

Khürt Williams

Lead Cybersecurity Architect (VP) · CISSP, CCSP, ISSAP

Princeton, New Jersey, United States · Remote

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I design security architectures for regulated environments — cloud-native, Zero Trust, AI governance — where the cost of getting it wrong is measured in regulatory sanctions and reputational damage, not just technical debt. My foundation is engineering: full-stack development, systems administration, and custom security tooling built before today's security frameworks existed. For the past decade my focus has been financial services — banks, payment systems, and regulated platforms — where security architecture has to satisfy regulators, survive audits, and still let the product move.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Cybersecurity Architect / Vice President

Dec 2024 – Present

M&T Bank · Princeton, NJ

- Enterprise-scale security architecture strategy across cloud and regulated financial platforms, aligning business objectives with regulatory and risk requirements
- Partner with Cybersecurity, Engineering, and Technology teams to integrate security into SDLC, DevOps, and Agile environments
- Cloud security through Infrastructure as Code and automation; Zero Trust, IAM, and secure CI/CD pipeline standards
- Regulatory alignment across SOX, FFIEC, and NIST frameworks; threat modelling and continuous evaluation of emerging risk

Security Solutions Architect

Jan 2024 – Dec 2024

TEKsystems — Client: M&T Bank · Buffalo, NY

- Security architecture assessments, threat modelling, and risk assessment for on-premises and cloud applications
- Evaluated risk to information assets against industry standards and regulatory requirements

Principal Security Consultant

Apr 2013 – Dec 2024 (11y 9m)

Monkey Hill Consulting, LLC · Princeton, NJ

Independent security architecture practice. Senior security architecture, risk assessment, and compliance leadership for financial services, fintech, and government clients. Every engagement principal-led — no junior staff, no subcontractors.

Senior Security Architect — Client: Santander Holdings USA, Boston, MA · Jan 2021 – May 2023

- Led a remote team of senior security architects across the US and Mexico
- Security assessments spanning hardware, applications, networks, and data systems
- Frameworks and policy work aligned to GDPR, ISO 27001, FINRA, FFIEC, NYDFS, and SOX
- Reported directly to the Director of Information Security

Senior Security Architect — Client: CLS Group, Inc., New York, NY · Apr 2018 – Dec 2020

- Designed secure information systems against unauthorised access and breach
- Built an internal security controls framework drawing on NIST CSF, COBIT, and CIS Critical Security Controls
- Reviewed architecture diagrams and vendor SOC 2 Type II / ISO 27001 documentation

Senior Security Specialist — Client: State of New Jersey Courts, Trenton, NJ · May 2013 – May 2018

- Led the redesign of application security architecture for online payments to achieve PCI DSS compliance

- Scope expanded beyond the original PCI DSS mandate into broader security policy work, partnering directly with the Director of Security
- Authored security hardening standards for Linux and Windows
- Reorganised the vulnerability management programme — built the triage process between the scanning tool and application/server teams, and wrote the vulnerability programme guidelines
- Created the incident response programme from scratch; ran Secure SDLC training and incident-readiness tabletop exercises
- Established separation of duties between teams
- Guided the organisation through PCI DSS audits to successful certification

Senior Security Architect

Oct 2023 – Jan 2024

ConsultNet Technology Services and Solutions — Client: S&P Dow Jones Indices · New York, NY

- In-depth reviews of on-premises applications against corporate security policy and regulatory requirements
- Threat models anticipating attack vectors, prioritised by business impact

Senior Security Advisor

Apr 2003 – Apr 2013 (10y 1m)

Bristol Myers Squibb · Princeton, NJ

A hybrid role: technical management with no direct staff, combined with hands-on analyst and engineering work.

