James Faxon

vCISO & Fractional CISO | Former Global CISO | Cybersecurity Strategy, Risk & Enterprise Transformation

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vCISO and fractional CISO providing executive-level cybersecurity leadership to organizations that need enterprise-grade security guidance without a full-time hire, backed by more than 20 years as a Global CISO leading enterprise security programs across complex industrial and global organizations. Proven record of building and operating risk-based cybersecurity programs that protect critical infrastructure, production systems, and intellectual property while preserving operational uptime, safety, and business continuity.

Experienced in translating technical threats into business risk for executive leadership and boards, guiding strategic decisions around cybersecurity investment, operational resilience, and enterprise risk management. Deep expertise spanning cybersecurity strategy, incident response leadership, crisis management, and governance of security programs across multi-site global operations.

Cybersecurity Leadership Highlights

- Global OT / ICS Cybersecurity Multi-Year Transformation: Led a $50.1M enterprise IT and OT cybersecurity transformation across a $28B global industrial organization, strengthening plant resilience and operational safety across multiple production environments.
- Enterprise Security Leadership: Built and led end-to-end cybersecurity, OT/ICS, and physical security programs supporting manufacturing, energy, mining, aerospace, and industrial operations.
- Risk-Based Governance: Translated vulnerabilities, threat intelligence, and control gaps into prioritized risk roadmaps supporting executive and board-level decision making.
- Operational Resilience & Crisis Leadership: Directed enterprise incident response, disaster recovery, and cyber crisis management, including cross-functional executive tabletop exercises protecting safety-critical operations.
- Conducted MSSP service delivery and effectiveness evaluations, assessing contract adherence and risk program impact, and guided organizations through MSSP selection to ensure actionable contracts and strong governance and reporting
- M&A Cybersecurity Leadership: Led cybersecurity due diligence, risk assessment, and integration for acquisitions up to $10B, minimizing inherited risk and accelerating secure integration.
- Global Compliance & Regulatory Oversight: Centralized enterprise compliance programs spanning NIST, ISO 27001/2, PCI, SOX, ITAR, FAR/DFARS, GDPR, HIPAA.
- Security Culture Transformation: Built enterprise security awareness programs reducing phishing susceptibility to under 3% across 35,000+ employees.
- Budget & Vendor Leadership: Directed multimillion-dollar cybersecurity budgets and global vendor ecosystems, improving program coverage while optimizing cost.

Core Expertise

- Strategy & Security Program Transformation
- Cyber Risk Management & Risk Governance
- Incident Response & Crisis Leadership
- Operational Resilience & Business Continuity
- OT / ICS Security & Industrial Control Environments
- Security Operations & Threat Intelligence Programs
- Strategy Regulatory Compliance & Security Frameworks (NIST, ISO 27001, PCI, HIPAA)
- Security Metrics, Reporting & Risk Communication
- C-Suite & Board Cyber Risk Advisory
- M&A Cybersecurity Due Diligence & Integration
- Vendor Strategy, Security Technology & Strategic Partnerships
- Security Program Governance, Policies & Standards
- Global Security Team Leadership & Workforce Development

Professional Experience

Risk & Insight Group and OnAtlas, San Antonio, TX Mar 2026 – Present

FOUNDER

Risk & Insight Group is a San Antonio-based cybersecurity advisory firm delivering vCISO, fractional CISO, and strategic security leadership.

- Led security program development and governance aligned to NIST CSF across startup, manufacturing, and tribal nation environments.
- Provided virtual CISO and fractional security leadership to organizations requiring executive-level guidance without a full-time hire.
- Designed and assessed security operations capabilities and maturity across multiple client environments.
- Developed third-party and vendor risk management programs for regulated industries.
- Led network segmentation strategy and implementation engagements.
- Facilitated incident response planning, tabletop exercises, and regulatory compliance navigation.

OnAtlas (onatlas.io) is an Executive Brand Intelligence System designed and built from the ground up.

- Architected and built the platform end-to-end using Next.js 14, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS, and Supabase, deployed on Vercel.
- Designed a multi-workspace architecture enabling separate brand identities, content queues, and publishing configurations across client brands.
- Built autonomous publishing pipelines integrating LinkedIn, Instagram, Ghost, Medium, Hashnode, and Dev.to via native APIs.
- Developed a human-in-the-loop content approval workflow with batch review, auto-approve modes, and full audit trail.
- Integrated the Claude API as the AI generation and brand-voice enforcement layer, and connected Google Search Console, Bing Webmaster Tools, HeyGen, ElevenLabs, and SignWell for SEO, video, and e-signature workflows.

