

# Brian Sniffen

8 Haskell St.  
Lexington, MA 02420

401-239-2006 (voicemail)  
857-413-7560 (cell)

bts@evenmere.org  
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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, **ensure progress on security initiatives**, 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 **design and implement the process** that responds to and reduces risks to our customers.
- Sales: **Collaborate with sales** to handle objections from customer security teams—both indirectly, through an operational “SecSales” team, and directly through EBCs with security-sensitive customers. My sales colleagues will tell you I pay for my whole team with the deals I contribute to closing.
- 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. Twenty-five major vulnerabilities have been significantly mitigated 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 up 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 inarticulate 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

## 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

- 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.