- Strategic and technical leadership for BMS's enterprise information security programme in a global, regulated environment
- Served as Vulnerability Manager — inherited EVA (Enterprise Vulnerability Assessment) from a predecessor: a Perl/CGI scanning tool built on Nmap and Nessus, running on Solaris with a PostgreSQL backend
- Designed EVA's database access model so only the Solaris host itself could reach the PostgreSQL backend — isolation enforced at the data layer, not just the network
- Renamed and enhanced EVA with a JavaScript/AJAX interface and LDAP-based IAM integration, later refactoring it to PHP
- Built EDEM (Enterprise Detection and Monitoring), a custom web-based vulnerability scanner, from scratch (Perl, CGI, JavaScript, MySQL) — designed and normalised the full database schema and data model
- Built a CMDB compliance application for risk assessment
- Stood up Snort for intrusion detection and deployed an enterprise SIEM; when that project was shelved, built a Bash/Perl log collection and indexing pipeline so the forensics team could search effectively
- Served on the Incident Response team during active breaches and enterprise-level operational issues that impacted security
- Created an AWS account in 2008 and wrote an early whitepaper in 2010 on PKI and digital signatures for DRM (internal document, unpublished)
- Policy and governance work aligned to HIPAA, SOX, and FDA requirements; IAM initiatives and security awareness training

Full-Stack Web Developer & IT Systems Consultant

Jan 2000 – Apr 2003

Williams Interactive, Inc. · Princeton, NJ

Clients: Johnson & Johnson, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Merrill Lynch, Prudential Securities, State Street Bank, Oki Business Solutions

- Full-stack web applications — Linux, Apache, Perl, PHP, JavaScript, HTML — built and secured on UNIX/Linux (Solaris, BSD) servers
- Designed and normalised the database schema for an online training platform built in PHP and JavaScript (2001–2002)
- ETL workflows and enterprise data integration; automation via Perl and shell scripting

Web Application Developer

Sep 1998 – Jan 2000

The Computer Merchant, LTD — Client: Johnson & Johnson · New Brunswick, NJ

- Perl CGI scripting for press release publishing and an online job-posting/application system

Web Developer

Sep 1997 – Sep 1998

Bloomberg News · Princeton, NJ

- Perl CGI for dynamic content, form processing, and server-side logic on Bloomberg's Energy desk
- Independently designed and built a server-side templating system and templating language — predating widely adopted templating frameworks

Associate, Member Technical Staff

May 1995 – Sep 1997

Sarnoff Corporation · Princeton, NJ

- C programming for very-low-bit-rate video encoding — videophone and early MPEG-4 applications

EDUCATION

- **MSE, Electrical Engineering: Systems** (Concentration: Information Theory) — University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School
- **BE, Electrical and Electronics Engineering** — Georgia Institute of Technology
- **BA, Physics** — Drew University
- **GCE O-Level and A-Level Certificates** (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, English Literature, Biology, History, French) — St. Vincent Grammar School
- **Secondary Education** (General Sciences and Mathematics) — St. Joseph's Academy, Antigua

CERTIFICATIONS

- **CISSP** — Certified Information Systems Security Professional (ISC2) — certified since 2004, current cycle to Oct 2028
- **CCSP** — Certified Cloud Security Professional (ISC2) — certified since 2021, current cycle to Sep 2027
- **ISSAP** — Information Systems Security Architecture Professional (ISC2) — current cycle to Oct 2028
- **AWS Certified AI Practitioner** (Early Adopter) — issued Dec 2024, valid to Dec 2027
- **AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner** — issued Apr 2024, valid to Apr 2027
- **ITIL v3** — Information Technology Infrastructure Library

PUBLICATIONS & WRITING

- "Essential WordPress Security Tips for Securing Your Website on a New Linux Server" — Island in the Net
- "Ed25519 Keys for SSH" — Island in the Net
- "Security Review Philosophy: Collaboration Over Compliance" — Island in the Net
- Writing on security, technology, and the open web at Island in the Net (islandinthenet.com) since 1999

HONOURS & AWARDS

- Sigma Pi Sigma — The National Physics Honor Society

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages/Stacks: Perl, PHP, JavaScript, C, Pascal, assembler, SQL, HTML

Systems: Linux, UNIX (Solaris, BSD), Windows Server, LDAP, Apache, MySQL, PostgreSQL

Security & Architecture: Zero Trust, IAM, Threat Modelling, Vulnerability Management, Incident Response, PKI, TLS, SIEM, IDS (Snort), Secure SDLC, Cloud Security (AWS)

Frameworks & Regulatory: NIST CSF, COBIT, CIS Controls, SOX, FFIEC, NYDFS, FINRA, PCI DSS, GDPR, ISO 27001, HIPAA, FDA

LANGUAGES

English (Native or Bilingual)