



**DAVID ANTAR**  
IP VIDEO CORPORATION



**LAWRENCE GARCIA**  
AMERIGUARD SECURITY



**JASON LUTZ**  
RESIDEO



2023  
**SECURITY  
INNOVATOR  
AWARDS**



**MICHAEL GARCIA**  
HID GLOBAL



**DANIEL OPPENHEIM**  
AFFILIATED MONITORING



**RYAN SCHONFELD**  
HIVEWATCH



**SECURITY**  
INFOWATCH.COM

**SECURITY  
BUSINESS**

The Path to Greater Profits for Security Integrators

**SECURITY**  
**TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE**





# 2023 SECURITY INNOVATOR AWARDS

## What Makes Someone an Industry Innovator?

The various stakeholders in the security industry are on the cutting edge, constantly innovating new technologies, installations, designs, procedures and more.

To honor these efforts, we have launched a new annual program, the **Security Innovator Awards**. These awards honor visionary individuals – as chosen by their peers – across the spectrum of the security industry, including integrators, consultants, end-users and manufacturers. It is focused on the people who transform, modernize or otherwise make a tangible impact on our industry as a whole.

“Innovation and advancements in technology are crucial for ensuring that new products, solutions and services can be developed, implemented and managed,” explains SecurityInfoWatch Editorial Director Steve Lasky. “The Security Innovator Awards emphasize applauding innovation and reward those individuals who demonstrate an outstanding level of excellence within our vital and constantly evolving industry.”

Through email outreach and social media, we asked everyone in the industry to nominate a deserving colleague for consideration.

We asked them to focus on a key aspect of the nominee’s innovation, for example someone who:

- devised a new or innovative way to deploy a technology solution;
- stepped up during a crisis or other emergency;
- went above and beyond to have a positive impact in the community or for our industry, such as mentoring or other community building;
- developed a new, game-changing technology, feature or standard that is poised to impact the industry;
- ...and the list goes on.

Read on to learn more about this year’s Security Innovators, and by all means, begin to keep in mind the innovative people both within your organization and those you work with outside of it to be honored with this award for 2024!

## Security Manufacturers & Service Providers

### David Antar

President, **IPVideo Corporation**  
Nominated by: Monique Merhige

David Antar has been a mission-driven leader in school and campus security for more than 30 years. With active shooter incidents on the rise, David realized this is a huge challenge for schools and developed technology to help solve the challenge. He worked diligently over the years to help make schools smarter, healthier, and safer. His firms have supported thousands of school districts and universities worldwide, making them smarter, healthier, and safer. As an expert in the field of campus security, he has frequently been recognized for his efforts in this space and is a true visionary in the security industry. He guides many universities in technology and security direction as a board member and is on the education advisory committees of multiple manufacturers and industry associations.



### Eddie Reynolds

President & CEO, **Illuminar**  
Nominated by: Justin Duyao

Eddie Reynolds has been a longtime supporter of initiatives to support the advancement and mentorship of women and minorities in the security industry. She has been instrumental in connecting the International Organization of Black Security Executives (IOBSE) with the Security Industry Association (SIA), to form a strategic collaboration and partnership to further diversity efforts in the security industry and launch initiatives to recruit new SIA members from historically black colleges.



### Daniel Oppenheim

CEO, **Affiliated Monitoring**  
Nominated by: Anthony Iannone

For more than 15 years, Daniel Oppenheim has led Affiliated Monitoring with a progressive, future-focused mindset. He has invested millions in software development and technology, broadening Affiliated’s service offerings to include services beyond traditional monitoring, such as PERS, vehicle telematics, lone worker monitoring, mobile applications, and IoT devices. Daniel has methodically invested in AI solutions for years, and as a result, Affiliated has multiple offerings that leverage a combination of commercial and proprietary AI technologies. These AI-driven tools and solutions have been recognized as some of the best in the market. This increased monitoring capability, combined with Daniel’s early adoption of AI technologies, has enabled Affiliated to thrive in the security monitoring market.



