Ken Armstrong

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CISO | MS, MBA, CISSP, ISSEP, ISSMP, CCSP, CISM, AAISM, CISA, AAIA, CRISC, CGEIT, CDPSE, CIPP/US, PMP

👤 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

15+ years securing fintech and healthtech companies through the regulatory environments that demand it most: OCC applications, FDIC exams, OCR audits, PCI 4.0, SOC 2, HIPAA, and NIST CSF. I build programs that shine under scrutiny and pay for themselves in closed deals, turning pre-sales security reviews into revenue and compliance frameworks into competitive advantages. Zero findings, clean opinions, and security that the sales team leads with rather than apologizes for.

💼 PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tendo Systems   *Remote – Salt Lake City, Utah*
Director, Information Security   *Dec 2023 – Present*

Recruited to build and lead the security function for a Series B healthtech startup navigating a complex post-acquisition integration, active AI product development, and simultaneous multi-framework compliance obligations. Serve as Information Security Officer with full ownership of security strategy, program execution, and customer-facing risks across AWS-native infrastructure and enterprise client environments.

- Created initial security framework, strategy, budget, and control stack, achieving full program compliance within 30 days.
- Consolidated endpoint and cloud security controls post MDsave acquisition, eliminating >$250K in annual recurring spend.
- Directed due diligence and handover for a multimillion-dollar divestiture, delivering a secure and seamless transaction.
- Drove >$10M in revenue by leading security pre-sales engineering, including assessments, panel reviews, and risk mitigations.
- Unified identity and access management through a full Okta deployment covering all business applications and endpoints.
- Eliminated >95% of untreated SAST, DAST, and SCA production vulnerabilities by deploying AWS Inspector and Aikido.
- Automated endpoint vulnerability triage and remediation workflows with Iru, reducing MTTR >90% organization-wide.
- Unified Tendo and MDsave SOC 2 Type 2 and HIPAA audits into a single compliance framework, delivering a clean opinion.
- Closed a >$1M deal by obtaining PCI 4.0 QSA AOC and ROC in 35 days against a hard customer-imposed deadline.

SoFi   *Remote – Salt Lake City, Utah*
Security Compliance Automation Manager   *Nov 2022 – Dec 2023*

Led enterprise GRC strategy across SoFi's multi-entity portfolio, including Galileo, Technisys, and Golden Pacific Bank, providing executive-level challenge over technical and administrative controls in one of the most heavily regulated fintech environments in the US. Owned compliance automation, configuration management, vulnerability management, and PCI governance across a complex, multi-charter organization.

- Engineered automated GRC evidence collection across multiple frameworks, including SOC 2, PCI, CRI, SOX, and GLBA.
- Owned the PCI 4.0 assessment lifecycle from QSA onboarding through remediation, delivering a clean report on schedule.
- Overhauled vulnerability management processes, dashboards, escalations, and reporting, addressing critical audit findings.
- Achieved 100% of assigned key results from Q4 2022 through Q4 2023, on budget, on schedule, and within scope.

Varo Bank   *Remote – Salt Lake City, Utah*
Interim CISO / Information Security Manager   *Jun 2020 – Nov 2022*

Plankowner for the first OCC-chartered fintech bank in US history, a ground-up build with no regulatory precedent, $2.5B valuation, over 1,000 staff, and approximately 5 million active accounts. Led second-line security oversight across IAM, TPRM, DLP, and vulnerability management while representing the institution directly to OCC and FDIC examiners.

- Elevated to Interim CISO Aug 2021, leading the Information Security Program and a team of three through Feb 2022.
- Represented Varo Bank as Security Officer in OCC and FDIC examinations, delivering zero findings.
- Led security assessments and documentation for OCC and FDIC, contributing directly to Varo's bank opening in Sep 2020.
- Engineered an advanced, standards-focused vendor security assessment framework, resolving identified TPRM deficiencies.
- Eliminated 100% of IAM SLA violations by engineering new automations, dashboards, alerting, and audit processes.
- Drove endpoint vulnerability management SLA compliance >80% through a redesigned remediation standard and workflow.
- Cut dependency vulnerability MTTR by >50% through automated analysis, notification, and reporting pipelines.
- Remediated a critical vulnerability in a production user-facing system, resulting in >25% drop in fraudulent transactions.

