architect at Chevron and actively supported the ISC2 East Bay Chapter. Ana holds a degree from the University of San Francisco.



Amrit (Amy) Kaur is the Co-Founder and VP & Global Head of Sales at SafeAeon Inc., where she leads global sales strategy and partnerships for the company's cybersecurity services and SOC-as-a-Service offerings. Her experience across software development, operations, and cybersecurity enables her to connect technical innovation with real-world business needs. Amy specializes in helping organizations navigate complex security challenges and implement scalable, practical solutions. As an entrepreneur, she is deeply focused on building technologies and services that empower security teams and improve cyber resilience. Amy is also a strong advocate for women in cybersecurity, mentoring emerging professionals and supporting greater diversity in technology leadership.



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.

Arun Prabhu is a technology executive specializing in cybersecurity, digital identity, and biometric authentication. Prabhu leads design and delivery of enterprise SaaS solutions, securing users and transactions for governments and global enterprises. Expertise includes identity management, passwordless authentication, and zero-trust architectures powered by AI risk analysis and behavioral biometrics. Across private equity-backed companies, Prabhu has generated over \$300M in enterprise value through product modernization and M&A technology integration. He has successfully architected authentication systems and mobile identity platforms for law enforcement, border control, and enterprise access. Currently, he focuses on next-generation AI-powered identity SaaS, advising organizations on security strategy, cloud transformation, and AI adoption. Mission: making strong security usable, converting complex protection into seamless digital trust.





Attila Gyulai is a Mid-Enterprise Account Executive at Horizon3.ai, focused on transforming how organizations approach penetration testing. With more than a decade of experience in cybersecurity across Northern California, Attila specializes in autonomous, attacker-perspective technology that identifies exploitable weaknesses and drives prioritized remediation. Attila has a strong track record of consulting with clients, closing high-value security contracts, and simplifying complex security challenges for technical and business stakeholders alike. Known for sales process optimization, strategic negotiation, and consistent overachievement of revenue targets, Attila leverages OKRs to align teams, drive sustainable growth, and support organizational resilience.

McKay's Taphouse & Beer Garden is a Year-round CA Beer Garden (heated and tented in winter months). We are kid friendly till 9pm and dog friendly always. We have a full menu with scratch made American cuisine with a chef's twist. We feature 20 craft beers, wines, ciders and seltzers on tap as well as bottled beers, wine and a large selection of craft NA products as well as a full bar with cocktails. We offer Live Music on the weekends. Check our Event Page on our website for more details: www.mckaysbeergarden.com We also have a small, quaint Speakeasy indoors (The Angry Goat) open on Friday and Saturdays 6:30-11pm serving craft cocktails. #thegoat.pleasanton - Be sure to thank Barbara!



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.

Bernard Brantley serves as the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Corelight. He joined Corelight from Amazon, where he led threat hunting and threat intelligence teams through advanced purple teaming for Amazon Consumer Payments. Previously, Bernard was the strategist and architect behind bleeding-edge network security monitoring and detection for Microsoft's High Value Asset (HVA) environments, including XboxLIVE. Earlier in his career, he held research and analyst roles at Alert Logic. Bernard is an advisor to several innovative technology companies, including emerging players in GPU-accelerated analytics. He is an active participant in technology workshops focused on shaping the federal government's strategy for the adoption of ML and AI. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.





Bhawana Venu serves on the Career Committee for the ISC2 Chapter. She is an Identity and Access Management (IAM) professional specializing in Identity Governance (IGA) with over eight years of cybersecurity experience. She began her career in IT on the infrastructure side before transitioning into Data Loss Prevention (DLP) and later Identity and Access Governance. Since relocating to the United States in 2009, she has built her cybersecurity career across enterprise environments, focusing on strengthening access governance frameworks and supporting secure, scalable identity programs. Bhawana is passionate about continuous growth and professional development. Someone who intentionally pushed beyond her comfort zone throughout her career, she is committed to helping aspiring cybersecurity professionals navigate their own journeys. She is always open to meaningful conversations and opportunities to contribute to the cybersecurity community.

With four years of experience under his belt, Blake Allen has become a go-to resource for the Bay Area's cybersecurity community. Currently with Ledge Technology, Blake has spent his career at various recruitment firms, honing a sharp instinct for matching the right talent with the right mission. Blake specializes in helping Cybersecurity Engineers navigate their next career move—whether they're looking for the stability of a direct-hire role or the fast-paced challenge of project-based employment. But he doesn't just fill seats; Blake acts as a strategic partner for local companies, helping them scale their IT and security initiatives to meet modern threats.



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.

Bob Gilbert is the Vice President of Strategy and Chief Evangelist at Netskope, a market-leading cloud security company. Bob is a prolific speaker and product demonstrator, reaching live audiences in more than 45 countries over the past decade. His career spans more than 25 years in Silicon Valley, where he has held leadership roles in product management and marketing at various technology companies. He was formerly the Chief Evangelist at Riverbed, where he was a member of the pioneering product team that launched Riverbed from a small start-up of less than 10 employees to a market leader with more than 3,000 employees and \$1B in annual revenue. Bob was first introduced to the world of cybersecurity as a teenager in the 80s when he hosted a BBS and had to develop his own terminal software to prevent Russian hackers from infiltrating his site, which was being hosted from his parents' home.





Brian Payne, incoming 2026 Director of Technology, is a software development Swiss army knife, having worked on a wide scope of projects ranging from real-time audio/ video streaming to live-event ticketing and comparable insurance coverage quoting. He's held a variety of roles from Quality Assurance and Engineering Manager up to Vice President of Engineering. While remediating a data breach in 2013, he developed a passion for cybersecurity and secure software development practices, embracing the continuous learning required to defend organizations against evolving threat landscapes. He's currently an ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) holder preparing for the CSSLP exam.

Bryan Culp leads Trust within Box's Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) group and is responsible for Customer Trust, GxP GTM, Third Party Risk Management, the company's Policy Program, and Quarterly Management Review. He previously led the Customer Trust team in Cisco's Security & Trust organization. He is passionate about how SaaS companies build, maintain, and grow trust with customers and partners. He advocates for Environmental Social Governance (ESG) and participates in his local ISC2 and ISACA chapter meetings. Other interests include reading and writing, traveling, and being in nature. (If we miss Bryan, be sure you see him at ISACA next week.)



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.

Cayden is a co-founder of Veria Labs, building AI hacking agents that automatically find and fix security vulnerabilities. He has competed extensively in Capture the Flag (CTF) competitions and is the current co-captain of the #1-ranked CTF team in the US for three consecutive years, with a world 3rd place in 2025. Cayden regularly competes in many of the world's largest CTFs and is a two-time DEFCON CTF finals qualifier. When he was under 18 and ineligible to apply for the official U.S. Cyber Team, he instead joined as a coach and led the team to a 2nd place finish at the European Cybersecurity Championships.





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.

