SecureMaine 2026 - Speaker Bios

Dan Barahona

Dan Barahona is the founder of AI Security University, where he hosts online courses, weekly virtual events, and networking, all free for the community. Dan's classes have trained over 150,000 learners and address AI literacy training for technical and non-technical employees to ensure safe, secure, and responsible AI usage.

Dan has also held senior leadership roles at Qualys, Anomali, and ArcSight and is a frequent speaker at cybersecurity events.

Rae Becerra

Rae Becerra is Vice President of Information Security for a publicly traded global asset manager, sits on the board of the ISC2 Maine Chapter, and is CISSP, AAISM, CIST, and CvCISO certified. Her career spans consulting, education, nonprofit work, health insurance, and finance; she got there through networking in both senses of the word.

She's built her career on one belief: security cannot protect a room it doesn't understand. That's what drives her toward programs that are inclusive and accessible, and it's what makes her as focused on diverse perspectives as she is on technical rigor. They aren't a nice-to-have in security; they're how you find the gaps.

Outside of work she can be found hanging out with her pack of corgis, exploring Maine, sharing snacks, and sometimes trying to keep up on the agility field.

Michel Chamberland

Michel Chamberland is the Founder and CEO of IntegSec LLC, a cybersecurity company focused on offensive security testing, penetration testing, red teaming, and AI-driven security solutions.

With over 20 years of cybersecurity experience, Mike has held leadership roles at IBM X-Force Red and Trustwave SpiderLabs and has led thousands of security engagements for organizations across industries. He holds advanced certifications including CISSP, OSCP, and OSCE. Mike specializes in helping organizations understand emerging cyber risks, strengthen security programs, and navigate the evolving intersection of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and digital transformation.

Christopher Clark

Chris Clark is a resident of Maine and a cybersecurity leader with experience in incident response and security operations. He leads threat intelligence and cybersecurity incident response at Thrive NextGen, where he helped build the company's security operations and incident response program.

His team provides 24/7 response to ransomware, nation-state intrusions, and other critical security incidents for organizations across the US, UK, Canada, and APAC, including Fortune 500 companies. He has coordinated with the FBI, DHS, and the UK National Cyber Security Centre.

Matt Connors

Matt serves as the Vice President of Advisory at IDMWORKS. His previous roles as CISO, Board Advisor, VP of Data and Architecture, and Identity Practice Lead allow him to strike the balance of cybersecurity, customer experience, and strategic delivery, leading cybersecurity strategy, planning, and cross-industry best practices.

Additionally, Matt has held roles in incident response, threat management, physical and virtual infrastructure, collaboration tech, and software development in his 20+ year career. Matt enjoys collaborating and sharing knowledge with technology and leadership professionals, speaking at Identity and Cybersecurity industry conferences across the globe.

Cass Cooper

Cass R. Cooper, MHR, is a writer, speaker, and organizational strategist known professionally as The Chaos Whisperer. As the founder and principal of Know Better Do Better Consulting, Cass helps leaders and organizations navigate complexity, make better decisions, and turn chaos into clarity.

Her work sits at the intersection of leadership, organizational change, communication, and the human systems that drive performance. Through keynotes, workshops, advisory work, and executive coaching, Cass gives audiences practical frameworks for navigating change without losing themselves, or their people, in the process.

She holds a Master of Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma and hosts Right There With You, produced by Know Better Studios. Her philosophy is simple: be peaceful and paid, not just booked and busy.

David Curtis

David Curtis is a Cybersecurity Consultant at Echelon with over a decade of experience across the U.S. military, law enforcement, and intelligence analysis. He has conducted site surveys for operations in foreign environments, focusing on security and sustainability, and served on red team adversarial forces in diverse training scenarios.

With deep expertise in offensive security, David brings a practical, real-world perspective to every engagement. He is known for his disciplined approach and ability to help organizations identify and close critical gaps in physical and cybersecurity defenses.

Mark Stuart Day

Mark Stuart Day has been Chief Scientist at Netskope since 2019, and was previously Chief Scientist at Riverbed Technology from 2004 to 2014. He is the author of Bits to Bitcoin: How Our Digital Stuff Works (MIT Press, 2018).

