BHAVYATTA BHARDWAJ

Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area | *www.bhavyattabhardwaj.com*

Strategy Consultant & Systemic Researcher | AI Governance, Cybersecurity & Technology Policy

Strategy Consultant and Systemic Researcher with 10 years of experience driving cybersecurity programs, digital transformation, and cross-functional project management across Canadian public-sector and regulated environments. Adept at guiding stakeholders through evolving technology landscapes, partnering across security, legal, privacy, and technology teams to embed governance into operational delivery. Led large-scale initiatives building cross-functional alignment through stakeholder engagement, workshops, and process improvement. Currently supporting mission-driven organisations with AI governance, cybersecurity frameworks, and technology policy so they can adopt digital tools and AI with integrity, transparency, and sustainable governance. Skilled in risk assessment, secure technology deployment, policy development, and strategic advisory for government, nonprofits, and technology initiatives. Increasingly focused on supporting small, mission-driven organisations and civil society actors to enhance operational resilience.

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Program & Operations Management
- Cybersecurity risk assessment and organisational controls (NIST CSF, AI RMF, Zero Trust, IAM)
- Mission-driven and civil society-focused work

- Cross-Functional Portfolio Management
- Stakeholder Engagement & Management
- Candidate & Vendor Assessments
- Governance, policy, framework development

EXPERIENCE

DANUMA | Founder, Strategy Consultant & Systemic Researcher | Jan 2026 – Present

- Translating AI governance research into simple, low-lift governance and risk-awareness approaches that can be adopted by under-resourced organisations.
- Currently beta testing an independently designed *Equitable AI Risk Assessment Framework* as a practical guide for nonprofits and social impact organisations to navigate this landscape responsibly.
- Engaging in strategic foresight work on digital security policy and emerging technology, exploring scenarios and implications to guide future-focused advisory for mission-driven and civil society organisations.
- Writing research essays on AI & Society exploring equity structures, policy, philosophy, and technology awareness gaps.

INDEPENDENT | Consultant, Researcher & Writer | Nov 2024 – Present

- Supporting Fair Share of Women Leaders' Feminist AI Exploration through desk research and governance concepts to co-design values-aligned, intersectional policy inputs from workshops and frameworks.
- Conducting independent research on mid-power dynamics, compute limitations, and systemic cyber risk, designing early conceptual frameworks to inform future white papers and practical organisational tools.
- Pursuing self-directed studies in public policy and international relations to transition into mission-driven work and inform the next stage of my research.

MICROSOFT | Customer Success Account Manager for Federal Government | Oct 2022 – Sept 2024

- Cultivated enduring business and IT partnerships across Canadian federal departments and agencies as a trusted advisor to bridge IT initiatives with business goals, fostering consultative relationships.
- Increased licensing requirements by 40%, driving the largest M365 CoPilot proof of concept, managing and realising $25 million CAD portfolio to mature Microsoft product and services adoption.
- Advised public-sector teams on AI and cloud adoption in highly regulated environments, balancing innovation with data protection, security, and accountability requirements.
- Implemented a streamlined process to align department's mandate with Microsoft's services, optimising timely guidance based on customer priorities
- Served as trusted advisor to clients and technology service providers in areas of technology expertise, sourcing, project management, financial modelling, executive relationships, negotiation

INDEPENDENT | Cybersecurity Management Consultant | Feb 2021– Apr 2024

- Managed project portfolios, while providing consistent program status and progress against objectives, and overseeing the delivery of information security roadmap projects and initiatives.
- Assisted in documenting policies and frameworks for clients, and validated assessment reports before presenting, while facilitating cyber operations for small businesses.
- Partnered with ISA Cybersecurity's internal and external stakeholders, sales and engineering teams to lead end-to-end PenTesting, vulnerability assessment, technology and security risk projects.

BELL CANADA | Cyber Security Engineer & Program Manager | Feb 2021 – Oct 2022

- Led $20M CAD network security portfolio with programs like IAM/PAM, Supplier Assurance, and Network Segmentation Remediation, enhancing system integrity for over 50,000 accounts, and Bell customers.
- Uncovered deficiencies in root password change procedures and policy compliance for network devices and containers, in collaboration with Solution Architects to develop risk mitigation solutions
- Oversaw security control compliance and governance for the nation-wide 5G launch, implemented a security maturity model, leading change management.
- Participated in the planning and development of all project deliverables, assuming overall responsibility for staffing, budget, work plans, scope, project milestones, issues management and escalations.
- Initiated Architecture Risk Prioritisation Program for articulating the gaps in network architecture and associated risks with leadership and remediation plans.

BANK OF CANADA | Security Assurance Program Manager | Oct 2019 – Feb 2021

- Established an end-to-end Vulnerability Management Program to identify and manage risk in the technology ecosystem, then integrated and operationalised the program in the Security Assurance Portfolio.
- Automated the processes by evaluating and leading the implementation of ServiceNow Modules, reducing the manual data entry by 30%, incorporated with IT operations' processes.
- Led rapid war rooms for critical incident response work avoiding misjudgements to protect public trust and financial system stability, requiring careful communication and calibrated decision-making under pressure during critical vulnerabilities.
- Led a cross-functional team, reducing manual oversight by 70%, and proactively managed threats, remediating 90% vulnerabilities, 6 months ahead of schedule, contributing a 35% drop in breaches.
- Evaluated and presented security solutions to enhance capabilities to measure and manage cyber risks, constantly maturing the program and security posture of the Bank.

SELF-EMPLOYED | Researcher | Apr 2019 – Oct 2019

- Conducted research on cybersecurity project management, thought leadership and digital operations.
- Authored and presented "Project Management: Changing the way Cyber Security works in an organisation" at University of Texas, Dallas, USA for PMP Symposium; later published in PM World Journal.

NEW BRUNSWICK POWER | Management Consultant | Oct 2018 – Mar 2019

- Led O365 deployment in collaboration with Microsoft Partner, collaborating with client leadership to prioritise project activities, resource availability, and escalations with key performance dashboards to reduce error backlog and turnaround times by 40%.
- Formalised the Cloud Governance Strategy based on North American and ISO 27000 standards, and corporate requirements ensuring accountability, Service Level Agreements (SLA) and process ownership.

GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK | Web Developer & Project Manager | May 2016 – Oct 2018

- Designed and maintained department's intranet and public website, trained users and provided ongoing support to increase user adoptability.
- Conducted cryptography risk assessment for drone technology adoption, securing radio signal communications for conservation officers monitoring remote mining sites.
- Delivered strategic roadmaps for site assessments and financial trends, reducing departmental expenses by 24%.

EDUCATION

Master of Science, Computer Science | University of New Brunswick, Canada | **2015-2017**

B.Tech., Information Technology | Uttar Pradesh Technical University, India | **2010-2014**

OTHER

CERTIFICATIONS & TOOLS

Microsoft 365 (Defender, Purview, SharePoint), Google Workspace, CyberArk, Splunk 7, Azure Fundamentals (Security, Compliance, Identity, AI), Collaboration & Knowledge Management Tools

FRAMEWORKS & COMPLIANCE

NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF), AI Risk Management Framework (AI RMF), cybersecurity assessments, IAM, Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA), AIDA, PIPED, EU AI Act, GDPR, DORA