### Shikhar Shrestha

Co-Founder & CEO, **Ambient.ai**  
Nominated by: Nora Johnson

Shikhar Shrestha is committed to furthering technology that adds to the power of security without supplanting it. A holder of more than 15 international patents, his contribution to the development of security technologies is astounding for the short amount of time he has been active. This includes the launch of Ambient.ai, a company on a mission to enable intelligent environments that are safe, efficient, and sustainable with a breakthrough approach to computer vision that mimics human perception.



### David Brent

Senior Cyber and Data Security Special Instructor, **Bosch Security & Safety Systems**  
Nominated by: Anne Insero

David Brent works diligently to educate on cyber and data security. His knowledge of cyber and data security runs deep, but he is also adept at educating people on the topic in an approachable way that is understandable. Along with conducting training courses, he is often sought after to present to customers in a private setting. He is recognized as an expert in the industry, and his ISC West sessions were consistently ranked among top sessions by participants.



### Viachaslau Hrytsevich

Founder & CEO, **3dEYE Inc.**  
Nominated by: Katherine Balabanova

Viachaslau (Slava) Hrytsevich has pioneered cutting-edge computer vision technologies, including object detection, facial recognition, and others, elevating security and situational awareness for clients. Slava devised a Pure Cloud Video and AI Analytics platform to develop the 3dEYE platform. His exceptional ability to build and lead teams of developers, engineers, and security experts has been instrumental in the company’s success.





## Jason Lutz

Director Brand Ambassador Program, Industry Affairs Leader, **Resideo**  
Nominated by: Scott Harkins

Jason has built a successful career being a sales professional and he has now transitioned to hiring, training and retaining the industry's next generation of sales leadership. His woodworking talents – creating beautiful works of art from raw materials – have transferred to his security career as he continues to mold and mentor younger generations and help arm them with the tools needed for the future. He is gifted and passionate about teaching, and he has gone above and beyond in building a solid foundation for the Brand Ambassador Program. He taps into his deep experience, ranging 30+ years in the security field in different roles, from sales to payroll, from owner and seller to installer and service member. His innovative hiring practices have actively engaged customers and industry veterans to find this new talent base.



## Matthew Cinnigliaro

Regional Marketing Manager, **Bosch Security & Safety Systems**  
Nominated by: Anne Insero

Matt has a unique way of describing AI and analytics technology to make it understandable to all audiences. He breaks down the different types of analytics and explains their strengths and weaknesses. He regularly performs live demonstrations of how analytics perform "in the wild" to gauge real-world performance. He helps customers implement proof of concept installations to demonstrate the value of analytics at their sites and leverages his many years of experience as an application design engineer to educate on best practices for analytics implementation.



## Kelly Moore

School Safety Analyst, **CrisisGo**  
Nominated by: Ethan Woodman

Since retiring as a law enforcement officer and school safety coordinator, Kelly has been instrumental in educating the K-12 community for CrisisGo, ensuring our software aligns with those who participate in school safety and emergencies. He partners with those who put the safety of school children above profits, including law enforcement, fire, emergency managers, school officials, mental health professionals, and faith-based organizations.



## Tara Dunning

VP, Global Security Sales and Strategy, **Wesco**  
Nominated by: Emily Munk

Tara has enjoyed a successful career delivering transformative growth in the IT and OT industries, holding multiple sales and strategy leadership positions across global distribution, manufacturer, and service provider companies. At Wesco, the Communications & Security Solutions business increased by 12% from 2021 to 2022 under her leadership. Her IT background gives her a unique understanding of the digital space, and this knowledge and insight has led her to be a voice for the industry at large.



