



NAVIGATOR



Elevating cyber leaders into
transformative business leaders.

12TH - 16TH OCTOBER, 2026
CAMBRIDGE, UK

Designed and delivered
in collaboration with:





Downing College, University of Cambridge

Executive education on cyber resilience

ISTARI was founded with the belief that knowledge is protection. Cybersecurity has become one of the most critical risks businesses face in today's digital world, making it essential for us to come together to learn from each other to meet the challenge. We believe in collective power, convening and partnering with world-renowned institutions and leading experts that can help us on our journey to cyber resilience.

That's why we created and designed this unique programme with one of the world's most prominent academic institutions, the University of Cambridge Judge Business School. CJBS Executive Education prides itself on offering an interdisciplinary, interactive learning environment that celebrates and creates real-world impact, shaping leaders who change the world.

This programme will help new and aspiring CISOs embrace the knowledge and skills needed to grow in confidence, evolve and adapt in an ever-changing cyber landscape. Learn to lead purposefully, manage effectively and innovate nimbly in an increasingly challenging — and critical — business role.

Navigator is designed to widen senior cyber leaders' knowledge, deepen their perspective and provide a unique space to share insights with their peers from across the region.

We hope to explore what it takes to forge the path to cyber resilience — now and in the future. We will provide an environment where you can contribute freely and learn directly from one another, all with the shared goal of delving into the learnings from real-life cyber scenarios and advancing toward increased resilience.

Topics covered:

Surviving a Ransomware Attack

Navigating Unpredictable Crises

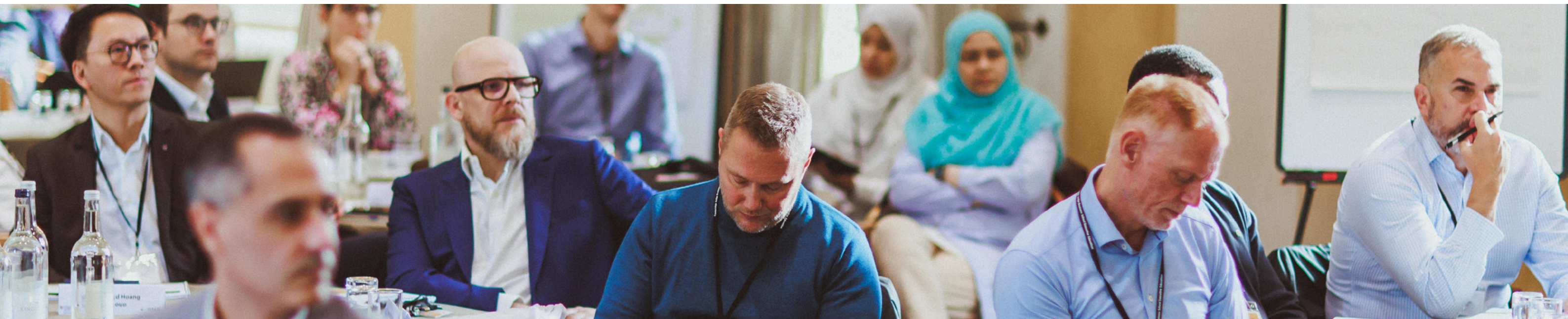
Anticipating Strategic & Geopolitical Trends

Shaping Governance & Organisational Culture

Rethinking Cyber Risk Management

Crafting a Cyber Resilience Strategy

Navigating Cyber Crisis Communications



Programme overview

The programme is four full days beginning on Monday, 12 October with a half day of sessions and concludes early afternoon on Friday, 16 October.

Day 1: New World

Resilience in an Era of Unpeace: Geopolitical Risk in Cyberspace

*Dr. Lucas Kello,
University of Oxford & ISTARI*

“We are now operating in a space between peace and war... Our world is being actively remade, with profound implications for national and international security.”

