15th Annual e-Crime in Abu Dhabi

4th September 2024, Abu Dhabi

Augmented security: integrating AI with your current technology and staff

The hackers are already using AI, so how can defenders quickly respond?

https://akjassociates.com/event/abudhabi

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Huge investments and upgrades to cybersecurity technology planned in the UAE as threats multiply and AI is utilised on both sides of the fight

99% of UAE companies plan to increase their cybersecurity budget in the next 12 months
91% of these companies anticipate substantial growth of 10% or more in their cybersecurity budgets.

Why? During the past two years, the vast majority of United Arab Emirates-based businesses have experienced a cybersecurity incident. Analysis carried out by the UAE Cyber Security in the 'State of the UAE – Cybersecurity Report 2024' highlights the scale of the problem: the report has identified over 155,000 vulnerable assets within the UAE, with more than 40% of critical vulnerabilities remaining unaddressed for over five years. This vulnerability, coupled with the surge in advanced cyber-attacks such as ransomware, underscores the essential need for robust cyber defences in a region that is at the forefront of AI-driven technological innovations and geopolitical significance.

According to various pieces of recent research aggregated by AKJ Associates:
- 87% of companies in UAE have faced different forms of cyber incidents in the past two years.
- 85% of UAE respondents said they expect a cybersecurity incident to disrupt their business in the next 12 to 24 months.
- 65% of respondents said they experienced a cybersecurity incident in the last 12 months, and 52% of those affected said it cost them at least US$300,000.
- 82% of UAE respondents said that having multiple point solutions slowed down their team's ability to detect, respond and recover from incidents. This raises significant concerns as 78% of organizations said they have deployed ten or more point-solutions in their security stacks, while 26% said they have 30 or more.
- 90% of UAE companies also highlight talent shortage as an issue.
- 51% said they had more than ten roles related to cybersecurity unfilled in their organization at the time of the survey.
- 95% envision integrating AI technologies into their cybersecurity frameworks to fill more than 10% of those unfilled cybersecurity roles
- 68% are planning to significantly upgrade their IT infrastructure in the next 12 to 24 months.
- 66% plan to upgrade existing solutions
- 54% plan to deploy new solutions
- 54% plan to invest in AI-driven technologies

The e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress in Abu Dhabi will look at how cybersecurity needs to change to reflect real-world business conditions. Join our real-life case studies and in-depth technical sessions from the security and privacy teams at some of the world's most admired brands.

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Key Themes

Upgrading legacy cybersecurity stacks

Hackers are adopting new technologies and techniques to evade increasingly outmoded security control frameworks. So which parts of their security stacks should CISOs be looking at? Where are existing solutions adequate and where can new technology be of benefit? **And how easy is it to change technology timelines and integrate new solutions?**

Insuring the uninsurable?

Cyber-insurers need to understand the risks they are insuring if they are to set premiums at a level that makes sense. They also need to know that they are insuring risks that clients have taken steps to mitigate properly: no-one will insure those who leave their digital doors wide open. **What does this mean for CISOs? What can and can't be insured?**

Balancing multiple point solutions with one-stop shops

Over time, many organisations have evolved unruly and top-heavy technology stacks. This is expensive; it introduces complexity where simplicity is needed; and it results in large amounts of unused functionality as staff generally do not use solutions to their full potential. **So is the answer to use existing solutions better or go to a one-stop shop?**

Cybersecurity for SaaS/IaaS/PaaS

Most companies' core reliance is now upon a small number of monolithic application suites and Cloud services. In addition, they are likely to be developing their own software in, and fully incorporating, the Cloud. These and other changes fundamentally alter the IT landscape in which cybersecurity operates. **So do CISOs need a new model for cybersecurity and are legacy solutions still valid?**

Using AI and ML to automate cybersecurity

The next 20 years will see an ecosystem of small single-issue vendors slim down to a far less complex set of larger platforms able to invest in continuous development and offering to cover all or large chunks of organisations' security needs. **But will the winners in this evolution be those at today's cutting edge?**

