AUDITOR PANEL

Hot Takes: Soapbox Opinions from Security Auditors

KEYS 2026 HORIZONS

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SESSION AGENDA

1. Passwords are Outdated
2. Another Risk Assessment?
3. All My Vendors are Critical
4. Filling Out Request List Items

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Passwords

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"**Passwordless** authentication is an authentication method in which a user can log in to a computer system **without entering a password** or any other **knowledge-based secret.** In most common implementations, users are asked to enter their public identifier and then complete the authentication process by providing a **secure proof of identity through a registered device, biometric method, or token.** Passwordless authentication methods typically rely on **public-key cryptography** infrastructure, where the public key is provided during registration to the authenticating service."

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PASSWORDS

- Are password managers a good solution?
- Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA).
- Stay current with key based infrastructure changes.

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# The practice of representing info in a way that is not obvious on initial examination

# Allows any digital media to become an obfuscation layer

# Not mathematically secure

# Discovery of info depends on knowledge of its existence

# Exists in many places we're not aware of

# Modern example: Cicada 3301
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IT Audit Risk Assessment

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IT AUDIT RISK ASSESSMENT

Criticality	Definition	Frequency
Insignificant	A deficiency could cause **negligible** adverse effects.	Situationally Based Only
Low	A deficiency could cause **limited** adverse effects.	18 - 24 Months
Medium	A deficiency could cause **serious** adverse effects.	12 Months
High	A deficiency could cause **severe** adverse effects.	6 Months
Extreme	A deficiency could cause **catastrophic** adverse effects.	3 Months

Audit Area	Criticality
IT Infrastructure Management	Medium
IT Audit Independence	Low
Business Continuity Planning	Medium
Cyber Incident Response	Medium
IT Oversight, Strategy & Policy	Medium
IT Staffing, Security Training & Company Culture	Insignificant
IT Risk Management & Risk Assessment	Medium
Vendor Management	Medium
Access & Data Management	High
Physical Inspections	Low
Cyber Monitoring, Alerting & Review	Medium
External Vulnerability Scanning	Extreme
Internal Vulnerability Scanning	High

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IT AUDIT RISK ASSESSMENT

- Identifies areas of most concern
- Determines best use of audit resources
- Helps you plan your audit schedule

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# File format permissivity (polyglots)

# Overlooked text patterns

# Realtime visual decoding (spectrograms)
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Vendor Management

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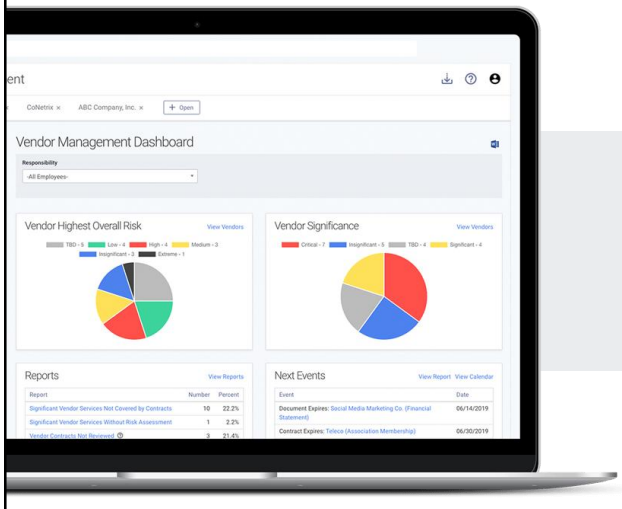

Tandem Vendor Management Software

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VENDOR MANAGEMENT

- What data do they have? Where is it?
- Are the risk/significance ratings appropriate?
- What due diligence documents do I really need?

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```
# Garnered popularity in 2013

# Led by an anonymous group with unknown goals

# Began with an image and spread across numerous mediums

# ARGs use similar tactics
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Request List Items

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"Audits should **review every aspect** of the information security program, the environment in which the program runs, and outputs of the program. Audits should assess the **reasonableness and appropriateness** of, and compliance with, policies, standards, and procedures; **report** on information security activity and control deficiencies to decision makers; **identify root causes and recommendations to address deficiencies**; and test the effectiveness of controls within the program. "

FFIEC Information Security Handbook

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REQUEST LIST ITEMS

- The deeper we go, the more secure you are.
- The tool in the toolbox.
- Yes, we need them on time!!!

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  # Doesn't depend on information from external sources

  # Uses multi-layer obfuscation to avoid brute-forcing

  # Homage to Jim Sandborn's Kryptos Code
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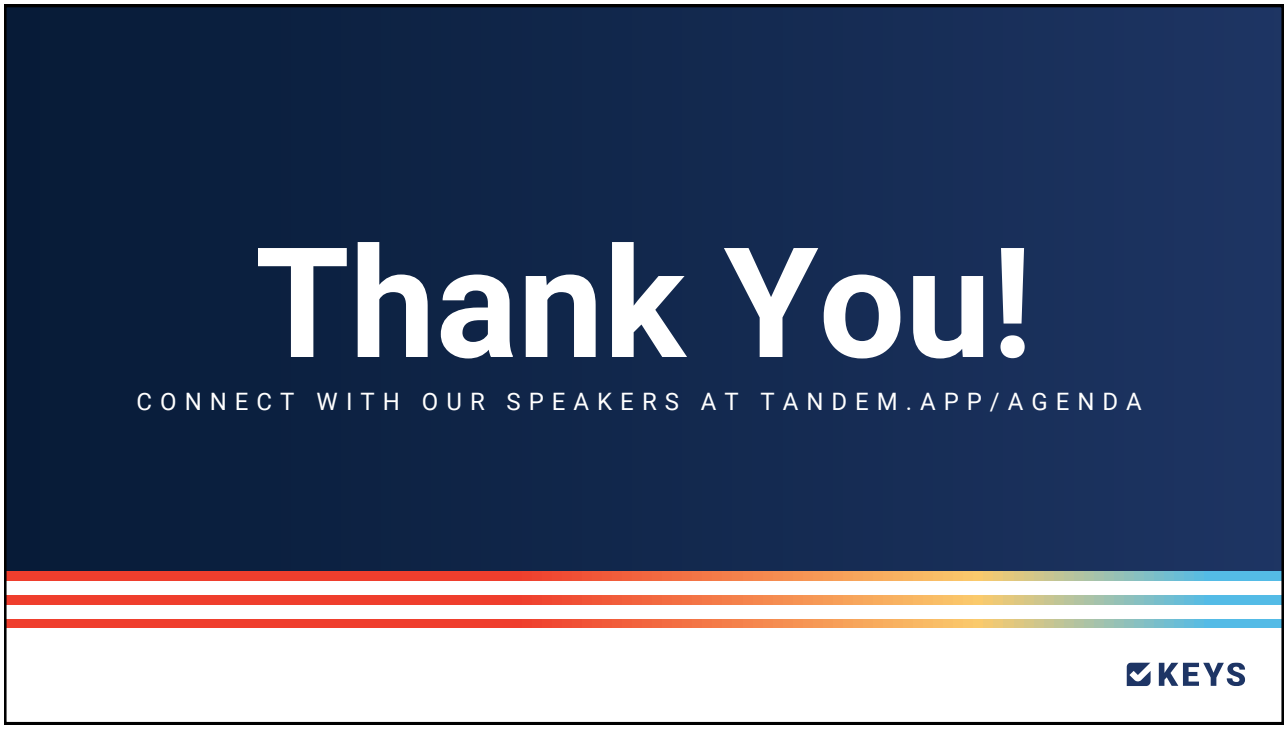
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