Blaise Metreweli,
Chief of MI6

This session will examine how the geopolitics of cyberspace is reshaping corporate risk. It situates contemporary cyber contests in historical perspective, mapping the evolution of cyber risk across distinct stages – from the criminal nuisance of the 1980s to today’s high-impact interstate operations with economic and political effects. It reviews the concept of “unpeace”: a persistent condition of strategic contest below the threshold of war in which economic disruption and political subversion become common tools of statecraft. It will discuss the growing instability in cyberspace arising from the converging forces of geopolitical fragmentation and technological uncertainty associated with AI and other technological trends. Participants will leave with a sharper lens on where cyber risk intersects with great-power rivalry and what this means for enterprise resilience strategy.

The Anatomy of a Crisis

*Jo De Vlieghe & Jason Mallinder,
ISTARI*

“A cyberattack can hit all departments globally within minutes, even seconds. Not many other crises have that same immediate impact.”

Jo De Vlieghe,
Client Partner at ISTARI and former CIO at Norsk Hydro

“It’s not if, but when.” In today’s interconnected world, cyberattacks can cripple global operations within minutes, leaving organisations facing operational paralysis, financial loss, reputational fallout, and strategic risk.

In this session, Jo De Vlieghe—Client Partner at ISTARI and former CIO of Norsk Hydro—shares firsthand lessons from one of the most significant ransomware attacks in industrial history. When Norsk Hydro’s 22,000 computers across 170 sites were disabled almost instantly, Jo and his teams were forced to navigate a high-stakes recovery under extreme pressure. Through direct testimony and practical insights, participants will explore what it takes to lead through a cyber crisis, protect critical operations, and prepare their organisations for the realities of large-scale digital disruption.





Day 2: New Risk

Systemic Shocks & Resilience of the Enterprise

Dr. Danny Ralph

“The resilient resists shocks and stays the same; the antifragile gets better.”

Nassim Nicholas Taleb, Author, Antifragile

Even well-prepared organisations and governments struggle to imagine — let alone prepare for — large-scale, systemic events. This session asks a pressing question: How can leaders navigate unpredictable crises?

Through interactive discussion, peer exchange, and scenario-based group work, participants will explore what securing organisational resilience means, how to test it, and how to strengthen it for the future.

We will examine contagion effects to identify the cascading impacts of systemic crises, apply a taxonomy of business risks to reveal organisational blind spots, and use comparative scenario analysis to assess resilience and pinpoint vulnerabilities across ecosystems. Participants will leave with practical tools to embed foresight into their risk management practices, build adaptive capacity, and position their organisations to withstand — and even thrive in — the unexpected.

Crafting a Cyber Resilience Strategy

Dr. Manuel Hepfer,
University of Oxford

“Then, in 72 words, I laid out the strategy, which was essentially to be the conduit of capital between those who have it and those who need it. That’s our job. Then we took a poll, and the result was that 98 percent understood and agreed with the strategy. Clarity of message is key.”

James Gorman, CEO Of Morgan Stanley, 2019

Can you summarise your company’s cyber resilience strategy in 35 words or less? If so, would your colleagues put it the same way? Very few executives can answer these simple questions in the affirmative. The companies that those executives work for are often the most successful in their industry. This session is dedicated to the art of understanding and crafting a cyber resilience strategy, then communicating it effectively.

Day 3: New Organisation

Cyber Risk Management

Faculty to be confirmed.

“We will bankrupt ourselves in the vain search for absolute security.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of The United States, 1961

Security budgets are rising, yet most organisations struggle to demonstrate whether investments reduce the biggest risks or just check compliance boxes. Many operate fragmented security governance where reporting, governance, and operational security work in silos. Most decisions are driven without full understanding, reacting to incidents rather than proactively preparing for the future threat. Data-driven governance measures threat exposure, control effectiveness, and incident patterns to make defensible decisions about where to invest and what risks to accept. This session examines how to build measurement frameworks that inform strategy, communicate risk at the boards in business terms, and optimise spending based on actual cyber postures. Participants will gain practical approaches to quantifying cyber risk and using real time data to drive security decisions.