NukuDo, San Antonio, TX Oct 2024 – Mar 2026

Cybersecurity startup focused on developing enterprise-ready security talent through hands-on training and industry partnerships.

MANAGING DIRECTOR / CISO

- Served as executive cybersecurity advisor to client CISOs and CIOs, aligning security workforce capabilities with enterprise security operating models and risk management priorities.
- Provided strategic guidance to client organizations on cybersecurity program maturity, workforce development, and operational security capabilities.
- Shaped cyber training programs aligned with real-world enterprise and industrial security environments, ensuring associates were prepared for SOC, incident response, and security engineering roles.
- Represented the company with enterprise security leaders, industry forums, publications, media, and cybersecurity leadership communities.
- Strengthened industry partnerships across enterprises, MSSPs, and technology organizations supporting talent placement and cybersecurity program growth.
- Contributed to strategic planning and market expansion initiatives supporting revenue growth and long-term program development.

H-E-B, San Antonio, TX Mar 2023 – Oct 2024

H-E-B is one of the largest privately held retailers in the United States with $42B in revenue and more than 400+ retail locations and a workforce of 150,000 across Texas and northeastern Mexico.

MANAGING DIRECTOR, BUSINESS INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER

- Established and led H-E-B's Security Advisory program, positioning cybersecurity as a strategic business enabler while strengthening enterprise cyber resilience.
- Advised senior business and technology leaders on cybersecurity risk, guiding security strategy and investment decisions across multiple business units.
- Translated vulnerabilities and threat intelligence into business-aligned roadmaps, enabling leadership to prioritize risk mitigation and security investments.
- Developed and executed cybersecurity and risk management strategies across key business verticals including health & wellness, eCommerce, manufacturing, and supply chain.
- Implemented a consolidated risk reporting framework providing leadership with contextualized visibility into cyber risk across business units.
- Oversaw security policy governance, standards enforcement, and risk exception management across enterprise systems and technology environments.
- Led and expanded the Security Advisory team, strengthening alignment between cybersecurity strategy, digital transformation initiatives, and evolving threat landscapes.
- Partnered with Architecture, Governance, Risk & Assurance, Cyber Fusion Center, and Digital Technology leadership to enhance enterprise security program maturity.

Henderson Fabrication, Houston, TX Oct 2021 – Mar 2024

Privately held manufacturing company producing structural steel components for commercial, infrastructure, and industrial construction projects across southern Texas.

BOARD ADVISOR / FRACTIONAL CEO

- Provided strategic and operational guidance as part-time board advisor and fractional CEO, supporting leadership decisions that increased annual revenue by 17% over two years.
- Advised on market expansion strategy, supporting the leadership team in securing major contracts with regional construction firms and infrastructure projects, contributing to a 15% increase in market share.
- Directed operational efficiency initiatives that reduced production costs by 8% while maintaining quality and delivery performance.
- Guided technology and process innovation efforts that improved fabrication efficiency and operational scalability.
- Advised on customer relationship and partnership strategy, supporting client satisfaction rates above 90%.

Marathon Petroleum Corporation, San Antonio, TX Feb 2020 – Nov 2021

Fortune 31 integrated downstream energy company operating the nation's largest refining system and a nationwide network of retail fuel and convenience locations.

HEAD OF CYBER OPERATIONS

- Led enterprise cybersecurity operations including the Security Operations Center, Threat Intelligence, Threat Hunting, Red/Purple Team, Vulnerability Management, Monitoring & Detection, Cyber Forensics, and Incident Response.
- Directed the enterprise threat management program, integrating threat intelligence, MITRE ATT&CK–based threat modeling, and hypothesis-driven threat hunting to strengthen detection and response capabilities.
- Developed and executed an 18-month strategy to establish a “Cyber Fusion Center,” integrating advanced security capabilities including SOAR, user behavior analytics, and machine learning–driven detection.
- Established incident response and security monitoring strategy for cloud platforms including Microsoft 365, Azure, and AWS.
- Led cross-functional initiative to build Marathon Petroleum's first Insider Threat program in collaboration with HR, Legal, Physical Security, IT, and Cybersecurity teams.
- Developed risk quantification models used to prioritize vulnerability remediation and guide enterprise security investment decisions.
- Managed $19M operating and $4M capital cybersecurity budgets while driving more than $2M in cost optimization.

Newmont Goldcorp Mining Corporation, Denver, CO 2015 – 2019

World's leading gold company with $28B in reserves and market capitalization, a global workforce of 31,000, and operations across North and South America, Australia, and Africa.

