

Tarah Wheeler

Cybersecurity Expert, White Hat Hacker

One of the most dynamic minds on the frontlines in the battle to keep the digital sphere safe for all, Tarah Wheeler is an information security executive, white hat hacker, and social scientist who equips organizations and individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to safeguard their data and reputations. Her experiences as a cybersecurity executive, advisor, and thought leader extend across various industries and institutions — from technology and commerce to government and academia. In her daily work, she develops and implements comprehensive cybersecurity programs at some of the world's most important and complex organizations, advises on global cyber policy, and serves as a leading voice for the advancement of women in tech.

When speaking to groups, Wheeler takes audiences inside the mind of a hacker to explain how they think, why they do the things they do, and the threats they pose to our information and privacy. As an ethical hacker, she possesses deep expertise on how digital adversaries infiltrate our systems, and shares these insights with organizations and individuals — arming them with tailored and practical strategies and tactics for fixing and securing any vulnerabilities in their systems before they can be exploited. Wheeler has a particular gift in creating analogies to make complex concepts in cybersecurity clear and comprehensible for everyone, while guiding organizations on the path to building resilient systems where all team members feel confident and suitably prepared in the event they come face-to-face with a digital foe.

Named by Onalytica as the top female cybersecurity influencer in the world, Wheeler is the founder and CEO of Red Queen Dynamics, an information security company that produces the only full SaaS cybersecurity and compliance program for small and medium businesses. A social scientist in the area of international conflict, Wheeler serves as the Senior Fellow for Global Cyber Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations and is a Foreign Policy contributor on cyber warfare. She was a US/UK Fulbright Scholar in Cyber Security in 2020/2021. Wheeler is also an Electronic Frontier advisory board member, and an inaugural contributing cybersecurity expert for the Washington Post. In addition to holding roles as the head of offensive security and technical data privacy at Splunk and senior director of engineering and principal security advocate at Symantec, she has been a contributing cybersecurity editor at the Brookings Institution, a Cyber Project Fellow at Harvard University, and an International Security Fellow at New America. She also led projects at Microsoft Games Studio and the Hewlett Foundation.

Wheeler is the author of the Amazon number one career guide bestseller, *Women in Tech: Take Your Career to the Next Level with Practical Advice and Inspiring Stories*, which details her experiences as a woman in the male-dominated cybersecurity space. She has shared her expertise on information security at meetings and conferences with groups all over the world, including the European Union, Malaysian Securities Commission, multiple congressional committees, and the Federal Trade Commission – to name a few.

When she's not sharing her cybersecurity know-how with the world's leading organizations, Wheeler is a passionate poker professional who has cashed multiple times in the World Series of Poker and funded her startup with her winnings from cleaning out poker rooms in the Northwest and Las Vegas.