Ijaz Mohammed

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Information Security Officer | vCISO | Cybersecurity Operations & GRC

Cybersecurity professional with 8+ years of experience across security governance, risk and compliance, and security operations in healthcare, financial services, energy and FMCG. Currently delivering a virtual CISO (vCISO) engagement for a multi-brand healthcare group across the GCC, leading enterprise SSO, third-party risk, cloud and hosting security, medical OT security and hardening baselines. Proven record of building security programs from the ground up (ISO 27001 implementation, security governance at a regulated exchange house), running large-scale control testing (~3,000 controls for Shell in 45 days), and strengthening SOC capability through MITRE ATT&CK-based detection and breach and attack simulation. Known for turning technical risk into clear decisions leadership can act on.

WORK EXPERIENCE

ICD InfoSec • Dubai • 08/2025 - Present
Senior Information Security Consultant (vCISO)

vCISO engagement - Aster DM Healthcare Group | UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, KSA

- **Security program leadership:** Run the information security and compliance program for a multi-brand healthcare group, aligned to ISO 27001:2022, ADHICS and NIST CSF through a Unified Control Framework (UCF), helped lift maturity from Risk Informed to Repeatable.
- **Enterprise SSO:** Lead a three-phase SSO program integrating clinical, business and cloud platforms with Microsoft Entra ID, including Conditional Access and session controls for shared clinical workstations in operating theatres - reducing password sprawl and unattended-session risk.
- **Identity visibility:** Built an authentication register covering 83 applications and an application-to-entity map across 20 group entities, giving leadership a single view of SSO coverage and identity gaps.
- **Third-party risk:** Run the annual TPRM cycle across 39 vendors (incl. Oracle, Genesys, AWS, Azure, Zscaler), assessing business, technology and people controls, re-tiering vendor criticality, and working with Legal to add liability and risk-acceptance clauses to contracts.
- **Hosting consolidation & cloud security:** Drive the consolidation of 20 group websites into a unified AWS UAE landing zone - inventoried hosting and vendors, defined the migration path and authored the target security controls checklist (EDR, CTEM, vulnerability management, backup, monitoring), surfaced end-of-support servers and missing controls early.
- **Medical OT security:** Led Claroty-based and manual vulnerability assessments of connected medical devices at two hospitals, consolidating findings into prioritised remediation reports.
- **Hardening baselines:** Authoring CIS Benchmark-aligned (L1/L2) minimum security baselines with exact configurations for servers, endpoints, POS, FortiGate/SonicWall firewalls, Cisco/Alcatel switches and MSSQL/Oracle/MySQL databases.
- **Application protection:** Onboard and tune Medcare and patient-facing applications on Radware WAF, document compensating controls for platforms without native SSO/MFA.

- **Solution & data residency reviews:** Assess new platforms on architecture, DR, RPO/RTO and data residency, flagged regulated data stored outside the UAE and drove corrective action.
- **Awareness & culture:** Deliver security awareness sessions to business, IT and nursing teams using KnowBe4, backed by policy and risk governance that builds accountability.

Other ICD client engagements

- **AI solution assessments:** Evaluate AI platforms (AI data platform and AML tool) for a financial services client - use cases, AI guardrails, data security and vendor risk - to support go/no-go decisions.

Microminder Cyber Security Services • Abu Dhabi • 11/2024 - 07/2025

Senior Information Security Officer • Full-time

- **Saudi Aramco:** Supported a SOC enhancement project strengthening MITRE ATT&CK-based detection mechanisms, including AI-driven detection use cases, improving technique coverage and closing detection gaps.
- **Almarai:** Performed breach and attack simulations across network and endpoints using FourCore to validate real-world control effectiveness, and helped build the plan for Almarai's planned SOC rollout.
- Implemented and monitored access governance workflows using ServiceNow, ensuring compliance and access control effectiveness
- Supported PAM and identity governance initiatives including access reviews, role-based access control, and least privilege enforcement
- Led vulnerability management lifecycle including tracking remediation, coordinating with asset owners, and improving closure timelines
- Strengthened detection and response readiness through tabletop exercises and incident response simulations
- Developed operational dashboards and KPIs to measure security control effectiveness and risk reduction
- **Client Engagements with Saudi Aramco, Almarai and ARM Holding**

United Al Saqer Group • Abu Dhabi • 01/2024 - 10/2024

Information Security Consultant

- Led enterprise-wide cybersecurity initiatives aligned with ISO 27001:2022, including risk assessments, policy development, and security awareness programs.
- Advised on secure design principles and performed internal audits.
- Conducted vendor risk assessments, contract reviews, and SLA security alignment, including infrastructure, access, and application security evaluations.
- Strengthened cyber resilience through integrated security controls, continuous monitoring, control validation and reporting.

