Post event report



4th September 2024 | Abu Dhabi, UAE

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66 I wanted to take a moment to share my excitement about the recent Cybersecurity Congress me and my colleague attended. The event was truly remarkable and left me thoroughly impressed. From the insightful keynote speeches to the engaging breakout sessions, every aspect of Congress was designed to deepen our understanding of current cybersecurity challenges and advancements. The opportunity to interact with industry leaders and experts was invaluable, and I came away with a wealth of knowledge and innovative ideas that I am eager to apply. Thank you for organising such a high-caliber event. It was an incredible experience, and I look forward to future opportunities to collaborate and learn

⁶ I had the privilege of attending the AKJ Associates Cybersecurity Conference in Abu Dhabi. The presentations were insightful, especially on leveraging AI for cyber-defence and exploring practical solutions for risk management. The panel discussions fostered rich dialogues on the evolving threat landscape and regulatory challenges. This conference gave me an opportunity to have an overview of the recent trends, threats, and products/solutions around cybersecurity. Overall, the event offered valuable, actionable takeaways for professionals aiming to enhance their organisations' cybersecurity posture. ?? Senior Internal Auditor, Yahsat

more from this dynamic field. ⁹ IT Head, Al Fuad Exchange

⁶⁶ I was given the privilege to attend the e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress held at St. Regis Abu Dhabi, and it was an exceptional experience. Professionals, experts and leaders in the field were brought together giving invaluable insights into the latest cybersecurity trends and challenges. The speakers were highly knowledgeable and shared real-world strategies and solutions to combat evolving cyber-threats which I can immediately apply to my work. Overall, the event was well-organised, informative and a must attend to everyone who wanted to be on top in the cybersecurity field. ⁹

Compliance Manager, State Street Corporation

Inside this report:

Sponsors Key themes Who attended? Speakers Agenda Education Seminars



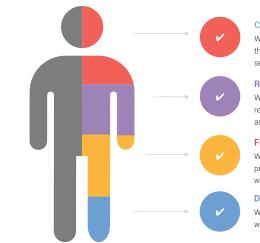
Key themes

Upgrading legacy cybersecurity stacks Balancing multiple point solutions with one-stop shops Using AI and ML to automate cybersecurity Insuring the uninsurable? Cybersecurity for SaaS/IaaS/PaaS Upskilling security teams The rise and rise of effective cybersecurity regulation From smart machines to smart cities - securing the IoT Developing the next generation of security leaders Keeping citizens safe

Reining in BigTech

Securing digital currencies and DLT

Who attended?



Cyber-security

We have a 15-year track record of producing the events cyber-security professionals take seriously

Risk Management

We attract senior risk officers with responsibility for information risk assessment and mitigation

Fraud, Audit, Compliance

We provide the go-to events for fraud prevention and compliance owners at the world's key corporates

Data Protection & privacy

We are a key venue for decision-makers with budget and purchasing authority

Speakers

Dr Ebrahim Al Alkeem, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence Director, Abu Dhabi Government

Mamdouh Al-Gendy, Senior Technology Consultant, Entrust

Hussain Al Khalsan, CISO, ZAND

His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, Head of Cybersecurity, United Arab Emirates Government

Sultan Al Mansoori, Director of Information Security, Abu Dhabi Media (ADM)

First Lieutenant Nasser Al Neyadi, Head of Information Security Department, **Ministry of Interior**

Khaled Al Teneiji, Cybersecurity Head, ENOC

Aus Alzubaidi, CISO, Director of IT & Media, MBC Group

Ara Antoun, Chief Operations officer, MEInfoSec

Bilal Baig, Technical Director, MMEA, Trend Micro

Simon Brady, Editor, AKJ Associates

Michael Byrnes, Director, Solutions Engineering META, **BeyondTrust**

Mohamed Djenane, Sr. Director Sales Engineering MENA/APAC, Seclore

Anoop Kumar, Head of Information Security Governance Risk and Compliance, Gulf News, Al Nisr Publishing

Alexey Lukatsky, Managing Director, Positive Technologies

Gary Pollock, Solutions Engineering Manager, CyberArk

Meenakshisundaram Ramakrishna Sahadevan, Product Marketing Analyst, ManageEngine

Hafeez Rehman, Group Manager, Security Consultant Team, Kaspersky

Manit Sahib, Ethical Hacker, The Global Fund

Hussein Hassan Shafik, Group CISO and Privacy Officer, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank

Zaheer Mubarak Shaikh, CISO, Al Maryah Community Bank

Vikalp Shrivastava, Global CISO, Kerzner International

John Smith, EMEA CTO, Veracode

Rajesh Yadla, Head of Information Security, Al Hilal Bank

Age	Agenda					
08:20	Breakfast & networking break					
09:20	Chairman's welcome					
09:30	Opening keynote: Building a resilient cybersecurity culture					
	 His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, Head of Cybersecurity, United Arab Emirates Government Emerging threats and trends Innovative solutions and technologies Building a resilient cybersecurity culture 					
10:00	The new age cyber-threats: Leveraging AI to improve cybersecurity					
	First Lieutenant Nasser Al Neyadi, Head of Information Security Department, Ministry of Interior					
	 Understanding the landscape of new age cyber-threats and the role of AI in identifying and mitigating these threats Implementing AI-driven solutions to enhance threat detection and response capabilities in real-time Integrating AI technologies into existing cybersecurity frameworks to bolster defences against sophisticated cyber-attacks Developing a strategic approach to continuous learning and adaptation, ensuring AI tools evolve alongside emerging threats 					
10:20	Shifting the state of cyber-risk from guesstimation towards causation					
	Bilal Baig, Technical Director, MMEA, Trend N	Bilal Baig, Technical Director, MMEA, Trend Micro				
	• The content will focus on the transition from isolated security measures to a unified framework, with a special emphasis on the effectiveness of Zero Trust Architecture					
10:40	Education Seminars Session 1					
	MEInfoSec The real risk – Why patching is still a challenge Ara Antoun, Chief Operations officer, MEInfoSec	Positive Technologies The business model of modern cybercrime: A new look or why the black market will never disappear?! Alexey Lukatsky, Managing Director, Positive Technologies	Veracode From data to done: Remediating the app risk that matters most, with the least amount of effort John Smith, EMEA CTO, Veracode			
11:20	Networking break					
11:50	ů.	aily challenges				
	 Simon Brady, Event Chairman, AKJ Associates (Moderator); Hussain Al Khalsan, CISO, ZAND; Rajesh Yadla, Head of Information Security, Al Hilal Bank; Sultan Al Mansoori, Director of Information Security, Abu Dhabi Media (ADM); Khaled Al Teneiji, Cybersecurity Head, ENOC; Hussein Hassan Shafik, Group CISO and Privacy Officer, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank What are your biggest challenges in the day-to-day battle of protecting your customers and organisation? What threats worry you the most? Security versus resilience: aligning security priorities with organisational objectives. How do you prioritise, and do you feel supported and heard when airing concerns? How do you assess and prepare for the threat of state-sponsored cyber-attacks targeting your organisation? What strategies do you have in place to ensure cloud security and manage associated risks? In the event of a significant cyber-incident, what are the key components of your incident response strategy, and how do you ensure that your organisation can quickly recover and continue operations? With the regulatory environment continually evolving, and with new data protection laws and cybersecurity regulations being introduced, how do you ensure your organisation remains compliant with both local and international regulations, and what challenges does this bring? What initiatives have you implemented to promote cybersecurity awareness and ensure that security practices are integrated into the daily activities of all employees? 					
12:20	, , ,	How are you addressing the challenges of attracting, developing, and retaining skilled cybersecurity professionals in your organisation?				
12.20	Michael Byrnes, Director, Solutions Engineer					
	 As a matter of fact, Al is THE new buzzword, and it comes with its set of new opportunities and capabilities for cybercriminals – which is even more concerning because their Al systems are designed to learn and improve over time. Criminals who train their own Al systems on malware and other malicious software can significantly 'level up' their attacks. What is the effect of Al threats on identity security, including real-life examples? How does Al impact the identity attack chain? What are the key tips for safeguarding your organisation from emerging threats? 					