Upskilling security teams

No organisation has an infinite budget. And most organisations are struggling to find sufficient security staff – the skills shortage is growing. This dynamic affects the type of on-prem security operation firms can employ and means that improving internal skillsets is critical to the security model. **So how can CISOs continuously upskill their teams?**

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Key Themes

The rise and rise of effective cybersecurity regulation

Data privacy is only a small part of the picture. Regulators are looking at operational resilience in key sectors like finance – securing the wholesale payments market is a priority and others will follow. They are looking at disclosure and fining the miscreants. **Can you help businesses comply with new regimes?**

From smart machines to smart cities – securing the IoT

How long will it be before every significant device and location is part of an ecosystem of sensors connected to public and private networks? Driving apps tell insurers what premiums to charge. Packaging machines report their own breakdowns. **But are these devices visible on your network and how are you securing them?**

Developing the next generation of security leaders

If cybersecurity is to change to meet the evolution of our digital world, then so must those who implement it. CISOs cannot cling to an IT paradigm and companies must move away from hiring on false pretences (on budget and commitment) and firing at the first breach. **What does a next-gen CISO look like and are you one of them?**

Keeping citizens safe

The COVID era demands unprecedented levels of citizen engagement. Compromises are inevitable to ensure the safety of all. But the systems required to provide safety also create a huge data security and privacy challenge for both governments and employers alike. **Can solution providers help?**

Reining in BigTech

Resilience and security increasingly come down to key dependencies outside the organization. With on prem tech the past and Cloud and external IT the future, how do organisations ensure security when they rely on vendors who are vulnerable but above leverage with even their biggest clients? **Time for governments to step in?**

Securing digital currencies and DLT

The move towards non-cash payment methods during the crisis has been extreme and looks irreversible. In addition, many more governments are now looking at developing their own digital currencies. **So how do we go about securing a world in which most, perhaps all, payments are digital? And what about the blockchain?**

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Why AKJ Associates?

A History of Delivery

For more than 20 years, AKJ Associates has been running the world's most sophisticated closed-door meeting events for senior cyber-security professionals from government, law enforcement, intelligence and business.

For example, our annual London-based e-Crime Congress is still **the largest invitation-only, Chatham House rules,** gathering of the most senior information risk and security professionals from business and government in the world.

The UK Home Office sponsored the public sector delegation from 40 countries in 2002 and we are delighted to say they still do today.

Global Engagement

We have run hundreds of events in the **UK, across Europe, the Middle East and Asia**, attracting **tens of thousands of delegates** in cybersecurity, data security and privacy.

These delegates range from C-suite CIOs, CTOs, CROs and C(I)SOs, to heads of enterprise architecture, desktop and network. They encompass all the senior professionals whose input drives security and privacy solution purchase decisions.

And as well as cross-sector events for both private and public sector, we also design and deliver sector-specific conferences for high-value, high-sophistication sectors including the legal sector, financial services and gambling and gaming.

Unrivalled Relationships

Events like this have enabled us to build relationships of trust with **the most influential decision-makers** at the full spectrum of public and private sector organisations in the UK, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

By providing this audience with valuable insights and business intelligence over the past 20 years, we have built up **the world's most significant community of professionals in cybersecurity.**

We use this to develop new events; to conduct research to understand what cybersecurity professionals are doing, thinking and buying; and to market our conferences and other services.

Smart Lead Generation

We have also developed and trained one of the **most effective marketing and telemarketing operations** in the cybersecurity space.

Our in-depth knowledge of the marketplace allows us to design marketing outreach that **consistently delivers the best audiences** for the providers of critical cybersecurity infrastructure and solutions.

We connect vendors directly with B2B decision-makers. By combining unrivalled reach, deep knowledge of specialist markets and sophisticated marketing we **engage buyers to deliver real results.**

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Delivering your message direct to decision-makers

Plenary Speakers

The e-Crime Congress Series events offer sponsors the opportunity to deliver content in a number of different ways.

Plenary speakers **deliver their presentations on the day of the event from a fully featured AV stage to a face-to-face audience**.

Their presentations can contain slides, video and audio and speakers can deliver their speeches from the podium or from any point on the stage.

