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Andy Ellis

Former CSO at Akamai, Cyber Security Advisor, and Expert in Risk Decision Making

Humans Are Awesome at Decision Making. Security professionals, and people in general, tend to assume humans are not great at making risk decisions. But in this talk, cyber security advisor and former Akamai CSO Andy Ellis instead argues that humans are awesome at managing risk – exploring humanity's tendency to make rapid, generally correct choices. Relating human decision making to organizational excellence, Ellis will share actionable insights on how to: Understand how risk choices that appear unreasonable from the outside may not be. Learn how to identify the hidden factors in someone's risk choice that most influence it. Find out how to help guide people to risk choices that you find more favorable.

1% Leadership: Master the Small Daily Improvements that Set Great Leaders Apart. In this compelling keynote, Andy Ellis, a renowned cybersecurity leader and author of the book *1% Leadership*, challenges the notion that effective leadership is governed by definitive laws or secrets. Drawing from his experience in fostering high-performance cultures in highly complex organizations, Ellis presents a practical approach centered around incremental improvements, one percent at a time. By dedicating a few minutes each week to implementing the lessons found in "1% Leadership," individuals can enhance their personal performance and elevate their teams and organizations. Ellis emphasizes the importance of a long-term perspective in leadership, while highlighting the value of being present and prioritizing the well-being and development of every team member. Through the lessons he shares, leaders attending the keynote will gain the ability to identify blind spots, boost morale, and thoughtfully solve any workplace challenge.

Decision Making in the Modern Era. In this talk, security executive Andy Ellis expands on his "Humans are Awesome" talk and dives into the evolution of decision making in the current era and beyond. In a world of unprecedented challenges and crisis management, Ellis will explore the impacts of the novel risk, along with the importance of preparedness, in today's individual and organizational decision making.

Security's Grand Challenges, Then and Now. Spoiler: It's not the user's fault. Security's grand challenges have evolved significantly since the 1990s, when security professionals mostly needed intelligence, scale, and layered solutions. Today's teams struggle with an overabundance of implicit trust, know their businesses are over reliant on passwords, and face skills gaps for managing architectures assembled from third-party sources—creating exposure, especially as they deal with cloud migration under shared-responsibility models. Cyber security advisor and former Akamai CSO Andy Ellis will show how security's grand challenges have shifted over the years, discussing his experiences mitigating advanced threats—and providing insight into evolving future threats.

From Y2K to Today: The CSO's Journey. With more than two decades of cyber security experience and the former CSO for Akamai, Andy Ellis takes groups behind-the-scenes of leading security at a top technology company through the ever-changing business landscape. From moving passwords to keys (before it was cool) and driving adoption towards compliance standards, to managing cross-functional risk, Ellis provides an inside look at how he built a world-class, diverse information security team of over one hundred professionals who governed risk, safety, intelligence, and compliance across the entire business – and shares how other organizations can do the same.

Leading to Representation. There isn't just one secret to solving an organization's diverse representation and inclusion issues; this task requires a many-year effort with clear, visible intentions. Using real-life data and strategies from his time as CSO of Akamai, Ellis provides a detailed roadmap of how one can build inclusive teams and change representation at any organization. Ellis grew his cyber security organization at Akamai to 41% women and 28% underrepresented minorities using this approach. Breaking it down into four focus areas – retention, longevity, promotions, and hiring – he delivers actionable tactics for groups to effectively build and maintain an inclusive environment at all levels.