

DEWAYNE HART

DELIVERING THE CYBER TRUTH

Clearing the Noise in the AI Threat Era



Cybersecurity Strategist

3x Author

Keynote Speaker

Retired U.S. Navy Chief

Strengthening cyber resilience through leadership,
awareness, and action

Keynotes | Masterclasses | Workshops | Panels

President & CEO, SEMAIS
Host, Chief of Cybersecurity® Podcast
Host, The Cyber Truth™ on [SkytopTV](#)

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CONNECT WITH DEWAYNE

Book or request availability: dewaynehart.com

Company: semais.net

Podcast: Chief of Cybersecurity® on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and YouTube

Show: The Cyber Truth™ with Dewayne Hart on [SkytopTV](https://skytopTV.com) [SKYTOP profile](https://skytopTV.com/skytop-profile)

Newsletter: The Cyber Resilience Report on LinkedIn

Headshot

Use this photo for event programs, websites, agendas, and promotional materials.



Dewayne Hart

President and CEO, SEMAIS | Author | Keynote Speaker | Retired US Navy Chief

Speaker Biography

20

Years of US Navy service,
retired Chief Petty Officer

2

Published books on
cybersecurity and leadership

21

[Forbes Technology Council](#)
articles and panels

18

Recent keynotes, panels, and
webinars since 2024

SHORT BIO | ABOUT 120 WORDS

Dewayne Hart is the President and CEO of SEMAIS, a retired US Navy Chief Petty Officer, and the author of two books on cybersecurity and leadership. Known for cutting through the noise with practical, common sense strategies and actionable roadmaps, Dewayne equips businesses and citizens to stay proactive against rapidly evolving threat actors in an increasingly digital world. He translates complex cyber risks into clear, strategic action, turning uncertainty into confident decision making. Blending cybersecurity expertise with leadership insight, Dewayne speaks on cyber awareness, executive leadership, innovation, and business resilience. He does more than explain cybersecurity; he makes security executable, which makes him a powerhouse voice for organizations serious about protecting what matters most.

LONG BIO | ABOUT 400 WORDS

Dewayne Hart is the President and CEO of Secure Managed Instructional Systems, LLC (SEMAIS), a veteran-owned cybersecurity advisory and workforce development firm. Known for cutting through the noise with practical, common sense strategies and actionable roadmaps, Dewayne equips businesses and citizens to stay proactive against rapidly evolving threat actors in an increasingly digital world. He translates complex cyber risks into clear, strategic action, turning uncertainty into confident decision-making.

His perspective began with 20 years in the US Navy, where he retired as a Chief Petty Officer after hands-on work with computer systems and weapons defense platforms. That career built a mission-first mindset under real operational pressure, and the same discipline now shapes his advisory work with Fortune 500 organizations, including PwC and Kaiser Permanente. Today, he also serves as a practitioner in attack surface and exposure management.

Blending cybersecurity expertise with leadership insight, Dewayne speaks across multiple disciplines, including cyber awareness, executive leadership, innovation, and business resilience. His signature method, putting on a Hacker's Hat, teaches leaders and teams to anticipate adversary tactics before a weakness becomes an incident. He has shared that message on the stages of the National Cybersecurity Summit, the InCyber Forum, and the Techno Security and Digital Forensics Conference.

Dewayne has written two books that carry one conviction: cybersecurity is a leadership and mindset challenge rather than a technology problem. The *Cybersecurity Mindset: A Virtual and Transformational Thinking Mode* guides readers from reactive problem-solving toward strategic, proactive defense, while *Cybersecurity Leadership: How to Develop a Successful Mentality and Win* helps senior leaders align security with business goals and build cultures of accountability.

He hosts the Chief of Cybersecurity® podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and YouTube, where he explores how security connects with leadership, AI, workforce growth, and everyday digital life. He also writes The Cyber Resilience Report, his LinkedIn newsletter for security and business executives, and is developing The Cyber Truth with Dewayne Hart, a talk show for [SkyTop Media](#).

He does more than explain cybersecurity; he makes security executable. From the boardroom to the front line, Dewayne helps organizations turn cyber risk into strategic advantage and build resilience long before a crisis begins, which makes him a powerhouse voice for organizations serious about protecting what matters most. Audiences leave with a clear model, practical next steps, and a named owner for each critical risk, with more information available at dewaynehart.com.

Executive Masterclasses

Dewayne leads three half day executive masterclasses through SEMAIS in the Washington, DC region, co led with Anthony Grantham. The classes form a ladder from the security team to the boardroom, and each earns 4 CPE credits.