## Eric Roth

Director of New Technology, **Inovonics**  
Nominated by: Nikki Williams

With more than 35 years of technical leadership experience, Eric Roth sees himself as a creative technophile, taking great pride in working with teams to solve interesting problems. Eric's ability to think outside the box and consider all technical opportunities empowers our team with the creativity necessary to evolve with our customer's needs. His team leverages synergistic technologies, such as Bluetooth, with the established Inovonics EchoStream network infrastructure. Eric is able to match technology to the market need, understanding not only the importance of solutions, but also how to continue to add value without the requirement of the excessive cost involved in replacing existing infrastructure. This uniquely saves our partners time and money.



## Robert Schlegel

Director of National Control Room Sales, **Vistacom**  
Nominated by: Joshua Herring

Rob has been steadfast in continuing education for both himself and our sales staff the modern-day pain points that security operators face in command center/control room environments, as well as promising data visualization technologies. With an established track record in new business generation, fostering relationships and driving revenue, he has been instrumental in integrated solutions sales for security operations centers and emergency management.



## Grant Walter

Chairman, President & CEO, **Korelock Inc.**

Nominated by: Emilie Kelly

An innovator is someone who



can turn new knowledge and skills into a successful product or service. They identify opportunities for improvement and act on them, bringing about positive change. Grant Walter is doing that by working to deliver brand-agnostic interconnection technology, bridging any access control software with any brand of locking hardware. He has brought together the financing, technology, and people to create a company to benefit independent access control hardware and software companies.

## Manish Mehta

Chief Product Officer, **Ontic**

Nominated by: Kat Brooks

Manish Mehta is a Silicon Valley lumi-



nary who has harnessed and driven disruption in every venue of his career. Whether igniting global e-commerce at Dell, empowering social media technology to drive action and loyalty, or now, helping companies keep their executives, employees and assets safe, he has helped organizations break down the status quo and build technology that's meant to scale infinitely. His current effort is perhaps his most important – helping corporate security teams proactively mitigate threats to their business and to help keep people safe.

## Phillip Love

Technical Sales Representative, **Security Central**

Nominated by: Tyler Buchanan



Phillip is deeply committed to his work and spends countless hours assisting dealers and integrators with education and support. As someone who works closely with him, I see Phillip's passion for the industry and his commitment to helping others, and it is nothing short of inspirational. As our industry continues to grow, Phillip will make a substantial impact in helping to drive innovation. I believe he will continue to help grow not only Security Central, but the industry as a whole – through integrator education and support.



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Congratulations David Antar on Receiving the 2023 Security Innovator Award



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## Michael Garcia

National End-User Manager, K-12 Safe Schools, **HID Global**  
Nominated by: Emily Suhr

Michael Garcia has made it his life's mission to advocate for and protect students through creative problem-solving, even for schools that can't afford sophisticated solutions. Instead of positioning products as the answer, as so many have done, he realized that the mental illness and social-emotional learning aspects of violence and mass shootings are critical to school protection. Garcia positioned behavioral intervention programs as "the only thing that can actually be proven capable of preventing the next school shooting." Over more than 20 years, he has continued to spread the message of how the combination of behavioral intervention, school hardening and proper emergency response procedures can impact the proactive mitigation of school violence while at HID.



## Tony Diodato

President & CEO, **Cypress Integration Solutions**  
Nominated by: Elizabeth Lowe

Tony Diodato's success is built on innovation, adaptability, and giving. He is a true industry innovator who has solved problems for the past 40 years, a visionary mentor who teaches youth the skills and adaptability that ensures the industry's future, and a community champion who makes a positive impact in his Michigan community. In 2023, while grieving the loss of his longtime company partner and friend Paul Ahern, Tony also recognized company reorganization was imperative, and Cypress has continued to excel.



## Kevin Stoner

Senior Staff Software Engineer, **Inovonics**  
Nominated by: Nikki Williams

In life safety, response times are vital, and it is a challenge to process millions of messages through the cloud in an efficient and quick way. Kevin's team is continuing to take steps to reliably receive and send data as quickly as possible. To achieve this, multiple events and alarms are processed in parallel. Kevin's team has also created a priority-based low-latency notification pipeline architecture to improve the processing engine already in place. Kevin has spearheaded the design and microservice-based architecture to migrate existing cloud systems and leads the way with the technical development of Inovonics Cloud Services. He is one of the youngest pivotal players in our company's success, and his responsibilities have grown extremely fast. He's an exceptional and rare talent.