He spent ten years on the teaching staff of the MIT undergraduate computer systems class (6.033 / 6.1800), and taught the graduate database class at Harvard University. He holds 38 issued patents covering distributed systems, security, WAN optimization, content distribution, and telephony. He received his Ph.D. from MIT in 1995.

Keren de Via

Keren de Via is the Chief Operating Officer of Cyturus Technologies, a former CISO and military cyber leader with more than 17 years of experience in cybersecurity and communications. As the first female Combat Communications & Cyber Defense Officer in the Israel Defense Forces, she led mission-critical cyber operations supporting national security.

Today, she advises organizations on cybersecurity governance, resilience, and regulatory strategy, helping security leaders operationalize programs across frameworks including CMMC and the Secure Controls Framework (SCF). Keren is a frequent speaker and moderator known for bringing a practical, operational perspective to today's cybersecurity challenges.

Deidre Diamond

Deidre Diamond is the Founder and CEO of CyberSN, a cybersecurity workforce solutions company, and the Founder of Secure Diversity, a nonprofit dedicated to increasing access, representation, and opportunity within the cybersecurity industry.

For more than a decade, Deidre has focused on transforming how organizations understand, build, and support their cybersecurity workforce. She is a pioneer of Workforce Risk Intelligence, helping security leaders gain visibility into workforce capabilities, identify execution risk, improve retention, and make better decisions about talent, skills development, and organizational design.

Deidre is also the co-founder of Day of Shecurity, one of the cybersecurity community's longest-running free conferences focused on advancing women in security. A longtime advocate for cybersecurity professionals and leaders, she regularly speaks and writes about workforce risk, professional efficacy, career development, leadership, and the impact of AI on the cybersecurity workforce.

Bill Doerrfeld

Bill Doerrfeld is a tech journalist who has covered software development and enterprise technology trends for over a decade. He is Editor in Chief of Nordic APIs, a blog and community dedicated to secure, API-first strategies. He has also contributed to publications including CIO.com, CSO Online, Security Boulevard, InfoWorld, The New Stack, and LeadDev, among others.

Bill also speaks, moderates, and helps organize technology events, and advises tech companies on content strategy. Originally from Seattle, he has lived and worked with his family in Falmouth, Maine, since 2021. Don't ask him about Maine lobster; he's a vegetarian.

Matt Donato

Matt Donato is a Partner at Echelon Risk + Cyber, a national leading cybersecurity professional services firm. He is a highly experienced executive, entrepreneurial business advisor, and thought leader in the cybersecurity and technology risk industry, with over 20 years of experience in professional services, security solutioning, consulting, and team building.

He has a proven track record of helping organizations identify gaps in their security and providing the resources they need to build a solid foundation for growth. He is a Senior Board Advisor of Rebel Global Security, Board Member of (ISC)2 Charlotte-Metro Chapter, and Board Member of Ascend Nonprofit Solutions.

Most recently, Matt served as Managing Director of Client Services at CyberSN. Prior to that, he was Co-Founder and CEO of HuntSource, a cybersecurity and data intelligence advisory firm serving clients in the energy, financial services, healthcare, tech, manufacturing, and retail industries.

Drew Foley

Drew Foley is a Cybersecurity Associate at Echelon Risk + Cyber and a graduate of Thomas College with a degree in Cybersecurity. Originally from Houlton, Maine, he has spent nearly three years with Echelon, beginning as an intern before advancing into his current role.

Drew has experience across a broad range of cybersecurity disciplines, including risk management, governance, compliance, consulting, and defensive security. By working closely with both technical and advisory teams, he has developed a well-rounded, adaptable approach to cybersecurity and enjoys helping organizations address complex security and risk challenges.

Kent Goodrow

Kent Goodrow is the Chief Information Security Officer at Systems Engineering, a leading managed technology services provider in New England. Bringing nearly two decades of experience in IT management and security, Kent has been with Systems Engineering since 2012, holding various technical, professional, and leadership positions, and providing strategic guidance to Systems Engineering's clients on complex IT risks and industry compliance needs.

He is a certified professional with ISC2 and the Cyber-AB, and his expertise prioritizes safeguarding end users, computing ecosystems, client data, and managing organizational risk in the complex landscape of cybersecurity and regulatory compliance.