Plenary presentations are 20 minutes long and take place in the main event auditorium guaranteeing access to the largest possible audience of cybersecurity professionals on the day.

Presentations are generally designed to be informative, topical and actionable, with the use of case studies and up-to-the-minute references to current developments.

Double-handed talks with clients are also welcomed.

Education Seminars

At pre-defined points in the day, attendees will be notified that the main plenary sessions are making way for a series of in-depth technical break-outs.

These sessions of up to 30 attendees are held in break-out rooms and delivered live to attendees.

They are an opportunity for vendors to deep-dive into a topical problem, technology or solution in front of a group of cybersecurity professionals who have self-selected as being interested in the topic being discussed.

They are also the ideal venue for solution providers to go into technical detail about their own products and services.

These Seminars run simultaneously, and attendees choose which session to attend.

At the end of the Seminar, attendees are notified that Networking time is now available before the next Plenary session.

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Your team and your resources available in real-time

Exhibition Booths

Sponsor packages that contain an Exhibition Booth give sponsors the opportunity to be present in the main networking area of the event.

At these booths, sponsor representatives can interact with delegates face-to-face, deliver messaging and technical information via video presentations, demo products using their own BYOD technology and to distribute printed marketing and product information.

Sponsors may wish to consider different ways to drive footfall to their booths.

For example, sponsors who have presented in Plenary or in an Education Seminar can close their presentations by directing the audience to their booths.

And there are additional gamification elements available, including sponsor-supplied prizes, that can effectively drive traffic to booths.

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Delivering the most senior cybersecurity solution buyers

Our USP? We put buyers and sellers together

We understand that every vendor needs to sell more. That is the bottom line. This is even more necessary in the present situation.

You will have access to the most senior buying audience in the cyber-security market.

AKJ Associates has been building relationships with senior information risk and security professionals for 20 years and our cybersecurity community is the largest of its kind globally.

We know the senior executives who drive strategy from the top, we know the enterprise architects who often control the largest budgets and we know the IT Security Leads and Engineers who so often dictate the purchase process.

All of these job titles attend e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress events.

Getting access to the right people at the right time always increases the lead generation and always increases profitable sales activity.
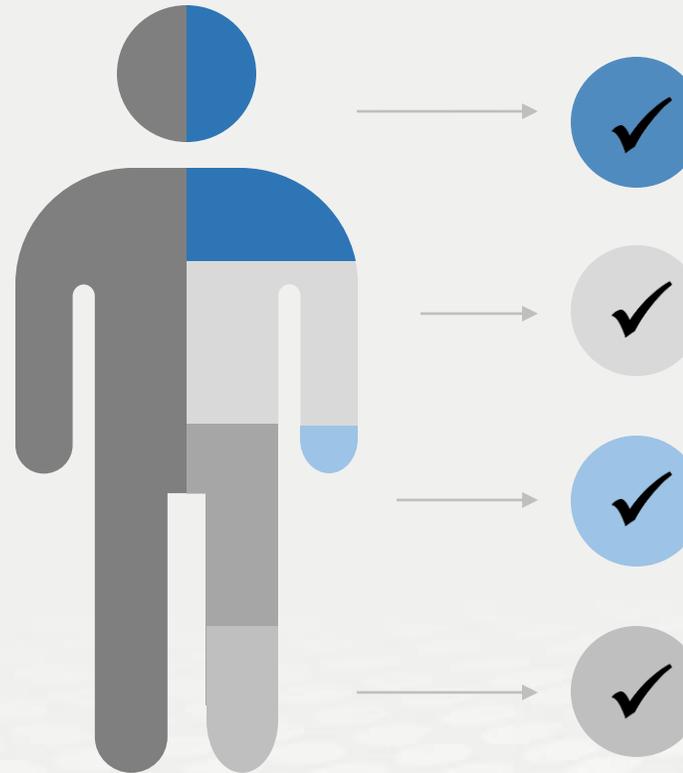
Cyber-security
We have a 20-year track record of producing the events cyber-security professionals take seriously

Risk Management
We attract senior risk officers with responsibility for information risk assessment and mitigation

Fraud, Audit, Compliance
We provide the go-to events for fraud prevention and compliance owners at the world's key corporates

Data Protection & privacy
We are a key venue for decision-makers with budget and purchasing authority

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We deliver the most focused selling opportunity

Specific, actionable and relevant information for time-constrained industry professionals

The perfect platform for solution providers to deliver tailored advice to the right audience

Focus

Target growth

Each event represents a targeted opportunity to address the needs of a specific community whose need for your solutions and services is growing.