## Yaron Zussman

General Manager, Americas, **Magos**  
Nominated by: Nicole Palumbo

Yaron has been instrumental in attracting new people into security from other technology-minded industries, and he played a key role in my professional development for more than 10 years at both DVTel and Magos. He encouraged me to emerge from my shell and helped me recognize my skills. Yaron can see people's strengths and puts them on a path to excel. Yaron also has a volunteering spirit. He is a volunteer board member of the Foundation for Advancing Security Talent, and he also mentors for the IAC Eitanim organization, which connects Jewish Americans and Israeli-Americans with mentors.



## Nick English

CEO, North America, **Kaadas**  
Nominated by: Peter Girard

English has undertaken several programs and initiatives to ensure Kaadas meets the demands of the security and electronic/smart lock markets. His "in the trenches" approach and his prioritization of two-way communication has allowed him to forge relationships where he receives the direct feedback that has been instrumental in understanding, and thus providing, the solutions required. This has enabled Kaadas to move quickly and remain nimble to meet industry demands and exceeds industry expectations.



## Martin Renkis

Vice President, Technology **Johnson Controls**  
Nominated by: Dan Dunkel

An Inventor with 75+ granted utility patents and dozens of industry awards, Marty is driving the technologies behind the Green Energy initiatives for JCI's Smart Building and Smart Cities focus, among other technology innovations. He is an entrepreneurship master mentor at Vanderbilt University and an advisor to the Nashville Entrepreneur Center. His work continues across major security technology innovations today and into the future.



## Ryan Schonfeld

Founder & CEO, **HiveWatch**  
Nominated by: Jenna Hardie

Ryan Schonfeld's background in law enforcement, global security operations, as a security consultant, and now as Founder & CEO of HiveWatch, a security technology company reimagining how companies keep people and assets safe, has provided a solid foundation on which to bring the physical security industry into a period of forward-thinking innovation. Taking all of the experience he had sitting in the same place as the end-users he now serves gives him an advantage when building a platform that ultimately solves so many of the challenges the industry faces when aiming to empower security leaders and operators to keep people, assets, and the brand safe. Schonfeld had the vision to make his goals a reality and built HiveWatch to fill a hole in the industry, making him a true innovator.



## Sanjay Challa

Chief Product Officer, **Salient Systems**  
Nominated by: Chris Meiter

Sanjay has Salient Systems's vision and design of remote access and management capabilities delivered via the cloud. He has been thoughtful about deeply understanding the marketplace and identifying a gap in cloud capabilities being offered to larger organizations with significant premise-based deployments. Via directly interviewing security integrators and end-users, he created a vision and a product to serve the broader needs of the security industry that are currently unmet.



## Anneke Haley

Product Manager, **LittleBird, LevelUp**  
Nominated by: Jenna Dickensheets

As a young professional, Anneke has taken to the security industry with a passion and dedication for excellence. Her constant search for knowledge and understanding has allowed her to become a flexible asset to her current team, and makes her a candidate for future industry opportunities. As our industry begins to see many of its early innovators age out of the space, it's refreshing and comforting to know that the brilliant minds of future generations are continuing to find career opportunities in this space.



## Lawrence Garcia

President & CEO, **AmeriGuard Security**  
Nominated by: Diana Gonzales

Lawrence B. Garcia, a veteran of San Joaquin Valley Law Enforcement and the U.S. Navy, has made a smooth transition to business owner, taking over A.G.S. Lawrence in 2000, and changing the business name to AmeriGuard Security in 2003. He has continued to develop the business while building a nationally recognized security firm within the Federal government. Lawrence has developed innovative solutions to business challenges facing AmeriGuard's guard services firm, including staffing shortages, liability, and the cost of fuel and equipment. He has demonstrated leadership, vision, a willingness to challenge established norms, and he takes risks in order to advance the field of guard services and security.



