Eric O'Neill

Cybersecurity Expert, Former FBI Operative Featured in the Film Breach, Bestselling Author, Technology Futurist, and National Security Strategist

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Big Data
- Cyber Security
- National Security / Terrorism
- Technology / Alternate Technology

About Eric O'Neill

Best known for his role in capturing the most notorious spy in United States history, Robert Hanssen, Eric O'Neill is a cybersecurity authority, motivational speaker, former FBI counterterrorism and counterintelligence operative, and technology futurist. He is the bestselling author of Gray Day, and the inspiration for the film Breach, in which he was portrayed by actor Ryan Phillipe. O'Neill is the founder of The Georgetown Group, a premier investigative and security services firm, and former national security strategist for VMware Carbon Black, the leader in next-generation network and endpoint security. In addition to cybersecurity, O'Neill also addresses the new SEC cybersecurity reporting requirements, the threat to U.S. security posed by terrorism, cyber threats to critical infrastructure, foreign intelligence, Neural Network AIs like ChatGPT, and the national conscience in a monitored society.

As a highly engaging speaker, Eric O'Neill weaves real-life experiences worthy of a Hollywood spy thriller and the bestseller list into talks that are entertaining, informative, and inspiring. As a cybersecurity expert, he provides practical cybersecurity insights into real work situations relevant to many industries. Key to all of his talks is his captivating first-hand account of capturing Robert Hanssen, the notorious spy responsible for the greatest security breach in U.S. history.

Eric O'Neill began his career in counterintelligence and counterterrorism as a graduate of the FBI's Intelligence Program. He spent the first five years of his FBI career as a special surveillance group field operative monitoring foreign, national, and domestic terrorists and spies. He transitioned from field operative to direct undercover work focusing on Hanssen. The unique nature of the assignment, one with huge significance but little backup or support, required O'Neill to tap into deep reserves of courage and inner confidence—experiences that he now draws upon as a motivational speaker.

Currently, Eric O'Neill is a founding partner of The Georgetown Group, a premier investigative and security consultancy specializing in counterintelligence operations, investigations into economic espionage, cybersecurity penetrations, internal investigations, catching the trusted insider, and security risk.
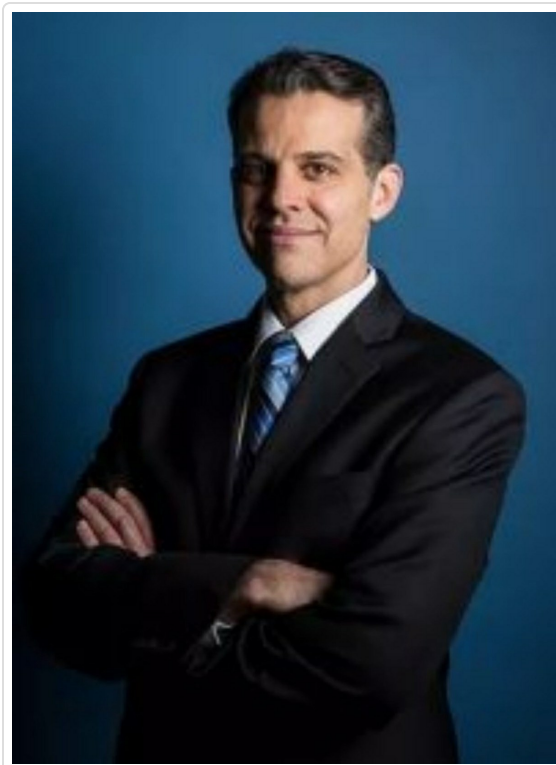
He formerly served as the General Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer for Global Communities, a charitable humanitarian relief organization serving 20 million people each year. He is also the former National Security Strategist for VMWare Carbon Black, the leader in next-generation network and endpoint protection, where he provided insight and advice on strategic cyber-security issues and ensured that they are an active participant in the national conversation on cybersecurity strategy. O'Neill graduated with honors from George Washington University Law School and is a practicing attorney.

In addition to his book and the movie it inspired, O'Neill has told his story on CNN, ABC, Fox, MTV, and NPR, including programs such as Nightline, Hardball with Chris Mathews, Fox News Power Player of the Week with Chris Wallace, CSPAN's Washington Journal, NPR's Fresh Air with Terry Gross, World News Now, Access Hollywood and CBS's FBI True.

