

## **CISO of the Year: Gigabyte Finalists**

*Information security executives from organizations with under 10,000 employees*

### **Joe Gajdosik, Director of IT Security, Curtiss-Wright Corporation**

Joe Gajdosik earned both his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. Joe's career has provided him with the opportunity to work in a variety of roles within information technology, along the way gaining more responsibility as well as a comprehensive understanding of how to best support multi-national companies that manufacture highly engineered products. Joe was introduced to information security through his support of businesses that support the DOD and DOE. He went on to develop the initial IT Audit program for Curtiss-Wright to address Sarbanes-Oxley and has been the Director of IT Security for Curtiss-Wright for over the past seven years. Joe and his team built the IT Security program at Curtiss-Wright starting from scratch and creating a comprehensive IT Security program for the entire corporation. Joe attained CISA and CISM certifications along the way.

Curtiss-Wright Corporation (NYSE:CW) is a global innovative company that delivers highly engineered, critical function products and services to the commercial, industrial, defense and energy markets. Building on the heritage of Glenn Curtiss and the Wright brothers, Curtiss-Wright has a long tradition of providing reliable solutions through trusted customer relationships. The company employs approximately 8,400 people worldwide.

### **Omar Khawaja, VP and Chief Information Security Officer, HM Health Solutions**

Omar Khawaja has spent 15+ years delivering, developing and managing security solutions for startups, service providers, consulting firms and enterprises. Omar is currently VP and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Highmark Health. Prior to Highmark, Omar was at Verizon Enterprise Solutions, where he had responsibility for their portfolio of security solutions with customers in 72 countries. Omar currently serves on the board of the Health Information Trust Alliance (HITRUST), on the Governing Body of Evanta, on the CISO Workgroup of the BCBSA, and as adjunct faculty for the (CISO) program at Carnegie Mellon University. Omar is a speaker at industry forums and has also been quoted in media outlets such as Financial Times, NY Times and CNBC. Omar's certifications include CPHIMS, CISSP, and CCSK. Omar has a BS in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech and an MBA from University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.

HM Health Solutions (HMHS) was formed in March 2014, as a subsidiary of Highmark Health. HMHS enables health plans to achieve top-line revenue growth, reduce costs and gain economies of scale. The HMHS Enterprise platform leverages state-of-the-art cloud technology to support a comprehensive suite of offerings. HMHS offers expertise in multiple product lines, including Medicare, Medicaid, commercial,

and individual business. Our industry-leading expertise in people, process and platforms deliver measurable results while increasing customer engagement.

## **John Johnston, Chief Information Security Officer, Westlake Chemical**

John Johnston has over 30 years in IT and Information Security Executive with 15+ years' experience in senior management roles for large, medium and small companies. He's been successful in developing risk based information security programs and solutions for pharmaceutical, research & development, software development, government and chemical manufacturing sectors and is experienced in managing programs with a focus on both business and technical risk management for cyber security, information security, audit, and privacy/compliance with diverse requirements. John is effective in communicating to executive management, various senior executive boards and councils, and the Audit Committee to achieve sponsorship and governance and adept at establishing relationships with business management and corporate risk management stakeholders. He's a trusted advisor to information security firms and organizations, presenter at professional conferences on cyber security, information security, risk management and compliance and a member of various task forces for industry cyber security, risk management, and compliance initiatives.

Westlake makes chemical and plastic products, which in turn make life better for people every day. They are a quality manufacturer and dependable global supplier of petrochemicals, plastics and building products. Their mission is to serve their clients by enhancing daily life through the products and services they provide.

## **Michael Yates, Global IT Security Director, ANSYS Inc.**

Michael Yates is a Pittsburgh native and graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with 10+ years in the security industry. He has worked with various verticals including Health, Chemical, Poly Sciences and Technology and has spent time with a leading National Security firm driving Architecture, Engineering and Sales for small, medium and large industries. Michael has lead global teams and influenced global leadership driving a risk-based information security model from single domains to security program maturity. In addition, he has implemented global programs and has a proven crisis leadership record in a successful defense of the illusive Anonymous.

Founded in 1970, ANSYS employs nearly 3,000 professionals, many of whom are expert M.S. and Ph.D.-level engineers infinite element analysis, computational fluid dynamics, electronics, semiconductors, embedded software and design optimization. Their exceptional staff is passionate about pushing the limits of world-class simulation technology so their customers can turn their design concepts into successful, innovative products faster and at lower cost. As a measure success in attaining these goals, ANSYS has been recognized as one of the world's most innovative companies by prestigious publications such as Bloomberg Businessweek and FORTUNE magazines.