

Tina Gravel, Chicago, United States

Mobilize Your Women Warriors

It can be frustrating that this fact is still not widely known. Women are terrific in cybersecurity roles! Why is that the case?

One, women work exceptionally in teams. Collaboration is needed to be the most effective in almost all jobs in our field. Especially when it comes to finding those on the dark side. Women are known for working in a way that puts the broader good ahead of what their own ego might tell them to do. **Two**, women are exceptionally good at finding crucial clues in difficult puzzles. They are naturally curious and eager to solve complex riddles. They often follow their intuition and gut instinct which invariably aids them in their resolve. **Three**, women are often quite creative and will use their creativity to find solutions that are non-traditional. This "out of the box" thinking puts them at a great advantage when working to stay one step ahead of the nefarious individuals, firms and nation states. Having a woman on your team also insures one more bit of diversity.

That diversity helps to add various kinds of thinkers exposed to unique cultures and backgrounds to solve the most complex problems. Women will see things from a different lens, as with other minority members on your teams. **There are countless reasons, why and how women can make a real difference and help to increase your ability for success in defeating cybersecurity risks.**

Am I generalizing and stereotyping too much? I do not think so. Of course, we must be open to individuals and their own strengths and weaknesses. Not all women or men candidates will have the qualities we need, however, we must try to bring various kinds of genders and minorities into the fold and make sure they are happy and comfortable in their roles. **We also must start early in schools to make sure the pipeline of candidates exists. This work will pay off exponentially if we do it now.** Let us start in our own environments to include more diverse candidates and women in all our hiring. Consider return to work programs, "returnships", retraining or training from other departments.

There are dozens of ideas and innovations to consider that will foster diversity if you are willing to try. Mobilize your women warriors today!

Tina Gravel is Vice President and Head of Channels Globally for Quantexa. Quantexa is a global data and analytics software company that empowers organizations to make trusted operational decisions by making data meaningful. Prior to her current responsibilities, Tina spent seven years as SVP Global Channels and Alliances at Appgate, and its former owner Cyxtera.

Known as a cybersecurity influencer, Tina has received awards for her work in the indirect channel, including Top Gun 51 Channel Chief by Channel Online in 2019, CRN Channel Chief and Women of the Channel. Tina has also been recognized by CompTIA, Analytica, Engati, WIT, and Award Magazine for her work in cybersecurity and advancing women in technology.

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