Christen Patterson is an accomplished solution architect and product leader with a strong history of delivering scalable, secure, and high-performance systems. Specializing in identity, cybersecurity, fraud prevention, cloud platforms, and data integration, she excels at bridging business needs with technical execution. Christen has a proven ability to define architectural strategies and lead global teams through digital transformation, with deep experience in financial services, payments, banking, and enterprise software. She holds an MBA from The Wharton School in Operations and Information Management and a BS in Biology from Stanford University.



Christer Swartz is Director of Industry Solutions for Illumio. He has spent many years in the Networking industry, beginning with a small startup called Cisco. He joined Cisco when their global headcount was 50 people, he was an early CCIE, and he remained with them for 9 years. He then worked for many years in the Caribbean, in Europe, and for a small company called Netflix, when their business model was built around red envelopes and DVDs, then designed their Internet-streaming model to host movies, without breaking the Internet. He worked for many years for Palo Alto Networks, when the industry finally realized that cybersecurity was not just a good idea but is a business requirement. He is Director of Industry Solutions for Illumio, in which visibility and security is fully agnostic to the network or any security appliances, enabling a fully application-centric approach to seeing who is doing what to whom, and how to enforce it. 100% of us will eventually be breached, no one is too small of a target, so a breach needs to be assumed but the goal is containing it, preventing a small problem from becoming a disaster.

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 Vice President for the ISC2 East Bay 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.

Mr. Christopher Geraghty has served on the ISACA-Sacramento Board for nearly a decade, having been Membership Director, Secretary, and Instructor, and has been a member of ISACA Global for over 20 years. He is currently serving as the Chapter's Vice President. He holds the ISACA CISA, CRISC, and the CDPSE certifications. He is also serving as an ISACA Accredited Trainer for CRISC. Chris has shared his passion for aligning business objectives with technology solutions as a consultant for over 40 years and this passion for achieving excellence has been the foundation of his long career of successful relationships.



Daniel Cheng is the Head of North America Channel at Stellar Cyber, where he leads the strategy and execution of the company's reseller ecosystem. With a strong focus on enablement, trust, and execution, Daniel works closely with partners to help them successfully adopt and scale Stellar Cyber's AI-driven SecOps platform. Since taking on this role in early 2025, Daniel has played a key role in expanding channel awareness, developing a growing community of technical champions, and strengthening partner capabilities through certification and hands-on training. His work bridges business strategy and technical execution, ensuring partners are equipped to deliver real value to their customers. At the ISC2 East Bay Conference, Daniel will serve as Stellar Cyber Lab Leader, guiding participants through an interactive, hands-on session that demonstrates how a unified, open, and AI-powered SecOps platform can simplify threat detection, investigation, and response while improving operational efficiency and security outcomes.



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.





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.

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.



Dennis Moreau is Cybersecurity Architect, working with startups to extend security to emerging technologies. Dennis has previously been a Cybersecurity Architect for AI within Intel's datacenter and edge computing divisions, a Sr. Engineering Architect for Cybersecurity in the VMware ATG, a Senior Researcher in the RSA Office of the CTO, a Founder and CTO of Configuresoft, as well as a Co-PI in Computation Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. Dennis holds a doctorate in Computer Science and has been tenured in that discipline. His research has been sponsored by Bell Labs, NASA/JPL, the NSF, the NIH, the NLM and IBM.



Dimitri Nazarian is an information security professional transitioning from enterprise identity and access management and identity governance sales into hands-on cybersecurity roles. He recently completed a Master of Science in Cybersecurity from Dominican University of California, gaining lab-based experience in security operations, incident response workflows, web application vulnerabilities and foundational Python scripting. Through supporting NIST-aligned identity programs within large enterprise environments, he developed practical exposure to control frameworks, identity verification standards and cross-functional security collaboration. He is currently preparing for the CompTIA Security+ exam and seeking entry to mid-level cybersecurity, identity or governance analyst roles focused on structured risk evaluation, technical validation and disciplined execution.





Donald E. Hester is an expert Cybersecurity Advisor to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and a past leader of the ISC2 East Bay Conference Committee. With over 25 years of extensive experience in information systems and cybersecurity, he excels at aligning cyber risk management with business objectives. His proven expertise spans government cybersecurity, where he has consulted and audited over 180 clients nationwide, with a focus on local government. He is known for his strategic approach to protecting organizations, integrating risk tolerance and regulatory requirements into effective security solutions. He is committed to building ethical cybersecurity cultures and fostering a cybersafe world.



Doug Barbin serves as President of Schellman & Company, LLC, a top 50 CPA firm and DoD/DIB assessment organization holding a facility Secret clearance (IL6). He also serves as National Managing Principal for Schellman Compliance, LLC, as part of Schellman's alternative practice structure. As National Managing Principal, Doug is responsible for strategy, growth, and delivery of Schellman's global services portfolio. Since joining in 2009, Doug has led all of Schellman's client service delivery teams and has focused on expanding the firm's strong foundation in IT audit and assurance into a market-leading, diversified cybersecurity and compliance services provider. He has developed many of Schellman's service offerings and served global, public sector, and defense clients across multiple industries. | Doug brings more than 29 years of experience in technology-focused services, having previously served as a technology product management executive, CTO/COO of a mortgage firm, and leader of fraud and computer forensic investigations. He holds dual bachelor's degrees in Accounting and Administration of Justice from Penn State, as well as an MBA from Pepperdine University. He has completed postgraduate coursework in Artificial Intelligence from MIT and holds multiple CPA licenses in addition to many of the industry's major certifications.



Eliza Wong, CISSP, is a cybersecurity practitioner and strategist specialized in hardening mission-critical infrastructure and automating regulatory compliance. Holding a Master of Science from Columbia University, Eliza's career is defined by a 12-year tenure at Adobe, where she led enterprise database security and served as a DevOps Security Champion. She is recognized for operationalizing SOC2, ISO 27001, and PCI DSS frameworks within highly regulated environments. Eliza combines technical depth in vulnerability management and cryptography with a strategic focus on Cyber Assurance, ensuring that security policy is seamlessly integrated into the DevOps lifecycle to protect enterprise-scale data assets.



Erica Cunningham is a consultant and business owner focused on helping organizations navigate digital transformation with clarity and strategic discipline. She partners with executive leaders to align emerging technologies with business objectives, governance, and measurable outcomes. As Founder of Erica-AI, she advises companies operating in rapidly evolving technology environments. Erica holds an MS in Cybersecurity and maintains certifications across leading AI platforms. She conducts executive readiness audits for leadership and cybersecurity teams, enabling organizations to innovate responsibly while protecting their data, reputation, and long-term resilience.