Bryan Grivois

Bryan is the VP of Cybersecurity for Cross Financial Corporation and an accomplished IT professional working with infrastructure, networking, security, and leadership throughout his career. He enjoys using his skills to contribute to the strategic planning and implementation of exciting technological advances happening within the insurance and financial industry.

He has more than 20 years of experience working in IT across multiple industries, including software development, healthcare, and insurance. During that time, he has become proficient in providing technological solutions that play a supportive role for the business, adding efficiency rather than expense, by relying on industry best practices.

David Grundy

David Grundy is an award-winning technology executive and strategic leader at the intersection of public service and federal IT modernization and transformation.

As the Public Sector CTO at Tines, David leads and advises on mission-critical security and intelligent workflow solutions specifically tailored to the unique needs of government and defense customers.

With more than two decades of experience spanning public sector, defense, and enterprise technology and consulting, David has consistently been at the forefront of modernizing federal IT operations, forging cross-sector partnerships, and building resilient, scalable systems and platforms that elevate operational effectiveness and security. His leadership and work have been recognized within both government and private sectors, including being named to GovExec's annual Fed 100 list.

Wendy Kacer

Wendy Kacer is an accomplished Chief Information Security Officer with over 25 years of experience in information technology and leadership, specializing in governance, compliance, security, and information risk. She currently serves as CISO at CommonSpirit Health, responsible for establishing and maintaining a robust information security program within a complex healthcare environment.

Wendy develops and champions a comprehensive information security strategy aligning with organizational goals and regulatory requirements, provides strategic guidance to executive leadership on emerging threats, and fosters a culture of security awareness and accountability across the enterprise. She oversees a robust risk management framework, ensuring compliance with regulations like HIPAA and PCI DSS, and drives continuous improvement through audits, assessments, and remediation efforts.

Prior to her CISO appointment, Wendy was Vice President of Cybersecurity Governance, Risk and Compliance and Deputy CISO at CommonSpirit Health. Her experience also includes strategic leadership as an Executive Consultant in the Office of the CISO at Optiv and as Vice President and Global Head of Security Risk & Compliance at Aon, where she also served as interim Global CISO.

Wendy holds CRISC, CIPT, and PMP certifications and earned her bachelor's degree in business from Louisiana State University.

Etay Maor

Etay Maor is VP Threat Intelligence at Cato Networks, a founding member of Cato CTRL (Cyber Threats Research Lab), and an industry-recognized cybersecurity researcher and keynote speaker.

Previously, Etay was the Chief Security Officer for IntSights, where he led strategic cybersecurity research and security services. Before that, Etay held leadership and research positions as an Executive Security Advisor at IBM, where he created and

led breach response training and security research, and as Head of RSA Security's Cyber Threats Research Labs, where he managed malware research and intelligence teams.

Etay is an adjunct professor at Boston College and a lecturer at MIT, and holds a BA in Computer Science and an MA in Counter Terrorism and Cyber Terrorism. He is a frequent featured speaker at major industry conferences and is part of the RSA Conference and QuBits conference committees, and is often tapped by major news outlets for commentary on cybersecurity news.

Elyse Nielsen

Elyse Nielsen is ServiceNow's Field CTO for Security. She works with healthcare and life sciences organizations on security architecture, agentic AI governance, and regulatory compliance. Before that, she was Global Director of Security Architecture at Omnicell. She developed architects and auditors into managers. At Quest Software, she led one of three Security Professional Services practices. Earlier, she ran a 23-person project management department. She serves on the SecureMaine Board of Directors.

Andrew Opland

Andrew Opland serves as the System Director of Cybersecurity Physical Controls for CommonSpirit Health. With nearly two decades of healthcare experience, Andrew specializes in hardening complex physical control systems and life-safety infrastructure across a portfolio of 149 hospitals and 2,000+ clinics. This role demands the strategic orchestration of IoT and OT convergence, where Andrew acts as a vital translator between clinical operations, IT, physical security, and facility engineering.

By combining his background as a full-stack developer with extensive operational experience in emergency management and physical security, Andrew provides a unique perspective on securing interconnected medical environments. He is currently spearheading enterprise-wide initiatives to standardize physical control protocols, transforming fragmented, site-specific infrastructure into a cohesive, defensible, and audit-ready ecosystem.

