

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

Eric O'Neill is an attorney, security consultant and professional public speaker. In 2001, Eric helped capture the most notorious spy in United States history: Robert Hanssen, a 25-year veteran of the FBI. The remarkable true events of his life are the inspiration behind the critically acclaimed dramatic thriller *Breach*, starring Ryan Phillippe as O'Neill. The film is the story of the greatest security breach in US history. Eric began his career in the FBI as a "Ghost" – an undercover field operative tasked to surveil and monitor foreign, national, and domestic terrorists and spies. During the Hanssen investigation, Eric worked directly undercover with the spy within the FBI's Information Assurance Division – created to protect all classified FBI intelligence. Currently, Eric runs The Georgetown Group, a premier investigative and security consultancy out of Washington, DC. Eric is also the National Security Strategist for Carbon Black, the leader in next generation endpoint protection. A talented motivational speaker who weaves real life experiences into a presentation that is both entertaining and rewarding, Eric O'Neill provides practical insights into real work situations relevant to many industries.



Select Keynotes

• Cyber Security in the Age of Espionage

The cyber theft of private and confidential information from government agencies, business, and private individuals exceeded \$6 trillion in 2021. The modern spy is responsible for these technologically advanced attacks targeting your data. Robert Hanssen was the first of these new cyber spies, charged with selling American secrets to Russia for more than US\$1.4 million in cash and diamonds. His ability to exploit computer systems allowed him to protect his identity during a 22-year spy career. In this exciting and informative talk, Eric O'Neill uses real-life spy stories and a review of recent massive cyber-attacks to show how careful diligence, counter-espionage techniques, and zero trust can help identify the numerous spies, hackers, cyber criminals, and trusted insiders that threaten the data that is the currency of our lives.

• Gray Day: How I Caught the Most Damaging Spy in American History

Imagine if the FBI locked you in a room for eight hours a day with the most ruthless and damaging spy in United States history. Imagine feeling unqualified and outgunned, knowing the country depends on you to succeed despite the fact no one has provided the means to do so. Robert Hanssen was a notorious cyber spy charged with selling American secrets to Russia for more than US\$1.4 million in cash and diamonds. His ability to exploit computer systems allowed him to protect his identity during a 22-year spy career. In this edge-of-the-seat spy thriller talk, Eric O'Neill shares intricate details of the investigation and shows how you can find success inside yourself by setting small goals that lead to big accomplishments until finally, through courage, confidence, and determination, victory is achieved.

• Cyber Spies Are Holding Your Data Hostage; This Is How You Stop Them

Ransomware is not only the most damaging and costly cybercrime, it is a go-to tool for spies, terrorists, and attackers. Over the last three years, ransomware attacks increased 2,500 percent and security experts predict that this economic boom industry will cost \$11.5 million by 2019. In this lively and entertaining talk, cybersecurity expert Eric O'Neill uses humor and stories to explain why ransomware has taken the dark web by storm, why terrorists and spies are launching the largest ransomware attacks, how a single email can cause catastrophic damage and the easy steps you and your organization can take to save your data.

• Data Is The Currency Of Our Lives; This Is How You Protect It.

In the information age, your company's most precious asset is data. How can you keep it secure? In this lively and informative talk, cybersecurity expert, author and spy hunter Eric O'Neill uses true stories informed by decades of work as an undercover operative in the FBI and security consultant to help you protect your information. Audiences will learn about the need for diligence; critical areas in physical security; phishing and email hacks; social media do's and don'ts; how spies recruit; economic espionage; preventing the insider threat; and why it is important to hunt the threat before the threat hunts you.

- **The Human Element: The Weakest Link In Every Security System Is Not A Computer**

Security professionals must not only look outward when securing a system, they must become spy hunters, looking for internal exploits and penetrations that may not be easy to detect. Includes an analysis of Robert Hanssen, Edward Snowden and other recent internal penetrations. This often humorous look at a sobering topic prepares organizations for a top down approach to hunting the trusted insider.

- **Surviving the Age of Social Media: What You Need To Know To Protect Yourself From Social Media Spies And Fraudsters**

Hacking is the necessary evolution of espionage. As people have moved their lives, relationships and personal data online, spies have learned to exploit this data in order to steal identities, intellectual property and more. Learn the most critical ways that spies are stealing your data by leveraging your social media accounts and how you can take steps to stop them.

- **How The World Will End: Cyber Security In A Shrinking World**

The global phenomenon of information sharing has created extraordinary innovation in communication, but has also become a gold mine for cyber criminals. This topic explores the current cyber threats facing industry, government and private individuals, from threats to national infrastructure, to corporate espionage and cyber terrorism, to identity theft and online fraud.

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