

Fireside Discussion Plan

Millennium Conference, Houston, Texas

September 9, 2025

From Guardian to Strategist: The Future CISO in the Age of AI Risk

Format

Duration: 45 minutes

Style: Conversational, moderated dialogue

Participants: Moderator + Featured CISO / Expert Guest(s)

Audience: CXOs, security leaders, risk professionals, and board members

Opening (3 minutes)

Moderator sets the stage:

- The dual transformation underway: AI as both enabler and threat vector.
- The CISO role shifting from reactive defense to enterprise strategist and trusted advisor to the board.

Framing question: “Is the CISO of tomorrow more of a technologist, risk manager, or business leader?”

Discussion Flow

1. The Expanding CISO Mandate (8 minutes)

- How the role has evolved from compliance enforcer to resilience architect.
- Balancing cyber defense with innovation and business enablement.
- The increasing expectation to engage with boards, regulators, and customers.

Example prompt: “What skills will define a successful CISO in 2030?”

2. AI as Risk Multiplier and Opportunity (8 minutes)

- Adversarial AI: Deepfakes, autonomous attack campaigns, AI-powered phishing.
- AI as defense: Agentic AI for detection, response, and predictive analytics.
- Governance challenge: How to embed ethical, explainable, and resilient AI adoption.

Example prompt: “How do CISOs move from fear of AI risk to disciplined adoption?”

3. Redefining AI Risk Management (8 minutes)

- Beyond technical controls: data governance, supply-chain dependencies, regulatory compliance.
- Aligning AI risk oversight with enterprise risk management frameworks.
- Using Commitment–Preparedness–Discipline (CPD) to instill organizational readiness.

Example prompt: “What frameworks can CISOs use to bridge the gap between innovation and responsible AI?”

4. The Future CISO Profile (8 minutes)

- Strategic advisor with fluency in risk, governance, and emerging tech.
- Orchestrator of cross-functional trust: HR, Legal, Operations, AI ethics boards.
- Storytelling and board-level communication as critical differentiators.

Audience Engagement (15 minutes)

- “If you had to advise your successor today, what would you tell them about AI risk?”
- “Should AI risk governance sit with the CISO, CIO, or a separate AI officer?”

Closing Takeaways (5 minutes)

- The CISO of the future is not just securing systems but safeguarding trust.
- AI risk management must be built on foresight, governance discipline, and strategic alignment.

Call to action: “Invest in resilience today to lead with confidence tomorrow.”