His speaking engagements include Fortune 100 companies and strategic clients such as AT&T, Salesforce, TIAA, IBM, Dell, Raymond James & Associates, Roche Diagnostics, and Allstate.

Select Keynotes

- **Cybersecurity: Spies, Lies & Cybercrime - Protecting Your Data in a Dark Web Economy**

Dive headfirst into the heart of the digital battleground, where data reigns supreme as the currency of our lives. Amidst the interconnected web of technology, the relentless tide of foreign espionage, Dark Web cybercrime, and the looming threat of AI-driven deepfakes, the battleground for data security intensifies. No longer confined to the shadows, today's adversaries navigate the digital landscape with precision and cunning, exploiting vulnerabilities with every keystroke. The Dark Web has ascended to the third-largest economy on the planet, where trust is an uncommon commodity amidst the sea of generative AI deception. Brace yourself against the relentless onslaught of deception, impersonation, and ransomware attacks, draining billions from unsuspecting victims. As we hurtle towards the future, cyber theft of information from every organization and consumer will surpass $20 trillion USD, a stark reminder of the imperative to fortify our defenses in this ever-evolving digital frontier.

Join cybersecurity expert, acclaimed author, and former FBI spy hunter Eric O'Neill in this engaging and enlightening presentation. Drawing from his extensive experience as an undercover operative within the FBI and as a seasoned security consultant, O'Neill shares compelling true stories to impart invaluable insights on thinking like a spy hunter to safeguard your data against cyber-attacks.

- **Secrets From a Legendary Spyhunter: Decoding AI Deepfakes, Extortion & More**

AI-generated voices, texts, and images pose a grave threat to national security—and to you. The latest jaw-dropping stories include kidnapping calls to parents who hear their child's wrenching cries for help. Elaborate video conferences that dupe teams into funding projects by bad actors. Ransomware from cyber-extortionists who hold your data hostage. In a world where technology drives our lives, you must take new steps to protect yourself and your organization. With his characteristic wit and storytelling, cybersecurity expert and legendary spyhunter Eric O'Neill tells you how to identify AI-fueled attacks…and stop them from taking your money.

- **What James Bond & Jason Bourne Would Never Tell You About Achieving Your Company's Mission**

You'd never see James Bond give a game-changing keynote to a leadership team. Or, see Jason Bourne coach corporate audiences on how to turn obstacles into accomplishments. Luckily, we have real-life FBI cybersecurity expert and celebrated spy catcher, Eric O'Neill.

O'Neill weaves his edge-of-your-seat espionage story—featured in the Hollywood hit, Breach and his own bestseller, Gray Day—into highly actionable, irresistibly motivational takeaways to help achieve both personal success and your organization's goals and mission. Highlights include:

- "Luck is for lottery winners." How to not only identify opportunities, but create them.
- Achieve success even when you're not set up for it.
- Manage setbacks and turn them into triumph.
- Why time is the most valuable commodity.
- "Don't just have a Plan B, have a Plan C."

O'Neill's thrilling espionage story of catching the most notorious cyberspy in U.S. history imparts invaluable lessons in a unique, captivating and unforgettable way. Audiences learn how to set goals and achieve them with confidence, determination, and in O'Neill's case, the courage to triumph like Bond or Bourne. Yes, even when the mission seemed impossible.

Select Book Titles

- **2020:** Gray Day: My Undercover Mission to Expose America's First Cyber Spy

Select Articles

- Eric O'Neill: The truth behind 'Breach'

"Breach" is the story of how Hanssen was apprehended is told in gripping, true-to-life detail.

- Former FBI agent Eric O'Neill gives warning about cyber espionage

In 2001, Eric O'Neill arrested fellow FBI agent Robert Hanssen for spying on the U.S. on behalf of the Soviet Union and Russian Federation.

Select Testimonials

Mr. O'Neill's presentation was very engaging. He was able to translate his experiences into a thought-provoking presentation on risk management covering the investigation methods used and professional/life lessons learned with insight and humor. AUDIT DIRECTOR Henrico County Virginia

— *AUDIT DIRECTOR, Henrico County Virginia*