

# Brian Sniffen

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## Recent Employment

### FELLOW, Akamai Technologies

2008–

Apply technical expertise to advance the mission of the company. In practice, this means two jobs: one as an individual contributor like the other Akamai Fellows, one supervising a group that peers to Engineering and Product departments run by vps. Let's break those out:

### CHIEF SECURITY ARCHITECT, Akamai

- Expertise: Both directly and by fostering growth in technical depth in others, be a font of technical expertise. Be a trusted advisor for Akamai's executives.
- Influence: Persuade Engineering and Product vps to prioritize security improvements and pay down on technical debt. Use the boundaries of the mandatory incident & ESV processes as terrain to drive voluntary improvements.
- Oracle: See the future of tech and technical businesses that will affect Akamai, and change that future as appropriate. Engage with standards bodies, build relationships with peers across industry and academy, and inform execs of coming risks.
- Safety: Set Akamai's incident response, train first responders, and engage directly with crises. Answer the phone when the FBI needs help in minutes. Also incident exec, handle NSLs and ECPA orders, and supervise a process that annually produces a first-class problem.
- Cryptography: Centralized crypto and specialized security engineering, leading re-investment in cryptographic excellence after a period of benign neglect.

### VICE PRESIDENT, System Safety & Resilience, Akamai

- Debt Reduction: Technical leadership of the "severe vulnerability" process, a board-supervised, CEO-managed investment in serious technical debts across the company. Twelve of the top twenty actionable debts are mitigated or better, since 2013.
- Product & Platform Architecture: security architecture team reviewing new products, including bringing that team from CMM1 work coordination by e-mails and a chat system to CMM3 publication of professional reviews that have become the go-to resource for a technical overview across the company. Now 80% through a transition to CMM4 "EZPath" system that brings review & analysis capability into product groups.
- Compliance: Healed a broken and burned out team. An extraordinarily high-functioning team in 2006 had suffered from scaling and personnel problems by 2010. It moved under my supervision. After two years of intense training, motivation, and re-organization, we had mature processes for assessments against PCI-DSS, HIPAA/HITRUST, ISO 27002, Sarbanes-Oxley, and FedRAMP. I hired a new Director of Compliance, brought him to speed, promoted him to a peer, and spun off a high-functioning Compliance team.
- Management: Greatly exceeded norms for employee retention, development of talent, and diversity & inclusion.

### LEAD RESEARCHER, Secure Technology Solutions, MITRE Corporation

2003–2008

Designed and implemented a variety of security tools and programs for government sponsors, managed teams of up to 10 people on tasks of up to 4 full-time equivalents. Coordinated with remote contributors and sponsors while anticipating sponsor's future and inarticulable needs. Principal technical reference for trusted computing technology (TPMs). Typical projects were briefed to IC GS-15s. Publications are at <https://www.evenmere.org/~bts/#papers>

### SECURITY ENGINEER, Systems Engineering, Akamai Technologies

2000–2002

## Selected Skills & Conversation Topics

legend: ●superior, ●current, ●rusty, ●nascent/lapsed

comms ●writing, ●editing, ●teaching, ●speaking  
management ●influence, ●walking around, ●one on ones, ●listening, ●remote  
business ●systems engineering, ●process design, ●risk management  
●technical compliance, ●foresight, ●standards bodies

topics ●board games, ●amateur radio, ●modernist cooking,  
●cognition, ●conflict, ●planetary scale computing

authors R. Coram, J. Boyd, A. Grove, N. Leveson, V. Rao, R. Cialdini, D. Pink

## Selected Talks & Publications

- Akamai Faster Forward: Crypto at Scale, invited talk at CRYPTO 2016
  - TLS 1.3: Internet Crypto For the Next Decade, Affinity 2018
- For more, see <https://evenmere.org/~bts/#papers> and <https://evenmere.org/~bts/#talks>.

## Education

### SCIENTIAE BACCALAUREUS, Computer Science and Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2000

Plus continuing coursework on modern cryptography, mostly from Silvio Micali. Thesis: *Trust Economies in the Free Haven Project*, which informed early decisions in the Tor privacy-protecting network system.