 12-20 Entrelation crypts applicitly: Future-poorting security is the UAE Mendoub AL Security. Security in the UAE Mendoub AL Security Constraints. Constraints. Mendoub AL Security Security interpretations and the event manufactures. Learn have to transpoorting or comparison and security in an evolving transmitter constraints. Constraints Comparison and the event province and the event manufactures. Learn have to transmoorting or comparison and the event manufactures. Learn have to transmoorting or transmitter comparison and the event manufactures. Learn have to transmoorting or transmitter constraints. Including the impact on your PGL certificate lifecycle management, data security and complexes. Education Seminary Education and the event of the event approximation and the event of the event approximation and the event of the event approximation. The event of the event approximation and the event approximation and the event approximation and the event approximation and the event of the event approximation and the event approximation approximatis approximation approximation approximation approximation appr	Ager	enda				
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Crypto apility is an essential strategy for maintaining robust security in an evolving threat landscape. Learn how to future group your organizations security informations in evolve organizations and real-work of uses of the support your primery towards crypto agility and post-quantum cryptography. Attendees will essn: The function stage of the information of cryptographic threats new evolutions. Including the impact on your PKI, certificate lifecycle management, data security and compliance. Table Codes in a post pandemic world with a beyond: A life cycle approach to AF. A himrals breach - Is it the future of cyberackit. Cyberackit Codes in a post pandemic world with a beyond: A life cycle approach to AF. A himrals breach - Is it the future of cyberackits (cyberackits) (
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 14.40 Enhancing cybersecurity through effective cyber-governance and regulation Anoop Kumar, Head of Information Security Governance Risk and Compliance, Gulf News, Al Nisr Publishing Hew do we effectively integrate cybersequerance into cur corporate strategy? Navigating regulatory compliance and standards Are public-private partnerships the way to enhanced security for all? Upberthmat Infol@interships the way to enhanced security for all? Tempower your cyber-defence aurenal with the intelligence to find the hidden threat, improve strategic and tactical decision-making, and elevate the posarue of the digital risk plan TRESED CHAT - A CISOV siver. IPOS. SEGS, and regulatory Indecape Simon Brady, Event Charman, AKJ Associates: Aus Atzubaidi, CISO, Director of IT & Media, MBC Group What are the key dystrecurity measures a company should implement before going public to ensure investor confidence and compliance with is intelligence to ben in the IPO preparation ghase? How can companie settly and mighter cyber isks that could implement before going public to ensure investor confidence and compliance with is in crucial for companies to integrate cybersecurity measures contribute to the social and governance aspect of ESC? How are measures and stakeholders increasingly viewing cybersecurity as aurical component of a companies config compliance? How are investors and stakeholders increasingly viewing cybersecurity and and compliance with cybersecurity regulations realities and onsequences for non-compliance with cybersecurity regulations really act as a diatement? How are investors and stakeholders increasingly viewing cybersecurity and artificial Intelligence Director. App Diabl Government, Zaheer Mubark Shahk, CISO, Al Maryah Community Bark; Mantt Sahb, Ethical Hacker, The Global Fund; Vikkag Shrvastava, Global CISO, Korence International		QR codes in a post pandemic world Gary Pollock, Solutions Engineering	Vault and beyond: A life cycle approach to Al- powered privileged access management Meenakshisundaram Ramakrishna Sahadevan,	A harmless breach – Is it the future of cybersecurity? Mohamed Djenane, Sr. Director Sales		
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Hafez Rehman, Group Manager, Security Consultant Team, Kaspersky Empower your cyberdefence arsenal with the intelligence to find the hidden threat, improve strategic and tactical decision-making, and elevate the posture of the digital risk plain 15:20 FIRESIDE CHAT – A CISO's view. IPOs, ESC, and regulatory tandscape Simon Brady, Event Chaiman, AKJ Associates; Aus Alzubaidi, CISO, Director of IT & Media, MBC Group • How can companies identify and mitigate cyber/sks that could impact their valuation or delay the IPO process? • How can companies identify and mitigate cyber/sks that could impact their valuation or delay the IPO process? • How can companies identify and mitigate cyber/sks that could impact their valuation or delay the IPO process? • How can companies stup dated with eSG criteria, and why is it crucial for companies to integrate cybersecurity practices into their ESG strategies? • How do storing cybersecurity intersect with ESG criteria, and why is it crucial for companies or onepany's overall ESC parformance? • How can companies stup udated with evolving cybersecurity as a critical component of a company's overall ESC parformance? • How can companies stup udated with evolving cybersecurity as a critical component of a company's overall ESC parformance? • How can companies stup udated with evolving cybersecurity as a critical component of a company's overall ESC parformance? • How can companies stup udated with evolving cybersecurity as a critical component of a company's overall ESC parformance? • How tare typerating ad		Navigating regulatory compliance and standards				
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 16:00 EXECUTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION Embracing AI: A double-edged sword Simon Brady, Event Chairman, AKJ Associates (Moderator); Dr Ebrahim AI Alkeem, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence Director, Abu Dhabi Government; Zaheer Mubarak Shaikh, CISO, AI Maryah Community Bank; Manit Sahib, Ethical Hacker, The Global Fund; Vikalp Shrivastava, Global CISO, Kerzner International What are the primary advantages you see in integrating AI into your organisation's cybersecurity framework, and how have these benefits manifested so far? What tare the primary advantages you accuracy of AI algorithms in identifying and mitigating cyberthreats? What measures do you take to prevent and mitigate AI-specific risks, such as adversarial attacks or AI system vulnerabilities? How do you balance the deployment of AI technologies with the need for human oversight and expertise in your cybersecurity? Looking ahead, what future AI advancements or trends are you most excited about, and how do you plan to integrate these into your cybersecurity