

# RSA® Conference 2022

San Francisco & Digital | June 6 – 9

SESSION ID: PROF-W01

## Security Leadership: Influence without Authority

**Sarah Currey**

Senior Security Consultant

AWS

LinkedIn: Sarah-Currey

# TRANSFORM



# Disclaimer

Presentations are intended for educational purposes only and do not replace independent professional judgment. Statements of fact and opinions expressed are those of the presenters individually and, unless expressly stated to the contrary, are not the opinion or position of RSA Conference LLC or any other co-sponsors. RSA Conference does not endorse or approve, and assumes no responsibility for, the content, accuracy or completeness of the information presented.

Attendees should note that sessions may be audio- or video-recorded and may be published in various media, including print, audio and video formats without further notice. The presentation template and any media capture are subject to copyright protection.

©2022 RSA Conference LLC or its affiliates. The RSA Conference logo and other trademarks are proprietary. All rights reserved.

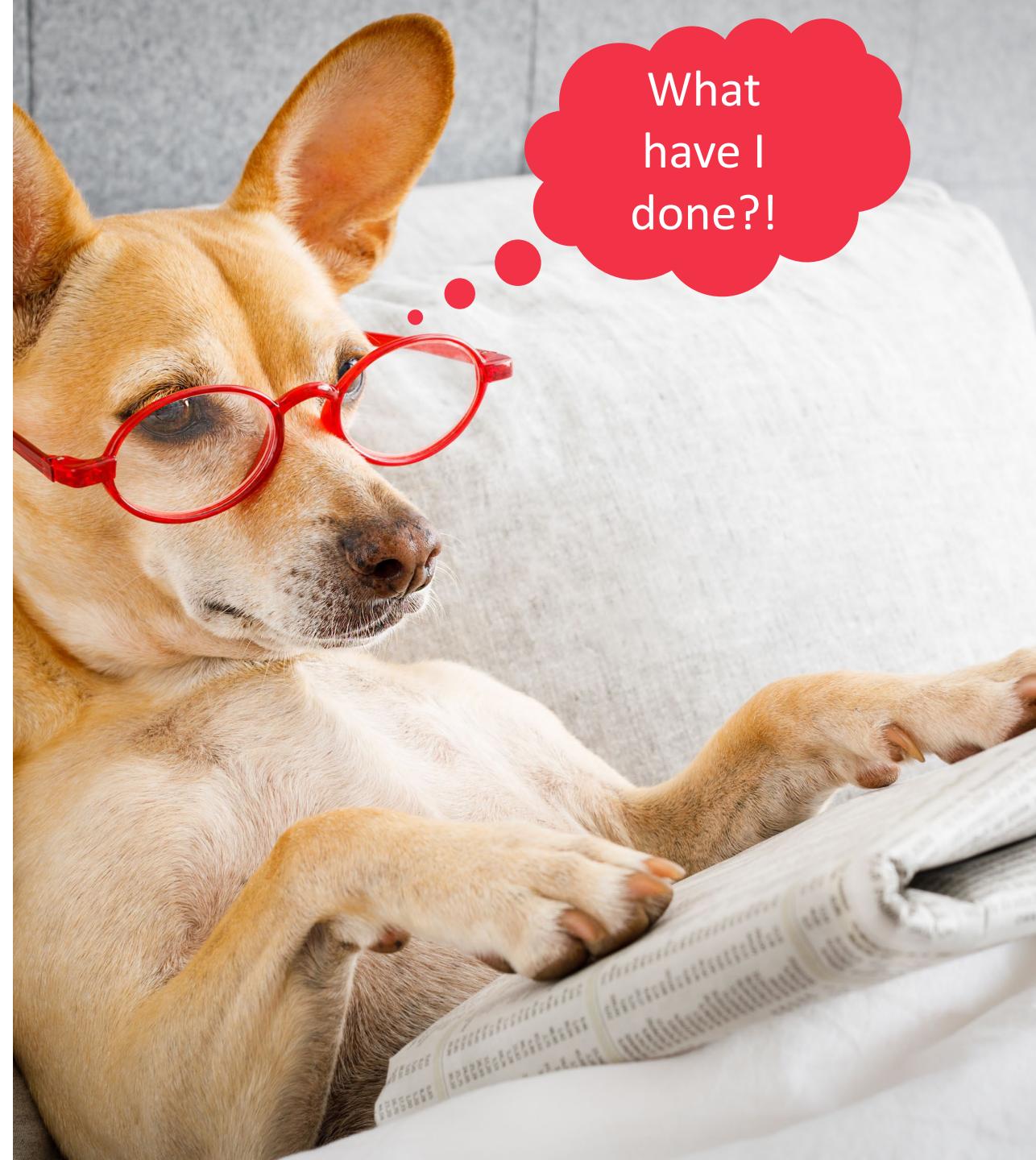
# Let's talk about failure



## Sarah's Story



# Sarah's Story



# RSA® Conference 2022

**Have you seen an issue at a company you've worked for and didn't speak up because of your tenure or lack of seniority?**



# Let's learn how to....

- Create a culture that encourages escalation
- Be self-driven for security challenges
- Reduce risk with automated workflows
- Sharpen soft skills to gain trust

# Lesson # 1: Security is job 0



# Lesson # 1: Security is job 0

- Security affects everyone in an organization – think about different perspectives
- Ensure everyone in your organization has security training that is easy to understand
- Make it easy to report