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💼 PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – CONTINUED

HIPAA One   *Remote – Lindon, Utah*
Security Consultant   *Jul 2019 – Jun 2020*

Recruited to serve as the client-facing security authority for a national HIPAA compliance SaaS and consulting company, leading risk assessments, vulnerability scanning, and penetration testing engagements across more than 30 states for some of the largest health systems and payers in the US.

- Delivered 100% of engagements on scope, schedule, and budget, with a perfect internal review pass rate.
- Created >$100K in net new revenue in Q2 2020 by building Advanced Technical Baseline and NIST CSF service offerings.
- Clients included Centene, UnitedHealth, Global Payments, Domo, The Ohio State University, and the City of Santa Monica.

Valley Behavioral Health   *Salt Lake City, Utah*
Information Security Manager   *Jan 2018 – Jul 2019*

Promoted to build and lead the security and cloud operations function for Utah's largest behavioral health organization, serving as appointed Security Officer with full GRC ownership across HIPAA, HITECH, and state and local compliance. Managed a team of four and a budget exceeding $100K across 20,000+ patients, 70+ units, and 30+ locations.

- Led a full AWS migration resolving systemic EMR performance and security issues, improving system performance >50%.
- Deployed SSO solution aligned to NIST SP 800-63B, cutting password-related support volume by >40% organization-wide.
- Implemented MFA (1K+ accounts) across all remote access and business applications, delivering on time and under budget.
- Designed and deployed a BYOD standard, policy, and procedure from scratch, cutting support volume by >40%.
- Delivered a full SentinelOne EDR deployment across 900+ endpoints, on time and under budget.

Valley Behavioral Health   *Salt Lake City, Utah*
IT Program Manager   *Mar 2016 – Jan 2018*

Recruited to advance the security, development, and operations of a failing EMR deployment (>$60M/year, >3K services/daily, >1K users). Led administration of application servers, databases, and load balancers across multiple environments. Designated Security Officer, founding the security team that would become the organization's formal security function.

- Reduced unplanned EMR outages >90% by overhauling infrastructure, administration practices, and development practices.
- Improved EMR performance >40% by deploying APM tools, identifying constraints, and optimizing backend processes.
- Created HIPAA, HITECH, Meaningful Use, and State audit programs, satisfying requirements on time and under budget.

Valley Behavioral Health – MBA Internship | *Salt Lake City, Utah*   *May 2015 – Aug 2015*

Decagon Devices – Web Developer | *Pullman, Washington*   *Dec 2010 – Mar 2014*
Washington State University – Web Developer | *Pullman, Washington*   *May 2008 – Aug 2010*
Washington State University – Help Desk Manager | *Pullman, Washington* *Apr 2006 – May 2008*

🎓 EDUCATION

University of Utah | MS Information Systems – Security   *Dec 2018*
University of Utah | MBA – Finance   *May 2016*
Washington State University | BA Economics   *May 2007*

📁 PROJECTS

☑ **kerneloftruth.org** | A platform for registering timestamped cryptographic proof of what you published and when.

🖥 **nbaprimes.com** @ **NBAPrimes** | A full-stack web app analyzing prime-number NBA final scores since ABA merger.

📊 **ocrstats.com** | A modern, responsive, user-friendly, analytics-driven take on the HHS OCR Breach Portal reports.

🔓 **omniacrypta.com** | An educational cryptographic toolkit covering one-time pads, RSA, and password generation.

✹ **sncpe.us** | A tool leveraging LLMs to generate quizzes and certificates to document CPE for the Security Now podcast.