
JAVAN SYDNEY

Skype: JAVAN SYDNEY, NAIROBI ♦ +25471 359 5713 ♦ javansydnex@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A dynamic global leader with 15+ years of experience driving digital transformation and cybersecurity initiatives across diverse sectors including international NGOs, banking, consulting, IT, and fintech. I specialize in designing and implementing innovative solutions that not only meet stringent government regulations and donor requirements but also advance digital infrastructure and cybersecurity capabilities.

In my role as a senior professional at Pathfinder International, I spearheaded the development and execution of integrated digital financial, programmatic, and health strategies, leveraging cutting-edge technologies to enhance operational efficiency and safeguard critical data. My expertise encompasses strategic leadership, cybersecurity governance, risk management, and technical advising, enabling me to align digital transformation efforts with evolving organizational priorities and regional development goals.

Having worked extensively across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Northern Asia, Europe, and the USA, I excel in stakeholder alignment and cross-functional leadership, consistently driving collaboration with national governments, regional bodies, and international donors. I am passionate about building resilient digital ecosystems and empowering teams to achieve excellence in cybersecurity and digital innovation.

Bringing on board capabilities and experience to contribute to the organization's Digital Transformation Vertical by delivering secure, scalable, and impactful digital solutions that accelerate development and enhance cybersecurity across global communities.

SKILLS

- Cybersecurity Expertise
- Digital Transformation Leadership
- Leadership & Team Management
- Strategic and Operational Leadership
- Compliance & Risk Management (HACT)
- Program Design and Implementation
- Policy Development & Regulatory Compliance
- Security & Regulatory Compliance
- Cybersecurity Fraud Monitoring & Response
- Stakeholder/Client & Government Engagement

WORK HISTORY

Cybersecurity, Risk & Digital Transformation Director **Reel Informatics, DC, US.**

06/2024 to Date

I lead technical acumen and proven consultative approach driving secure, scalable digital transformation that not only protects critical assets but also enables organizations to thrive in today's digital landscape. My goal is to support the clients' missions by delivering innovative, risk-based solutions that catalyze global development through secure digital infrastructure;

- Developed and implemented comprehensive cybersecurity frameworks that reduced security incidents by up to 30% while ensuring full compliance with international standards.
- Advised on multi-million-dollar digital transformation projects, including AI-driven analytics deployments and cloud-based digital infrastructure enhancements, contributing to a measurable 25% increase in operational efficiency.
- Provided expert consulting services to diverse stakeholders, including government agencies and international bodies, successfully managing projects with budgets exceeding \$25 million and forging strategic partnerships with organizations such as USAID and UN.
- Authored over 10 analytical reports and policy briefs that increased cybersecurity awareness by 35% across 15 countries, positioning client organizations as trusted advisors in digital risk management.
- Designed and executed cybersecurity training programs for over 100 officials, significantly enhancing local teams' capabilities in managing cyber threats and ensuring sustainable digital operations.

GISO Program Specialist, **Pathfinder International, Boston, US.**

06/2022 to 06/2024

As a GISO –Global Operation, I successfully managed, led, and supported Multi-Country teams across 33+, internally implementing Cybersecurity and Digital health initiatives enhancing external collaboration and capacity

building. This position, under the supervision of the Senior Director Innovations and Operations, involved close work with Programme staff and liaison with Regional Office ICT and the Global ICT Division.

- Directed comprehensive ICT operations by leading a high-performing team to implement corporate ICT priorities, develop and execute robust ICT plans and budgets, and secure both physical and digital assets. This proactive approach reduced security risks by 40% and boosted operational efficiency by 30% through stringent regulatory compliance and risk management.
- Managed cybersecurity projects with budgets exceeding \$25 million by leveraging advanced risk management frameworks and AI-driven analytics to streamline operations, achieving a 20% reduction in incidents and a 30% improvement in incident response times while translating investments into measurable operational improvements.
- Represented ICT at inter-agency forums and led capacity-building initiatives, including the formation of technical and business reference groups. These efforts increased project success rates by 25% and improved service quality by 35% through enhanced vendor oversight and robust audit processes.
- Designed and implemented a comprehensive cybersecurity training program for over 300 government officials and stakeholders that increased local teams' digital security posture by 40%, equipping them with the skills to proactively manage cyber threats and sustain secure digital operations.
- Spearheaded transformative digital projects such as eTool, Mjali, and RapidPro, re-engineering work processes and leveraging private sector resources to deliver cost-effective solutions that increased productivity by 40%. Successfully transitioned traditional methods to digital systems, enhancing operational efficiency by 35%.
- Deployed state-of-the-art AI-driven cybersecurity analytics tools that reduced detection and response times by 50% while providing real-time insights and enabling proactive threat mitigation, substantially strengthening overall system resilience.
- Forged strategic partnerships with international organizations such as USAID and UN, GIZ, and EU driving a 45% increase in cybersecurity investment in critical infrastructure projects, enhancing stakeholder trust, and contributing to the development of robust, scalable cybersecurity policies and frameworks.
- Established comprehensive risk management frameworks that reduced vulnerability exposure by 25% across 12 high-risk developing regions by aligning cybersecurity measures with operational priorities and regulatory requirements, significantly mitigating potential threats.
- Guided the integration of ICT solutions within existing infrastructure and managed project budgets to achieve a 30% improvement in budget adherence and a 25% increase in financial report accuracy. Developed over 30 policy directives to continuously enhance global information and cybersecurity strategies, embedding a culture of innovation and security across the organization.

