Brian Sniffen

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Recent Employment

Chief Architect & Senior Director, Information Security, *Akamai Technologies*　　2008–present

Hired to implement "Plan B," a vision of a research-based backstop to a traditional network-admin security team. By 2010, delivered results sufficient to replace the traditional team with an applied research team. We've hired for a long-term view and (typically) a background outside IT security—emphasizing fields with a strong Safety Engineering culture (Chem. Eng., Aero-Astro), or an adversarial focus (e.g., veterans). In 2016, that team is responsible for:

- Safety: Set Akamai's incident response, train first responders, and engage directly with crises. We did the work in 2012 and 2013 that let Akamai survive 2014 (Heartbleed, Shellshock, etc.) without trauma.
- Cryptography: Centralized crypto and specialized security engineering, leading re-investment in cryptographic excellence after a period of benign neglect.
- 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.
- Compliance: Healing a broken and burned out team. Company myth says we had push-button ISO 17799 assessments in 2006, but this had rotted by 2010. After two years of intense training, motivation, and re-organization, we have mature processes for assessments against PCI-DSS, HIPAA/HITRUST, ISO 27002, Sarbanes-Oxley, and FedRAMP. SOC2 is underway.

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). Publications are at `http://www.evenmere.org/~bts/#papers`

Security Engineer, Systems Engineering, *Akamai Technologies*　　2000–2002

Selected Skills & Conversation Topics

legend　:current, ·rusty, ·nascent/lapsed

comms	:writing, :editing, :teaching, :speaking
management	:walking around, :one on ones, :listening, ·remote
languages	:Haskell, :Python, :OCaml, :C, ·C++, ·Objective C, ·Scheme, ·Java, ·PHP, :Perl, :Bash, :LaTeX
natural languages	:American English, ·Latin, ·Greek (Attic, Koine), ·Hebrew
web tech	:XML, :HTML, ·CSS, :SQL, :JS, :DNS, :HTTP, :TLS, ·SMTP, ·Persona
tools	:git, ·p4, :GNU Make, :autotools, :CPSA, :Alloy, :Emacs, ·vi
network	:IPv4, :IPv6, :TCP, ·UDP
topics	:board games, :amateur radio, :modernist cooking, :cognition, :conflict, :planetary scale computing
authors	R. Coram, J. Boyd, A. Grove, N. Leveson, V. Rao

Patents

- Appraising systems with zero knowledge proofs; US 8422683 B2, US 8750520 B2
- Registry of modular services and a method for automatically selecting an appropriate service to provide particular logical guarantees; US 8300788 B2
- Attestation architecture and system; US 9276905 B2

Selected Talks & Publications

See `https://evenmere.org/~bts/#papers` and `https://evenmere.org/~bts/#talks`.

Education

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science and Engineering, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*　　2000

Plus continuing coursework on modern cryptography, mostly from Silvio Micali. A thesis on *Trust Economies in the Free Haven Project* is available at `http://web.mit.edu/brians/www/thesis.pdf`.