

Brendan O'Connor

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Experience

Chief Technical Officer / DSS

Malice Afterthought, Inc.

2010 -

Malice Afterthought provides software and security consulting services to a range of clients, from small businesses to large corporations. Current work includes leading an international nonprofit's security efforts, including both building a multi-regulated compliance program (FERPA, HIPAA, and FedRAMP) and implementing technical defensive tools. Some highlights of past work: teaching at a Department of Defense information and network warfare (CNO) school; two DARPA Cyber Fast Track (CFT) contracts, 'Reticle: Leaderless Command and Control,' and 'NOM: Novel Object Mapping,' culminating in the CreepyDOL platform; building communication and data acquisition solutions for environmental monitoring being conducted by an academic client. Languages and tech stacks have included Ruby, Python, Perl, D3JS, UnityScript, Hadoop, Spark, and AWS, among many others.

Security Engineering Lead

Nuna Inc.

2017 - 2017

Nuna provides healthcare data analytics and warehousing to Medicare/Medicaid, insurance networks, and self-insured employers. I led the Security Engineering team, which was responsible for broadly-defined security throughout Nuna (from code, to architecture, to cross-cutting initiatives). I joined Nuna as a Senior Security Engineer, and became Security Engineering Lead in March 2017. Languages and tech stacks included AWS, R, Python, Bash, and Java; compliance stacks included SOC 2, HIPAA, and CMS ARS.

Senior Security Advisor

Leviathan Security Group

2014 - 2016

I worked as a Senior Security Advisor in Leviathan's Risk and Advisory Services group, where I advised enterprise clients on risk and compliance (GRC), security strategy, technical security, and policy, including responding to their clients' and vendors' security assessments and audits, and assisting with security questions for client engineering teams. I also took one client through a first-time SOC 2 Type II audit process, including designing internal controls, identifying necessary remediation activities before the audit period, and eventually working with the on-site audit team. In addition, I co-wrote four whitepapers on forced data localization as it affects security, available at <http://www.valueofcloudsecurity.com>. From 2014 until mid-2015, I worked as a Senior Security Consultant on Leviathan's Technical Services team. Languages spanned a wide array; compliance stacks included SOC 2, ISO 27001/2, HIPAA, CMS ARS, and PCI.

Senior Research Associate

SET Corporation

2009 - 2010

I worked as a technical lead on software projects in a variety of areas, including natural language processing and user modeling, and a project to create an augmented reality application to add real-time data and intelligence analysis to a multi-viewpoint 3D holographic display, using the iPhone 3GS as a controller. SET worked primarily for the defense and intelligence communities. Languages included Objective C, Java, Ruby, Python, and others.

Selected Presentations

Security by Consent; or, Peel's Principles of Security Operations

SecTor - Toronto, ON, Canada

October 18, 2016

O'Reilly Security New York - New York, NY November 2, 2016
O'Reilly Security Amsterdam - Amsterdam, Netherlands November 10, 2016
How to create and maintain a security operation within a larger organization that focuses on cooperation and consent, rather than coercion, based upon the 'policing by consent' model created in 1820s England.

Xenophobia is Hard on Data

SecTor - Toronto, ON, Canada October 21, 2015
With James Arlen. Examination of forced data localization laws, their nature, their origins, and their effects on confidentiality, availability, and integrity of data, as well as the cost of doing business in a global marketplace.

Endrun—Secure Digital Communications For Our Modern Dystopia

Black Hat Europe - Amsterdam, Netherlands October 17, 2014
With Grant Dobbe. Censorship-resistant communications based on the Delay-Tolerant Networking concept.

Stalking a City for Fun and Frivolity

DEF CON - Las Vegas, NV August 3, 2013
LASCON - Austin, TX October 24, 2013
Distributed sensor network data acquisition, filtering, and visualization, with several security applications. This presentation addressed the architecture and collection aspects of the CreepyDOL system, as well as the implications for global surveillance states and engineering as a profession.

CreepyDOL: Cheap, Distributed Stalking

Black Hat USA - Las Vegas, NV August 1, 2013
Distributed sensor network data acquisition, filtering, and visualization, with several security applications. This presentation addressed the architecture and collection aspects of the CreepyDOL system.

Education

Juris Doctor, Cum Laude

The University of Wisconsin - Madison September 2011 - May 2014

Master of Science in Engineering in Computer Science

The Johns Hopkins University September 2005 - May 2009

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

The Johns Hopkins University September 2004 - May 2008

Certifications & Memberships

Attorney

Washington State Bar Association, State Bar of Montana 2017-02-10, 2015-09-21

Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)

Information Systems Audit and Control Association 2016-08-12

Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK)

Cloud Security Alliance 2016-02-20

Certified Information Privacy Professional U.S. Government (CIPP/G)

International Association of Privacy Professionals 2016-01-11

Certified Information Privacy Professional U.S. Private Sector (CIPP/US)

International Association of Privacy Professionals 2015-12-14

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)

International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium (ISC(2)) 2012-07-20