Eugene Pakhomov is an SCA and IAST Subject Matter Expert at Black Duck, where he helps employees and customers to better understand Black Duck products in those areas. Eugene started his career in the AI field and recently obtained professional certifications from Berkeley and Stanford to further deepen his expertise and apply the knowledge to solve challenges on the intersection of AI and Cybersecurity fields. (We will see Eugene Friday)

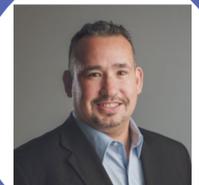
Evan Stewart is a cybersecurity and technology leader at World Wide Technology, where he advises enterprise clients on cybersecurity best practices. He also serves as President of the ISC2 Silicon Valley Chapter, leading one of the region's most active cybersecurity communities and fostering collaboration among practitioners, sponsors, and industry leaders. In addition, Evan is a Partner at XPS Ventures, supporting early-stage cybersecurity startups with go-to-market strategy, revenue acceleration, and ecosystem partnerships.



Evan is an IT Governance and Risk leader with over 20 years of experience advising public, pre-IPO, and global organizations on SOX readiness, regulatory strategy, and enterprise control modernization. He partners with CFOs, CIOs, and Audit Committees to design scalable governance frameworks that reduce compliance friction while strengthening executive decision confidence. As Founder of Phoenix Ascent Advisory (entity formation underway) and Board Member of ISC2 East Bay Chapter, Evan focuses on helping growth-stage companies build sustainable GRC infrastructure before regulatory pressure dictates direction.



Gabe Medina is a business-minded IT audit professional with over 20+ years of experience leading process, risk, and compliance initiatives across a wide range of business life cycles. He has spearheaded efforts and holds numerous roles across all lines in the Three Lines of Defense Model. Adept in establishing and maintaining IT/Financial risk and compliance programs, the execution of AI Audit/GRC, IT Risk Assessments, Third-Party Risk Management, Cybersecurity, ERP Security, and other Operational/Emerging Risk Assessments and Governance efforts. Still curious. Still skeptical. Still asking better questions. Driven by the belief that thoughtful auditor judgment, not just better tools, defines a great audit.





George D. DeCesare is a prominent leader in the cybersecurity and risk management landscape, currently serving on the Board of Directors for HITRUST. Previously, he served as Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Risk Officer at Kaiser Permanente, where he was accountable for technology risk management for 12 million members and a massive enterprise workforce. George's career spans over 20 years in healthcare, including roles as CISO and in-house counsel specializing in healthcare regulatory compliance, privacy, and cybersecurity law. Beyond his corporate executive tenure, George served as a Captain for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for 17 years. During his law enforcement career, he was a specialist investigator in identity theft and served on the Advisory Council on Computer Forensics. He is a member of the Healthcare Industry Cybersecurity Task Force formed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and holds a Juris Doctorate from Northwestern California University School of Law and an MBA from Columbia Pacific University.

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.



Jean O'Neil-Opipari is the STEM Program Coordinator at Las Positas College, where she oversees strategic initiatives, industry partnerships, and student opportunities. An ISC2 East Bay Star, she has expertly coordinated the chapter's multi-year program at the college. With over a decade of leadership in educational program development and work-based learning, Jean excels at building sustainable bridges between academia and industry. She is a dedicated community leader and former President of the Granada High School Supporters Club.

Gopi Ramamoorthy, with over 15 years in information security and compliance, has risen from engineering roles to leadership positions in sectors like Finance and Healthcare. At Fiserv, he managed security compliance for multiple units worth \$350 billion in annual transactions, consistently maintaining an impeccable record of zero findings. Gopi's contributions extend beyond his core work; he's an active leader in infosec forums, served as ISC2 Silicon Valley President in 2013, and was on the ISACA Silicon Valley Board from 2014-2021. Certified with CISSP, CISA, CIPP/US, and CISM, Gopi is currently the Head of Security and GRC Engineering at Symmetry Systems. A dedicated professional and leader, Gopi's expertise is widely recognized and respected in the industry. In 2023 alone, Gopi has spoken at multiple conferences on Cybersecurity and Privacy and continues to share his knowledge and experience through multiple forums.





Indus Khaitan is the CEO and founder of Redblock. Redblock extends Identity Security to disconnected apps. Previously, Indus co-founded Bitzer Mobile, 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.

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.



Eric Simmons, EC Council Certified CISO, CISA, and CISSP, is a Sr. GRC Manager at Philips and a past ISC2 Board Member. He is an experienced Information Security Manager with expertise in IT strategy, DFARS/ITAR, HIPAA compliance, and IT operations. Prior to Philips, he was Manager of Information Security at Zag Technical Services. Eric holds a BA in Psychology from the University of the Pacific.



Jim Gallagher is a CISSP and ISC2 East Bay Chapter Conference Committee member. He directs IT Infrastructure Operations and Disaster Preparedness to maintain high-availability systems. His expertise includes Legal Compliance and regulatory alignment for complex technical environments. He applies this operational background to regional cybersecurity resilience initiatives and strategic conference planning, leveraging technical leadership to strengthen professional development within the security community.



Jacqueline Ellman is a results-driven sales leader in the technology and network solutions space. As National and Regional Account Manager for the Southwest Region (California, Hawaii, Arizona, and New Mexico) at NetAlly—a leading provider of innovative network testing, visibility, and performance tools—she drives strategic sales growth by focusing on creating efficiencies and reducing time to network issue resolution times across key accounts. She collaborates closely with partners and clients to deliver cutting-edge solutions that optimize network reliability, security, and efficiency for enterprise organizations. With deep expertise in building strategic partnerships and fostering long-term client success, Jacqueline has a strong background in cybersecurity-adjacent technologies, including ransomware protection, security operations, and IT infrastructure health assessments.





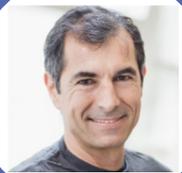
Jake Solis is an Account Executive and Identity Security Consultant, serving as a trusted advisor and problem solver with 25 years of technology experience. As an accomplished entrepreneur, he co-founded 1+1 Technology, generating \$5M in revenue and earning a spot on the CRN “Next-Gen 250” list. As 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.

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.



Jason Martin is Director of Adversarial Research at HiddenLayer, where he explores how the latest AI security research intersects with practical application. Jason was amongst the earliest researchers to recognize the need for AI security, founding the Secure Intelligence Team in Intel Labs in 2016 to research AI security and privacy threats and defenses. For 20+ years, Jason has covered such diverse security topics as CPU microcode, authentication and biometrics, trusted execution environments, wearable technology, and network protocols, resulting in over 40 issued patents and several high-profile research papers in adversarial machine learning and federated learning. When he’s not working, Jason is either lost in the Pacific Northwest camping and hiking with his family, or he is lost in a technical project involving 3D printing, microcontrollers, or designing holiday lighting displays synchronized to music.

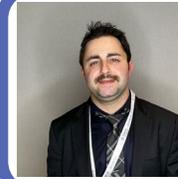
Javier Garza is a Technology evangelist that has written many articles on HTTP/2, Security and web performance, and is the co-author of the O’Reilly Book “Learning HTTP/2”. In 2018, Javier spoke at more than 25 developer-related events around the world, including well-known conferences like Velocity, AWS Re:Invent, and PerfMatters. His life’s motto is share what you learn and learn what you don’t. In his free time, he enjoys challenging workouts and volunteering for non-profits in areas like children and education.





