

Jim Sherlock.

Cybersecurity engineering. Agentic AI. **Thought Leadership on applied AI in business.**

Iowa City, IA · VP of AI & Cybersecurity R&D, ProCircular · Co-Founder & CTO, Cybercade
· Two-time US patent holder

00 SUMMARY

Practitioner-grade builder working at the intersection of *cybersecurity risk and applied AI*. Currently leading AI and cybersecurity R&D at a mid-market firm and co-running a games-based security awareness startup. Two US patents and twenty-plus years across DOD network forensics, hyperscale assessment platforms, and commercial security tooling.

01 EXPERIENCE

Apr 2026 - Present
Iowa City, IA

VP of AI & Cybersecurity R&D *at* ProCircular

Cybersecurity and compliance firm serving mid-market organizations

- ▶ Lead R&D for the firm's **AI and cybersecurity tooling** portfolio, including multi-agent reasoning systems applied to offensive security workflows.
- ▶ Architect agentic systems coordinating specialized AI agents over a message bus for tasks such as triage, correlation, threat intelligence enrichment, and deep-dive analysis.
- ▶ Own the cybersecurity R&D roadmap, evaluating emerging capabilities across LLM orchestration, agent frameworks, and AI-augmented security workflows.
- ▶ Publish bylined commentary at **TechRadar**, **InfoWorld**, and **VKTR** on agentic AI governance, offensive security, and practitioner-grade tooling.

Jan 2025 - Apr 2026
Iowa City, IA

Senior Offensive Security Engineer *at* ProCircular

Hands-on red team, security testing, and risk advisory

- ▶ Performed **cloud security audits** across AWS environments for mid-market clients, covering identity, network, and data-tier review with formal customer-facing finding reports.
- ▶ Conducted authorized **security testing** engagements for K-12, higher-ed, and mid-market organizations, including penetration testing, perimeter assessments, and configuration review.
- ▶ Built **risk models** supporting engagement scoping, customer reporting, and remediation prioritization. Authored statements of work, scoping questionnaires, and finding reports.
- ▶ Developed and maintained internal automation tooling to support repeatable offensive security workflows across the consulting practice.

Oct 2022 - Present
Iowa

Co-Founder & CTO *at* Cybercade

Games-based platform for workforce security awareness and training

- ▶ Co-founded the company. Led customer discovery, product roadmap, technology strategy, and go-to-market.
- ▶ Embedded learning assessments into gameplay via custom xAPI integration.
- ▶ Shipped AI-powered games using ethical guardrails, fine-tuning, prompt engineering, and retrieval-augmented generation.
- ▶ Completed the 100-day **Global Insurance Accelerator** residency (spring 2024).
- ▶ Named one of five **Technology Startups of the Year** by the Technology Association of Iowa (2023).

Jun 2021 - Oct 2022

Senior Director, Customer Success *at* Pearson

Assessment platforms serving state departments of education

- ▶ Drove cultural change toward customer-centered design across mission-critical assessment platforms.
- ▶ Worked directly with state department of education leadership on equitable digital assessment delivery.
- ▶ Bridged customer needs, executive leadership, and Assessment Technology Engineering for new product development.

- Aug 2015 - Jun 2021** Director, Information Security & Compliance *at* Pearson
 Founded the Assessment Information Security Office
- ▶ Safeguarded **400+ million student PII and PHI records** across 80 mission-critical platforms representing \$800M annual revenue.
 - ▶ Founded Pearson's Assessment Information Security Office (AIS0).
 - ▶ Led 40+ external audits across **SOC2 Type I and II, and HIPAA**.
 - ▶ Keynote and featured speaker at 12 national and state education conferences.
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- Jun 2009 - Sep 2016** Manager, Product Operations & Cloud Engineering *at* Pearson
- ▶ Lead inventor on a **real-time anomaly detection system** for online assessments serving 240M+ users (US Patent 10,795,754).
 - ▶ Built three engineering teams covering application optimization, performance testing, and end-user analytics.
 - ▶ Led two engineering teams migrating Pearson's assessment platforms from on-premise to **AWS**.
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- Mar 2004 - Jun 2009** Senior Application Performance Engineer *at* Pearson
- ▶ Designed Pearson's first comprehensive application monitoring framework using Java bytecode instrumentation, synthetic monitoring, and database performance tuning.
 - ▶ Stood up 24x7 operational monitoring across the United States and Mumbai, India.
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- Aug 2000 - Mar 2004** Application Engineer (DISA Contractor) *at* CNS Inc
- ▶ Network forensics and WAN optimization for the **US Defense Information Systems Agency**.
 - ▶ Held **DOD TS/SCI** security clearance.

02 PATENTS

- US 10,795,754**
 Granted Oct 2020
- Automated Testing Error Assessment System**
 Lead inventor. Real-time anomaly detection for online assessments. In production for 240+ million users since 2017.
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- US 63/636,593**
 Provisional, Apr 2024
- System and Methods for Measuring Human Factors of Cybersecurity Risk**
 Quantitative framework for measuring behavioral and human-factor cybersecurity risk indicators across organizations.

03 WRITING & SPEAKING

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| <p>TechRadar · InfoWorld · VKTR
 Bylined commentary on agentic AI governance and offensive security</p> <p>Iowa AI Summit for Industry
 Featured Speaker, CIRAS / Iowa State, 2024</p> <p>University of Iowa Tippie College of Business
 Guest Lecturer, John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, Business Analytics Program, 2018 - 2024</p> | <p>Entrefest
 Featured Speaker, AI in Education, 2019 & 2021</p> <p>TAI Iowa Technology Summit
 Speaker, 2019 & 2021</p> <p>TAI CISO Roundtable
 Member, 2018 - 2022</p> |
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04 EDUCATION

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| M.A., Social Studies Education | University of Iowa |
| B.A., Psychology & Communication Studies | University of Iowa |

05 COMMUNITY

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| <p>AWS Eastern Iowa User Group
 Founder</p> <p>Iowa EdTech Collaborative
 Founding Member</p> <p>State of Iowa K-12 Cybersecurity & Education-to-Workforce
 Legislative Working Group member</p> | <p>City High Band Parents
 President, 2020 - Present</p> <p>Iowa EdTech Accelerator & DesignDash
 Mentor</p> |
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