GROUP EXECUTIVE | GLOBAL CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER

- Established and led the enterprise cybersecurity program for a global mining organization, defining strategy, architecture, and a multi-year roadmap spanning risk management, incident response, threat intelligence, supplier risk, and compliance.
- Led a $50.1M global cybersecurity transformation program securing IT and industrial control environments across all operating sites.
- Provided regular cybersecurity risk briefings to the C-Suite and Board of Directors, including enterprise risk posture, threat landscape, and program performance.
- Established enterprise cyber crisis response program and led cross-functional tabletop exercises across global operations.
- Built and mentored the enterprise security leadership team while overseeing a global security organization supported by outsourced infrastructure partners.
- Defined enterprise security architecture and protection strategy, reducing attack surface across endpoints, servers, and perimeter systems by more than 90%.
- Partnered with the Digital Transformation Office to embed cybersecurity into major technology modernization initiatives.
- Founding board member of the Metals and Mining Information Sharing Analysis Center (MM-ISAC) supporting industry threat intelligence sharing.

United Technologies Aerospace Systems (UTAS), Charlotte, NC 2014 – 2015

One of the world's largest aerospace and technology suppliers with $14B in revenue and operations across 160 sites in 26 countries.

BUSINESS UNIT INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER

Directed the cybersecurity strategy and program execution for a diverse portfolio of aerospace and technology businesses operating under the UTAS holding structure. The organization consisted of more than 20 separate companies with varying security capabilities, requiring the development of a harmonized security framework, governance model, and risk management approach across business units. Provided executive leadership with regular updates on cyber risk, program maturity, and strategic initiatives while driving alignment between corporate security standards and operational business needs.

- Led the cybersecurity program for a global aerospace business unit, advising executive leadership on cyber risk, program maturity, and security investment priorities.
- Directed an enterprise-wide cybersecurity maturity assessment across 17 domains and 63 control areas, establishing the roadmap for funded security improvements and risk reduction initiatives.
- Defined and enforced enterprise security standards across manufacturing facilities and operational environments, strengthening protection of intellectual property and operational systems.
- Revamped the vulnerability management program, reducing malware and virus incidents by 40% within six months.
- Oversaw global managed security service contracts across APAC, EMEA, and the Americas, ensuring operational coverage and vendor performance.
- Implemented security awareness and controls that reduced email-based social engineering risk by 65%.

Aviall Services, A Boeing Company, Dallas, TX 2004 – 2014

Global distributor of aerospace and defense aircraft parts with $4B in revenue and operations across 43 locations worldwide.

DIRECTOR, SECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS | DIRECTOR, GLOBAL SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE | SENIOR MANAGER, INFORMATION SECURITY

- Led global security, infrastructure, and IT operations supporting enterprise systems across 43 locations, overseeing architecture, performance, integration, and operational resilience.
- Built the company's enterprise IT security function, aligning people, policies, processes, and technologies to establish a scalable global security program.
- Directed global infrastructure and security teams including 65 IT operations professionals and contractors, supporting enterprise platforms and mission-critical operations.

- Implemented an enterprise SAP ERP infrastructure transformation, delivering a $65M program over 18 months to modernize business operations and support global growth.
- Established a centralized enterprise compliance program spanning PCI, SOX, SOC, ISO 27001, HIPAA, NIST, and export control, reducing annual compliance costs by $500K.
- Built and led an enterprise PMO to support global technology and security initiatives, improving portfolio governance, prioritization, and delivery execution.
- Deployed an ITIL-based operating model across global infrastructure and security operations to improve service delivery and operational performance.
- Developed enterprise cloud strategy and disaster recovery architecture, improving scalability, resilience, and total cost of ownership.
- Directed global physical and personnel security programs including facility access controls and surveillance systems across international locations.

A Passion for Life-Long Learning and Professional Development

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- MBA, Southern Methodist University, Cox School of Business, Dallas, TX
- BS, Computer Network Management, Denver Institute of Technology, Denver, CO
- Certified Chief Information Security Officer (C|CISO)
- Cybersecurity Oversight Certificate, National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD)
- Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP)
- Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP)
- Society for Information Management Member (SIM)
- Information Systems Security Association Member (ISSA)
- Information Systems Audit and Control Association Member (ISACA)
- Society for Information Management Regional Leadership Forum graduate
- Carnegie Mellon University Open Source Insider Threat (OSIT) information sharing group
- U.S. Department of State Overseas Security Advisory Council Member
- CISO Executive Network Roundtable Member
- AWS Cloud Practitioner Essentials