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**Kevin Stoner**  
Senior Software Engineer, Inovonics

**Eric Roth**  
Director of New Technologies, Inovonics

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## Cybersecurity

### Michelle Drolet

Founder & CEO, **Towerwall**  
Nominated by: Victor Cruz

Since founding Towerwall, Michelle has been dedicated to community service by being actively involved with organizations including the Women's Business Alliance, Voices Against Violence, Young Women, and Minorities in Science and Technology. Most recently she helped to launch the Lauro Garner Minority Cybersecurity Scholarship in association with Mercer University. To help address the cybersecurity skills gap and shortage problem, while also building local awareness of cybersecurity, Michelle founded the annual Information Security Summit, now in its 10th year, in partnership with Mass Bay Community College.



### Sebastian Goodwin

Chief Trust Officer, **Autodesk**  
Nominated by: Liz Youngs

Sebastian Goodwin has been a pioneer and thought leader in advancing data security. In addition to playing a key role in driving innovation, he also has played an instrumental role in training the next generation of cybersecurity leaders both by grooming them to leadership roles within his team, but also through academia – where he has taught courses such as Managing cyber risk at the University of Berkeley, California. With his team, he implemented a process for open collaboration, and he has been able to secure business critical data including source code, M&A documents, and more with the assistance of several technologies including Concentric AI.



### Alex Keedy

Director of Strategic Operations, **ZeroFox**  
Nominated by: Clayton Baker

Alex consistently demonstrates her high emotional quotient coupled with her high intelligence quotient. This powerful and effective combination enables Alex to deliver the right results in the proper way and to communicate effectively while fully enabling and empowering her team and the clients she supports across the world. Her added abilities to "see the bigger picture" and willingness to lead from the front demonstrate her steady upward trajectory as an incredible leader and inspiring mentor for the next generation of women in information security (IT) and cybersecurity.



### Anna Levine

Senior Director of Defense and National Security Programs, **Red Hat**  
Nominated by: Paul Fuegner

Anna's foresight and leadership in bringing the narrative of an AI and quantum computing world to light within Red Hat, IBM, the federal government, and the public at large is indicative of her not only her commercial skills, but those of an individual who is also fighting for the security of our nation. Her enthusiasm and passion for what she does is evident. A dedicated and professional advocate for the use of technology to solve cybersecurity threats, she brought a revolutionary and industry first post-quantum cryptographic software solution to Red Hat and has built a partnership between Red Hat and QuSecure.



### Tom Patterson

Managing Director, Emerging Technology Security, **Accenture**  
Nominated by: Paul Fuegner

An acclaimed expert with three decades of experience across all facets of security, Tom sees the emerging technologies of AI and quantum computing acting as a catalyst for the greatest sea change in humankind. From his platform as a knowledgeable expert in multiple fields, Tom sees his mission as one to help secure the world's critical infrastructure and harden it against existing, emerging and yet to be developed cyberthreats. His passion for what he does drives Tom to speak forcefully for the needed change to bring new protection solutions to government, companies and organizations to defend themselves and to achieve the needed advantage to prosper in the decades ahead.



### Oz Alashe

Founder & CEO, **CybSafe**  
Nominated by: Heather Racicot

Oz Alashe, MBE, should be considered for his visionary work and commitment to changing the way society addresses the human aspect of cybersecurity. The traditional approach to cybersecurity awareness training is broken. Oz and his team at CybSafe are on a mission to change this. CybSafe's disruptive approach reduces organizational risk by improving people's security decisions and behaviors. Using machine learning, advanced analytics, psychology and behavioral science, it measures the security awareness, behaviors, and culture of a group of people. It then implements interventions designed in collaboration with psychologists and behavioral scientists to improve all three of these areas.



