

Brendan Francis O'Connor

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Experience

Enterprise Security Platform Lead

RealSelf

2018 -

RealSelf is a platform for reviews and information on aesthetic procedures, along with a marketplace in which consumers can interact with each other and with treatment providers. I run the information security program at RealSelf, which includes developing and delivering security training to employees, working with developers and SREs to design and implement security at all levels of our systems, building and running our ISO 27000-aligned information security management program, communicating with customers regarding security issues, leading security incident response efforts, working with our legal and privacy teams on vendor acquisition and management, and managing our bug bounty programs, among myriad other tasks. While RealSelf is not a highly-regulated entity, I have worked on HIPAA, PCI, GDPR, and other regulatory issues as part of ensuring that we are able to meet the changing security requirements of regulatory regimes, and ultimately, ensuring that the trust our users place in us is well-earned.

Chief Technical Officer / DSS

Malice Afterthought, Inc.

2010 -

Malice Afterthought provides information security consulting services to a range of clients, from small businesses to large corporations. Some highlights of past work: leading an international nonprofit's security efforts, including both building a multi-regulated compliance program (FERPA, HIPAA, and FedRAMP) and implementing technical defensive tools; teaching at a Department of Defense information and network warfare (CNO) school; and two successful DARPA Cyber Fast Track (CFT) contracts. 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.

Selected Presentations

Probably: an Irreverent History of the GDPR

DEF CON Crypto and Privacy Village - Las Vegas, NV

August 10, 2018

A humorous, though contentful, overview of the creation of the GDPR, what came before it, what it does, and why to embrace it.

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

SecTor - Toronto, ON, Canada

October 18, 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

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. 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