Leads

Boost sales

Sponsors can tailor messages to the needs of an audience that shares similar concerns and challenges, looking for solutions now.

Choice

Meet commercial aims

We work with sponsors to ensure they meet their commercial aims. We offer a number of sponsorship options, each providing specific benefits.

Value

Showcase solutions

Our events provide sponsors with a unique platform to showcase solutions, as well as provide advice on how best to solve delegates' key challenges.

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e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress in Abu Dhabi

Delegate Acquisition

- The e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress has the **largest community of genuine cybersecurity stakeholders** to invite to our events.

- Our reputation for hosting **exceptional events with informative content, excellent networking opportunities and the best vendor partners** means delegates know they are attending a quality event, and are willing to give up the time to attend.

- Our delegates are **invited by an in-house delegate liaison team** who call senior security and privacy professionals at public and private sector companies with a personal invitation to attend.

- We **follow up all registrations** with further calls, emails on logistics requirements and reminders to **ensure the best possible attendance**.

Lead Sourcing

- The e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress prides itself on **putting the key cybersecurity buyers and sellers together.**

- To offer you the best prospects to network with, **we don't invite academics, job seekers, consultants,** non-sponsoring vendors or marketing service providers to this closed-door event. This **attention to quality over quantity** has been the hallmark of AKJ's events for 20 years.

- Each of our vendor partners will receive a delegate list at the end of the event.

- Through our targeted networking breaks built into our agendas you will have **unrivalled opportunities to network** with high-quality prospects with face-to-face networking at the event.

Get Your Message Across

- **Content is king,** which is why the e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress prides itself on delivering informative and useful content, to attract senior audiences of decision-makers.

- Deliver an exclusive 20-min keynote presentation in the virtual plenary theatre, or host a 30-min targeted workshop session: good content drives leads to your booth, and showcases your company's expertise.

- AKJ's in-house content / research team will complement the agenda with best practice from leading experts and senior security professionals from the end-user community.

- If you are not presenting, the exhibitor booth offers the opportunity to share white papers and other resources for delegates to takeaway.

Exclusivity Delivered

- AKJ Associates has never done trade shows. We see most value in working with **a select number of the top vendor partners**, and offering those companies the best access to leads.

- Our events keep the same ethos as when we first started 20 years ago, limiting vendor numbers. We will not be a hangar with hundreds of vendors competing for attention. We will keep our **events exclusive to give the best networking opportunities**.

- All booths offer the same opportunities with the same capacity and functionality regardless of the vendor company.

- This is an opportunity to **continue building pipeline and driving leads** in partnership with our outstanding 20-year reputation and the e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress brand.

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What our sponsors say about us

PhishRod

It was indeed a great show. Despite the situation overall [COVID 19] the number of people that turned up, shows the trust people have of the e-Crime brand. Wish you all the best for the upcoming events and we shall surely be a part of them.

KASPERSKY lab

This is always a great event for 'taking the temperature' on security issues, to get a feel for people's impressions on current security challenges and to find out what organizations of all kinds are doing.

vmware Carbon Black

AKJ has been a valuable partner for us for a few years now, enabling us to build relationships and engage with the CISO community in a number of key territories across Europe. The events they hold are a great vehicle for discussing the latest challenges and opportunities in the security sector, and our work with them has delivered way beyond expectations.

✓**Ninety five percent of our exhibitors and sponsors work with us on multiple occasions each year**

✓**Our sponsor renewal rate is unrivalled in the marketplace**

✓**This is because our sponsors generate real business at our events every year**

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