

InfoSec 2001 – A Career Odyssey

The Professional Development workshop is a half-day program that is designed to inspire the Black Hat attendee to think about their career as an information security professional and assist them in their journey towards the achievement of their long term career goals.

The Professional Development workshop will be divided into five (5) unique information security career topics that will be linked by a common theme – Skill Development and Differentiation.

The program will consist of the following:

- 1) “The Value of Information Security Certifications Survey” – Research Revealed – 1350 information security professionals responded to an independent survey on the topic – the research will be revealed
- 2) “Second Place Sucks” – A presentation geared toward differentiating yourself from your peers (and your competition)
- 3) The Information Security Leader of The Future” - a presentation that will outline the skills that employers are looking for when identifying and selecting their information security leaders.
- 4) “The Other Side of The Desk” – a panel that will explore the different attitudes and beliefs by job applicant and employer during the interview process
- 5) “Future Predictions” and “Career Advice Tuesday- Live” - Future trends will be discussed and explored – and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about infosec related career topics

The workshop is designed as an interactive forum that should inspire some shared thought and debate between audience members and the presenters.

Attendees should understand that they can elect to either participate in the entire workshop, or to pick and choose from select sessions that have a particular interest to them.

Session Previews:

Session 1 - 1:45 – 3:00

“The Value of Information Security Certifications Survey”

Presenters - Mike Murray and Lee Kushner – Infosecleaders.com

In February of 2011, Infosecleaders.com launched an independent survey on the value of information security certifications. The value of InfoSec certifications is a highly debated topic in the industry, and this is the first independent survey that asks questions to information security professionals (certified or not) – their opinions on topics that include – the motivations for certifications, the impression of the certification bodies, the value of skills vs. certifications, and certifications effect on employment. With over 1350 respondents, the results should be revealing and eye-opening.

Second Place Sucks -

Presenter – Mike Murray

So, if certifications are no longer the magic bullet to get you to your career goals, then what is. The topic of strategic career investments and personal branding will be the focus of this presentation. The presentation will be spent on how you can plan and execute on career investment strategies that will enable you to differentiate from your peers and successfully compete for promotions and external information security leadership opportunities.

(15 minute break)

Session 2 - 3:15 – 4:45PM

3:15 – 3:45PM

“The Information Security Leader of the Future” –

Presenter – Lee Kushner

The skills for information security leaders are changing quite rapidly. As many companies are aligning information security with their core business and branding, information security professionals will need to evolve as well. The presentation will break down the core skill components of what information security professional will need to acquire and demonstrate to be considered for leadership roles in the future.

3:45PM – 4:45PM

The Other Side of the Desk – Different Perspectives on the Interview Process

Moderator – Mike Murray

Candidate Perspective – Lee Kushner

***Hiring Managers Perspective – Bill Phelps, Executive Director Accenture
Justin Somaini, CISO at Yahoo!***

Abstract:

There are two parties involved in every interview process, the information security professional (the applicant) and the hiring manager (the decision maker). While in essence, both parties ultimately desire the same outcome, their motivations lie in different places. This portion of the presentation will present to the audience the perspective of the candidate and the perspective of the hiring manager, in a way that will educate both parties and enable them to social engineer the interview process, to work to their personal advantage.

Bill Phelps:

Bill Phelps is an Executive Director in Accenture's security practice, and has spent the past 25 years in technology services. In the past decade, Bill has been a practice leader, company founder, board member and trusted advisor helping organizations with complex management and technology challenges in the areas of information security, data center transformation and technology strategy. Bill currently has overall responsibility for Accenture's security business in North America. Bill is aggressively growing Accenture's security team, and plans to hire over security 200 professionals in the coming year.

Justin Somaini:

Justin Somaini is the Chief Information Security Officer at Yahoo! where he's responsible for all aspects of Yahoo!'s Information Security strategy. With over 15 years of Information Security experience he's seen as a leader in industry by promoting an evolution of the security and risk management models. Through his public speaking and industry involvement he's given extensive talks and interviews on the threat landscape, public policy, security management and risk management. Prior to joining Yahoo!, Justin was the CISO at Symantec. Justin has also held security leadership roles at VeriSign, Charles Schwab and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

4:45 – 6:00PM

Predictions for the Future and Career Advice Tuesday – “Live”

Presenters – Lee Kushner and Mike Murray

The employment market is dramatically changing – and the closing session will begin with information security employment predictions (based on experience and research) for the next ten years. Once completed, this will be followed by a version of “Career Advice Tuesday” – “Live”. All attendees can have their personal information security career questions answered in an open forum. Topics will include skill development, compensation negotiation, career investments, career planning, and anything else you want to ask about your Information Security Career.