Joseph Patenaude

Joseph Patenaude is an information/cybersecurity professional with nearly 10 years' experience in the space. Currently he works at Bangor Savings Bank as their Information Security Manager and is assistant coach of the University of Maine Cybersecurity Team.

Christian Scott

Christian Scott is a cybersecurity leader, researcher, and ethical hacker with over 20 years of experience protecting organizations and individuals from sophisticated threat actors. His contributions to the cybersecurity community include helping build Kali Linux-featured tools like Legion, and helping discover a number of zero-day CVEs.

Across his career, Christian has led thousands of cybersecurity engagements across every major industry, including numerous Fortune 1000 companies.

Rupali Sharma

Rupali Sharma is a product and platform leader with 15+ years of experience building technology and player experiences behind some of the world's most recognized gaming franchises and digital platforms.

She has led product initiatives at Electronic Arts, Take-Two Interactive, and k-ID across titles and ecosystems, including Apex Legends, FIFA, Civilization VI, XCOM 2, and Kerbal Space Program, impacting tens of millions of players globally.

Today, Rupali serves as Principal Product Lead at k-ID, where she leads Product and Customer Success to build child-safety and privacy compliance infrastructure for gaming and social platforms. Her work focuses on helping developers navigate global youth safety regulations while preserving engaging user experiences.

Rupali is also a speaker, mentor, and community builder passionate about ethical product leadership, platform innovation, and empowering the next generation of leaders in tech and gaming.

Mike Snyder

Mr. Snyder is the first executive director of The Cyber EF and assumed this role in April 2026. In this capacity, he oversees all stakeholder engagement to ensure future growth for the CMMC Ecosystem, the Secured Controls Framework (SCF) ecosystem, and other future customer bases.

Previously, Mike served as the acting executive director of the Cybersecurity Assessor and Instructor Certification Organization (CAICO). He is a dedicated information security professional with over 25 years of experience in implementations, assessments, and training within both the government and private sectors.

Mike is known for his work and commitment to the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program, as well as his vast experience with Defense Industrial Base (DIB) contractors. Mike holds a Master's Degree in Information Security Management from Trident University, and holds numerous certifications including CISM, CMMC-LCCA, CMMC-PI, multiple Microsoft technical

certifications, and the Bronze Order of Mercury.

Marshall Tracy

With over 20 years of cybersecurity leadership experience, Marshall is the Founder of Empty Security Labs, where he focuses on securing generative AI systems and advancing AI security research. Previously, he served as Chief Information Security Officer in life sciences and fintech companies, transforming global security, risk, and compliance programs.

Anne Trotter

Anne Trotter currently works as a Cybersecurity Manager for Saliense, supporting customers as a GRC subject matter expert navigating compliance requirements. She started her career in the Army and has worked as a federal government contractor for Raytheon and CACI. Her current efforts include work on a Risk Management LLM for a federal customer.

Martha Ward

Martha Ward is the Senior Vice President of Technology & Digital Experience at University Credit Union, where she leads technology, cybersecurity, and digital strategy. She is passionate about taking the mystery out of cybersecurity, making complex topics approachable and practical, and helping people feel more confident and empowered in an increasingly digital world. She holds the ISC2 CISSP and ISSMP certifications.

Matt Witten

Matthew Witten has spent the last 25 years in Information Security. Currently, he is the Chief Information Security Officer at the University of New England (UNE); prior to UNE, Matthew led the Information and Cyber Security programs at Camden National Bank and Martin's Point Health Care. Before joining the Maine cybersecurity community, Matthew was the CISO for the University of Louisville, Louisville Metro Government, and Homecare Homebase, a healthcare tech company.

Matthew holds multiple industry certifications, including CISSP, CISA, CRISC, CDPSE, GIAC GSTRT, and GIAC GLEG. He was awarded the C100, Top 100 CISOs in North America, in 2025 and 2026, and was recognized by the SANS Institute as one of their "People Who Made a Difference in Security" in 2018 for his contributions to building and developing security talent.

Matthew holds an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Bachelor's degree from Bellarmine University.