Jennifer Cohen's start in Security involved building a Snort server. After a few days of reading her coworkers' IM traffic she learned she had very boring coworkers. Since then, she has moved over the dark side, Sales, but stayed with Security as she loves hearing about the fun things other hackers have done. After working for IronPort, Cisco, Agari, Sectigo, ColorTokens and a number of resellers, she is going out on her own to provide guidance to start-ups on how to get the biggest and fastest ROI when working with VARs.

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.



Jonathan Randall is a Strategic Account Director at Snyk. He has worked on the business side of Cyber Security for 20+ years at large OEMs, series A startups and everything in between.

J. R. Razo is the founder of Security Consulting N+, LLC, where he provides fractional CISO and CPO services. He has 20 years of experience managing sensitive data environments, including PHI, PCI, and ITAR. Razo holds an MIT Sloan MBA and specializes in HITRUST, ISO 27001, and NIST frameworks.



Jules Okafor, JD is an attorney, best-selling author, and "Cyber Cultural Architect" and the Founder & CEO of RevolutionCyber and Obsidian Sanctum. | At RevolutionCyber, she deploys Security Pods™ — fractional, AI-augmented teams that help high-growth companies operationalize security, AI governance, and trust without adding permanent headcount. Her work focuses on integrating and driving adoption of SaaS security platforms, so they deliver real outcomes, not shelfware. | Through Obsidian Sanctum, Jules advises executives and high-net-worth families on private digital protection and identity risk in an AI-accelerated world. She believes the future of cybersecurity is quintessentially human — and that security must operate and drive revenue, not just audit activities.





Karina Lelaisromant serves as a Conference Coordinator for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in management with a specialization in Innovation Management. After moving to the United States, she transitioned into cybersecurity and earned an Associate of Science in Cybersecurity and Network Administration, along with the ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) certification. She previously worked 1.5 years as a Sales and Marketing Manager for safety monitoring systems in the aviation, maritime, and railway sectors, and 2.5 years as a Procurement Manager sourcing components and parts for turbine and generator manufacturing, as well as oil and gas pipeline fittings. Karina actively volunteers with the ISC2 East Bay Chapter and Pacific Hackers and is currently seeking opportunities in cybersecurity.

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. Karl is the ISC2 East Bay Director of Operations.



Katherine Greathouse, CISSP, is a Cybersecurity Leader, AI enthusiast, and strategic advisor with 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, and is a member of the ISC2 East Bay Conference Committee.

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 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.





Malcolm Harkins is the Chief Security and Trust Officer at HiddenLayer, where he focuses on securing AI models and data. He previously held the role of Chief Security and Trust Officer at Cylance. Prior to that, he was the VP and Chief Security and Privacy Officer (CSPO) at Intel, leading the company's security, privacy, and trust efforts. Malcolm is a respected voice on risk-based security and governance, promoting a balanced approach to managing risk, cost, and trust. He is an award-winning leader in the field of information security.

Manjul Kubde is a builder at heart and a co-founder of Mavs AI, where she's focused on one simple idea: enterprises should be able to use GenAI boldly, without losing sleep over security. At Mavs AI, she's working hands-on to solve real problems like sensitive data leakage and prompt-level attacks, grounded in how systems actually break in the wild. Before this chapter, Manjul spent over 16 years at Seclore as co-founder and VP of Engineering and earlier led engineering at Herald Logic. She's known for calm decision-making, strong technical instincts, and a deep respect for craft, teams, and doing things the right way.



Manmeet Bhasin is CEO of WMC Global, where he is guiding the company's next phase of growth as an AI-powered mobile threat intelligence platform. With 24+ years of experience across data, cloud, and mobile security, he focuses on automating mobile threat detection, phishing protection, and fraud prevention through scalable mobile phishing solutions. Previously, Manmeet founded Dataguise (now part of PKWARE), a privacy and data security platform acquired for \$100M+. He has also served as a venture fund Managing Partner investing in early-stage AI/ML 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.





Maxwell Teränen is a Strategic Account Executive at Abnormal AI, where he partners with West Coast technology leaders to strengthen defenses against sophisticated threats. With a strong track record in enterprise cybersecurity, he helps CISOs, CIOs, and security teams adopt innovative solutions that safeguard users and data. Passionate about advancing security standards across the industry, he also contributes to community and advisory initiatives to help bolster the cyber community he serves. He is the President of the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) SFO Chapter. He leads the regional advisory board and coordinates community engagement to advance cloud security education. He holds a degree in Economics from Saint Mary's College of California.

Mike Henkelman is a Sr Solutions Engineer for Corelight with thirty years of technical experience that includes building enterprise data centers and NOCs for ISPs, doing edge router and switch development for Cisco, and running the Vuln Management and FedRAMP IL5 programs for VMWare. He frequently speaks at conferences such as DefCon and B-Sides.



Lea Tuizat is a security advocate at Snyk, specializing in helping developers integrate security into their existing workflows. With a deep focus on open-source ecosystems, she has helped engineers navigate the complexities of vulnerability management and supply chain security. Her work at Snyk centers on the "Shift Left" movement, ensuring that as AI adoption accelerates, the underlying codebases and dependencies remain robust against emerging threats. She is a regular contributor to security research and a mentor for the next generation of DevSecOps professionals.



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.

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.



Maneesh Sahu is the Founder of Ferentin, an AI security platform specializing in identity-based Zero Trust access for LLMs and agentic AI. A veteran product leader, he previously served as Senior Director at Zscaler, where he launched their Privileged Remote Access portfolio and drove OT/ICS transformation strategy. His career includes key product roles at Okta, Samsung, and Progress Software. Maneesh holds patents in cloud security and digital health, has authored multiple publications on SOA and Java, and earned a MicroMasters in Data Science from UC San Diego.



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.



Nancy Maté has served in the Federal Government as the Cyber Security Manager for the US Navy and the Department of Energy's Stanford Linear Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC) plus its Berkeley National Laboratory. After serving in the Air Force as a meteorologist, Nancy moved into the IT field as a DoD contractor. She later migrated her role into cybersecurity with accreditation of an Air Force surveillance aircraft and then worked with Space Launch equipment, navy submarine simulators, and Army simulators. Nancy's specialty is the federal government authority to operate process. She was most recently an Authorizing Official Designated Representative. When Nancy's not at work, she enjoys overlanding, water sports, travel, and cooking. Nancy holds an MBA and CISSP and serves on the ISC2 East Bay Board as the Director of Education and Awareness.



