



**James Griffiths**

**STRATEGIC | TECHNICAL | ADVISORY | AI | DEVELOPMENT | Dual  
vCISO & vCTO | CYBER | ICS & OT**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Located In:</b>         | Gloucestershire   |
| <b>Travel:</b>             | Global  |
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| <b>Available:</b>          | April 2026  |
| <b>Job Type:</b>           | Contract Roles Only   |
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| <b>Security Clearance:</b> | Ask for more information  |

## Professional Summary

Technology and Cyber Security executive with over 25 years' experience spanning military cyber operations, commercial consulting, and large-scale service delivery, including a distinguished career in the British Army Royal Signals, with his last tour of duty attached to GCHQ to help build the Joint Cyber Unit (Cheltenham).

Founder and former Technical Director of Cyber Security Associates (CSA), a UK cyber consultancy and managed services provider, scaled to a national operation and successfully exited following acquisition.

Proven expertise in cyber operations, offensive security, infrastructure management, and the development of cutting-edge cyber solutions.

Successfully scaled CSA to over **100 employees** and **£10M+ in annual revenue**, while leading the business to achieve prestigious certifications including **CREST, Microsoft Partner status**, and **ISO standards (27001, 9001, and 42001)**.

Dual-hat **virtual Chief Technology Officer (vCTO)** and **virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO)** operating at both board and engineering level. Able to define strategy, governance, and risk posture while also going deep technically across infrastructure, cloud, DevSecOps, AI, and security operations.

## Strategic Leadership

- Acted as dual vCTO and vCISO for multiple organisations, aligning technology strategy with cyber risk management, regulatory obligations, and business growth.
- Defined enterprise technology and security roadmaps covering cloud transformation, resilience, governance, and operational maturity.
- Advised boards and executive teams on cyber risk, threat landscape, compliance, and investment prioritisation.
- Owned enterprise IT and security budgets, delivering cost reduction through automation, vendor consolidation, and architectural redesign.
- Led organisations through major certifications and regulatory programmes including ISO 27001, ISO 42001, CREST, and Microsoft partner accreditations.
- Directed secure digital transformation initiatives including migration to cloud-native platforms, MDR/XDR adoption, and Zero Trust architectures.
- Supported M&A and acquisition activity, aligning technical due diligence, integration planning, and risk management.

## Technical Leadership

- Hands-on technical leader capable of operating at architecture and implementation level across cloud, infrastructure, security tooling, and development.
- Designed and built proprietary security platforms including BorderPoint, evolving into a cloud-native MDR/XDR service.
- Architected DevSecOps pipelines with integrated SAST, DAST, and automated deployment across enterprise environments.
- Led design and operation of 24/7 security and infrastructure platforms supporting critical services and high-availability systems.
- Implemented AI and automation to improve detection capability, response speed, and operational efficiency.
- Integrated Microsoft security ecosystem and advanced telemetry into managed services to deliver enterprise-grade visibility.
- Directed multidisciplinary teams delivering secure solutions across finance, defence, retail, and critical national infrastructure sectors.

## Professional Experience

### **UtopianKnight Consultancy Limited.** Founder & Senior Consultant

Nov 2025 – Present

Cyber and Information Consultancy practice based in Gloucestershire, UK. Providing dual-hat virtual Chief Technology Officer (vCTO) and virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) oservices perating at both board and engineering level. Able to define strategy, governance, and risk posture while also going deep technically across infrastructure, cloud, DevSecOps, AI, and security operations.

### **Cyber Security Associates Ltd.** *Technical Director & Co-Founder Gloucester, UK | Nov 2013 – March 2026*

Strategic and Technical Cyber Security Consultancy. Based in Gloucestershire, UK. Working with small and medium sized businesses to improve and develop their IT security practices and procedures. Offering a range of Consultancy and Managed Services.

### **British Army.** Forman of Signals Information Systems (FoS(IS)) | Sept 1997 – Nov 2013

#### **Cyber Consultant JCU (GCHQ) Cheltenham Jun 2011 – Oct 2013**

Senior member of the JCU delivering Technical effects within the cyber battle space.

- Providing crucial security advice to operational planning
- Conducting operations on behalf of MOD / HMG
- Full integration with HMG cyber capability
- Management of a small operational military team

#### **Foreman of Signals Information Systems (FoS(IS)) Blandford Sept 2010 – Jun 2011**

Supervisory Management course culminating in the completion of Foundation Degree in Managing Military Information Systems (FSd MMIS).

## Education & Certifications

- FSd in the Management of Military Information Systems
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) – Certificate Number: 478659
- Certified CompTIA Security +
- SANS Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Certified (SCADA) – Red Tiger Security
- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) v8 – ECC986179
- 7Safe Certified Malware Investigator (CMI)
- SANS Wireless Hacking and Penetration (SEC617)
- SANS Ethical Hacking and Penetration (SEC560)
- SANS Advanced Penetration Testing, Exploit Writing, and Ethical Hacking (SEC660)
- Defence Intelligence IT Security Officer (DITSO)

## Key Skills

- Technology Strategy & Digital Transformation
- Cybersecurity Strategy, Governance & Risk Management
- vCTO & vCISO Advisory (Board and Executive Level)
- Enterprise Security Architecture & Zero Trust
- Cyber Threat Intelligence, Detection & Response
- Security Operations (SOC) Leadership & MDR/XDR
- Offensive Security & Penetration Testing
- Infrastructure, Cloud & IT Systems Leadership
- DevSecOps, CI/CD & Secure Software Delivery
- Incident Response & Crisis Management
- Regulatory Compliance & Certifications (ISO 27001, 42001, CREST, NIS2)
- Third-Party Risk & Supply Chain Security
- AI Security, Automation & Emerging Technology Risk
- Stakeholder Engagement, Board Reporting & Risk Communication
- M&A Technical Due Diligence & Post-Acquisition Integration
- Business Growth, Scaling & Operational Optimisation

## Achievements

- Scaled CSA to over 100 employees and £10M+ in annual revenue.
- Achieved CREST, Microsoft Partner, and ISO 27001, 9001, and 42001 certifications.
- Defined and delivered CSA's 5-year technology roadmap.
- Developed and launched **Cyberdea™ Zone**, a training platform for cyber education.
- **Gloucester Live "Small Business of the Year" Award (2018)** – Recognized for innovation and growth at CSA.