



Women's History Month



Bear Stearns Recognizes Jennifer L. Bayuk

Department: IT Security

Location: Whippany, New Jersey

Title: Senior Managing Director

Tenure: 10 years

Education: Rutgers University (BA), Ohio State University (MA), Stevens Institute of Technology (MA)

What I Do: Chief Information Security Officer

My first assignment at Bear Stearns was security architecture and design review of application and infrastructure. It was a critical position at the time because multiple IT application teams were approaching the Internet and it was imperative for there to be a coordinated approach to secure the periphery. At the time I joined, the Information Security Policy was a one paragraph statement about protecting facilities, programs and data by limiting them to authorized use. Though accurate and goal-oriented, it was not enough on which to establish the roles and responsibilities required to achieve business goals for security. Although various reorganizations have shifted my reporting structure over the years, my tenure has been a sustained effort to simultaneously shape policy, technology and process in support of business goals for information security.

The processes which I initiated include digital identity, application inventory and information systems risk management. All security processes are supported by formal roles, responsibilities and procedures, which cross not only IT departments but a wide variety of corporate administration and business areas.

I always say Bear Stearns is a good place to work as a control professional because of our culture. While we appreciate entrepreneurial spirit, we don't cater to cowboys. Few if any in upper management question the value of reliable controls and there is a healthy skepticism on the part of upper management that security policy could be preventing someone from doing business. I strive to ensure that the security program I provide gives our executives sufficient comfort that they can take it for granted, and they appreciate it.

It is a constant challenge to ensure that the security program keeps up with the changing technology and regulatory environment. There is never a dull moment.

Early in my IT career, I was an expert systems developer at AT&T Bell Laboratories. My assignment was to draw experience out of 30+-year phone company veterans and program it into systems that could be easily used by novices. At a retirement party for one of my experts, he shared that he had changed jobs six times in the course of his AT&T career. Each time he found that the job he was assigned was nothing like the job he left. Nevertheless, he had left his imprint on the position and had brought the company forward in each function he supported. In short, my advice would be "it is not the job you are given, it is what you make of it."