Dr. Neil Daswani is a CISO-in-Residence at Firebolt Ventures and is Co-Academic Director of Stanford's Advanced Cybersecurity Program. After completing his PhD at Stanford University and leading security initiatives at Google, he co-founded Dasient, a cybersecurity company that Google Ventures invested in and was acquired by Twitter/X. After his time at Twitter, he served as CISO of multiple public companies, including LifeLock, Symantec's Consumer Business Unit, and QuantumScape. These days, he advises multiple venture capital funds and is focused on both securing artificial intelligence and using AI for cybersecurity applications. He has co-authored two books, "Big Breaches: Cybersecurity Lessons for Everyone" and "Foundations of Security: What Every Programmer Needs to Know." Dr. Daswani holds over a dozen patents, has published dozens of technical articles, and speaks frequently at top industry events. He earned a PhD and MS in computer science from Stanford, and his career journey started with earning a BS in computer science with honors and distinction from Columbia University.





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.

Pavan Kushwaha is a visionary entrepreneur and cybersecurity expert with over a decade of experience in building world-class security solutions. As the founder and CEO of both Threatcop and Kratikal, Pavan has pioneered people-centric security and advanced simulation technologies. His leadership has driven both organizations to the forefront of the industry, focusing on the intersection of human behavior, automated risk detection, and agentic AI security. He is a frequent speaker at global security summits and is dedicated to fostering the next generation of cybersecurity talent.



Poonam Dhillon is the Technology and Security Programs Liaison at Blackhawk Network, where she facilitates the operational and strategic alignment for the Office of the CISO and CIO. In her role as a Board Director for the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) SFO Chapter, she coordinates regional cybersecurity programming focused on education and cross-functional collaboration. With 16 years of experience in organizational development and business improvement, Dhillon converts technical roadmaps into structured security culture initiatives. As a certified NLP Business Coach, she applies Neuro-Linguistic Programming to improve communication and align enterprise security objectives with the human-centric values of the organization.

Poorna Rajaraman, CISSP and CISM, is a Senior Security Architect at Cisco Systems with over 15 years of experience in security architecture and digital transformation. She specializes in building and implementing comprehensive AI governance and Technology Risk Management programs across enterprise-scale environments. Poorna focuses on developing secure-by-design solutions, automating regulatory compliance for GDPR and CCPA, and architecting robust security controls within CI/CD infrastructures. She has extensive experience in scaling security operations and streamlining privacy risk reviews using automation tools and cloud-native platforms like AWS and Salesforce.





Radek Urban, CISSP, is an information security architect scaling resilient business infrastructure. He directs cross-functional compliance, audit readiness, and risk-based programs. Career highlights include managing multi-million-dollar budgets and leading incident response for high-stakes Biopharma and MSP sectors. Radek establishes security governance, manages cyclical audits, and implements vulnerability management programs to meet rigorous global standards.

Rajiv Kapoor, CISA, CRISC, is a senior technology and cyber risk leader specializing in strengthening enterprise risk programs and delivering regulatory remediation. With 20+ years of experience across JPMorgan Chase and BNP Paribas, he builds sustainable foundations to eliminate repeat audit findings and restore regulator confidence. He excels at diagnosing root causes of control failures, translating complex landscapes into actionable governance. His expertise spans first-line execution and second-line oversight across TPRM, GRC, and business resiliency. Currently at Lena Advisory, he partners with C-suite leadership to transform underperforming programs into proactive, value-driven risk management operations.



Robin is a founding architect of GRC and cloud cybersecurity, transforming security postures and driving organizational resilience. As the former CISO of a multi-billion dollar, NASDAQ-listed healthcare enterprise, she directed security for a national footprint. Currently CEO of EnterpriseGRC Solutions, she operates at the inception of emerging standards, specifically Zero Trust and AI Governance. She implements complex integrated enterprise platforms, ensuring security programs are fit for purpose and aligned with business objectives. Robin holds CISSP, CISA, CGEIT, and CRISC-NA certifications and is a pioneer in virtualization security. She leads the ISC2 East Bay chapter and contributes to Cloud Security Alliance projects. She also provides voluntary security support to social, charitable, and educational programs, including local high schools and colleges.

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.





Rohit Valia is the CEO and Founder of Tumeryk.com, an enterprise AI security pioneer. His vast domain expertise spans fintech, cloud computing, AI/ML, and analytics. He has held leadership positions at FICO, IBM, Oracle, and Sun Microsystems. He led development of the first software firewall (SunScreen Firewall), launched the world's first pay-per-use infrastructure-as-a-service solution (Sun Grid), led Product Management for the first Java 2EE certified application servers. He drove the successful transformation of the leading financial services AI/ML platform at FICO by crafting strategies to offer real-time SLAs for billions of financial transactions in the cloud.

Ron Herardian has a 20-year track record of success in enterprise software as a founder, investor, board member and advisor serving in multiple engineering, consulting and CxO roles. In his last role, Mr. Herardian was responsible for operations including DevOps and InfoSec, including SOC 2 and GDPR compliance. Ron Herardian has a 20-year track record of success in enterprise software as a founder, investor, board member and advisor serving in multiple engineering, consulting and CxO roles. In his last role, he was responsible for operations including DevOps and InfoSec, including SOC 2 and GDPR compliance. He worked for IBM Lotus, Cisco and Oracle in the past, is a graduate of Stanford University, a member of IEEE and a Senior Member of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). He is a speaker at conferences and events, as well as a published author who has co-authored a book and written many whitepapers and articles.



Ryan de Temple is the Deputy Associate Program Lead at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), where he drives cybersecurity strategy and operational execution across complex, high-stakes environments. With deep expertise spanning enterprise security architecture, endpoint protection, GRC, and large-scale infrastructure operations, he leads multidisciplinary engineering teams focused on resilience, risk reduction, and mission assurance. Ryan is known for building high-performing technical teams, operationalizing security at scale, and aligning cybersecurity investments with measurable risk and cost outcomes. His experience spans national security (DOE, DoD), enterprise environments, and high-growth organizations, where he has consistently translated complex technical challenges into strategic, executable programs. He holds a Master of Science in Cybersecurity and is CISSP certified.

Sarbani Banerjee Mulchandani is the President and Executive Director of Kids Teach Tech (KTT), a youth lead organization where youth create and teach programs in technology for underserved youth. Our youth lead in person classes and camps teach skills often not learned until college or even graduate school; and include beginning to advanced AI & machine learning, drone building & flying, robotics, website development, mobile app development, 3D Design & Printing, game coding and more. Sarbani has an Engineering Degree from University of California, Berkeley, and prior to KTT spent over 20 years in the tech industry starting in Technology and Strategy Consulting and finishing by running Oracle Applications Strategic Partnerships Globally at Oracle.





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.

Scott Alford is a cybersecurity leader and educator focused on advancing national resilience and offensive security workforce development. As a Senior Cybersecurity Advisor with CISA, he collaborates with critical infrastructure partners across industry and government to strengthen operational security and incident preparedness. He also serves as a lecturer at San José State University, where he teaches advanced cybersecurity labs and mentors students competing in national cyber competitions. (We will see Scott tomorrow.)