Cyber Security Governance, Risk & Compliance Lead,

01/2021 to 05/2022

M-Pesa Africa (MPA) contracted via Techsavanna – Nairobi, Kenya.

- Led a team of 15 cybersecurity professionals, implementing advanced threat management protocols that reduced security incidents by 30% and fostered a proactive risk management culture across 7 markets.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams on the M-Pesa G2 cloud system, generating KES 1B/month. Improved reporting processes by 15% and accelerated project delivery by 20%.
- Achieved 85% compliance with M-Pesa technology policies, reducing policy violations by 40% through targeted training and proactive reporting.
- Coordinated among users, development, and QA teams, achieving a 95% testing success rate and reducing testing cycle time by 25%.
- Led AML/CTF compliance initiatives with 20+ international partners, ensuring 100% legal adherence & timely execution.
- Monitored systems against baseline standards, improving overall performance and scalability by 30% through regular exception reporting and corrective actions.
- Collaborated with 10+ consultants and project managers from government and industry (e.g., Vodafone, Vodacom, Safaricom), boosting revenue and market share by 25%.
- Conducted monthly research on 5 core security areas, advising teams on emerging trends and enhancing proactive threat mitigation by 20%.

Business & Risk Compliance Manager,

01/2020 to 01/2021

Ronalds LLP East Africa – Nairobi, Nairobi

- Demonstrated exceptional client service as the main point of contact for 16+ different charitable organizations. Liaise with clients on all requests ranging from audit assistance, investment education, and daily updates.
- Conducted 30+ interviews with 200+ key business users to collect information on business processes and user requirements.
- Executed over 20 risk assessments regular SWOT reviews to identify areas of improvements and giving respective recommendations for mitigation on Digital programs within the NGO clientele.
- Evaluated 20+ banks consistency and importance of different business intelligence data against needs to determine optimal courses of action.
- Assigned tasks to 60+ associates, 30+ staffed projects and updated all involved parties to enhance optimal business flow.
- Implemented 20+ Standard Operating Procedures SOPs and reinforced them via regular reviews and improvement of the digital programs in clientele (VSO, MESPT, AFRAA)
- Mapped over 30 business and operational processes and recommended areas for improvement in written reports.

Business Analyst, 07/2015 to 11/2019

Barclays Bank – Edinburgh, UK.

- Managed relationships with 100+ third-party intrusion detection system providers and drove core banking integration projects which delivered error free products/services.
- Spearheaded Bring Your Own Device program, defining 20+ security parameters and designing complementary security deployments both applications and architecture.
- Collaborated with third-party 6+ payment card industry (PCI DSS) compliance partners that safeguarded \$50000 Liability and communicated to regulators on non-compliance gaps.
- Participated in 1200+ device hardening techniques and protocols on more than 3+ Operating systems.
- Conducted 300+ risk assessment and security audits to identify vulnerabilities in the softwares within 3 years.
- Performed 600+ risk analyses to identify appropriate security countermeasures relating to DevSecOps, compliances etc.

IT Security Specialist, 03/2013 to 06/2015

WE MOW INC. – Virginia, America

Fully in charge of all Compliance, IT Security, projects relating to technology and Assets of 100+ Insurance companies in the North America region.

ICT Security Analyst, 01/2012 to 02/2013

Copy Cat Ltd – Nairobi, Kenya

Collaborated with Network Engineering, Business Development and Enterprise departments to achieve effective Information Security for corporates in East Africa region both on projects and support.

EDUCATION

Master of Science: Information Technology Management-, 09/2020

University of Nairobi - Nairobi

Bachelor of Science: Computer Science, 11/2015

Africa Nazarene University - Nairobi

Diploma: Computer Science, 11/2012

KIHBT - Nairobi

CERTIFICATIONS

- ISO 31000 Lead Risk Manager
- CISSP - Certified Information System Security Professional
- PMP-Project Management Profesional
- CISA - Certified Information Systems Auditor
- CCNA Security
- CyberArk
- AWS Security
- Certified Ethical Hacker-CEH

REFEREES

Upon Request