

The Cybersecurity Readiness Podcast Series

Episode Title	Closing the Remediation Gap with Agentic AI
Podcast Series	The Cybersecurity Readiness Podcast Series https://www.cybersecurityreadinesspodcast.com/
Host and Producer	Dave Chatterjee, Ph.D. https://dchatte.com
Guest	John Amaral, Root Co-Founder & Chief Technology Officer
Summary Pitch	In this compelling episode, Dr. Dave Chatterjee engages with John Amaral, a serial entrepreneur and cybersecurity innovator, to explore how his company Root is using agentic AI to tackle one of cybersecurity’s biggest challenges—remediation delay. The conversation unpacks the dangers of security debt, the power of human-AI collaboration in patching vulnerabilities, and how organizations can evolve from reactive to proactive postures. The discussion also explores the limitations of AI, the critical role of human oversight, and the importance of aligning emerging technologies with broader risk management goals. Whether you're a CISO, a tech innovator, or a startup founder, this episode offers timely insights into the future of cybersecurity resilience. Amaral also shares candid insights into his journey from engineer to founder and provides valuable advice for aspiring entrepreneurs.
Discussion Highlights	The Problem: Organizations spend too much time flagging and triaging vulnerabilities without fixing them in a timely manner. Agentic AI Explained: AI systems capable of making independent decisions to automate vulnerability remediation at scale.

	<p>Real-World Example – Kibana CVE-2025: R2 used AI to rapidly identify and deploy a patch before exploits emerged, showcasing speed and efficacy.</p> <p>Human-AI Synergy: A powerful orchestration between AI and expert human oversight ensures patches are safe, compatible, and effective.</p> <p>CPD Framework in Practice: Dr. Chatterjee contextualizes Root’s approach within his Commitment-Preparedness-Discipline (CPD) framework.</p> <p>Risk Management vs. Cybersecurity Tools: Amaral emphasizes that tools like R2 support risk mitigation but don't replace the need for business-specific risk governance.</p> <p>Startup Lessons: Amaral shares key principles for startup success—pursue passion, build with conviction, and iterate with users.</p>
<p>Actionable Recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Automate to Accelerate Remediation: Adopt agentic AI systems to fix vulnerabilities rapidly and at scale. 2. Maintain Human Oversight: Use AI to reduce workload, not replace critical human judgment. Build workflows that combine automation with expert review. 3. Implement CPD Framework: <p>Commitment: Executive buy-in and clarity about what technology can and cannot do.</p>

	<p>Preparedness: Continuous monitoring, effective training, and risk-aware culture.</p> <p>Discipline: Regular testing, auditing, and refining of systems and processes.</p> <p>4. Prioritize Risk-Based Decision Making: Align patching and remediation strategies with the organization’s specific risk profile and business impact.</p> <p>5. Embrace Continuous Alignment: Regularly evaluate whether tools and processes remain fit-for-purpose in light of evolving threats.</p> <p>6. Encourage Start-Up Mindset in Cybersecurity Teams: Innovate by solving real problems, stay user-focused, and scale only after achieving product-market fit.</p>
Time Stamps	<p>0:49 Introduction to the episode and John Amaral</p> <p>2:18 Amaral’s journey from engineer to cybersecurity entrepreneur</p> <p>5:48 Identifying the remediation problem in cybersecurity</p> <p>7:12 Explanation of agentic AI and the need for automation</p> <p>13:38 Human-AI collaboration in patch validation</p> <p>14:00 Case study: Kibana CVE-2025 vulnerability remediation</p> <p>16:17 Industry-wide challenges in vulnerability response</p> <p>19:05 Challenges organizations face in adopting automated security solutions</p> <p>21:28 Debunking job loss myths—AI as an enabler, not a replacer</p> <p>26:09 Risk management vs. cybersecurity tools</p>

	<p>28:54 Advice for cybersecurity and tech startup founders</p> <p>30:53 Closing thoughts and future-forward mindset</p>
<p>Memorable Quotes/Statements</p>	<p>“We spend too much time recording vulnerabilities and not enough fixing them.” — John Amaral</p> <p>“Agentic AI is not about replacing humans—it’s about empowering them to do higher-value work.” — Dr. Dave Chatterjee</p> <p>“You want to automate everything you can, and then go back and automate the next thing.” — John Amaral</p> <p>“Technology should enable and empower humans. We should not become slaves of technology.” — Dr. Dave Chatterjee</p> <p>“Startups succeed when the founders are trying to solve a real, painful problem they deeply care about.” — John Amaral</p>