

**CISO  
MAG**

beyond cybersecurity

Volume 5 | Issue 03 | March 2021

UNDER THE  
SPOTLIGHT

“Don’t be afraid to ask  
about opportunities;  
fortune favors the bold”

COVER STORY

# Diversity is Our Prime Asset for Cybersecure Digitalization



INSIGHT

**BEYOND 24**

Inching Towards Diversity,  
Equity, and Inclusivity

**C E L E B R A T I N G**

# WOMEN

**IN CYBERSECURITY**



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President & CEO  
**Jay Bavisi**

Editorial  
Editor-in-Chief  
**Brian Pereira\***  
brian.p@eccouncil.org

Senior Feature Writer  
**Augustin Kurian**  
augustin.k@eccouncil.org

Feature Writer  
**Rudra Srinivas**  
rudra.s@eccouncil.org

Technical Writer  
**Mihir Bagwe**  
mihir.b@eccouncil.org

Feature Writer  
**Pooja Tikekar**  
pooja.v@eccouncil.org

Management  
Senior Vice President  
**Karan Henrik**  
karan.henrik@eccouncil.org

Director of Marketing  
**Nandakishore**  
nandakishore.p@eccouncil.org

General Manager - Marketing  
**Seema Bhatia**  
seema.b@eccouncil.org

Senior Director  
**Raj Kumar Vishwakarma**  
rajkumar@eccouncil.org

Deputy Business Head  
**Jyoti Punjabi**  
jyoti.punjabi@eccouncil.org

Publishing Sales Manager  
**Taruna Bose**  
taruna.b@eccouncil.org

Design and Digital Marketing  
**Rajashakher Intha**  
rajashakher.i@eccouncil.org

Executive – Marketing and Operations  
**Munazza Khan**  
munazza.k@eccouncil.org

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Illustrations, Cover & Layouts by: Rajashakher Intha

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

### CELEBRATING WOMEN IN TODAY'S DIGITAL AGE

Marked annually on March 8, **International Women's Day** is a celebration of women's rights around the world. Women play a critical role in science and technology. Hence, to honor their contribution to the world of tech, our March issue is themed, **Women in Cybersecurity**. This special issue recounts the ideologies of courageous women who have triumphantly left footprints in the industry. They tell invigorating and encouraging stories of success and struggle. We hope these women are an inspiration to all women and men in the world.

#### STORIES THAT INSPIRE

I am inspired to read stories about an all-women crew who flew a modern airplane, non-stop for 17 hours, over the North Pole. Or about an all-women crew who sailed around the world in a yacht. Then, I am reminded about **Amelia Earhart**, the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. The other day, I read about **Swati Mohan**, an Indian American scientist who played a pivotal role in landing NASA's historic Perseverance rover on the Martian surface. And a few days later, we hear about a 29-year-old woman who survived cancer as a child and was just selected to fly to space aboard SpaceX's rocket.

We salute the countless "hidden figures" in history – women who have worked behind the scenes to launch space missions, lead businesses, or make breakthroughs in science. The millions of women in our police force, defense, and first responders like paramedics, doctors – all working on the front-line to save lives or keep us safe.

#### BUT WHY DO WE HAVE SO FEW WOMEN IN CYBERSECURITY?

According to an industry report, women working in cybersecurity account for meager 24% or a quarter of the workforce. When the pandemic came along last year, millions of women left the workforce, mainly due to job losses.

The orientation and initiation into cybersecurity must begin earlier. It must start with STEM education. Little girls should be encouraged to take up STEM subjects in school. And responsible parents should talk to them about cybersecurity.

We live in the 21st century, yet there are some countries in the world where women are not permitted to pursue education. Occasionally, the BBC uncovers stories of women who have been attacked or killed because they dared to "break the rules" set by a patriarchal society. This gender inequality is seen even in developed countries.

But we believe in diversity and inclusion, and we'll continue recognizing women achievers throughout the year.

We hope you enjoy reading all the inspiring women's stories in this issue.

Please drop us a mail and let us know what you liked.