## Security Consultants



Masha Davis  
Founder, **CHB Solutions**

A 45-year veteran of the industry, Mrs. Davis has patented several inventions to increase the security of a system. One such example is a heuristic mechanism of detecting replay, brute force, and other such attacks against an access control reader. Another facilitates access control decisions being made in the actual smart card or mobile phone instead of at the panel, and another invention on using gestures with a card or mobile phone to unlock a door making the user interface easier. She also made the difficult and courageous decision to transition from male to female in a predominantly male industry and is an advocate and social justice warrior.



Tony Gallo  
Managing Partner, **Sapphire Risk Advisory Group**

Nominated by: Anna Bonner

Considered the "OG of Cannabis Security," Tony has been in the cannabis industry since 2013 and has worked with more than 800 cannabis clients in 35 states and Canada. He is considered one of the leading security authorities in the state/city application license process, physical security build-outs, and standard operating procedures. Tony advocates a proactive approach to security and actively engages with industry colleagues and security activists at events and through social media. He provides security-focused guidance at colleges, and via podcasts and webinars.



Chuck Brooks  
President, **Brooks Consulting Intl.**  
Nominated by:

Tanya Zamaray-Rosati

Chuck has been a force for security evangelism, and he probably fits in his own category. He is able to communicate technical matters on security and emerging technologies in a way most people can understand. He has been a prolific writer and speaker on topics such as cybersecurity, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, innovation, and science. In a nutshell, he serves a mission of educating all on the topics of the day in the security world. As an individual, few have been more impactful in contributing to the innovation and knowledge ecosystem.

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## Security Integrators and Engineers

*April Chastain*

Director of Operations,  
**Owen Security Solutions**  
Nominated by: Tabitha Dooley

As Director of Operations at Owen Security Solutions, April is passionate about helping her team develop and succeed. Her commitment is to develop and ensure processes and procedures are in place to grow the business and its employees. Over the years of working with April, she has immense passion when it comes to security. She is always looking for ways to not only improve her business, but also the community and world. Everywhere she goes, she is discussing the latest and greatest way to protect someone's property and peace of mind. April truly embodies what it means to be a security professional.



*George Mallard*

Vice President of Engineering,  
**Hexicurity**  
Nominated by: Susie Mallard

George Mallard, P.E., is an accomplished innovator in access control security integration. With five patents to his name, he has made significant contributions to the field. Mr. Mallard is a true security innovator. Over the course of more than 40 years in the industry, he has revolutionized commercial security with several groundbreaking technology and integration advancements. His hardware-based access control integration system has been deployed nationwide, and his latest patented innovation works with the communications between credential and reader, supporting all reader types, including Wiegand, F2F, and OSDP.



*Ahmosis Aton*

Owner, **Aton Communications**

With more than 20 years of industry experience, Ahmosis "Doc" Aton has established himself as a pioneer and leader in telecommunications. Having established Aton Communications in 1986, Ahmosis, utilizing his education and experience, has since transformed the firm into a leading provider of communication services in Kentucky. He achieves high customer satisfaction through his determination to perform high-quality work in a safe and proficient manner. Ahmosis is widely appreciated for his ability to explain complex ideas to customers and colleagues. He attributes his success to his commitment to accomplishing goals and his strong communication skills.



*Ronald Stein*

Account Manager,  
**Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc.**  
Nominated by: Haley Burk

Ron has displayed a passion for security and protecting individuals and society as a whole for over 20 years. He works diligently and goes above and beyond to provide his customers with the means to prepare for and prevent security complications. Ron has a specific interest in smart and safe cities and is currently working to integrate technology into some of the major cities and counties in our area to make them safer. Ron also single handedly got medical cannabis facilities in our area the secure start that they needed by writing letters, preparing the paperwork and designing security systems that would pass inspection.