MASTERCLASS 1

The Big 4 Model: Winning Cyber Defense Under Pressure

Built on Dewayne's Big 4 framework, this class examines the four domains that decide whether a defense holds under pressure: governance, technology, operations, and people, with mindset as the root beneath all four domains. Leaders move from assumed compliance to operational ownership.

Audience: CISOs and security leaders | **Format:** Half day, 4 CPE credits

Next session: Tuesday, January 12, 2027 | **Phases:** Score, Prove, Own

MASTERCLASS 2

Governing AI and Cybersecurity Before the Attack

Executives learn how to govern AI adoption, shift from vulnerability management to exposure management, and build a defensible security program before an incident forces the issue. Each phase closes with a summary drawn from the front lines and the boardroom.

Audience: Executive leadership and stakeholders | **Format:** Half day, 4 CPE credits

Next session: Early 2027 | **Phases:** Recognize, Govern, Act

MASTERCLASS 3

The Duty of Inquiry: Board Oversight of Cyber and AI Risk

Directors learn the questions their oversight duty requires them to ask about cyber and AI risk, how to test the answers management provides, and how to hold the organization accountable for a defensible program.

Audience: Board members and directors | **Format:** Half day, 4 CPE credits

Next session: Early 2027

Signature Keynotes

Each keynote turns cyber risk into a leadership conversation your audience can act on. Dewayne draws on 20 years of US Navy service, advisory work with Fortune 500 organizations, and two books on cybersecurity and leadership to give every room a clear model and practical next steps.

HOW EACH KEYNOTE WORKS

- **Customized for your room:** Dewayne shapes each session around your audience, industry, and event goals, so examples and takeaways match the decisions your attendees face
- **Flexible formats:** Choose a 30-minute talk, a 90-minute keynote, or a half-day workshop, delivered in person or virtually for audiences around the world
- **Clear outcomes:** Audiences leave with a clear model, practical next steps, and a named owner for each critical risk
- **Four audience tracks:** Leadership Mindset for boards and executives, Operational Resilience for CISOs, Workforce Readiness for HR and workforce leaders, and Security Culture for every employee

LEADERSHIP MINDSET | BOARDROOM AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

The Executive Mindset: Where Did I Go Wrong? Owning Cyber Risk Before a Breach

Why do cybersecurity programs collapse under pressure? Post mortems usually blame the tools, the team, or the vendor. The real cause often sits in the boardroom: a deferred upgrade, an unverified compliance report, an unchallenged green dashboard. Dewayne Hart walks executives back through the decisions that created exposure long before the attack, drawing on his book *Cybersecurity Leadership: How to Develop a Successful Mentality and Win*. He then introduces the Big 4 Model, which aligns governance, technology, operations, and people under one security mindset so every business decision accounts for cyber risk.

Key Takeaways for Attendees

- **Establish Clear Accountability:** Assign decisive ownership under the Leadership Triangle and grant absolute decision authority ahead of any crisis
- **Test Security Realism:** Use the Big 4 Model to evaluate whether organizational security is genuine or merely assumed, ensuring full readiness for AI adoption and governance
- **Preempt the Post Mortem:** Answer the critical question of “where did I go wrong” proactively, rather than waiting for a breach to force the issue

Best for: C Suite, Board, Executive Leadership, Enterprise Summits, Government Leadership

OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE | CISOS AND SECURITY OPERATIONS

Lateral Thinking: Stop the AI Powered Hacker's Next Move Before They Make One

Your team closed 4,000 tickets last quarter, yet the attacker read none of them and still beat you to the finish line. Adversaries now use AI to scan exposures, chain vulnerabilities, and move laterally at a speed beyond the reach of any human team. How is your speed gap these days, and have you transitioned to autonomous thinking? Yet most security teams still count scans and closed tickets while the paths to critical systems stay open. Dewayne Hart shows how Continuous Threat Exposure Management (CTEM), backed by AI, cuts an endless patch queue down to the few attack paths that put revenue, data, and operations at risk.

Key Takeaways for Attendees

- **Trace the Gateway, Not the Headline:** Map the exact paths an AI assisted attacker would take to reach critical enterprise assets
- **Rank Fixes by Business Impact:** Apply the CTEM cycle and AI to prioritize vulnerabilities using a P1 to P4 Risk Band model focused on business context instead of raw severity scores
- **Shift Reporting Metrics:** Report security progress to executives based on actual attack paths closed rather than raw volumes of processed tickets

Best for: CISOs, SOC and Vulnerability Management Leaders, IT Operations, Risk and GRC Teams, Industry Conferences

WORKFORCE READINESS | CISOS, HR, AND WORKFORCE LEADERS

Human in the Loop: Building Mission Ready Cyber Teams in the Age of AI

AI now handles the entry level work that once trained new cyber defenders, and many organizations have stopped hiring juniors. That choice cuts costs this year but empties the bench within five years. The talent crisis was never a pipeline problem; it is a leadership problem, and AI has raised the stakes. Drawing on 20 years building Navy teams, Dewayne Hart presents the Mission First Retention Framework: operational purpose, skill alignment, and leadership accountability, rebuilt for teams where people and AI work as one aligned ecosystem.