Sunny Allen is the Founder and CEO of Who Technologies and a privacy professional specializing in encrypted protocols. As the founder of BirdCalls.is, she developed an end-to-end encrypted video platform featuring advanced screenshot blocking and minimal-knowledge infrastructure. Sunny previously served as the Principal Investigator for BioMONSTAAAR, a DARPA-funded venture focused on democratizing space technology through open-source bioreactors. Her leadership history includes serving as CEO of Sternidae Industries and Partner at LCFTA. A former volunteer at BioCurious, she holds a B.A. from the University of Kentucky and studied Biochemistry at the University of Louisville.



Sean Cordero, Chief AI Security Officer @ Cyera, is a distinguished Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and innovator, holding certifications including CISSP, CRISC, and CISM. His career highlights include transforming information security systems for Fortune 100 companies and developing high impact security strategies. He notably boosted revenue from a Fortune 5 client by 70% through programmatic risk management and reduced operating expenses by 25% through vendor renegotiation. Sean's leadership extends to recognized thought leadership, having presented at major conferences like RSA and earning MVP Awards for Executive Advisory. His expertise drives improved risk management outcomes and strengthens enterprise security.

Shashwat Sehgal is the Founder and CEO of P0 Security, re-architecting Privileged Access Management (PAM). He specializes in automating access for the “identity explosion” within production stacks. Previously, at Splunk, he led OpenTelemetry initiatives for microservices, and at Cisco Meraki, he used ML for automated network troubleshooting. He is an IIT-Delhi and Columbia Business School graduate.





Sofia Moskalenko is a Mid Market Account Executive at Netskope, where she focuses on Security Service Edge (SSE) and SASE architecture. She secures enterprise environments by implementing cloud-native security solutions that protect data across web, SaaS, and private applications. Her background includes cybersecurity and cloud experience at CrowdStrike and Oracle. Moskalenko holds a degree in Management Information Systems and is bilingual in English and Russian.

Sonja Petri is a cybersecurity professional and Account Executive at Corelight, helping enterprise security leaders turn network data into actionable insight. With 15+ years of experience partnering with executives and technical teams, she focuses on network detection and response, hybrid visibility challenges, and evidence-driven security operations. Sonja works with defenders protecting critical infrastructure and complex enterprises, bridging technical depth with executive priorities to accelerate investigations, strengthen resilience, and improve real-world security outcomes.



Spence is the Associate Director of Information Technology at Eden Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing organization in Northern California, where he leads strategic security initiatives, incident response, and compliance oversight across the organization. With deep expertise in the Microsoft security ecosystem—including Sentinel, Defender, Purview, and Intune. He drives Zero Trust architecture and data loss prevention programs that safeguard sensitive resident data. An active ISC2 East Bay Chapter Board member serving as Secretary, Spence is committed to strengthening the Bay Area cybersecurity community. He holds a master's degree and brings a strong foundation in security governance, risk management, and cloud infrastructure



Syed Ghayur is an Application Security leader at ArmorCode, specializing in solution engineering and customer success for enterprise security platforms. He helps organizations implement exposure management strategies that unify risk across cloud, infrastructure, and developer environments. Syed partners with engineering teams to operationalize AppSec programs, prioritizing vulnerabilities and streamlining remediation. His background includes deep expertise in network and infrastructure security. He focuses on translating complex security challenges into scalable, practical solutions that enable organizations to build and operate secure software at an enterprise scale.



With over 25 years of experience across Silicon Valley and the East Bay, Steven Lai is a distinguished Information Technology and Computer Security Consultant. As a Senior Consultant at NAE Group, Steven brings deep technical expertise in enterprise network infrastructure, disaster recovery, and systems integrity. A CISSP and veteran network engineer, he holds both an MS in Computer Science and a BS in Physics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. During his tenure as Director of Technology for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter, Steven was instrumental in maintaining the chapter's digital infrastructure and advancing its mission of professional security excellence.



Stephen Xu is a Lead Security Researcher and Offensive AI expert. As Co-Founder of Veria Labs, he builds autonomous red-teaming agents that continuously test software for critical vulnerabilities. A competitive hacker by background, Stephen specializes in finding the logic flaws that static analysis tools miss—recently uncovering zero-day RCE exploits in major AI platforms.

Stephen Rogers is a bad golfer and an Account Executive at GDT, where he focuses on expanding client bases and nurturing stakeholder relationships. A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, his current leadership in the San Francisco Bay Area enterprise sales market builds on a career including roles at Trace3, Insight, and Zones, LLC. His history features tenure as District Sales Manager at SHI International, Director of Sales at FusionStorm, and Sales Manager at SYNEX. Stephen holds a B.S. in Business Administration from California State University-Chico and maintains certifications as an NVIDIA AI Advisor and Tines Partner Sales specialist.



Varun Prasad is a managing director at 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 security, privacy, cloud, and AI assurance requirements. Varun is an IT audit and risk management professional with 15+ years of progressive experience gained through various roles for Big4 firms and world-leading corporations across multiple geographies. He has managed and executed a variety of IT audit-based projects from end to end. He has provided various IT audit and assurance services, such as SOC 1/SOC 2 examinations, ISO 27001/42001/22301 audits, cybersecurity assessments, SOX testing, and privacy reviews. Varun is the VP of the ISACA SF chapter and part of ISACA's IT Audit and Assurance Task Force.





Tolgay Kizilelma, Ph.D., is a business-driven IT/Cybersecurity GRC leader and trusted partner with three decades of experience in education, healthcare, and government. He is the founding Director of the MS in Cybersecurity program and an Associate Professor in the Barowsky School of Business at Dominican University of California. Tolgay previously served as CISO for multiple University of California campuses. Earlier, he managed U.S. IT operations for a leading national fuel systems integrator. He holds over 50 industry certifications, a B.S. in computer engineering, an MBA, and a Ph.D. focused on information security. He also volunteers as a board member for non-profits and frequently presents at conferences. His community contributions were recognized with the 2022 C100 Award for Top 100 CISOs.

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.



Karey Willms is the Senior Field Marketing Manager at Netskope, where she has led regional marketing strategy and execution since 2019. Her tenure at Netskope focuses on building and measuring demand-generating programs, managing high-pressure marketing deliverables, and maintaining brand consistency across social and email channels. Previously, she served as the North American Storage Lead at Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), a role she transitioned into following the Nimble Storage merger. Her expertise includes expert channel management, Salesforce-driven ROI reporting, and negotiating competitive sponsorship agreements for major industry conferences.

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. (You'll have to see Victor on Friday!)





Nelia Lanets is the GRC Director at Pocket Security and an IT Project Management Specialist at Stanford University, where she leads enterprise-wide system upgrades, compliance programs, and SaaS integrations. Specializing in the intersection of project management and cybersecurity, she conducts risk assessments using NIST CSF and 800-53 frameworks. Nelia holds a Master's in International Economics and a Master's in Educational Counseling. Her technical credentials include CompTIA Security+, CSM, and ITIL v4, with a CISSP in progress. She is proficient in Python, SQL, and cloud security across Google Cloud and Microsoft Azure environments.