Shaping Governance & Leadership

Dr. Simon Learmount,
Cambridge Judge Business School

“Uber, the world’s largest taxi company, owns no vehicles. Facebook, the world’s most popular media owner, creates no content. Alibaba, the most valuable retailer, has no inventory. And Airbnb, the world’s largest accommodation provider, owns no real estate. Something interesting is happening.”

Tom Goodwin, Tech Crunch

This module is a specially designed Cambridge Judge Business School case study. Focusing on Uber and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), the session explores the how cyber crises play out across an entire organisation, from the security operations and supply chain to the C-suite and boardroom. Both cases reveal how organisational culture, stakeholder management, governance and leadership shape the handling of cyber crises, from data breach disclosure issues and the prosecution of Uber’s former CSO, Joe Sullivan, to JLR’s business continuity and stakeholder impact. The session critically analyses how different types of incidents demand different crisis leadership approaches, while still relying on common foundations: clear governance, stakeholder management, well-rehearsed incident response, effective internal and external communications, and a culture that supports transparency and learning.



Day 4: New Leadership

Navigating Uncertainty & Instability in Organisational Leadership

Dr. Jennifer Howard-Grenville,
Cambridge Judge Business School

“Ultimately, being a CISO in times of crisis requires a mix of strong decision-making, clear communication, and a focus on both the technical and human elements of leadership. It’s about guiding the team through challenging situations while ensuring they feel supported and confident in your direction.”

Tim Brown, CIO, Solar Winds

Today’s CISOs must lead at the edge of predictability—where volatility, ambiguity, and complexity converge. This session equips participants with advanced frameworks from systems thinking, culture theory, and leadership research to navigate the unknown with clarity and confidence. Through interactive exercises and peer dialogue, participants will explore how uncertainty shapes organisational behaviour, and how to respond with resilience and purpose. Drawing on the concept of liminal leadership, we will examine how to maintain agency when traditional playbooks no longer apply. Participants will leave with practical tools for sensemaking, shared leadership, and building collective direction during times of flux—embracing the CISO’s evolving role as an adaptive leader in a world of continual transformation.

Case Study Workshop

When Billions Vanish: The World’s Largest Documented Heist

Yonatan Lipschitz, Director Client Leadership EMEA,
Sygnia

“Every transaction is recorded on the blockchain forever. That makes it both the best and the worst place to commit a crime.”

Michael Gronager, CEO, Chainalysis

This session is an interactive deep-dive into one of the largest crypto heists in history. Learn how attackers stole over \$1.5 billion from Bybit through a highly sophisticated supply-chain attack, and how Sygnia’s investigation exposed the tactics of the notorious Lazarus Group. Beyond the forensic story, this session will uncover vital lessons on navigating and communicating during a cyber crisis, offering practical insights you can apply in your own organisation. You will gain real-world knowledge to transform your cybersecurity readiness.

Managing Resilience with Emerging Technology

Dr. Lucas Kello,
University of Oxford & ISTARI

“AI is neither good nor evil. It’s a tool. Just like fire. Fire kept us warm, cooked our food, and burned down our houses.”

Oren Etzioni, CEO, Allen Institute for AI

This session will examine what the recent evolution of AI can teach leaders about resilience under accelerating technological change. It traces the evolution of machine intelligence from Alan Turing’s 1950 conception through rules-based systems in the 1960s to today’s neural-network foundation models, with a focus on the strategic implications of agentic AI as systems shift from tools to autonomous actors. It will then structures the risk landscape around three pathways: offensive acceleration, model manipulation and compromise, and supply-chain targeting. The session also reviews the origins of quantum computing and the probabilistic timeline for universal quantum processors, translating those projections into concrete preparedness measures and decision thresholds. The central aim is preparedness: understanding why LLMs caught many organisations off guard and applying that lesson to build quantum readiness early enough to avoid strategic surprise in technology management.



