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# BENJAMIN KNAUSS

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## CIO, CISO, CTO

A forward-thinking technology executive with deep expertise in both enterprise architecture (CTO) and information security (CISO), leading global teams of 200+ across 4 continents with \$100M+ budgets. Proven ability to build greenfield organizations from scratch and scale/secure complex enterprise infrastructures. Expert in driving digital transformation, architecting secure multi-cloud solutions (AWS, Azure, GCP), and establishing robust risk and compliance frameworks that translate complex technical challenges into business-aligned strategy.

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### CORE SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

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Executive Leadership	Cybersecurity Strategy & Operations	Technical & Cloud Proficiencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Technical Leadership</li><li>▪ Strategic Vision</li><li>▪ Greenfield Strategy &amp; Program Build</li><li>▪ Team Leadership</li><li>▪ Business Acumen</li><li>▪ M&amp;A Due Diligence</li><li>▪ Board/Stakeholder Communication</li><li>▪ Operational Management</li><li>▪ Vendor Relations</li><li>▪ Product Understanding</li><li>▪ Scalability Planning</li><li>▪ Information Technology</li><li>▪ Operational Technology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Cybersecurity Strategy &amp; Leadership</li><li>▪ Risk Management</li><li>▪ Privacy Governance</li><li>▪ Information Security Governance</li><li>▪ Incident Response &amp; Disaster Recovery</li><li>▪ Security Operations &amp; Threat Intelligence</li><li>▪ Supply Chain Security (SBOM, SLSA)</li><li>▪ Governance, Risk &amp; Compliance (GRC)</li><li>▪ CCPA / GDPR / GLBA / HIPAA</li><li>▪ ISO 27001 / ISO 27017 / ISO 27018</li><li>▪ NIST / PCI DSS / SOC2 / SOX</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ AI/ML Security</li><li>▪ CASB, CSPM, SSPM, DSPM</li><li>▪ Cloud Architecture</li><li>▪ Cloud Security</li><li>▪ Container Security</li><li>▪ Data Protection/Encryption</li><li>▪ DevSecOps</li><li>▪ Endpoint Detection &amp; Response (EDR)</li><li>▪ Identity &amp; Access (IAM, PAM)</li><li>▪ MITRE ATT&amp;CK Framework</li><li>▪ Mobile Device Management (MDM)</li><li>▪ SAST/DAST, CI/CD</li><li>▪ Security Architecture</li><li>▪ Vulnerability Management</li><li>▪ Zero Trust Architecture</li></ul>

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### SELECTED CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- Designed keynote demonstrations for Bill Gates, by crafting and designing on-stage experiences during 2000 - 2001, elevating product visibility & innovation storytelling.
- Established a new Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CoE) in India from scratch, scaling to 30 team members supporting 25,000 employees.
- Translated complex technical risks into strategic executive decisions, driving modernization of legacy systems and securing \$10M+ budget approvals from C-suite stakeholders.
- Drove a global cost optimization initiative by influencing CrowdStrike to unify its pricing model for cloud and on-prem licenses, resulting in up to 35% cost savings for customers worldwide.
- Reduced security incidents by over 40% over 24 months through designing comprehensive multi-cloud security strategies across AWS, Azure, and GCP, ensuring strict compliance with NIST, GDPR, and SOC 2 standards.
- Engineered enterprise-wide cybersecurity improvements by leading the rollout of Proofpoint's email security platform, effectively neutralizing malware, spam, BEC, and EFD threats across 2+ billion emails annually.
- Lead firmware development for the first generation Apple iPod, collaborating with Steve Jobs, Tony Fadell and other visionaries.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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NEWS CORP | NEW YORK, NY

Mar 2019 to Aug 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:** Negotiated a 20% reduction in cybersecurity tooling vendor costs, reallocating budget savings to enhance threat detection and automation initiatives without compromising the security posture.
- **Identity Governance:** Strengthened enterprise access controls and reduced identity-related risks by deploying a robust identity governance framework in line with NIST PR.AC.
- **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

Nov 2015 to Feb 2019

### **Principal Cloud Engineer & 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.
- 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

Sep 2014 to Sep 2015

### **Principal Solutions Architect**

*Advised Fortune 500 C-suite leaders on enterprise-wide cloud transformation (CIO), DevOps strategy (CTO), and compliance programs*

COMPUTER SCIENCES CORPORATION (now DXC Technology) | TYSONS, VA

Sep 2013 to Oct 2014

### **Principal Cloud Architect**

*Advised C-suite leaders at F500 enterprises (Best Buy, Staples, Swisscom) on digital transformation (CIO/CTO), architecting the secure enterprise standards and cloud governance frameworks to accelerate their secure cloud adoption.*

AVALARA | BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA

Jan 2008 to Feb 2013

### **Director, Development Operations & IT / Principal Software Architect**

PORTAL PLAYER | KIRKLAND, WA

Jan 2001 to Oct 2001

### **Firmware Engineering Manager**

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## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

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**CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROFESSIONAL (CISSP)** | *ISC<sup>2</sup>, 2024*

**CERTIFICATE OF CLOUD SECURITY KNOWLEDGE V4** | *Cloud Security Alliance, 2024*

**AWS CERTIFIED SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT** | *Amazon Web Services, 2025*

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## PUBLICATIONS / MEMBERSHIPS

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[The CISO's Guide to Enterprise AI Security](#), 2025

[The CISO's Guide to Deepfake Defense](#), 2025

[The CISO's Guide to Negotiating Compensation](#), 2025

**OWASP Foundation** | *Lifetime Member*

**BECAUSE FOR HOPE** | *Member of the Board of Directors, Aug 2016 to Present*

**INFORMATION SECURITY LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION** | *Member since June 2025 to Present*