

Ashok Kumar Padmaraju

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Strategic and results-driven Security Engineering and Architecture leader with 20+ years of experience—more than a decade in senior leadership—driving enterprise-scale security programs for global, highly regulated organizations. Adept at building and leading high-performing teams, reducing cyber risk at scale, and enabling secure innovation across cloud, AI, SaaS, Zero Trust, and large distributed systems. Brings deep expertise across cloud and application security, network security, data protection, threat modeling, vulnerability management, incident response, and security automation, with a strong record of supporting complex, FDA-regulated environments.

Trusted advisor to executives, legal, engineering, and cross-functional leadership, translating complex cyber and regulatory risk into clear, actionable business outcomes. Known for delivering secure, compliant architectures that accelerate business growth while strengthening governance and resilience. Recognized industry contributor with published research and service as a global cybersecurity awards judge; EB-1A (Extraordinary Ability) visa recipient.

CORE LEADERSHIP & TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

Enterprise Security Architecture & Strategy | Regulatory Compliance & Risk Governance (NIST, HIPAA, FDA, SOX, ISO 27001) | AI Security & Governance (NIST AI RMF, FDA AI Principles, EU AI Principles) | Cloud Security (AWS, Azure, GCP) & Zero Trust | SaaS Security & Compliance (SOC 2, CSA CCM, FedRAMP) | Legal & Contract Security (MSA Security Exhibits, DPAs) | Third-Party/Vendor Risk & Threat Intelligence | Product Security & Secure SDLC | DevSecOps & CI/CD Pipeline Security | Security Incident Response & Threat Management | Executive-Level Risk Reporting & Metrics | Security Awareness & Culture Building.

EXECUTIVE IMPACT & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Led enterprise security architecture programs supporting 30,000+ employees, hundreds of applications, and multi-cloud environments.
- Defined security strategies governing \$100M+ in annual technology and cloud investments.
- Reduced enterprise security risk by 35–45% through standardized architecture, Zero Trust adoption, and risk-based controls.
- Established AI security governance enabling safe deployment of AI/ML solutions while meeting regulatory and ethical requirements.
- Built and led globally distributed security architecture and engineering teams of 15–25 professionals, including internal staff and strategic partners.
- Standardized SaaS security and third-party risk processes, assessing 1500+ vendors annually and accelerating procurement cycles by 30%.
- Enabled SOC 2, FedRAMP, GDPR, and FDA compliance across cloud and SaaS platforms, reducing audit findings by 40%.
- Regularly brief executive leadership and governance committees on cyber risk posture, KPIs, and strategic roadmaps.

- Recognized industry contributor through published research and service as a global cybersecurity awards judge.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Director – Security Architect | Gilead Sciences | Oct 2016 – Present

- Lead enterprise security architecture across cloud, SaaS, AI, and on-prem platforms supporting global R&D, manufacturing, and commercial operations.
- Own security architecture strategy aligned with NIST, HIPAA, FDA, ISO 27001, governing 500+ enterprise and SaaS applications.
- Design and implement AI security governance aligned with NIST AI RMF to enable secure adoption of AI across regulated use cases.
- Define security standards and third-party risk controls for 1,500+ vendors, improving onboarding timelines by 25–30%.
- Partner with Legal and Procurement to author and negotiate MSA security exhibits and DPAs, reducing contractual security exceptions by ~40%.
- Conduct architecture reviews, threat modeling, and risk assessments for initiatives impacting \$100M+ in annual technology spend.
- Lead and mentor a global team of 15+ security architects and engineers; deliver executive dashboards on risk reduction, compliance posture, and control effectiveness.
- Reduced enterprise security risk by 35–45% through standardized architecture, Zero Trust adoption, and risk-based controls.

Sr Architect / Management Consultant | Webhouse Inc. | Oct 2015 – Sep 2016

- Provided enterprise security consulting for regulated industry clients with environments exceeding 5,000+ users.
- Designed secure hybrid cloud and data protection architectures, reducing data exposure risk by ~30%.
- Implemented encryption, access zoning, and backup strategies protecting petabyte-scale storage environments.

Solution Architect / Systems Architect | Tech Mahindra | Apr 2011 – Sep 2015

- Led architecture and security design for large enterprise programs supporting 10,000+ users.
- Delivered secure network, cloud, and data center solutions aligned with compliance and availability requirements.

Senior Engineer | CSC | 2009 – 2011

- Designed end-to-end infrastructure & data center solutions.
- Led VMware, network hardening, and enterprise storage (NetApp/EMC) initiatives.
- Drove data center transformation projects integrating performance, security, and availability.
- Introduced baseline compliance alignment (SOX, PCI, ISO) into infrastructure designs.

Senior Infrastructure Management Associate | Tech Mahindra | May 2009 – Dec 2009

- Provided multi-platform infrastructure support (Windows, Unix, Storage).
- Introduced network segmentation and storage replication; contributed to early data center consolidation and automation.

Program Analyst – Unix/Storage | Maytas Solutions Inc. | Oct 2008 – Apr 2009

- Implemented secure storage environments for insurance and banking customers.
- Enforced access zoning, encryption, and backup controls to protect financial and personal data.
- Managed SAN/NAS (LUN masking, zoning, backups); Unix filesystem security, roles, and secure backups.
- Implemented storage-level access controls and retention policies.

Operations Lead Specialist | IBM | 2007 – 2008

- Led IT operations for travel and airline clients, ensuring secure system uptime and business continuity.
- Coordinated SLA-based infrastructure management and basic incident response; enforced patching and monitoring.

Systems Administrator | Maples ESM Technologies / Sparkzen Technologies | 2005 – 2007

- Managed Windows systems, access controls, and endpoint protection for marketing and telecom clients.
- Drove patch management, antivirus deployment, and enforcement of security policies; administered Windows Server, AD, and Group Policy.

CERTIFICATIONS

NIST AI RMF | CISM | CEH | CCSK (v4) | AWS Certified Security – Specialty | AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate | Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals | Cisco CCNA | Lean Six Sigma Black Belt | HP Certified Professional | NetApp NCSA cDOT; NCIE Data Protection; NCIE SAN cDOT | Databricks Generative AI Fundamentals

AWARDS

- Gilead CFO Award – 2024, 2025
- Gilead IT Exemplary Award – 2020
- Women In Technology International (WITI) Male Ally Award – 2020

PUBLICATIONS

[Strengthening Generative AI Security: A Comprehensive Tools Landscape](#)
[Fortifying Zoom Phone Security: A Comprehensive Threat Modeling Analysis](#)
[Cybersecurity in the AI Era: Ensuring Your Data Stays Protected](#)
[Keeping up With Rapidly Evolving Cloud Security Tech](#)
[Ease of Use and Maximum Security: What Every App User Wants](#)
[Future-Proofing Security: AWS Security Hub and ServiceNow Integration](#)

JUDGING

- Served as a judge for prestigious industry awards, including the IT World Awards and Cyber Security World Awards.
- Served as a 2023 CODiE Awards Judge for Best Project Management Solution.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Engineering – Electronics & Communication (2001 – 2005)

ADDITIONAL

- EB-1A (Extraordinary Ability) U.S. Visa Recipient