John Karabin

Chief Cyber Strategist in Canberra

+61 2 6222 1439 / +61 484 617 549

jkarabin@mcgrathnicol.com

John has extensive experience in cyber risk management, governance, and strategic planning, assisting clients to strengthen their cybersecurity defences, ensuring alignment and building resilience into all organisational business objectives.

John has over three decades of IT and cybersecurity expertise, with a focus on transformative projects spanning government and commercial sectors. His prominent roles at leading consulting firms and major system integrators have allowed him to provide strategic advice across Australian, New Zealand, and Asia-Pacific regions.

Taking a pragmatic, risk-based approach, John develops cybersecurity strategies that mitigate risk and enhance technical and organisational resilience. He collaborates regularly with boards, executives, and security leaders, fostering consensus for greater maturity, compliance, improved reporting, and refined organisational security approaches.

John's industry awareness extends to his role as a former board member of Cyrise, where he supported and mentored over 30 cybersecurity startups in Australia. Additionally, he actively volunteers with the Australian Information Security Association (AISA) and chairs the ACT branch.

Engagement Experience —

- Worked with major public and private health organisations, assisting with security operating models in complex federated structures, developing resilient architectures and incident response plans.

- Worked with several boards in the public service, retail, health, and education sectors running tabletop and wargaming exercises to test effective responses to breaches and crisis management.

- Integrated managed security services into large enterprises ensuring an effective operating model, aligned with other service providers in the same environment.

- Worked with major security vendors, assisting with technology upgrades, deployments, and consolidation.

- Developed a framework for a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) with a government organisation and extended this to establishing a data governance framework to cover compliance, resilience, integrity, and security.

- Assisted several organisations in government, health, retail, education, and finance during and post breaches to recover and resume normality.

Qualifications & Memberships —

- Bachelor of Engineering (IT Communication), Curtin University

- Graduate Certificate Business Management, Deakin University

- Chair ACT Branch, Australian Information Security Association (AISA)

- Member ISACA

- Member AICD

Board Roles —

- Board Director, Cyrise – Cyber Security Incubator

McGrathNicol

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- Developed plans and assurance programs around the Federal Government Security of Critical Infrastructure (SOCI) program for several critical infrastructure providers both in finance, health, power and utilities.

- Provided services incorporating pen testing, red teaming, continuous controls validation, and attack surface management to multiple industry sectors.

- Assisted in defence in depth and a zero-trust architecture approach to security roadmap planning for a major commercial organisation.

- Provided guidance and assisted several CISOs in messaging strategy, road map and funding requests to executive committees.

- Provided consulting services around measuring, prioritising and improving the operational approach to the Essential 8 and the ISM for several government agencies.

- Assisted with modelling and the design of Advanced Security Operating Centres, looking at technology, people and processes in complex environments with several service providers.

- Advised on supply chain risk for a large government agency looking at multiple internal and external providers, and how they interoperate with the agency.

- Worked with a CIO on developing an effective Vulnerability Management Plan that also incorporated an Asset Management program, resulting in a clearer understanding of the software supply chain and what activities to prioritise.

- Worked with mid-tier finance and insurance organisations on achieving compliance with ISO 27001 and CPS 234.

- Involved in designing public key infrastructure (PKI) systems for government (Gatekeeper) and the corporate sector.