*Randall Dotterer*

Field Engineer, **Sound Communications**

Randall has taken on the jobsite of Xenia Public Service in Ohio, which includes more than 120 access control doors that constantly needed service 2-3 days per week. He re-engineered the access control technology – including the elevators – from the late 1970s to a current Milestone Platform. After the re-engineering, the site only needs a service call every 2-3 months (as needed) for actual parts replacement stemming from age over time. This saved the integration company countless thousands of dollars and man-hours, as well as saving costs for the customer. We could not begin to calculate the money, time and frustration that has been saved.



*Dean Packard*

Service Technician Supervisor,  
**Sound Security / Sonitrol Pacific**  
Nominated by: Ryan Collinsworth

Dean has been in the industry for many years, starting out running low voltage wiring and now installing devices that provide security and safety for customers. Dean is always aware of the changing industry and provides great feedback on what works and what issues arise. Dean goes above and beyond to support his fellow employees and customers. He takes on issues with pride and gets the satisfactory of knowing it is done right. He prides himself as a great team player and is always there to take a call. Members of the Sound Security team echo clients' compliments of Dean and he serves as a valuable resource for the team.



## Security End-Users

*Fernando Guerrero*

OT Security Expert, **Airbus**  
Nominated by: Andrea Linares

Fernando has worked for more than 20 years in cybersecurity. After being the Chief Information Security Officer for the biggest energy company in his home country for several years, he moved to Airbus as a Cybersecurity Architect in 2019 and became its OT Security Expert in 2020. He is dedicated to study and research and has been involved in many European innovation projects. He is curious about how things work and other parts of the business in order to improve them. He keeps an analytic eye open and identifies needs and opportunities in places where nobody else is looking, both inside and outside the organization.



*Jeremiah Kung*

Global Head of Information Security,  
**AppLovin**  
Nominated by: Liz Youngs

Jeremiah works closely with customers and believes that although everyone uses training tools, most people don't pay attention during training. For him, it is all about communicating and sharing security knowledge and experiences. Jeremiah's approach is to lead by example, and it starts with open communication at all levels, an open-door policy, coaching team members, and being hands-on with work – driving each individual to look not only at the project at hand but to remember the longer-term goals to be a part of the bigger picture for success of the business. He is an expert at building trust and camaraderie among teams.



*Carl Fong*

Chief Technology Officer, **Orange County Department of Education (OCDE)**  
Nominated by: Jim Mijares

The Orange County Department of Education offers support services to 28 school districts, 628 schools and more than 24,000 educators serving nearly 450,000 students. Carl is an innovator who foresaw the coming cybersecurity threats years ago. He is instrumental in deploying key solutions which have greatly strengthened OCDE's security posture in many areas, including: Data classification, data protection, user awareness training, 24/7 security operations monitoring and remediation, AI-based network traffic monitoring, and the effective development and implementation of security policies.



*Isaac Zhou*

Head of Security and Loss Control,  
**Probrands of Zimbabwe**  
Nominated by: Kufakwatida Museredzero

Isaac Zhou is well known and influential security risk, intelligence, and investigations professional who has brought drastic changes and advances not only at Probrands but for the whole security profession in Zimbabwe. At Probrands, he initiated programs that led to the reduction of losses and security risks, including hybrid and integrated security management, as well as document examination and signature analysis which led to the detection of many counterfeit documents in the company. At the same time, he has been the key presenter in many free security seminars towards developing the security profession.



## Marketing Services

*Suzanna Alsayed*

Founder & CEO, **Evolutz Inc.**  
Nominated by: Michael Gips

Suzanna is a remarkable professional and person, a trailblazer, and a life-long learner who elevates the standards and performance of everyone around her. Suzanna has shaken the old guard of security out of their slumber by innovating an approach to brand management in security and other fields that these industries sorely need. Indefatigable and always authentic, Suzanna brings insight and enthusiasm into every one of her engagements. Clients all marvel at her intelligence, energy, and results.



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