

# DAVID LAPORTE

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I am an information security and technology leader with a proven history of strategic execution in academic environments. Having spent my career in organizations with a diffuse and diverse set of stakeholders, I excel at building teams, relationships, and consensus to meet complex technical and organizational challenges amidst a culture of innovation, openness, and inclusivity.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Defined IT infrastructure strategy and championed deployment of innovative technologies to reduce cost, increase security, and improve service delivery. Assumed leadership of network and infrastructure security operations teams and improved service delivery through a focused change management program, while successfully executing on several high-profile IT goals.

#### *Senior Director, Network Strategy and Services*

*July 2019 to Present*

- Led organization of 35+ staff with responsibility for operation and security of University campus and cloud connectivity, including connectivity to all medical affiliates in the Longwood Medical Area
- Successfully defined and executed "Network Service Excellence," a strategic program intended to radically improve service delivery through measurable KPIs, more transparent service roadmaps and funding models, and the forging of stronger relationships with partners across campus
- Championed migration of Harvard's legacy "CloudShield" cloud security platform to infrastructure-as-code, increasing security visibility, reducing costs, and improving agility of over 800 hosted applications. Migration was completed on schedule, under budget, and with minimal impact to production
- Operationalized HUIT vulnerability management program, with weekly coordination with information security and devops colleagues to ensure ongoing alignment of policy, implementation, and assurance functions for over 2000 managed systems
- Supported University's return to campus initiative through close collaboration with faculty on contact-tracing experiments, implementation of real-time operational status dashboards for University leadership, and completion of "Zoom Readiness" - a 6-week project to improve in-room student learning through the installation of over 1000 wireless access points across 50+ residential properties
- Represented Harvard on Executive Committee for Northern Crossroads, a consortium of 20+ large educational and research organizations providing connectivity to millions of individuals across the Northeast

#### *Director, IT Infrastructure Strategy*

*December 2016 to July 2019*

- Collaborated closely with information security colleagues and third-party consultants to implement a public-key infrastructure for Harvard, leveraged digital certificates to greatly improve wireless security and end-user experience
- Led efforts to deploy automation and monitoring tools, increasing agility, availability, and visibility into hosted applications and infrastructure
- Drove efforts to develop cloud-based storage services, metadata/retention policies, and consolidate and migrate legacy storage platforms to cloud service providers. Delivered economy storage service that offered 90% cost savings for many use cases
- Advised senior leadership in networking technology selection process, resulting in ~45% reduction in capital costs to partners across campus

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

Joined as an individual contributor and within months led response to multiple high-profile security incidents. Defined and executed pragmatic strategy to reduce risk to critical Institute information assets while preserving the open environment the Institute was known for. Within three years was promoted to lead teams responsible for all Institute IT authentication, infrastructure, and collaboration services and formerly assumed title of Information Security Officer, the Institute's most senior information security leadership position.

**Director, Infrastructure Design and Engineering  
Information Security Officer**

**February 2015 to December 2016  
May 2016 to December 2016**

- Coordinated with faculty governance bodies, administrative stakeholders, and general counsel to develop the Institute's first data classification policy
- Exposed operational data via API as part of the MIT Living Lab initiative, working with colleagues, counsel, and faculty to ensure secure and privacy
- Successfully developed and executed Institute cloud migration strategy, partnering with leading infrastructure providers to migrate 75% of workloads to cloud service providers within 18 months
- Chaired Northern Crossroads Executive Committee, instituting a more transparent and equitable funding model and a first-of-its-kind DDoS mitigation service

**Manager, Network Infrastructure and Security Operations**

**December 2013 to February 2015**

- Managed teams with responsibility for Institute network connectivity, authentication services, BC/DR, security monitoring, and incident response
- Aggregated third-party and internal security data in Splunk data analytics platform to create dashboards and visualizations to provide a deeper understanding of IT risk, including a campus security "heatmap" updated regularly for senior leadership
- Added detective controls including a campus-wide automated quarantine system based on third-party data and internal anomaly detection

**Senior Network Engineer**

**November 2012 to December 2013**

- Coordinated incident response to multiple high-profile targeted denial-of-service and defacement attacks
- Defined a targeted security program of preventative controls based on NIST 800-53 to reduce risk to critical Institute information assets, including network access controls, encrypted and multi-factored administrative access, and campus-wide DDoS mitigation
- Further improved Institute security by implementing split DNS, migrating critical web properties to global content delivery network (CDN), and implementing VPN multi-factor authentication

**Harvard University**

**Cambridge, MA**

Introduced automation and self-service tooling to increase operational consistency and efficiency and improve service delivery. Led projects to deploy secure Wi-Fi, IPv6, and network access control (NAC) across campus.

**Manager, Network Systems and Management Services**

**June 2011 to November 2012**

- Managed a team of six devops engineers, developers, and network management gurus
- Responsible for key infrastructure support services including Splunk data analytics, Infoblox DNS/DHCP, and API integrations using XML/SOAP and JSON/REST

**Network Services Architect**

**July 2009 to June 2011**

- Deployed and managed SIEM to ingest security data and generate actionable alerts
- Designed and implemented a modular and extensible authentication architecture for 802.1x, VPN, and network access control (NAC) to interface with University identity and access management (IAM) systems
- Deployed IPv6 into production across wired/wireless networks and enabled native access to infrastructure services

**Security Manager**

**February 2005 to July 2009**

- Integrated two-factor authentication into existing business processes to protect critical applications
- Facilitated creation of the NOC Customer Portal – a unified, role-based interface to network data, services, and metrics – and leveraged to automate secure distribution of security alerts to partners
- Developed and deployed custom network access control (NAC) solution across residential and administrative networks

**Senior Security Engineer**

**November 2000 to February 2005**

- Provided security audits, vulnerability assessments, and penetration tests to University partners
- Developed change management and assurance system for network configuration and topology changes
- Championed network segmentation and firewalling to reduce risk to users and information assets

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Harvard University – Extension School

Cambridge, MA

#### *Lecturer*

*January 2016 to Present*

- CSCI-E46: Applied Network Security

#### *Teaching Fellow*

*June 2002 to Present*

- CSCI E-45: The Cyber World
- CSCI E-170: Security, Privacy, and Usability
- CSCI E-132: Advanced Topics in Data Networking

### Northeastern University

Boston, MA

#### *Adjunct Faculty – Master of Information Assurance Program*

*September 2009 to June 2014*

- IA-5130: Computer Systems Security
- Northeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, White Team Captain

## EDUCATION

### Northeastern University

Boston, MA

#### *Master of Information Assurance*

*September 2009 to June 2014*

#### *Bachelor of Science, Computer Science*

*September 1995 to June 2000*

## RELATED WORK

### PacketFence (<http://www.packetfence.org>)

- Co-creator of a widely deployed open-source network access control (NAC) solution
- Acquired by Inverse Inc., May 2008