**MATT TAYLOR**
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**EXECUTIVE TECHNOLOGY & CYBERSECURITY LEADER**

Innovative and results-driven technology leader with over 18 years of experience driving **IT strategy, cybersecurity, cloud transformation, and Zero Trust architectures**. Proven ability to lead **engineering, security, and operations teams**, optimize enterprise security postures, and align technology solutions with business objectives. A thought leader in **cybersecurity, cloud security, and digital transformation**, actively contributing to the **Zscaler Aces and Influencer Community**.

Key expertise includes **Zero Trust (ZTNA, SASE), Cloud Security, Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC), Security Operations, Infrastructure, Microsoft Consulting, Product Engineering, Managed Security Services (MSSP) and Managed IT Services (MSP)**.

**EXECUTIVE SKILLS**

* **Cybersecurity Leadership** – Zero Trust, Cloud Security, MSSP Operations, Risk Management, Incident Response
* **Incident Response & Crisis Management** – Incident Commander for over **300 cases**, handling ransomware, nation-state threats, and critical security breaches
* **Zscaler Expertise** – ZIA, ZPA, ZDX, PRA, JIT Provisioning, OIDC, Multi-Tenant Sentinel, Policy Automation
* **Product & Engineering Leadership** – Security Architecture, Product Development, Beta Testing, POV Engineering, DevSecOps
* **MSP Support & Vendor Management** – Managing security solutions, partnerships, and technical integrations across vendors
* **Cross-Functional Leadership** – Collaborating with engineering, sales, security, and business units for enterprise security strategy
* **Digital Transformation & Cloud** – Cloud Security, DevOps, Infrastructure-as-Code, Security Automation
* **Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC)** – CMMC, NIST, PCI, HIPAA, SOC2, ISO 27001, CompTIA Security Trustmark
* **Executive Leadership & Strategy** – vCISO, vCTO, vCIO, MSSP, MSP, Business Development, IT Governance
* **Cloud Security & Posture Management** – Cloud security posture (CSPM), governance, compliance (NIST, ISO 27001, CIS benchmarks)
* **Cyber Hygiene & Risk Management** – Security hardening, identity governance, secure cloud configurations
* **Microsoft 365 Administration & Migrations** – M365 security, compliance, email & identity migrations
* **Azure & AWS Consulting & Engineering** – Secure cloud workload deployments, infrastructure assessments, remediation strategies

**Industries Served**

* Managed Security Services (MSSP)1
* Cybersecurity Consulting & vCISO Services1
* Enterprise IT, Cloud, & SaaS1
* Healthcare & Compliance (HIPAA, SOC2, PCI, NIST, ISO 27001)1
* Technology & Cybersecurity Vendors (Zscaler, Microsoft, etc.)1
* Retail, Hospitality, & Service Industry IT
* Legal & Professional Services
* Small & Mid-Sized Business (SMB), Midmarket, & Enterprise Consulting

**Key Achievements**

* Architected **multi-tenant SIEM & XDR security infrastructure**, enhancing SOC efficiency by **40%**.
* Built **Zero Trust frameworks** for clients, integrating **Zscaler, Microsoft, SentinelOne, Stellar Cyber**, reducing security breach risks.
* Directed and led **ransomware recovery efforts** and **incident response for 300+ critical security cases**, including **nation-state threats & ransomware**.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Director of Technology, Cyber Guards**

*April 2021 – Present*

* Developed and led **engineering, security operations, and DevOps teams**, overseeing **all MSSP offerings**, including **Zscaler solutions, SOC-as-a-Service, EDR implementations, Security Awareness Training, Trusted Advisory Roles, GRC frameworks, and Incident Response operations**.
* Developed **security automation** pipelines using various **SOAR’s**, **Terraform**, Ansible, and **Python** to improve SOC and Engineering efficiency and streamline security configurations and processes.
* Conducted **Proof-of-Value (POV) assessments and technical implementations** for clients utilizing **Zscaler ZIA, ZPA, ZDX**.
* Designed and implemented **multi-tenant Stellar Cyber XDR, Microsoft Sentinel**
* Played a critical role in **business growth (400%)**, expanding MSSP offerings, incident response capabilities, and security services.
* Served as **Incident Commander, leading over 150 security incidents**, including **nation-state attacks, ransomware response, and critical enterprise breaches**.
* Developed **incident playbooks, response procedures, security automation, and forensic workflows**.
* Managed **vendor relationships, MSP integrations, and multi-cloud security solutions**.
* Conducted **cloud security posture assessments** for Azure and AWS, aligning security configurations with **NIST, CIS, and ISO 27001 standards**.
* Led **Microsoft 365 administration and migration projects**, optimizing security configurations and tenant governance.
* Provided **security posture management and cyber hygiene assessments**, reducing cloud misconfigurations and strengthening security frameworks.
* Delivered **Azure and AWS consulting & engineering services**, supporting workload migrations, security configurations, and infrastructure optimization.

