

# Brad Bielawski, CISM

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## CIO | CISO | Board Advisor

Technology and cybersecurity executive with 15+ years of progressive experience leading enterprise IT and cybersecurity programs in regulated insurance and fintech environments. 7+ years as CISO driving business growth through security compliance, risk management, and technology innovation. Proven track record partnering with boards, private equity stakeholders, and executive teams to align cybersecurity strategy with business objectives.

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## Professional Experience

### Consultant | Fractional CIO/CISO

**Biel Technology Consulting** (Self-employed), Miami, FL, Apr 2025 – Present

- Delivering fractional and virtual CIO/CISO leadership to growth-stage companies, aligning technology strategy with business objectives, innovation initiatives, and security compliance requirements
- Providing cybersecurity program assessments, GRC roadmap development, and interim executive leadership
- Advising on cloud security architecture, AI governance frameworks, and regulatory compliance strategies for clients in insurance, healthcare, and financial services

### Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)

**Independence Pet Group**, Remote, Dec 2021 – Apr 2025

\$1B+ revenue, 1,000+ employees, Insurance Industry, Private Equity

- Led cybersecurity operations and GRC across North America managing a team of 10 professionals and a budget of \$5M across 3 P&Ls and 11 business units
- Built IPG's first cybersecurity program from the ground up, establishing foundational controls aligned with CIS Critical Security Controls, then advancing program maturity through NIST Cybersecurity Framework alignment
- Chaired the Enterprise Risk Committee and regularly briefed the Board of Directors and Audit Committee on cybersecurity posture and risks
- Enabled business growth by achieving SOC2 Type II certification across multiple business units, enabling Fortune 500 client wins and positioning IPG as a trusted partner
- Pioneered a governance program to enable innovative and secure use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Established a centralized Security Operations Center (SOC) reducing frequency and impact of incidents
- Partnered with product engineering teams to implement DevSecOps principles
- Achieved excellent results on state insurance exams and compliance audits by building a cybersecurity audit program
- Directed cyber due diligence and integration for nine acquisitions

## **Vice President (VP) & Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)**

**Independence Holding Company**, New York, NY, Jul 2019 – Dec 2021

Insurance Industry, Public Company

- Partnered with IT leadership to implement a secure work-from-home model for 800 employees during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring business continuity
- Directed IHC's enterprise cybersecurity program covering entities nationally, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements (SOX, NYDFS, HIPAA, PCI-DSS) and alignment with business risk objectives
- Enhanced Identity and Access Management (IAM) with multifactor authentication (MFA) and conditional access policies utilizing OKTA and Microsoft tools
- Demonstrated strong cybersecurity posture to buyers during IHC's asset divestitures, supporting due diligence and resulting in favorable negotiations for IHC
- Oversaw security operations, governance, identity and access management, cloud, application, and infrastructure security to protect critical systems and data
- Strengthened cyber resilience by leading incident response, vendor risk management, and organization-wide security awareness initiatives
- Led IHC's crisis management, including Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning (DR and BCP)
- Regularly presented to the Board of Directors on cybersecurity initiatives and business impacts

## **IT Security & Audit Manager**

**Independence Holding Company**, New York, NY, Feb 2017 – Jul 2019

- Responsible for securing internal and external systems and networks as well as improving audit outcomes
- Developed and implemented enterprise-wide security and compliance policies for 6 IHC Group subsidiaries
- Directed third-party risk management, MDR implementation, and audit readiness
- Strengthened IT General Controls (ITGCs) related to financial systems, resulting in significantly improved SOX audit outcomes

## **IT Manager**

**Independence Holding Company**, Madison, WI, Jan 2013 – Feb 2017

- Responsible for IT operations across 5 insurance subsidiaries within IHC Group
- Managed infrastructure design, systems integration, IT staff, disaster recovery, and vendor relations
- Led cloud migrations and enterprise system rollouts, including claims and policy administration platforms

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## **Core Competencies**

**Cybersecurity Leadership:** CISO | CIO | Information Security Program | GRC | SOC | Enterprise Risk Management | Security Architecture | Zero Trust | Cloud Security (Azure, AWS, Google Cloud) | AI Governance

**Compliance & Risk:** NIST Framework | CIS Controls | SOC 2 | ISO 27001 | HITRUST | SOX | NYDFS 23 NYCRR 500 | HIPAA | PCI DSS | GLBA | Third-Party Risk Management | IT Audit | Regulatory Examinations | Data Privacy and CCPA

**Technology & Operations:** SIEM | EDR | MDR | IAM | Incident Response | Disaster Recovery | Business Continuity | Penetration Testing | Cloud Migration | DevSecOps | Application Security

**Leadership & Strategy:** Board Reporting | Audit Committee | M&A Due Diligence | Budget Management | Team Development | Private Equity | Digital Transformation | Vendor Management | Insurance & FinTech

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## Education and Certifications

**Bachelor of Arts**, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT  
**Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)** - ISACA

**Courses:**

- Artificial Intelligence and Application Security – LinkedIn
- Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals – ISACA
- AI Threat Landscape: Attacks, Risk, and Security Measures – ISACA
- Prompt Engineering – ISACA
- Blockchain Fundamentals – ISACA

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## Professional Association Memberships

**InfraGard** - a partnership between the FBI and the private sector dedicated to protecting critical infrastructure through information sharing and collaboration.

**ISACA** - a leading global association for IT governance, cybersecurity, risk management, and audit professionals.