strategy? Live DEMONSTRATION: Weaponising AI for cyber-attacks & offensive operations Maait Sahib, Ethical Hacker, The Global Fund Overview & threat landscape: How AI is being leveraged in the wild for malicious activities Weaponising AI for offensive operations: Running AI through the cyber kill chain ChatGPT or [insertnamehere]GPT: What's the level of effort required to build your own AI? LIVE DEMON Brady, Editor, AKJ Associates Current security nodes and attitudes are not fit for purpose Organisations need to change thier approach Software firms must take responsibility for their products Information sharing should be the norm not secrecy Boards must walk the walk not just talk the talk 		 How does cybersecurity intersect with ESG criteria, and why is it crucial for companies to integrate cybersecurity practices into ESG strategies? How do strong cybersecurity measures contribute to the social and governance aspects of ESG? How are investors and stakeholders increasingly viewing cybersecurity as a critical component of a company's overall ESG perform How can companies stay updated with evolving cybersecurity regulations and ensure ongoing compliance? Are regulations fit for purpose? Do potential penalties and consequences for non-compliance with cybersecurity regulations readers. 				
 Simon Brady, Event Chairman, AKJ Associates (Moderator); Dr Ebrahim Al Alkeem, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence Director, Abu Dhabi Government; Zaheer Mubarak Shaikh, CISO, AI Maryah Community Bank; Manit Sahib, Ethical Hacker, The Global Fund; Vikalp Shrivastava, Global CISO, Kerzner International What are the primary advantages you see in integrating Al into your organisation's cybersecurity framework, and how have these benefits manifested so far? What challenges have you encountered while implementing Al-driven cybersecurity solutions, and how have you addressed these obstacles How do you ensure the reliability and accuracy of Al algorithms in identifying and mitigating cyber-threats? What the sures do you take to prevent and mitigate Al-specific risks, such as adversarial attacks or Al system vulnerabilities? How do you balance the deployment of AI technologies with the need for human oversight and expertise in your cybersecurity operations? What strategies do you use to address the ethical and privacy concerns associated with the use of Al in cybersecurity? Looking ahead, what future Al advancements or trends are you most excited about, and how do you plan to integrate these into your cybersecurity strategy? UVE DEMONSTRATION: Weaponising AI for cyber attacks & offensive operations Manit Sahib, Ethical Hacker, The Global Fund Overview & threat landscape: How AI is being leveraged in the wild for malicious activities Weaponising AI for offensive operations: Running AI through the cyber kill chain ChatGPT or linsertnamehere]GPT: What's the level of effort required to build your own AI? LIVE DEMOX AI in action Time for security to grow up Simon Brady, Editor, AKJ Associates Current security models and attitudes are not fit for purpose Organisations need to change thie	15:40	Networking break				
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Education Seminars			
CyberArk QR codes in a post pandemic world Gary Pollock, Solutions Engineering Manager,	QR codes were all but dead until smartphone companies started incorporating QR code scanners into their mobile phones back in 2017. Enter the COVID19 pandemic and the rise of the contactless economy, and the QR code is making a massive comeback. From advertising and restaurant menus to healthcare and agriculture – the use cases for QR codes are infinite. QR codes are accessible, easy to produce and seemingly, here to stay. They're also a		
CyberArk	 perfect way for cybercriminals to snag your employee's personal information. Attendees will learn: Examples of three simulated QR code attacks Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) used by QR code attackers Ways to protect yourself and your employees Implications for enterprise security teams and controls to have in place to prevent privilege escalation and lateral movement within the IT estate 		
ManageEngine Vault and beyond: A life cycle approach to Al-powered privileged access management Meenakshisundaram Ramakrishna Sahadevan, Product marketing analyst, ManageEngine	 Traditional PAM implementations often place a firm focus on the solution itself, neglecting the broader context of privileged access management. However, it is important to adopt a holistic approach that encompasses the entire life cycle of privileged users, right from onboarding to offboarding. By integrating Al-driven insights from across enterprise IT solutions, organisations can incorporate privileged access management best practices using Al-powered insights to mitigate risks and improve operational efficiency. Attendees will learn: The limitations of a traditional approach to privileged access management How an integrated approach can help leverage Al insights throughout the privileged 		
	access lifecycle from across enterprise IT solutionsTangible benefits and the way ahead		
MEInfoSec The real risk – Why patching is still a challenge Ara Antoun, Chief Operations officer, MEInfoSec	 Patch management is a critical aspect of maintaining the security and functionality of software systems. However, it comes with a range of challenges that can make the process complex and difficult. Third-party applications are a significant vector for potential infections. The challenge today is how to minimise the risk and remediate the vulnerabilities. Effective patch management tools are essential for ensuring security, stability and continuity in an organisation's digital infrastructure. It also requires a balanced approach combining timely response with careful prioritisation. DarkSight resolves this issue and makes the patch management process more efficient. 3rd party applications the root cause of infections 		
	 Regional top vulnerable applications and their impact Challenges of patching and examples DarkSight – identification and remediation 		
Positive Technologies The business model of modern cybercrime: A new look or why the black market will never disappear?! Alexey Lukatsky, Managing Director, Positive Technologies	 Modern cybercrime operates like any market or business, but it is illegal? We should analyse cybercriminals through the lens of economic principles The business model of any enterprise, including cybercrime, consists of nine key components: key activities, key resources, partner networks, value propositions, customers, channels, customer relationships, cost structure, and revenue streams (with many examples of cybercrime products, services, and offers, particularly in the MENA region) We can predict emerging cybercrime businesses by understanding these components To effectively combat cybercrime, we must understand its business model and how we can disrupt it 		