**Fractional Technology & Security Leader (CTO, CIO, CISO)**

*March 2020 – Present*

* Provided **strategic security leadership** as a vCISO for multiple organizations, overseeing **Zero Trust initiatives and compliance programs**.
* Conducted **risk assessments, policy development, and technical security roadmaps** for Fortune 500 clients.
* Implemented **Zscaler security solutions, SentinelOne or Microsoft Defender, Stellar Cyber or Microsoft Sentinel integrations, and SIEM/SOAR automation**.
* Managed **security incident response for over 300 cases**, including **cloud security breaches, insider threats, and forensic investigations**.
* Contributed towards **Crisis Management Teams (CMT) and Digital Forensics Investigations (DFIR)**, ensuring rapid mitigation and compliance adherence.
* Served as a **trusted advisor for ZTNA adoption, cloud security architecture, and risk mitigation strategies**.
* Worked across **engineering, product, security, and executive teams** to align security initiatives with business objectives.
* Advised organizations on **Cloud Security Posture Management (CSPM)**, ensuring secure **Azure and AWS** deployments.
* Provided **Microsoft 365 security hardening, administration, and migration strategy** for enterprises.
* Guided executive teams on **cyber hygiene best practices**, security risk management, and compliance readiness.
* Designed **cloud security strategies** aligning **Zero Trust principles** with **Microsoft and AWS security frameworks**.

**Chief Technology Officer, Darkside Enterprises**

*March 2020 – March 2023*

* Led **technology transformation initiatives**, implementing **cloud security frameworks, automation strategies, and Zero Trust**.
* Managed the development of **MSSP service offerings, security engineering, and compliance frameworks**.
* Provided **vCTO services for SMBs and mid-market enterprises**, focusing on **cloud and security strategies**.
* Conducted **threat modeling, security architecture design, and security operations automation**.
* Oversaw **incident management teams handling real-time security operations and forensic investigations**.
* Developed **cross-functional collaboration strategies**, working with sales, engineering, and leadership teams.
* Ongoing **MSP Consulting**

**Senior Microsoft Consultant, Progent**

*November 2017 – March 2020*

* Led **Microsoft 365 and Azure security projects**, advising clients on **cloud security, compliance, and cyber resilience**.
* Built and trained **Incident Response and Ransomware Playbooks** for enterprise clients.
* Implemented **Sentinel, Zscaler, Microsoft Defender, Okta, and SIEM integrations**.
* Acted as **Project Manager and Incident Response Lead** for high-profile security breaches and enterprise compromises.
* Managed **enterprise-scale cloud and security implementations**, working with technical teams and executive leadership.
* **HealthPoint** – A leading healthcare provider with multiple locations. Led an **18-month project** to **reconstruct and manage Active Directory and VMware**. Later returned to **lead ransomware remediation and security hardening efforts**.
* **SEGA of America** – Managed **internal infrastructure and datacenter** after an engagement for a **potential BEC incident**. Helped align **technology across departments** and implement **security standards**.
* **CBS Marketing LA** – Managed **Active Directory realignment** and **Group Policy fixes**, working closely on **AVID video systems across the enterprise**.

**Director of Information Technology, eat.drink.sleep.**

*May 2015 – December 2016*

* Managed **IT infrastructure, network security, and enterprise technology solutions**.
* Led **Active Directory, Citrix, and cloud security implementations** to enhance enterprise resilience.
* Developed **IT governance frameworks and compliance-driven security controls**.
* Supported **incident management and security operations response**, handling critical IT failures and security risks.

**Server Administrator, US Computer Corp.**

*October 2012 – May 2015*

* **Chevron USA SJVBU**
	+ **Site Helpdesk Lead**, later **Windows/Linux Server Administrator** for **3,000+ users**.
	+ Co-managed **35+ HP Blades** for **VMware infrastructure (Business & SCADA units)**.
	+ Co-managed **300+ HP High-Performance Blades** for **Geologist teams**, optimizing compute resources for oil and gas exploration.

**EDUCATION**

* **B.S. Cybersecurity & Information Assurance**, Western Governors University (*Expected 2025*)
* **Digital MBA for Technology Leaders**, CTO Academy (*Expected 2025*)

**CERTIFICATIONS**

* **Zscaler Certified Zero Trust Architect (ZDTA)**
* **Zscaler Certified Technical Expert (ZDTE)**
* **Zscaler Digital Experience Analyst (ZDXA)**
* **SecurityStudio Certified vCISO Level 2**
* **Okta Certified Administrator**
* **SentinelOne Siren Certification**
* **CMMC Registered Practitioner**
* **ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC)**
* **ISC2 Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP)**
* **CompTIA Security+ | Network+**
* **ITIL v4 Foundations**

**COMMUNITY & INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT**

* **Zscaler Aces & Influencer Community Member**
* **Microsoft MVP (Aspiring)** – Security & Azure
* **Public Speaker & Thought Leader** – Delivered cybersecurity presentations and Zero Trust training at industry events, customer briefings, and executive roundtables.