



Dr Derek W. Keats, PhD

Dr Keats has been working with information technology (IT) since the days of punch cards. As an academic, he has researched and published numerous academic papers on IT. As a technology advocate, he has led international technology collaborations and software development projects from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. As an institutional executive he has spent more than a decade leading university IT initiatives. For 11 years, he has been responsible for cybersecurity in four FinTech companies, and continues to consult widely in cybersecurity and governance for FinTechs and other technology startups.

Before that he was a professor of biology, based at the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, and at Memorial University, in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. He also spent two years teaching high school biology and Computer Science in Zimbabwe.



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Work experience



Co-founder, Chief Risk and Compliance officer

ExiPay and Finimo groups

Amsterdam, Netherlands
2021-2024

Responsibility for overall governance development, lead PCI DSS, PCI PIN, PCI P2PE and ISO 27001 security projects, other certifications, business development internationally, business and product documentation, creation of security training materials and training platform, marketing project and developed company videos and other marketing materials, thought leadership writing, ExCo membership.



Chief Risk and Compliance officer

onoConnect

Amsterdam, Netherlands
08/2019-2020

Responsibility for overall governance development, lead PCI DSS, PCI PIN security projects, business development internationally, business and product documentation, business strategy, creation of security training materials and training programme, developed company marketing materials, ExCo membership.



Chief scientist

SauronAI

Rosebank, South Africa
08/2019-2020

Created technical architecture documentation for all SauronAI products, developed governance framework including GDPR and POPIA compliance, business and product documentation, ongoing input to product design. Company folded due to Covid restrictions.



Chief scientist

thumbzup

Centurion, South Africa
10/2012-05/2019

Created technical architecture documentation for all thumbzup products, created information security strategy aligned to ISO 27001, responsibility for PCI DSS, PCI PIN security, PA DSS and other certifications, direct business engagement internationally, business and product documentation, business modelling, research on entrepreneurship and innovation.

Education



PhD - Biology

Memorial University of Newfoundland



BSc - Biology

Memorial University of Newfoundland



Community service

Scientific, international and local service

Established International Ocean Institute – SA and initiated several community projects in SA and Kenya, served on Cape IT Initiative board and helped establish Bandwidth Barn incubator, served on research journal review panels, wrote articles in popular publications to make science accessible to general readers, mentored software developers.



Skills and competences





Founder Kenga Solutions

Johannesburg, South Africa
08/2011-ongoing

Consulting in the area of institutional strategy, e-learning, technology-innovation, strategic thinking, Free and Open Source Software and Open Innovation, innovation, cybersecurity. Became full time with thumbzup while consulting there, but reverted in 2019.



Deputy Vice Chancellor

Knowledge & Information Management, University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg, South Africa
01/2009-09/2011

Developed a strategic ICT plan; helped enhance the library's electronic holdings; established e-Learning and the e-learning support team; initiated & led project that established new student information management system; revived student labs; served on Council, Senate, and several committees; oversaw senior appointments in the Commerce Law and Management Faculty



Executive Director

Information & Communication Services
University of the Western Cape
Cape Town, South Africa
10/2001-01/2009

Developed a strategic ICT plan; provided vision and leadership that introduced the academic use of information technology; established e-Learning and the e-learning support team; established Free Software Innovation Unit.



Lecturer / Professor

Botany Department (in Marine biology)
University of the Western Cape
Cape Town, South Africa
01/1989-10/2001

Established Coralline Algal Research Laboratory (centre of global excellence, still operating), Established International Ocean Institute – SA (still going, moved to SANBI), Established Centre for Internet Computing (Computer Science, still going), supervised several Masters and PhD students, developed research area in ICT in Education and researched early Internet use in education, developed one of the first e-learning platforms.



Teaching experience

Studied education, taught at high school, university, NGO and private sector. Researched and published in educational process and educational technology. Established eLearning at two universities. Run courses in more than 20 countries.



Cybersecurity experience

Responsible for IT at senior management level at two universities for 13 years. Responsible for cybersecurity at FinTech startup thumbzup for >7 years. Cybersecurity consulting with FinTech startups. General overall experience managing IT in organisations. Wrote a book entitled "An Introduction to Cybersecurity for Busy People". In-person course offered towards PCI DSS compliance for organisations. Online security training within several organisations towards achieving PCI DSS, PCI PIN and PCI P2PE compliance. General cybersecurity training.



Secure Software Life Cycle related

- Experience managing PCI standards, including PA/DSS
- General cybersecurity experience including writing the book "Cybersecurity for Busy People"
- Training courses cover various aspects that enable oversight
 - › Threat Modeling using STRIDE masterclass
 - › ISO/IEC 27001:2022 – Information Security Management System
 - › Data Protection and Privacy
 - › A Brief Guide to Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery
 - › Cyber Security Incident Handling and Response

Language



English, excellent writer

Publications



Peer review scientific: 90



Technical and grey literature: 25



Business documents: 200+



Popular Magazines: 62



Conference presentations: 175



Educational videos: 30+



Children's books: 8



Commercial books: 1

Hobbies



Nature photography, birding, hiking, camping, guitar playing, scuba diving, computer programming, reading, blogging, writing, making videos

Online



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