

Samuel J. Davis, CISSP

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cybersecurity executive with technology experience and a proven record of establishing and operating enterprise information security programs. Brings deep expertise in cybersecurity strategy, risk management, governance, and incident response, with a pragmatic approach grounded in operational realities and regulated environments. Trusted advisor to executive leadership, aligning security initiatives with business objectives while ensuring resilience, compliance, and scalable execution.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Security Program Design | Cybersecurity Strategy | Risk Management | Risk Assessment | Risk Reporting | Security Governance | Policy Development | Regulatory Compliance | Incident Response Management | Vendor Risk Oversight | Security Roadmapping | Business Continuity Planning

TECHNICAL SKILLS

NIST CSF | Zero Trust | Identity Management | MFA / SSO | Privileged Access | Cloud Security | Microsoft Azure | Security Monitoring | SIEM Oversight | EDR / MDR | Vulnerability Management | Data Protection | Disaster Recovery

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Information Security / Head of Cybersecurity Highlights for Children, Inc. | Columbus, OH

April 2023 – Present

Responsible for establishing and leading the enterprise Information Security function, with full accountability for strategy, governance, risk management, and incident response across corporate, cloud, and application environments. Serve as the organization's senior-most authority on cybersecurity risk, strategy, and incident response, reporting risk posture and recommendations directly to executive leadership.

- **Program Strategy:** Established the organization's first formal cybersecurity program, defining governance, operating model, and a multi-year strategy aligned to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.
- **Executive Advisory:** Advise executive leadership on cyber risk acceptance, prioritization, and security investment decisions aligned to business objectives.
- **Compliance Optimization:** Led PCI DSS governance and auditor engagement, cutting PCI scope by ~50% over three years and reducing audit burden, operational risk, and long-term compliance costs.
- **Risk Integration:** Implemented a formal third-party and SaaS risk assessment program, reviewing 20+ vendors annually and embedding security review into procurement decisions.

- **Strategic Planning:** Developed and communicated a multi-year cybersecurity roadmap (“Resilience Blueprint”), aligning progress, constraints, and resourcing with organizational priorities.

Senior Manager, Network Services

June 2017 – April 2023

Highlights for Children, Inc. | Columbus, OH

Senior operations leader responsible for enterprise network, cloud, and web platforms, overseeing service delivery, reliability, and team performance across business-critical systems.

- **Team Management:** Directed network, cloud (Azure), and web operations teams supporting customer-facing and internal platforms, ensuring availability, scalability, and performance.
- **Operational Reliability:** Owned accountability for uptime, resilience, and operational health of cloud-hosted and internally managed systems.
- **Business Partnership:** Partnered with application, product, and business teams to plan and deliver infrastructure capabilities supporting growth, innovation, and brand reliability.
- **Talent Development:** Managed and developed multidisciplinary engineering teams, driving operational consistency, skills growth, and effective workload prioritization.
- **Professional Initiative:** Earned the CISSP credential independently, leveraging it to build credibility, elevate cybersecurity discussions, and influence the creation of a formal enterprise security program.

EARLIER CAREER

Held progressively responsible technology roles including Web Development Manager, Applications & Solutions Architect, Senior Applications Programmer, and Programmer / Analyst. Experience spanned application development, systems architecture, physical security, enterprise platforms, vendor coordination, and technology delivery in complex organizational environments.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Computer Information Systems, DeVry University | Columbus, OH

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Information Systems Security Professional ([CISSP](#)), (ISC)² | 2019

MILITARY SERVICE

United States Army & Army Reserve | Military Police Sergeant; Communications Specialist