- Never label someone as non-technical enough to understand

## Lesson # 2: Create escalation paths

- “It takes a village” mentality
- Create clear, concise, easy to find documentation on how and when to escalate
- Set time limits
- Clarify the boundaries and channels of decision-making



## Lesson # 2: Improve your escalation culture

- Encourage escalation for the greater good
- Dive deep and document learnings
- Create actions to prevent event in the future
- Take ownership but escalate with strong judgement when things are not in your control





Be Approachable

**Do you have an established cybersecurity  
escalation path within your organization?**



# Food for thought

Scenario:

- You are a Security engineer at a company that must meet industry compliance standards.
- Your team is working with sensitive customer information
- You realize that one of the Amazon S3 buckets does not have encryption enabled.
- What do you do?



# Lesson # 3: Automate, automate, automate!



# Lesson # 3: Automate, automate, automate!

- Track manual tasks and assess what can be automated
- Security scanning tools should be implemented to quickly find vulnerabilities prior to code releases as well as remediating non-compliant resources
- Warning – peer review still recommended!



# Lesson # 4: Lead with data



## Lesson # 4: Lead with data

- Represent data and information transparently
- Capture and analyze events from logs and metrics to gain visibility
- Get feedback from customers
- Take action!



# Lesson # 5: Establish Authority through Trust



# Lesson # 5: Establish Authority through Trust

- Use your security expertise
- Build positive working relationships with coworkers
- Use your working knowledge of the organization
- Show eagerness to help



# RSA® Conference 2022

What's your favorite way to gain trust with coworkers?