**Brian Pereira**

Editor-in-Chief  
brian.p@eccouncil.org

## PRELUDE

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### *Let's Shine a Light on Cyber Women*

As the world is set to celebrate womanhood on International Women's Day, we at **EC-Council** and *CISO MAG* have decided to go a step further. We will be celebrating March 2021 as the month for **Women in Cybersecurity**. And this issue will set in motion the month-long activities surrounding this initiative.

The purpose of this issue is to highlight the role of Women in Cybersecurity and to address several issues they face. Most of the problems faced by women can be traced back to the earliest days of their education, where gender stereotypes begin. This issue aims to axe these stereotypes and shine a light on women influencers who dared to speak up and told the world what it desperately needed to hear — it is not a man's world. But this is just the beginning.

We are also planning a webinar series. Women influencers from the cybersecurity community will educate our global audiences on the issues that matter to them and the cyber world at large through our webinar platform "[Cyber Talks](#)."

And finally, we will also be publishing a series of articles, interviews, podcasts on the *CISO MAG* website throughout March to venerate the eminence and glory of Women in Cybersecurity.



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“Never let anyone have you think, even for a moment, that you cannot achieve something because you are a woman.”

Monica Verma  
CISO  
THE NORWEGIAN DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH

## UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

“Don’t be afraid to ask about opportunities; fortune favors the bold”



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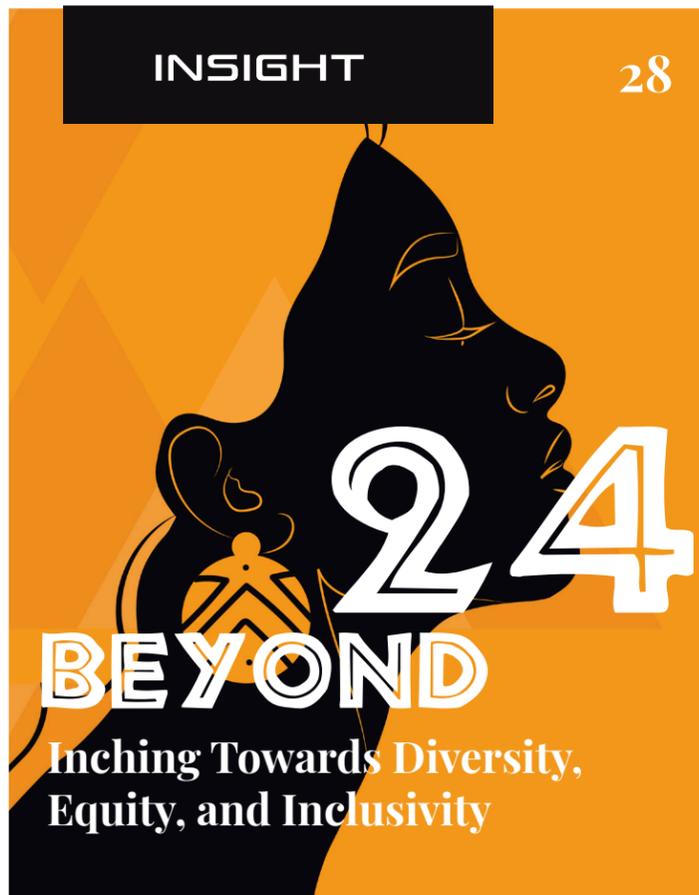
Lisa Ventura  
CEO & FOUNDER  
UK CYBER SECURITY ASSOCIATION

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## ECCU: Uplifting Women in Cybersecurity

Greetings from **EC-Council University** on International Women's Day 2021!

It is my honor to lead such an exceptional institution where we empower women to excel in cybersecurity. As we celebrate International Women's Day 2021, let's pause to acknowledge women's cybersecurity achievements along the way and reaffirm our commitment to gender parity in the industry. As a woman in the cybersecurity industry, I have always admired my fellow women colleagues and alumni's outstanding contributions, making this a memorable journey. I am also proud to announce that we at **EC-Council University** nurture an environment that enables women to pursue their passion and cultivate their cyberspace talents.