Key Takeaways for Attendees

- **Navigate AI Disruption:** Pinpoint exactly which security roles AI will reshape, which it will replace, and the vital human skills required to excel alongside automation
- **Modernize Hiring and Training:** Pivot recruitment toward core capabilities and AI fluency rather than passive credentials, instilling an adversary first mindset in new defenders
- **Combat the Talent Drain:** Implement engagement and retention strategies that anchor top tier cyber talent to the mission when competitive salary alone falls short, closing critical operational gaps

Best for: CISOs, HR Leaders, Security Managers, Workforce Development Conferences, Veteran Transition Events

SECURITY CULTURE | ENTERPRISE ALL HANDS AND SUMMITS

The Hacker's Hat Looks Good on You: One Size Fits Every Employee in the Room

Attackers do not need to break a firewall when an employee will open the door. Most awareness programs end with an annual quiz, so the same organizations fail the same phishing tests year after year. Dewayne Hart hands every person a hacker's hat and shows them their inbox, phone, and daily routine through an attacker's eyes. The hat does not make anyone a hacker; it teaches them to ask the adversary's questions, a concept from his book *The Cybersecurity Mindset: A Virtual and Transformational Thinking Mode*. Employees leave as the first line of defense, not the weakest link.

Key Takeaways for Attendees

- **Adopt the Adversary's Lens:** Master the ability to spot sophisticated threats, including AI generated phishing, deepfakes, and pretexting calls, by viewing daily routines through an attacker's eyes
- **Trust and Act on Instincts:** Cultivate situational awareness to recognize when communication feels wrong, empowering employees to report warning signs immediately
- **Transform Employees into Defenders:** Shift the organizational mindset so every individual takes active ownership of security, moving away from the dangerous habit of leaving defense solely to the IT department

Best for: All Employee Conferences, Cybersecurity Awareness Month, HR and Culture Events, Healthcare, Government, Education

BUILD A COMPLETE PROGRAM

Extend the message beyond the keynote

A keynote opens the conversation. Organizations that want lasting change can combine a keynote with the training and resources below to move leaders and teams from awareness to action.

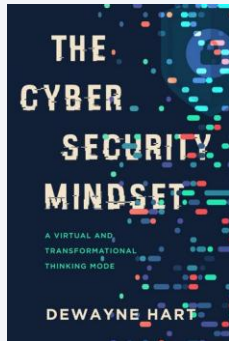
- **Add an executive masterclass:** Follow the keynote with a half-day SEMAIS masterclass for CISOs, executives, or board members, with each class earning 4 CPE credits
- **Give attendees the books:** Provide copies of *The Cybersecurity Mindset: A Virtual and Transformational Thinking Mode* or *Cybersecurity Leadership: How to Develop a Successful Mentality and Win*, and speaking rates can be reduced
- **Run a workshop:** Turn any keynote theme into a half-day or full-day workshop where teams apply the model to their own environment
- **Continue the conversation:** Audiences can follow Dewayne through the Chief of Cybersecurity® podcast, The Cyber Truth™ on [SkytopTV](#), and The Cyber Resilience Report on LinkedIn

Books by Dewayne Hart

Each book carries one conviction: cybersecurity is a leadership and mindset challenge rather than a technology problem, and each one anchors a signature keynote.

2022 | THE CYBERSECURITY LENS

The Cybersecurity Mindset: A Virtual and Transformational Thinking Mode



This book guides readers from reactive problem solving toward strategic, proactive defense. It introduces the idea of putting on a hacker's hat, which means looking at your inbox, network, and daily routine the way an attacker does so you can spot a weakness before it becomes an incident.

The book suits employees, security teams, students, and leaders who want security to become an everyday habit across the whole organization.