Varun Kumar Vellanki is a Cloud Engineering leader and Azure Solutions Architect Expert currently driving infrastructure modernization at Gap Inc. He specializes in Infrastructure as Code (IaC) and DevOps automation, managing large-scale environments using Docker, Jenkins, and Chef. At Gap, he leverages extensive expertise in Azure Resource Manager (ARM) templates and hybrid cloud virtualization to streamline CI/CD pipelines. With a background spanning Red Hat Linux, VMware ESX, and Oracle Cloud, Varun integrates advanced monitoring via Splunk and New Relic to ensure high-availability retail operations.



Information Security executive with 25+ years of IT and cybersecurity leadership experience, specializing in building and scaling security programs from the ground up. Proven track record leading global teams and 24/7 SOC operations, reducing incidents by 75% through advanced threat detection, phishing prevention, and workforce training. Directed \$3.5M+ enterprise security initiatives across cloud and on-prem environments, deploying SIEM, EDR, firewalls, and vulnerability management solutions. Trusted advisor to Fortune 500 and high-growth companies, aligning security strategy with business goals while maintaining 100% customer retention. Expert in incident response, compliance, threat modeling, and secure development practices. CISSP, CISA, and CCSP certified leader.

Cory Brown is a Solutions Engineer at Torq, where he delivers hyper-automated security operations and tailored technical solutions that align with customer-specific goals. A veteran of the San Francisco cybersecurity ecosystem, he currently serves as the Director of Programs for the (ISC)² East Bay Chapter. His deep expertise in value-driven selling and technical architecture is backed by previous senior roles at BreachRx, Armis, and CyberArk. Cory is a specialist in Identity Governance, Data Classification, and OpenTelemetry, focusing on building strategic partnerships that bridge the gap between complex security tooling and organizational privacy compliance.





Nishant Sharma is a seasoned cybersecurity professional with deep expertise in threat research, browser security and hands-on technical training. He currently serves as Director, Threat Research at Zscaler and was previously the Head of Cybersecurity Research at SquareX (acquired by Zscaler). With over a decade in cybersecurity education and research, he has held leadership roles including VP Labs R&D at INE.com and Head of R&D at Pentester Academy, where he led the development of thousands of hands-on labs spanning host, network, and cloud security across AWS, GCP, and Azure. These labs have been used by learners in over 125 countries worldwide. Nishant is a frequent presenter at DEF CON, Black Hat, and OWASP events, and has delivered 10+ trainings, 15+ conference talks, and authored 9+ open-source security tools.

Mark Tanis is the President of California Business Technology (CBT), providing IT managed services, CRM, and ERP solutions for organizations with 5 to 100 employees. His career includes managing information systems and programs for Lockheed Martin, Aerojet, and various medical device manufacturers. Beyond his technical work, Mark is the President of the Pleasanton Rotary. He holds an M.S. in Nuclear Engineering, an MBA, and an M.S. in Applied Computer Science. He previously served as a Lead Faculty Chair at the University of Phoenix, instructing courses on business technology.



Trish is a cybersecurity professional with over 22 years of experience helping Fortune 500 companies and government agencies detect adversaries and strengthen their defenses. She has led incident response and security engineering initiatives at organizations including Twitter, Uber, AppOmni, and Abbott Laboratories, and previously consulted with Deloitte and Unisys. Trish began her career as a software engineer at IBM. She holds a CISSP and the GCTI (Cyber Threat Intelligence) certification, recently completed SANS 595 (Applied Data Science and AI) and SANS 660 (Advanced Penetration Testing), and is currently finalizing her GCFA certification while contributing to the cybersecurity community through research, education, and her work as a Northern California Ambassador for Women's Cyberjutsu.



Jim Danforth is the Director of Sponsorship for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter. He transitioned a career in Systems Administration, IT Consulting, and Corporate IT Security into a specialized cybersecurity focus, earning a Bachelor's in Cybersecurity from the SANS Technology Institute. His technical expertise is backed by the GSEC, GISF, GFACT, and MCSA certifications. Jim utilizes Cyber Writing and Speaking to manage chapter partnerships and advocate for security best practices.



Manny Thinakaran is a technology professional with experience supporting enterprise systems and improving how organizations manage and protect their digital environments. At Ingenio, he works on strengthening system access processes and analyzing operational data to help teams maintain reliable and secure platforms. He enjoys solving complex problems, understanding how systems interact, and identifying practical ways to improve efficiency and stability. Manny values collaboration, continuous learning, and thoughtful problem solving in fast-moving technology environments. Outside of work, he enjoys learning new ideas, connecting with people from diverse backgrounds, and contributing to communities that encourage growth, shared knowledge, and meaningful connections.



Valarie Freitas works at the intersection of regulatory requirements and operational reality — helping organizations translate complex obligations into practical governance and risk management decisions. Her work has focused on building governance and risk visibility within regulated environments, including establishing escalation pathways, implementing risk review processes, and operationalizing controls alongside infrastructure and engineering teams. She has supported regulatory readiness aligned with NIST SP 800-171 and CMMC Level 2, developing traceability between policy, controls, and audit evidence. She also contributes to the OWASP AI Bill of Materials (AIBOM) policy workstream, focusing on mapping regulatory obligations to evidence and traceability artifacts for AI assurance.



Derek Pizzagone, Chief Information Security Officer | Technology & Security Executive | U.S. Navy Veteran, is an accomplished technology and security executive with over 25 years of IT experience, including 15+ years leading enterprise-wide information security programs across healthcare, finance, and technology sectors. As a former Chief Information Security Officer, he has built and transformed security and IT teams, implemented scalable cloud and on-premise infrastructure, and guided organizations through complex risk, compliance, and governance challenges. Derek is passionate about mentoring high-performing teams, driving operational excellence, and fostering innovative approaches to cybersecurity. A U.S. Navy veteran, he brings a disciplined, strategic mindset to every initiative and is dedicated to advancing the field of information security.





Krishnan Thiruvengadam is a Senior Product Manager at Cisco specializing in Identity, Zero Trust, and Posture. He leads product strategy for the Identity Services Engine (ISE) and TrustSec portfolios. He is a CISSP-certified expert with 21 years of experience in solution architecture and infrastructure scalability. He integrates AI/ML for endpoint analytics and spoof detection. Krishnan is a past board member for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter. Ask Krishnan about his children. He's got a lot to be proud of.

Kasi Gupta is an Information Security Manager at HP Enterprise with over 20 years of experience in GRC and technical security operations. He holds a Master's in Cybersecurity from Georgia Institute of Technology and is an ISO 27001 Lead Auditor. Kasi leads initiatives in Attack Surface Management, Cyber Threat Intelligence, and Third-Party Risk Management. His technical expertise includes SOC2, CMMC, and SAP application security monitoring via Onapsis. He manages complex compliance frameworks and risk remediations utilizing tools such as Netskope, Bitsight, and Upguard.



