

HARSH VERMA

BOARD & STRATEGIC ADVISORY | AI GOVERNANCE & CYBERSECURITY

Forbes Tech Council | BCS Fellow (FBCS) | IEEE Senior Member | Principal AI Engineer @ Palo Alto Networks

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & BOARDROOM VALUE PROPOSITION

Harsh Verma is an accomplished technology executive, strategic advisor, and AI governance leader bringing over 15 years of experience scaling high-concurrency distributed systems, autonomous multi-agent networks, and zero-trust cybersecurity perimeters. As Principal Software Engineer in AI at Palo Alto Networks, Forbes Technology Council member, and Fellow of the British Computer Society (FBCS), Harsh provides startup advisory boards, technology advisory councils, and corporate governance initiatives with decisive technical foresight, regulatory compliance rigor (EU AI Act, NIST AI RMF), and defensible architecture validation.

15+ Years Tech Leadership	120+ Startups Evaluated & Diligenced	10+ Programs SkyDeck, Techstars, etc.	27+ Papers Peer-Reviewed Research	6 Patents Systems Architecture
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AREAS OF STRATEGIC EXPERTISE

- 1. AI Strategy & Enterprise Transformation**
Advising C-suite teams on adoption roadmaps, token unit economics, multi-cloud inference routing, and transitioning brittle prototypes into resilient, sovereign products.
- 2. Cybersecurity & Enterprise Risk Governance**
Architecting zero-trust behavioral authorization, ephemeral agent execution sandboxing, defense against prompt injection, and continuous API security monitoring for AI systems.
- 3. AI Governance & Responsible Innovation**
Structuring institutional AI governance frameworks, human-in-the-loop escalation controls, and compliance alignment with the EU AI Act, NIST AI Risk Management Framework, and ISO 42001.
- 4. Venture & Technical Due Diligence**
Evaluating proprietary data moats, underlying software craftsmanship, vendor switching costs, model wrapper risks, and intellectual property defensibility for venture capital-backed startups.
- 5. Startup Growth & Technology Leadership**
Mentoring venture-backed founders through architectural scaling milestones, technical debt triage, engineering talent recruitment, and board-level technology roadmaps.
- 6. Agentic AI & Emerging Technology**
Guiding organizations on stateful agent deliberation networks, long-context memory stores, safe tool-use protocols, and distributed streaming pipeline architectures.

DOCUMENTED ADVISORY INTERVENTIONS (CASE STUDIES)

- Case 1: Venture Moat Strategy (Series Seed)**
Challenge: Founder faced rapid commoditization due to dependence on standard LLM wrappers.
Outcome: Re-architected system toward proprietary streaming data capture and custom evaluation benchmarks; reduced vendor reliance by 65% and successfully closed initial seed round.
- Case 2: Autonomous Agent Privilege & Security (Enterprise Scale-Up)**
Challenge: Multi-agent automation system was executing privileged tool calls with broad unisolated database writes.
Outcome: Implemented zero-trust behavioral authorization and ephemeral MCP tool sandboxes; cleared enterprise SOC2/CISO audits and unlocked Fortune 500 contracts.

GOVERNANCE & ADVISORY PHILOSOPHY

"Technology creates opportunity. Governance turns that opportunity into sustainable value."

- Strategic Foresight:** Anticipating architectural inflection points and market shifts before consensus.
- Responsible Innovation:** Balancing product velocity with strict data isolation, safety telemetry, and corporate reputation.
- Enterprise Resilience:** Designing systems resilient to adversarial attacks, supply-chain risks, and non-deterministic failures.
- Long-Term Value Creation:** Prioritizing sovereign tech assets, durable unit economics, and governance accountability.

PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTION & AFFILIATIONS

- Forbes Technology Council:** Official Member & Contributing Executive Author on AI & Cybersecurity Strategy
- British Computer Society (BCS):** Fellow (FBCS) - Recognized for senior professional contribution and leadership in computing
- IEEE (Senior Member):** Elevated to the Top 8% of worldwide engineering professional membership (SMIEEE)
- Palo Alto Networks:** Principal Software Engineer in AI & Distributed Systems Architecture
- UC Berkeley SkyDeck & Techstars:** Keynote Speaker, Technical Mentor & Startup Cohort Evaluator
- Scholarly Record:** 27+ Peer-Reviewed Research Papers published in IEEE, ACM, Springer & international proceedings; 6 Patents

BOARD & ADVISORY ENGAGEMENT MANDATES

- Startup Advisory Boards (Series A-C):**
Quarterly strategy reviews, architectural sounding board, investor syndicate access, FAST agreements.
- Technology Advisory Councils:**
Advisory for C-suite on AI roadmap prioritization, multi-cloud strategy, and technological de-risking.
- AI Governance & Risk Committees:**
Fiduciary counsel on autonomous deployments, EU AI Act compliance, and automated eval harnesses.
- Cybersecurity Advisory Roles:**
Boardroom cyber risk oversight, zero-trust transformations, and CISO executive advisory sessions.
- VC / PE Technical Due Diligence:**
Deep technical audits, data moat evaluations, and engineering velocity analysis for investments.
- Independent Corporate Director:**
Independent board seat bringing frontier AI fluency, security governance, and technical judgment.

INITIATE A CONFIDENTIAL BOARD OR ADVISORY DISCUSSION

All inquiries from nomination committees, venture partners, and executive search firms are handled under strict confidentiality.
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