Education Seminars		
Seclore	Data breach now average \$8 million in damages. But what if your data could stay secured even when compromised or exfiltrated? We often think of data breaches as inevitably catas-	
A harmless breach – Is it the future of cybersecurity?	trophic. But a new data-centric model questions this assumption and outlines a path toward a future where breaches become harmless.	
Mohamed Djenane, Sr. Director Sales Engineering MENA/APAC,	Attendees will learn:	
Seclore	 Transform your cybersecurity approach: Discover how data-centric security models can render data breaches harmless, even when compromised Gain competitive advantage: Hear real-world success stories of companies that have turned breaches into harmless events, giving them an edge in the market Stay ahead of trends: Get insights into future cybersecurity trends and prepare your organisation for the evolving threat landscape. 	
Veracode From data to done: Remediating the app risk that matters most, with the least amount of effort	Security teams today are grappling with a host of challenges that hinder their ability to manage their security risk posture effectively. From infrastructure and security tool sprawl, teams are missing a total view of risk, drowning in alert fatigue making it difficult to know how to prioritise and remediate at the pace business requires.	
John Smith, EMEA CTO, Veracode	 Automated root cause analysis to tackle the most urgent and impactful application and cloud security issues To ensure your organisation stays ahead of potential threats To unify findings across development, build, deployment, and production tools Provide comprehensive risk visibility from code-to-cloud and boost remediation velocity by 10x Prioritise solutions based on the reduction of asset and identity risk Cut remediation time by 75% 	