Balaji V, Principal Architect at PG&E, is a veteran technology leader with over 20 years of experience in cloud architecture, cybersecurity, automation, and emerging AI platforms. As part of PG&E's Cloud Center of Excellence, he architects enterprise AWS and Azure landing zones and leads the adoption of Infrastructure as Code (IaC) and Policy as Code frameworks. He also works on integrating AI-driven solutions and platform automation to accelerate engineering productivity and operational intelligence. His career includes leadership roles at Cognizant and over a decade at Cisco Systems as a Senior Manager and Technical Lead. An expert in Terraform, AWS, and Azure, Balaji specializes in building automated CI/CD platforms that improve security, governance, and delivery speed. He holds an electronics engineering degree with distinction from the University of Madras.



Rizwan Ashraf is a compliance and governance leader dedicated to building scalable, ethical frameworks that align with regulatory and social responsibility goals. He leads the FoodHC Governance Program for Social Responsibility, collaborating with nonprofits, civic leaders, and industry partners to create secure, community-centered food distribution models. Rizwan's expertise spans fintech, healthcare, and nonprofit sectors, where he designs risk-based compliance systems and deploys automation to enhance operational efficiency. His approach centers on measurable impact, equity, and compassionate leadership, making him a driving force in advancing secure, socially responsible technology and governance.





Jing Zhang-Lee is an Enterprise Security Architect at Gilead Sciences, bringing 17+ years of expertise in IAM, governance, risk, and compliance. As a former ISC2 Board Director of Education, she significantly enhanced student involvement in our chapter through lasting scholarship and fundraising initiatives. Her expertise spans strategic planning, digital identity transformation, and security architecture, demonstrated by her certifications, including CISSP and CCSP. Jing is a founding member and past board of director for the ISC2 East Bay Chapter.

Stephane Lefrere serves as a seasoned Tech executive and advisor. He leverages a deep background in platform engineering and open-source ecosystems to help businesses experiment with private AI capabilities and streamline software development. Stephane's mission is to align business agility goals with cutting-edge automation technologies, guiding organizations through AI platform Adoption, Trust and Governance necessary to achieve rapid, safe and sustainable scaling.



Chandrasekhar Das is a Principal AI Architect specializing in Cloud Security, Generative AI, and enterprise-scale cloud platforms, with more than 19 years of experience leading complex digital transformation initiatives. He has architected secure AI and cloud solutions for global organizations including Google, Wells Fargo, Verizon, and Broadcom, helping enterprises modernize infrastructure, deploy Generative AI responsibly, and strengthen cybersecurity posture. Chandrasekhar is recognized for designing secure AI architectures, implementing LLM guardrails, and enabling enterprise adoption of platforms such as Google Cloud, Vertex AI, and large-scale data ecosystems to deliver scalable, resilient, and secure AI-driven solutions

Kimberly Harbin is a cybersecurity leader with extensive experience building and leading security and compliance programs for regulated cloud environments. She currently leads FedRAMP and GovRAMP security operations at Fortinet, overseeing teams responsible for security monitoring, incident response, site reliability engineering, and network operations while maintaining alignment with NIST 800-53. Her career spans more than a decade in enterprise security, audit, and governance, including leadership roles at SAP's SuccessFactors cloud platform. She has worked across regulatory regimes including PCI DSS, GLBA, NYDFS 23 NYCRR 500, and SOC reporting, translating regulatory requirements into practical security operations.





Seyma Atik-Holmes, CISSP, C-CISO, C-EH, C-HFI, C-REA, is a Bay Area IT & Technology leader who works in the intersection of cybersecurity, AI, and high reliability engineering. With a background in 5-9s engineering, information security, data protection, and corporate forensics, she is always interested in understanding how emerging technologies & future trends reshape risk. Outside of work she recharges in low-tech things: reading books, spending time around horses & other animals, nature, listening to informative, fun podcasts that make chores bearable, and close circuit of friends.

Joseph Izzo, MD, is an emergency physician and addiction medicine specialist serving as Chief Medical Information Officer at a public teaching hospital in California's Central Valley. His work focuses on the intersection of clinical care, digital health, and clinical cybersecurity, reframing healthcare cybersecurity through the lens of patient safety. Dr. Izzo leads initiatives in innovation, AI governance, clinical informatics, and data infrastructure while continuing active clinical practice. He speaks nationally on the realities of securing healthcare delivery and the growing role of clinicians in cybersecurity leadership and will be speaking at the upcoming RSA Conference on the topic of bedside cybersecurity.



Lubomir Petrov is an Application Security Architect at Salesforce, based in Walnut Creek. He began his career as a software engineer with a focus on databases before transitioning into application security. He specializes in building secure software at scale and bridging software engineering with security practices to create resilient systems. His interests include exploring how machine learning and AI can solve complex security challenges and helping teams integrate security into the development lifecycle from the ground up. Fun Fact: Lubomir won the ISC2 East Bay Coders Hackathon

Alice Shaff is the Co-Founder & CEO of G8R Security. The G8R Security engineering team is developing a product for AI governance that helps companies use AI securely while protecting their intellectual property. Alice has 15 years of experience working for Google Cloud and Cybersecurity startups. She recently earned a certificate in AI governance from a prestigious program at UCSF Law.



We hope this memento helps you to connect, restore, and enjoy your time together. We have many “late bloomers” who missed the cutoff to post a bio in the paper book. I have done my best to add them to the digital version.

We could not provide this experience without the generosity of Las Positas College. Please give thanks to our student volunteers and consider donating to the LPC Foundation.

Thank you, on behalf of everyone involved in our conference committee and the ISC2 East Bay Chapter Board.



President, Conference Chair, Robin Basham



Director Sponsorship, Jim Danforth



Vice President, Director Communications, Cyrus Haghighi



Director Programs, Abhishek Neelakanata



Treasurer, Irwin Cheng



Director Marketing, Evan Tsai



Membership Chair, Nachiket Deshpande



Director Outreach, Dennis Esselsagoe



Secretary, Spence Gordon



Director Awareness and Education, Nancy Mate'



Director Technology, Brian Payne



Director Careers, Radek Urban



Director Operations, Karl Schneider



Director Hospitality, Dawn Ona



Please become a sustaining sponsor and member at
<https://app.joinit.com/o/isc2-east-bay/members>



EAST BAY



Charitable giving funds food and materials given out to our students and members. Donations enable increased program offerings. Please consider making a tax-exempt donation today.

<https://app.joinit.com/o/isc2-east-bay/donate>



EAST BAY



ISC2 East Bay Chapter is incorporated as a nonprofit public benefit corporation within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). It is registered with the Secretary of State of California and is not organized for the private gain of any person. The organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN) issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is 47-1242819.