Day 5: New You

Through the Fog: Navigating a Cyber Crisis

Dr. Lucas Kello,
University of Oxford & ISTARI

“It is easy to dismiss all communications as ‘spin’. But, in a crisis, communication really matters. It must be embedded in strategy.”

Alastair Campbell, Director of Communications and Strategy for Prime Minister Tony Blair

Get to the heart of a fast-moving cyber crisis where technical escalation meets political complexity. In this immersive tabletop exercise, participants will navigate the strategic, legal, regulatory, and ethical challenges triggered by a high-impact cyberattack of uncertain origin. Designed to mirror the realities of modern crises, this simulation tests leadership judgment, decision-making under pressure, and cross-functional coordination. Participants will rehearse how to respond when every move carries operational, reputational, and geopolitical consequences.

Putting Your Cyber Resilience Strategy into Action

Dr. Simon Learmount
Cambridge Judge Business School

“Thinking is easy, acting is difficult, and to put one’s thoughts into action is the most difficult thing in the world.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The final session culminates all the knowledge and skills gained throughout the programme. It provides a toolkit that can empower cyber executives to put their learning into action within their respective companies. This session serves as a platform for participants to share their strategic thinking, leadership abilities and new-found expertise and how as a cohort they can continue their journey as a community of peers.

Course directors



Jason Mallinder

*Global Head of Academy & Client Partner,
ISTARI*

Jason is a Client Partner at ISTARI and is Global Head of its Academy. He fosters long-term trusted client relationships by integrating advisory, education, and ecosystem capabilities into cohesive, high-impact outcomes that build true cyber resilience for clients.

Jason brings deep practitioner expertise to his role, having served as Global CISO and Managing Director at Credit Suisse. His experience extends into the public-private sector, where he has worked alongside the Bank of England and the UK government to develop national cyber defence frameworks. Jason is a certified manager in both information security and risk, with a proven track record of leading large-scale technology risk operations on a global stage.



Dr. Simon Learmount

*Associate Professor in Corporate Governance,
Cambridge Judge Business School*

Previously the Director of the University of Cambridge's MBA Programme, Simon Learmount is a Fellow of Pembroke College, University of Cambridge and Associate Professor of Corporate Governance at Cambridge Judge Business School. He has served as Director of both the MBA and Executive MBA Programmes at Cambridge, and is recipient of the Pilkington Prize, awarded by the University of Cambridge to honour outstanding teaching across the university. His focus is on international corporate governance, sustainable business practice and ethics (especially in the US, UK, Japan and China) and digital governance (including cyber-security and AI). He serves as co-chair of the World Economic Forum Climate Governance Expert Committee, is a member of the Global Futures Council on Climate and Nature, advises multiple organisations on climate and digital governance, sustainability and green transition, risk management and director development. Before joining Cambridge Simon was a successful entrepreneur.



Core faculty and experts



Jo De Vliegher

*Client Partner,
ISTARI*

Jo is a client partner at ISTARI, supporting EMEA clients in managing digital risk and enhancing cyber resilience. Previously, he was Group CIO at Hydro, overseeing IS/IT, digitalization, and cybersecurity for 34,000 employees, including leading the company's acclaimed response to a major 2019 cyberattack. Before that, he held senior IT roles at solar energy firm REC in Singapore. Fluent in Dutch, English, French and Norwegian, he brings extensive global expertise in cybersecurity and IT leadership.



Dr. Lucas Kello

*Associate Professor in International Relations,
University of Oxford & Strategic Advisor, ISTARI*

An accomplished academic and author, Lucas is currently an Associate Professor at Oxford University, where he directs the Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research, with a research focus on technology and global affairs. He has authored two bestsellers on cybersecurity, "The Virtual Weapon and International Order" and "Striking Back: The End of Peace in Cyberspace and How to Restore It." Lucas advises ISTARI on thought leadership.