Readers learn how to

- Shift from reactive problem solving to strategic, proactive defense
- Put on the hacker's hat and see daily routines through an attacker's eyes
- Spot a weakness before an attacker turns it into an incident
- Build security habits that become part of everyday work

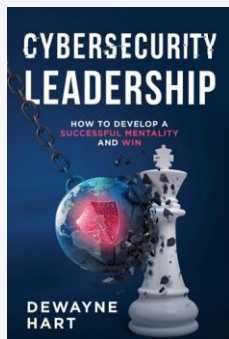
Pairs with: "The Hacker's Hat Looks Good on You" keynote and Cybersecurity Awareness Month events

ISBN: 9781646635863 (paperback); 9781646635887 (hardcover)

Order: [Amazon](#) • [Book page](#) • [Target paperback](#) • [Target hardcover](#) • [Kobo eBook](#)

2025 | THE LEADERSHIP LENS

Cybersecurity Leadership: How to Develop a Successful Mentality and Win



This leadership playbook serves executives, IT directors, security professionals, educators, national defense leaders, and military security managers. The book connects cybersecurity with business objectives so leaders can remove silos, focus on securing their environment, and increase business valuation.

Its 20 chapters move through four stages: Discover the Purpose of Cybersecurity, Learn the Cybersecurity Journey, Choose Your Direction, and Activate Cybersecurity Leadership.

Readers learn how to

- Formalize strategies that transform cybersecurity into a business solution
- Design a culture of accountability, communication, and trust
- Build readiness, decision making, and a hacker mindset
- Align technical solutions with business priorities

Pairs with: "The Executive Mindset" keynote and the SEMAIS executive masterclasses

ISBN: 9798897470891 (paperback); 9798897470914 (hardcover)

Order: [Amazon author store](#) • [Kobo eBook](#)

Recent Speaking Engagements

Dewayne has delivered keynotes, panels, and webinars for industry conferences, universities, professional associations, and government technology forums across the United States and Canada.

Date	Session	Host	Location
Sep 11, 2026	"The CISO AI Agenda: Governing AI Risk at the Board Level"	EC Council Cyber Talks	Virtual
Sep 9, 2026	"Boots to Bytes: How Veterans Can Launch and Thrive in a Cybersecurity Career"	Veteran Social Summit	Virtual
Aug 24, 2026	"Developing Mission Ready Cyber Defenders Who Stay"	DAFITC	Montgomery, AL
Aug 11, 2026	"Why Leadership Defines Cyber Future in the Age of AI"	EC Council Cyber Talks	Virtual
Jul 14, 2026	"Building AI-Ready Security Programs: A Leader's Guide to Compliance"	EC Council Cyber Talks	Virtual
Jun 30, 2026	"Your Career Currency in the Age of AI"	AFCEA Atlanta Chapter	Atlanta, GA
Mar 12, 2026	"Ways to Develop Cyber Defenders and Win"	AFCEA Atlanta Chapter	Virtual
Feb 19, 2026	"Mastering the Cybersecurity Message: Lead, Influence, and Protect"	Capitol Technology University	Virtual
Oct 14, 2025	"AI in SOC: A Revolution in Sight"	InCyber Forum	Montreal, Canada
Sep 13, 2025	"Procurement and Small Business Growth in Government Tech"	GovTechCon	Washington, DC
Sep 12, 2025	"From Subject Matter Expert to Strategic Tech Leader"	GovTechCon	Washington, DC
Sep 8, 2025	"Changing the Narrative: Keeping Business at the Forefront of Cybersecurity"	GDS Group	Atlanta, GA
Jun 9, 2025	"Exploring Artificial Intelligence: Sorting Truth from Myth and Anticipating What's Next"	Every Black	Virtual
Apr 24, 2025	"Mastering Your Potential: How to Showcase and Market Your Transferable Skills"	Techno Security	Atlanta, GA
Jan 16, 2025	"Cybersecurity Leadership Starts Long Before an Attack"	Capitol Technology University	Virtual
Oct 29, 2024	"Panel: The Pivotal Role of AI in Modern Warfare"	Forum InCyber	Montreal, Canada
Sep 24, 2024	"Cracking Code: Unveiling the Connection Between AI and Cybersecurity"	National Cyber Summit	Huntsville, AL
Sep 16, 2024	"Let's Talk Why You Need 360 Degrees of Cyber Visibility"	Techno Security and Digital Forensics Conference	Pasadena, CA

Publications and Links

Forbes Technology Council Articles

As a Forbes Technology Council member, Dewayne has published 21 pieces: 17 bylined articles and four expert panel contributions. The complete list below appears in date order, and recent articles also appear on his [Forbes Councils profile](#).