Deriv • Dubai, United Arab Emirates • 09/2022 - 01/2024

Team Lead Internal Audit

- Implemented Business Continuity and Incident Management processes as per ISO 22301.
- Drove compliance audits for GDPR, SWIFT, and PCI DSS, and performed ITGC and DORA readiness audits.
- Documented and tested IT controls against policies, procedures, and regulatory standards.

- Led stakeholder discussions, mentored junior auditors, and enhanced internal security practices through strategic assessments.

Information Technology Auditor

- Assessed IT systems, processes, and controls to identify potential risks and vulnerabilities.
- Conducted data analysis, interviews and documentation reviews to assess compliance with policies, procedures, regulatory requirements and control effectiveness.
- Conducted GDPR, SWIFT and PCI DSS readiness and compliance audits.

Al Ansari Exchange • Dubai, United Arab Emirates • 01/2021 - 08/2022

Assistant Manager - Network and Information Security

- **Security governance:** Brought formal security governance into the organisation - established the governance structure, policies, standards and procedures for a regulated financial services (PCI DSS) environment.
- **Control build-out:** Assessed existing security controls, amended those that fell short and built new controls to close gaps across enterprise systems.
- Strengthened access governance and worked with security technologies and teams to improve monitoring, control enforcement, and risk reduction
- Contributed to vulnerability management and remediation tracking activities

GE Digital • Bengaluru, India • 02/2020 - 12/2020

Digital Auditor

- Performed audits, attestations, and certifications utilizing established IT risk assessment frameworks and assessment programs
- Coordinated across functions such as security, sourcing, legal, and compliance.

KPMG India • Bengaluru, India • 01/2018 - 01/2020

Consultant

- **Shell:** Completed internal control testing for security compliance - around 3,000 controls tested in 45 days as part of a six-member team, performing deputy lead functions for the project.
- **Manappuram Finance (NBFC):** Implemented ISO 27001 end to end - gap assessment, risk assessment, policies, Statement of Applicability and internal audit - enabling the organisation to achieve ISO 27001 certification.
- Created threat models for all inbound and outbound applications for a product development firm.
- Performed risk assessment for identifying IT applications at a leading petrochemical firm.
- **Client Engagements with Shell, Manappuram Gold Finance, Federal Bank and Schneider.**

Associate Consultant

- Tested IT General Controls using a risk-based approach, excelled in collecting information and evidence and mapping it to controls based on the associated risk.

Accenture • Bengaluru, India • 11/2013 - 05/2015

Associate Software Engineer

- Worked on projects ranging from migration and support of SAP Business Warehouse (BW) to the development of a new production system

EDUCATION

Master's Degree in Management Information Systems, General
Virginia Commonwealth University - School of Business • 01/2016 - 05/2017

Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Operations Management and Supervision
Christ University, Bangalore • 01/2015 - 01/2016

BE in Electrical, Electronics and Communications Engineering
Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore • 01/2009 - 01/2013

CERTIFICATIONS

ISO 27001:2022 Lead Auditor
IRCA

ISO 42001:2023 Lead Auditor/Lead Implementer
Exemplar

CISM
ISACA

SKILLS

Governance & Risk: ISO 27001:2022, NIST CSF, ADHICS, ISO 22301, PDPL, ISO 42001, PCI DSS, GDPR, policy development, risk assessment, internal audit

Identity & Access: SSO (Microsoft Entra ID), Conditional Access, MFA, Privileged Access Management (PAM), access reviews, RBAC

Security Operations: MITRE ATT&CK detection, Breach & Attack Simulation (FourCore)

Third-Party & AI Risk: TPRM lifecycle, vendor tiering, contract and SLA security, AI solution and guardrail assessments

Tools: Sprinto, ServiceNow, ManageEngine, Archer, CrowdStrike, Proofpoint, Mimecast, FourCore, KnowBe4, Lansweeper