

HOWARD DURDLE

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A Queen's Award-winning tech leader (CIO, CTO, CISO) with a passion for collaborating with brilliant minds to securely solve real world problems. A small "a" agilist with a track record of crafting secure infrastructures, developing robust software, and leading high-performing tech teams. My journey spans government, large corporations, and a keen focus on elevating SMEs through strategic, fractional leadership roles.

Current engagements include strategic planning, team (re)construction, audits, security enhancements, leadership coaching, and spearheading projects with a particular focus on security and systems integration.

Extensive experience in transforming SMEs with lagging tech capabilities, adept at identifying needs, overhauling systems, and unleashing business potential. A servant leader at heart, I combine deep technical know-how with a steady, strategic negotiation skill set, driving team growth, motivation, and skill advancement.

With roots in UK defence and later in fintech, my approach to risk management is both practical and aligned with achieving ambitious strategic and operational objectives. I'm not afraid to get my hands dirty with the team when the situation demands and I'm always looking for the next opportunity to work with smart people to get stuff done.

SKILLS

- Technical Strategy & Innovation
- Stakeholder Management
- Vendor Management
- Strategic and Agile Leader
- Information Security, ISO 27001
- Adaptability & Creativity
- Team Development, Mentoring
- Azure and MS365
- PM and Delivery
- Virtualisation, Containers
- On-Prem and Cloud Backup
- Linux, Windows
- Ubiquiti, Cisco IOS
- Financial & Operational Efficiency
- LDAP, Active Directory
- GDPR, GRC
- Defence domain knowledge
- Accounts Payable

EXPERIENCE

UPTAKE STRATEGIES, JUNE 2022– PRESENT

CIO (Contract)

Uptake Strategies offers award-winning, industry leading consultancy to global healthcare companies across planning, strategy, capability, and launch. We have worked with clients in every major healthcare market globally, delivering bespoke projects in a variety of therapeutic areas and categories.

As CIO I create and implement IT and Digital strategies, with a particular focus on information security.

Achievements:

- Led team through internal firewall setup to ensure separation of conflicting teams and data when working for competing clients.
- Migrated ~2TB of Microsoft Teams and SharePoint data to new private, secure framework.
- Operating as subject matter expert for senior management to validate MSP solutions and plan strategic company goals.

IMPRIMA, OCTOBER 2020– PRESENT

CIO/CISO (Contract)

In 2001 Imprima became the first European Virtual Data Room (VDR) provider to offer an M&A-focused due diligence platform, iRooms - and have been industry pioneers ever since.

Achievements:

- Took failing security function (due to staff attrition) and reworked ISMS and IT systems inside 45 days to remove non-conformances from external ISO 27001 audit.
- Identified and mitigated security issues in Azure deployment while also reducing Azure hosting cost by a third, saving approx. 60K pa.
- Review of incumbent MSP provision and rationalizing of requirements to reduce costs and improve service, validation of and contract with new MSP to provide new services.
- Planned decommissioning of co-lo datacentre hardware and rerouting of global network traffic to support new ways of working.

CLARIFY B2B, SEPTEMBER 2021 – DECEMBER 2023

CIO (Contract)

Clarify helps global Technology companies achieve sustained and significant commercial success.

Achievements:

- Defined and recruited for Data & Insight team to use technology (Elastic, Kibana, Tableau, Snowflake, FiveTran) to turn corporate data into actionable insight.
- Review of incumbent MSP provision and exit of contract.
- Recruitment of internal IT Team to provide daily on-site support to growing company.
- InfoSec consultancy to sales team, specifically to answer prospect queries around use of their data.
- Extensive work around GDPR, PII and protection/acceptable use of data.

FISCALTEC GROUP, FEBRUARY 2011 – JANUARY 2019

CISO, JANUARY 2018 – MARCH 2019

Since 2007 FISCAL Technologies has supported finance teams to achieve 100% spend protection.

Responsibilities and achievements:

- Stepped down as CTO to care for terminally ill wife. Retained CISO responsibilities part time.

CTO/CISO, FEBRUARY 2011 – JANUARY 2019

Moved from contract to permanent role and shareholder.

Responsibilities and achievements:

- Took SME with no security awareness and built a robust Information Security Management System, training, and processes to prove certification to the requirements of ISO 27001. Thus securing business from defence, local and central government sectors.
- Recruited and managed engineering team (~20 people), working with them to build, deliver, host and support software that subsequently won the Queen's Award for Innovation.
- Pioneered lowercase "a" agile behaviours in the engineering team, reaping the benefits of an engaged team with strong autonomy, mastery and purpose. Teams became self-organising, and their practices spontaneously spread to other teams within the business.
- Migrated a legacy on-prem customer base (>200 installs) to a new cloud platform; working with sales and providing expert information security assurance to satisfy customer concerns.
- Ensured financial stability through budget planning, invoicing processes, and cash flow management.
- Engaged potential clients through technical pre-sales.
- Efficiently managed a diverse team, fostering collaboration and driving high performance.
- CISO and ISMS owner. Escalation for complex security queries from customers and prospects.

FISCAL TECHNOLOGIES, SEPTEMBER 2008 – FEBRUARY 2011
INFORMATION SECURITY CONSULTANT (Contract. 3 renewals)

Responsibilities and achievements:

- Consultant to board and development team on secure deployment of Microsoft technologies.
- Architect of strategic move and company focus from on-prem software to SaaS solution.
- Mentoring junior members of the team.

MICROSOFT UK, JULY 2005– SEPTEMBER 2008
NETWORK SECURITY CONSULTANT (Contract, 3 years, 5 renewals)

Responsibilities and achievements:

- Working with MoD delivery partner to review security aspects of their design.
- Subject matter expert for MoD use of Microsoft technologies.
- Vulnerability assessment and penetration testing of UK Defence networks.

DURDLE.COM LTD, JULY 2005– AUGUST 2011
DIRECTOR, PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT

Responsibilities and achievements:

- Long term security consultancy contracts with Microsoft, Ministry of Defence, Specsavers, Koios et al.
- Software development at start of iPhone app store. From idea to market in four weeks, and to profit in three months. Negotiated deal with MGM to license Stargate properties for iOS game development.

LOCUTIO VOICE TECHNOLOGIES, AUGUST 2004 – JULY 2005
FOUNDER, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Created the market for “voices for satnav”.

Responsibilities and achievements:

- Developed concept for software startup for innovative worldwide in-car satnav voices.
- Project manager and architect for client software development.
- Business and partnership development with major European hardware and software manufacturers.
- Bespoke software development and recordings for custom voices for events.

PREVIOUS WORK HISTORY FROM 1998 – 2004

- Hi-Q Systems Ltd – IT Manager: IT, InfoSec, Software development for ListX Defence contractor.
- IBM (Data Sciences Farnborough) – IT Specialist: IT, Software Development for UK Military Projects
- Fujitsu UK – Software Tester

EDUCATION

2003 – 2005

MSc INFORMATION SECURITY, ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

1996 – 1998

BSc COMPUTER SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF GUILDFORD