#	Date	Title	Type
1	May 21, 2025	“Three Reasons Why Small Businesses Fall Victim to Cyberattacks”	Article
2	Apr 3, 2025	“Three Valuable Reasons Why Cybersecurity Leadership Is Failing”	Article
3	Feb 21, 2025	“Three Secrets to Attracting and Retaining Top Cybersecurity Talent”	Article
4	Jan 16, 2025	“Unveiling The Secret to Improving Cybersecurity Capabilities”	Article
5	Dec 9, 2024	“Combatting AI Bias Through The Development of Equitable Algorithms”	Article
6	Oct 29, 2024	“Securing The Modern Enterprise by Eliminating Security Blind Spots”	Article
7	Oct 7, 2024	“How to Safely Implement AI for Combat Readiness”	Article
8	Aug 30, 2024	“Developing a Cyber-Focused Company Culture Through Leadership”	Article
9	Jul 30, 2024	“How AI-Driven SOC Environments Can Impact Cyber Protection”	Article
10	Jul 17, 2024	“Collaborative Care: How Health Systems Can Reduce Industry Cyber Risk”	Expert panel
11	Jun 27, 2024	“Why Generative AI Threatens Examination Integrity, Creativity and Learning”	Article
12	Apr 30, 2024	“Improving HBCU Cybersecurity Programs to Build A Capable Workforce”	Article
13	Dec 4, 2023	“Key Strategies to Prevent and Detect Cybersecurity Blind Spots”	Article
14	Nov 1, 2023	“Mastering The Art of Building a Top Tier Cybersecurity Team”	Article
15	Oct 13, 2023	18 Factors and Metrics to Show The Value of Cybersecurity Initiatives”	Expert panel
16	Oct 5, 2023	“Discover How to Transform Cyber Risks Into Rewards”	Article
17	Sep 14, 2023	“20 Effective and Industry Current Road Mapping Methods and Tips”	Expert panel
18	Sep 1, 2023	“Unveiling AI’s Secret Impact on Human Labor and Intelligence”	Article
19	Aug 4, 2023	“How AI Regulation Drives Innovation and Protects Against Cyber Threats”	Article
20	Jul 25, 2023	“16 Current and Potential Ethical Crises in Technology”	Expert panel
21	Jun 28, 2023	“Uncovering How AI’s Dual Relationship with Cybersecurity Operates”	Article

Profiles and Media

Item	Link
Business website (SEMAIS)	semais.net
Speaker website	dewaynehart.com
Speaker bureau profile with speaker reel	All American Speakers
Show: “The Cyber Truth with Dewayne Hart” on SkytopTV	SKYTOP profile
Speaking history	Sessionize profile
Interview: “Cybersecurity Is a Quality of Life Issue”	Irish Tech News
Interview: “The Human Factor in Cybersecurity”	CTO Magazine
Webinar: “Mastering the Cybersecurity Message”	Capitol Technology University
Webinar: “Cybersecurity Leadership Starts Long Before an Attack”	Capitol Technology University
Company insights page	SEMAIS Insights

Investment and Speaking Fees

All rates are in US dollars, and travel, lodging, and ground transportation are billed separately for in person engagements. Rates can be reduced when the host purchases copies of *The Cybersecurity Mindset: A Virtual and Transformational Thinking Mode* or *Cybersecurity Leadership: How to Develop a Successful Mentality and Win* for attendees.

In Person Engagements

Engagement	Length and Group Size	Fee (USD)
Standard Keynote Address	45 to 60 minutes	\$12,000 to \$18,000
Half Day Workshop or Masterclass	Up to 4 hours Up to 30 attendees	\$20,000 to \$25,000
Full Day Workshop or Masterclass	Up to 6 hours Up to 30 attendees	\$30,000 to \$40,000
Panel Moderator or Participant	45 to 60 minutes	\$5,000 to \$7,500
Coaching or Consulting	Per hour	\$250 to \$500

Virtual Engagements (Global)

Engagement	Length and Group Size	Fee (USD)
Virtual Keynote	45 to 60 minutes	\$9,000 to \$12,000
Virtual Workshop	90 minutes to 3 hours Up to 50 attendees	\$12,000 to \$15,000
Virtual Panel Moderator or Participant	45 to 60 minutes	\$3,000 to \$4,000
Virtual Coaching or Consulting	Per hour	\$250 to \$500

REQUEST AVAILABILITY

Share these details to receive a fast, accurate quote.

- Event name, date, and city or virtual platform
- Audience size, roles, and industry
- Preferred keynote, workshop, masterclass, or panel role
- Session length and any customization goals

To book Dewayne Hart or request availability, visit dewaynehart.com.

SHARP MINDS > BIG STACKS

The future of cyber leadership is beyond technology



THREE BOOK SERIES

The mindset, the leadership, and the credential

Questions?

“You don't have to want a team. You do have to want the decision.”

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