
BENJAMIN KNAUSS

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CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER

Enterprise Chief Information Security Officer & Strategic Technology Executive with 20+ years of experience engineering cyber resilience, driving cloud transformation, and securing high-growth digital ecosystems. Trusted advisor to Board Audit Committees and C-suite executives, specializing in zero-trust architecture, AI risk governance, and regulatory compliance (NIST, SOC2, GDPR). Proven track record leading global security organizations (50+ headcount) and optimizing multimillion-dollar security portfolios across Fortune 500 and high-scale enterprise environments (News Corp, AWS, Realtor.com).

CORE SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

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| ▪ Enterprise Risk Governance | ▪ Multi-Cloud Architecture & Transformation | ▪ Board & Regulatory Relations |
| ▪ Capital & Operational Budget Oversight | ▪ Information Security Governance | ▪ Identity and Access Management (IAM) |
| ▪ AI Risk & Governance | | ▪ Strategic Planning |
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SELECTED CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Built the enterprise **Vulnerability & Exposure Management** program from the ground up — drafting and gaining executive buy-in on a company-wide patching policy, standing up a dedicated program team, and building a reporting system to track ~40M vulnerabilities across the environment. Eliminated 100% of critical vulnerabilities (5,000+ → 0) in year one, followed by a 10% reduction in non-critical vulnerabilities in year two.
 - Reduced phishing and BEC incidents by nearly 70% YoY by architecting and deploying an enterprise **Email Security** program across 2B+ annual emails, significantly shrinking the organization's attack surface for its highest-volume threat vector.
 - Reduced cloud security incidents by 40%+ by architecting a unified **Cloud Security** program across AWS, Azure, and GCP: standardizing logging, configuration, and controls, and automating compliance checks to achieve and maintain NIST and SOC 2 compliance.
 - Built a **Cyber Security Consulting** team providing tactical and strategic support to BISOs across 9 business units, reducing time-to-remediation for critical and high vulnerabilities from months to days.
 - Solved a long-standing blind spot in **security tool coverage** (the organization had never been able to answer what tools were deployed where) by deploying a CAASM platform (Axonius), achieving first-ever visibility into an 8% gap in tool coverage and closing it.
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AMAZON WEB SERVICES | Seattle, WA

2025 to Present

Security Consultant, Government and Financial Sector

Help customers develop strategic plans for enterprise security in both the IT and OT space. Manage key relationships, plant seeds for future engagement, solve big problems.

NEWS CORP | New York, NY

2019 to 2025

Vice President, Security Engineering

Direct real-time asset visibility and continuous risk assessment by directing cross-functional teams specializing in security architecture, identity governance, asset management, access control, and data security. Deliver a standardized asset inventory and continuous security baseline monitoring system by aligning enterprise practices with NIST ID.AM and PR.IP controls. Influence enterprise cybersecurity strategy and governance by collaborating with C-suite executives across international subsidiaries, ensuring alignment with regulatory and risk management goals. Elevate cloud and on-premise data protection capabilities by creating and enforcing security architecture standards aligned with NIST PR.DS guidelines.

- **Global Security Operations Leadership:** Led 50-member international security engineering team in executing NIST CSF Identify and Protect functions, significantly improving enterprise-wide cybersecurity maturity.
- **Cost Optimization:** Optimized global cybersecurity OPEX by 20% across multi-subsidiary environments through strategic vendor consolidation and pricing renegotiations, reallocating capital to automated threat intelligence.
- **Cybersecurity Center of Excellence:** Established a CoE in India to provide 24/7 threat monitoring, rapid incident response, and regional regulatory compliance, expanding global cybersecurity coverage.

- **Team Development & Scaling:** Built and scaled high-performing Cloud Security and Cybersecurity Consulting teams from the ground up, driving both enterprise initiatives and client advisory engagements.
- **Vendor Strategy & Engagement:** Advanced protective technologies by aligning vendor capabilities with enterprise security architecture needs, enhancing alignment with NIST PR.PT.

REALTOR.COM | Santa Clara, CA

2015 to 2019

Cloud Security Architect

Championed the transition to zero-trust architecture and embedded security-first principles into cloud design, driving cultural and operational transformation across engineering teams. Advised C-suite executives on cloud security direction by driving cross-functional governance programs and aligning strategic objectives with cyber risk posture. Enabled SOC2, PCI, and GDPR compliance across cloud environments by establishing a standardized security baseline and continuously aligning controls with regulatory requirements. Introduced deep expertise in AWS, Azure, and GCP to architect scalable, compliant, and resilient security infrastructures across a fast-moving digital ecosystem.

- Headed enterprise-wide cloud security architecture at Realtor.com by designing and implementing a robust framework spanning 100+ AWS accounts, enabling scalable protection for billions of monthly transactions.
- Delivered a unified multi-cloud security strategy, covering AWS, Azure, and GCP by orchestrating governance frameworks and aligning with business risk profiles and compliance goals.
- Elevated cloud governance by leading adoption of a comprehensive security toolchain, including Okta for identity, CloudCustodian for policy enforcement, and CloudHealth for cost and compliance management.
- Drove secure digital transformation by integrating cloud security into platform engineering workflows, supporting a real estate platform with 100M+ monthly users.

AMAZON WEB SERVICES | Seattle, WA

2014 to 2015

Principal Solutions Architect

Governed architecture and compliance programs for critical DevOps and cloud integrations serving AWS's largest clients. Liaised closely with C-suite leaders at major technology firms to influence product roadmaps and drive successful outcomes.

- Delivered enterprise transformation by advising Fortune 500 technology partners on strategic initiatives.

EARLY CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

CSC | Global

2013 to 2014

Principal Cloud Architect

AVALARA | BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA

2008 to 2013

Director, DevOps & IT

PortalPlayer | Kirkland, WA

2001 to 2002

Firmware Delivery Manager

AT&T / NCR / Teradata | Los Angeles, CA

1991 to 2000

Principal Architect & Systems Consultant

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

ISC2 | Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), 2024

CLOUD SECURITY ALLIANCE | Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge V4 (CCSK), 2024

AMAZON WEB SERVICES (AWS) | Certified Solution Architect, 2015

PUBLICATIONS / MEMBERSHIPS

Protecting the Enterprise from Deepfakes | Author

The CISO's Guide to Enterprise AI Security | Author

The CISO's Guide to Deepfake Defense | Author

The CISO's Guide to Myanmar | Author

A CISO's Guide to Negotiating Compensation | Author

OWASP Foundation | Member since 2024

Information Security Leadership Foundation | Member since 2025