# Sarah's Story



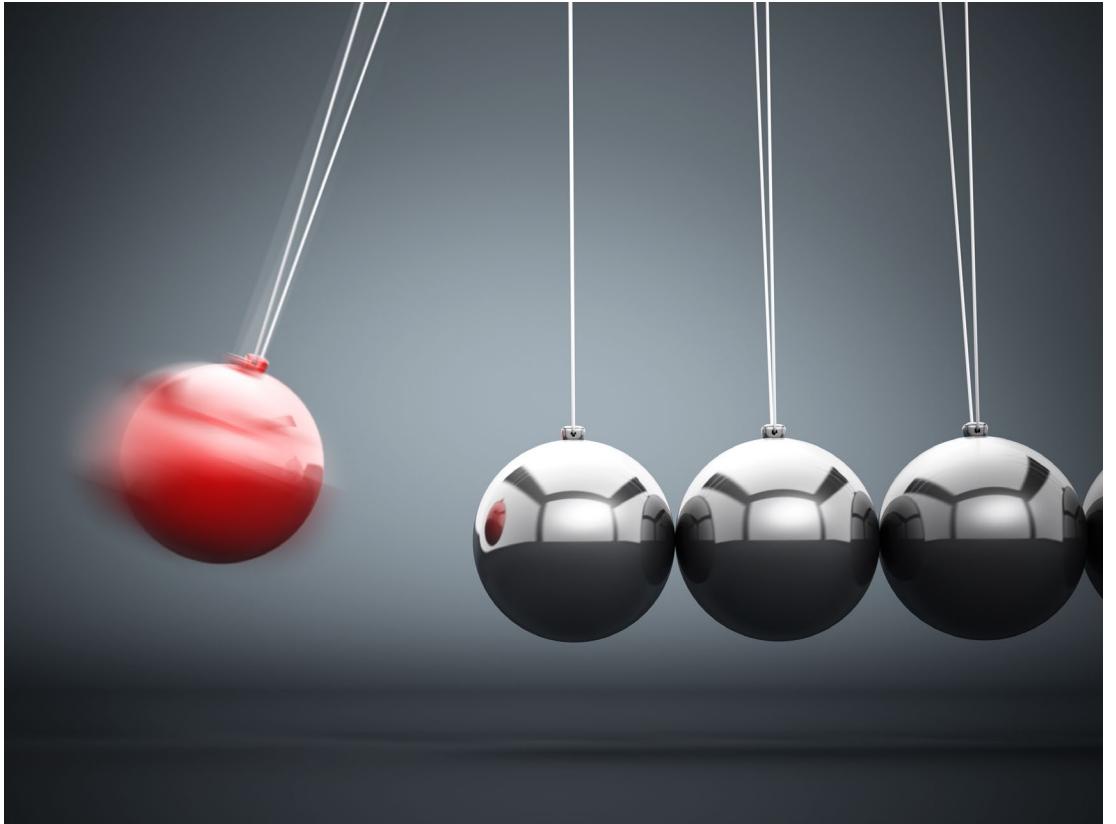
# Key Takeaways

- Be self-driven for security challenges
- Create a culture that encourages escalation and has an established path
- Utilize security tooling to create automated workflows
- Build your case with data
- Earn trust with your customers and internal stakeholders



# Apply your learnings!

- Establish or improve the security escalation path
- Deploy security scanning and automation to reduce human error
- Pull your security findings report to identify any gaps
- Take a small step to build trust with a coworker



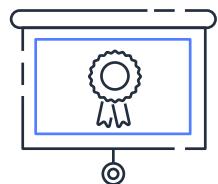
**What's the first Call to Action item on your list to accomplish?**



# Apply What You Have Learned Today

- Next week you should:
  - Identify the escalation path within your organization and 1-2 improvements
- In the first three months following this presentation you should:
  - Host a Lunch & Learn to help coworkers understand how security applies to their business outcomes
  - Collect data from logs to identify gaps in your security mitigations
- Within six months you should:
  - Work with stakeholders to earn trust and add security scanning into your deployment pipeline
  - Drive an implementation project to add automation to repetitive security tasks

# Learn in-demand cloud security skills



25+ free digital courses,  
including  
[Deep Dive with Security: AWS](#)



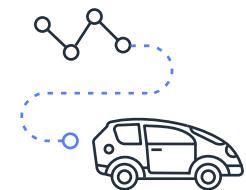
Hands-on classroom training  
(available virtually) including  
[Security Engineering on AWS](#)



Take a training  
today on  
security



Earn an industry-recognized  
credential  
[AWS Certified Security – Specialty](#)



Create a self-paced learning road map  
[AWS Ramp-Up Guide](#)



Learn more about  
security training  
options for you and  
your team

# RSA® Conference 2022

## Thank you for attending!

Sarah Currey

LinkedIn: Sarah-Currey