Dr. Manuel Hepfer

Research Affiliate, University of Oxford

Dr. Manuel Hepfer is a cybersecurity researcher at Oxford University's Saïd Business School. He holds a PhD in Cybersecurity and Strategic Management from the University of Oxford. His research focuses on how organisations can build resilience to cyberattacks, and the role of CEOs and Boards in managing cybersecurity risk. He has presented at major industry conferences, including RSA and Gartner. His research has won several awards and appeared in academic and practitioner journals such as MIT Sloan Management Review and the Financial Times. Drawing on his research, he helps companies proactively strengthen their cyber resilience.



Dr. Danny Ralph

*Professor of Operations Research,
Cambridge Judge Business School*

Professor Ralph is a member of the Operations and Technology Management group at Cambridge Judge Business School. His research focuses on systemic and emerging risk, optimisation, and decision-making in energy and equilibrium systems. He is Area Editor for Operations Research and former Editor-in-Chief of Mathematical Programming (Series B). Professor Ralph collaborates closely with industry, combining academic insight with practical impact in operations and risk management.

Core faculty and experts



Dr. Jennifer Howard-Grenville

*Diageo Professor of Organisation Studies,
Cambridge Judge Business School*

Professor Howard-Grenville is the Diageo Professor in Organisation Studies at Cambridge Judge Business School and Head of its Organisational Theory and Information Systems group. Her research explores organisational change, sustainability, and culture, with in-depth studies across industries like manufacturing and energy. A Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, she has published extensively and served as Deputy Editor of the Academy of Management Journal.



Yonatan Lipschitz

*Director Client Leadership EMEA,
Sygnia*

Yonatan is a senior executive with over two decades of leadership experience in cybersecurity, information systems, and strategic program management. He has led the design and delivery of large-scale cybersecurity programs, with a proven track record of advancing organizational resilience in complex threat environments.



Navigator in numbers

4

day immersive
executive education

9+

industry-leading
speakers and educators

4.89/5

overall programme
feedback rating

30

global senior cybersecurity
peers for knowledge sharing

175













alumni from world
leading organisations

1

global cohort
each year



Alumni

Course fee

The fee is £5,500+VAT. This includes all course materials, lunches social activities and two dinners at historic University of Cambridge colleges, but excludes accommodation, travel and incidentals.

Preferred rates at local hotels will be shared upon registration.

Eligibility requirements

Navigator is most suited CISOs and senior cyber or IT leaders within global organisations. We welcome applications from those looking to sharpen their understanding of governance, cyber risk and leadership competencies.

How to apply

To apply for an upcoming Navigator programme, please visit our website: navigator.istari-global.com

For more information, please contact istariacademy@istari-global.com



Alumni testimonials



“The Istari Navigator programme is a superb and comprehensive package for any current or aspiring CISO. I attended in October 2024 and was hugely impressed with the quality of the contents which were delivered by an array of excellent guest presenters. The sessions on strategy development and risk management were underpinned by excellent analysis, included relevant case studies and illustrated how to use a new array of tools and techniques. I would recommend the programme for anyone wanting to develop their competencies and skills to become a future CISO.”

Head of Cyber and Information Security,
Rolls Royce



“Navigator was not only a highly enriching professional experience but also a deeply inspiring personal one. The course content, focusing on cyber resilience and leadership, was expertly delivered by both academic and industry leaders, offering practical strategies and insights.”

Head of Security Operations – Detection &
Response (DART), TomTom



NorthStandard

“Navigator is a ‘must’ for organisations wishing to elevate technical leaders into transformational business leaders, and an experience I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

CISO, North Standard



“The Navigator Programme was genuinely helpful and has helped me think about cyber from new perspectives. Only problem is that now my team and I have a lot more work to do, even though I’m confident the new work will be highly valuable. Thanks to the whole group, de jure faculty members, as well as my classmate peer “instructors!”

CISO, Washington University
in St. Louis



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ExecutiveEducation



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