As Vice President Kamala Harris recently observed, 2.5 million women leaving the workforce during the pandemic is a "national emergency." So, I consider "now" to be the right time for us to play our part as a higher education institution. Looking at the severe scarcity of women in cybersecurity, **EC-Council University** is committed to empowering aspiring women to follow their passion for the industry.

Following this year's global theme, "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World," I am thrilled that **EC-Council University** is now reflecting, in more ways than one, how dedicated and focused we are to empower more women in the industry to take the lead. To reflect our mission of achieving gender parity in cybersecurity, we have introduced the **Women in Cybersecurity Scholarship**, the **Need-Based Scholarship**, and the **EC-Council Foundation Fellowship** to offer tuition assistance to women and other interested eligible applicants continuing their cybersecurity education. We are now ready to go above and beyond to fulfill our promise to uplift women in cybersecurity.

Looking ahead, women aspirants and working women in the cybersecurity industry have my commitment that I am here to help you acquire the resources you need to excel in your career.

I hope that this gesture will inspire more women to join the cybersecurity field, and I feel grateful to all those who have been highly supportive of, and contributive to our cause.

Together, we can accomplish a gender-equal cybersecurity world.

**Lata Bavisi**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**EC-COUNCIL UNIVERSITY**  
connect@eccu.edu



**EC-COUNCIL  
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# 11 THINGS BUSINESSES SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA PRIVACY RIGHTS ACT

**Christina Gagnier**  
Shareholder  
Carlton Fields' Los Angeles Office



**Joe Swanson**  
Shareholder  
Carlton Fields' Tampa Office



California voters recently passed the **CPRA or Proposition 24**. Though the law goes into effect on January 1, 2023, businesses need to turn their attention immediately to the new obligations that the CPRA (California Privacy Rights Act) puts in place to ensure compliance and avoid penalties.

CPRA is preceded by the California Consumer Privacy Act (**CCPA**), which is a state statute intended to enhance privacy rights and consumer protection for residents of California. The bill was passed by the California State Legislature and signed into law by Jerry Brown, Governor of California, on June 28, 2018. Officially called **AB-375**, CCPA was introduced by Ed Chau, member of the California State Assembly, and State Senator Robert Hertzberg.

Amendments to the CCPA, in the form of Senate Bill 1121, were passed on September 13, 2018. Additional substantive amendments were signed into law on October 11, 2019. The CCPA became effective on January 1, 2020. In November 2020, California voters passed **Proposition 24**, also known as the California Privacy Rights Act (**CPRA**), which amends and expands the CCPA.

To bring you more insights on CPRA, CISO MAG reached out to **Carlton Fields** attorneys **Christina M. Gagnier** and **Joseph W. Swanson**. They are both shareholders in their firm and are counseling businesses on this new Act; they advise on practices to comply proactively with the CPRA.

Both Christina and Joe bring extensive experience to this topic. Christina is a previous

member of the Federal Communication Commission’s Consumer Advisory Committee and the California Attorney General’s Cyber Exploitation Task Force. Joe is a former federal prosecutor and former Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (CHIP) Coordinator for the US Attorney’s Office, where he advised other prosecutors on investigative techniques involving internet and email providers, computers, websites, and other electronic evidence. Joe also chairs the firm’s cybersecurity practice.

Here are 11 things that every business in the U.S. should know about the California Privacy Rights Act.

The first 10 points are attributed to **Christina M. Gagnier**. The 11th point is attributed to **Joseph W. Swanson**.

### 1. **CPRA should be viewed as a “CCPA+”**

The following are highlights of some of the additions to CCPA:

- The private right of action expands. Individuals will have more latitude to bring suit.
- Cure period for businesses is canned to some extent. Businesses who were looking to the 30-day cure period to quickly rectify their failure to comply with the CCPA have lost this perceived “safe harbor.” The CPRA only provides for a cure period that will halt statutory damages if the violation is remedied, and only applies to a data breach and the private right of action.



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