

CHRIS MARK, MBA

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Enterprise Security & Risk Strategist | Published Author | International Consultant

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Rare combination of operational executive, entrepreneur, and published thought leader with 30+ years across enterprise security, cybersecurity, payment security, predictive modelling, and active threat environments. Founded two cybersecurity companies; co-authored the CISP (2001) and PCI DSS (2005) global standards; originated the conceptual framework for P2PE and is a named inventor on one of the industry's first tokenization patents — two foundational technologies now standard across global payments. Has managed 38-person consulting practices, led Fortune 100 client escalations, run intelligence operations in active maritime threat environments, and commanded reconnaissance and sniper teams in combat. Trained 10,000+ professionals across 10 countries; published author of 6 books, hundreds of blog articles, and dozens of books. Has been on CNN, Foxnews, NPR and the Huffington times.; PhD candidate in Cybersecurity.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Enterprise Risk Management • Cybersecurity Strategy • PCI DSS • Payment Security • Physical & Maritime Security • Threat Intelligence Predictive Analytics & Modeling • Executive Leadership • Practice Management • Thought Leadership • Public Speaking • International Consulting

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Security Consultant & Author

Jul 2024 – Present

Houston, TX

- Developed quantitative predictive models and risk analytics frameworks for corporate clients across multiple industries.
- Provided high level consulting engagements in cybersecurity, PCI compliance, and enterprise risk management.
- Published multiple books and authored articles advancing thought leadership in security, risk, and emerging technology.
- Ongoing doctoral research in cybersecurity; active public speaker and media resource on security related topics.

Security Evangelist / PCI National Practice Director

Jan 2012 – Jul 2024

AT&T, Inc. | Houston, TX

- Led AT&T's national PCI practice; managed payment security, fraud prevention, and IAM services for Fortune 500 accounts. Specialized in Fortune 100 accounts.
- Delivered executive briefings, conference presentations, and thought leadership content positioning AT&T as an industry leader.
- Authored 10+ articles for AT&T Cybersecurity Blog on AI threats, deterrence theory, defense-in-depth, and cyber risk quantification.
- Trained organization members in advanced security concepts; collaborated with cross-functional teams to mitigate emerging risks.
- Key note speaker at numerous conferences including: State of Texas Security Conference, AT&T Cybersecurity Summit, Michigan Cybersecurity Summit, PCI London, and others.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Chief Intelligence Officer | The Greyside Group, Inc.
- Executive Vice President, Data Security & Compliance | ProPay, Inc. | Named inventor on one of the industry's first tokenization patents in the payment card industry.
- Founder/CEO & President | The Aegenis Group, Inc. | PCI consulting firm serving Fortune 100 merchants, banks, and processors. Was the world's first and the global PCI DSS QSA Trainer from 2007-2010.

- Global CISP/PCI DSS Trainer | Visa USA | Trained 8,000+ attendees internationally for Visa USA and Visa International (2007–2009).
- Director, Product Development (Site Data Protection) | MasterCard International | Authored internal whitepaper “Impracticable Data” conceptualizing application of DUKPT PIN encryption for whole PAN encryption — the foundational concept for P2PE. MasterCard endorsed the framework and authorized four companies for original technology design. MasterCard’s representative on PCI SSC; personally trained 1,500+ QSAs worldwide.
- Founder/QSA Partner | ATC Security (acquired by Ambiron) | Delivered 100+ PCI DSS assessments; conceptualized and launched industry’s first PCI certifications (CPISM/CPISA), certifying 400+ candidates.
- PCI Manager | Exodus Communications (acquired by Cable & Wireless/Savvis) | One of the original authors of the CISP (2001).

MILITARY SERVICE

- SEAL Officer Candidate / Basic Reconnaissance Course Training Officer | US Navy 1999–2001
- Force Reconnaissance Marine & Scout/Sniper | USMC | Combat Veteran, Operation Continue Hope, Somalia 1990–1999

Honorably discharged. 100% service-connected disability. Graduate of 10+ specialized schools. Awards include Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Achievement Medal (x2), UN Somalia Medal, and others.

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, Cybersecurity (ABD) | Capitol Technical University

Master of Business Administration | University of Maryland University College

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Magna Cum Laude / Distinguished Military Graduate | Auburn University

SELECT AUTHORED BOOKS

- *The Science of Security: Scientia Securitatis- Theory, Frameworks, and Practice*
- *The War Gods Face Has Become Indistinct: China's Unrestricted Warfare Doctrine and the War America Doesn't Know It's Fighting*
- *The Predator's Playbook: A Marine Scout/Sniper's Guide to How He Hunts — and the Detection System That's Been Trying to Keep You Safe*
- *Bayes for Beginners!: Understanding Bayes' Theorem and How to Use It in Real Life*
- *Confident, Precise, and Wrong: Architectural Defects, Sycophantic Reinforcement, Indeterminism, and the Limitations of AI*
- *Defining Security: A Hierarchical Framework for Language, Mathematical Formulation, and Security Practice*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

20+ published articles, whitepapers, and research briefs across AT&T Cybersecurity Blog, SC Magazine, The Counter Terrorist Magazine, National Review, PenTester Magazine, and others. Topics include AI threats, deterrence theory, asymmetric threats, cyber risk quantification, defense-in-depth, and maritime security. Full publication list available upon request.

MEDIA & SPEAKING

Interviewed by CNN, NPR, Fox News, and the Tomi Lahren Show. Quoted in SC Magazine, InformationWeek, American Banker, and others. Presented at 30+ conferences including State of Texas Security Conference, AT&T Cybersecurity Summit, CISO Intelligence Forum (London), PCI London, and Michigan Cybersecurity Summit.

PUBLIC SERVICE & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Co-Founder | Recon & Sniper Foundation | www.ReconSniperFoundation.org

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