



**Alumnus  
Subject  
Graduated  
Place of Work  
Position**

Kerry Davies  
Information Security  
2009  
KPMG LLP  
Director, Information Protection & Business  
Resilience



KPMG in the UK is a leading provider of professional services including audit, tax and advisory. As part of KPMG Europe LLP it is part of the largest integrated accounting firm in Europe.

Kerry's role at KPMG is to bring KPMG's Information Protection & Business Resilience Services to the Public Sector and to develop new security propositions.

# Great minds *go on to* great places

## Were you considering any other universities other than Royal Holloway?

No. Royal Holloway was the natural choice for me as it is widely regarded as offering the best Information Security MSc course in the world. In a past life I had recruited many people with Royal Holloway MSc qualifications and had sent some of my staff to Royal Holloway to become qualified so it was interesting to go there myself to see it first hand.

## Why did you choose the course you studied?

I knew I wanted to study Information Security and in particular the areas that I had had little exposure to in my working life such as cryptography and the legal aspects of e-commerce and e-crime, so the course at Royal Holloway was just about perfect for what I wanted. The other thing that absolutely swung my decision though was the chance to study cryptography under Professor Fred Piper.

## How did you find the course?

The intensive lectures we had in Block Mode which brought a good mix of mature and newer graduate students together to study a module in a week, the camaraderie, the discussions, the debate, the off-topic ramblings – they were all very precious moments.

## What did you think of Royal Holloway as a university?

Being an older student (I can't claim to be mature) with a wife and children tended to focus my activities at Royal Holloway to relatively sober things but I still managed to enjoy the buzz of the University and made good use of the opportunity afforded me to take a year off to study. I still see many of the friends I made at University and we often get together in town after work. The surrounding area is very pleasant and close to London so communication links are very good.

## Did you make use of the Careers Service?

I went to a seminar given by the Careers Service that described what the job market was looking for at that time. I think such things are very useful if you do not already have a great deal of experience.

## What did you learn at Royal Holloway that helped you develop your career?

Aside from the academic aspects and learning about topics that I had not covered before, the MSc gave me a thirst for learning for learning's sake to 'broaden' me as a person. I started to read more widely than before and take on other people's views for deeper consideration. I modified my approach to dealing with people in group

situations which is helpful in meetings. I tend to sit back a bit more now and let other people have their say to see what new ideas may be around the corner. The other thing that has undoubtedly been extremely useful to me in my career is the network of mature students, lecturers, visiting professors and so on that I have spent time with and in some instances can now call on to give me expert views on practically any security related topic.

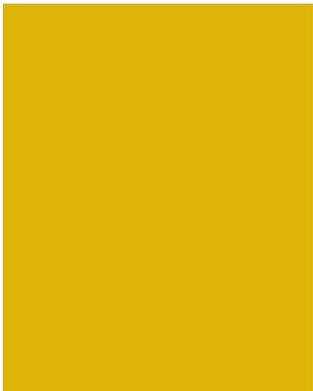
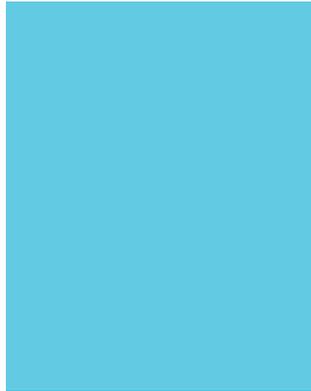
## What does your role involve?

I direct a team of security consultants that focus primarily on the Public Sector. I also lead the development of new security propositions such as cost-effective third party assurance, security operations centres (SOC), Managed Security Services (MSSP), etc. Much of the time is spent in meetings trying to persuade people to go with my ideas or with clients. Listening to their problems, translating between business issues and technical solutions and vice versa I help them work out what they need to do to resolve their situation.



# people with passion

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### What exciting projects have you been working on?

I have been involved in a diverse range of projects, from the audit and analysis of the remedial actions taken to satisfy the Burton report, development of certain security aspects of the Government Banking Service for HMRC, provision of third party assurance to various banks, establishment of Security Operations Centres for the MoD and NATO, and development of an in-house MSSP capability for KPMG. I have also been given responsibility for identifying potential acquisitions in the security space which has been really interesting given my experience of M&A through the sale of my own company in 2006. The first acquisition concluded in January 2010 when KPMG acquired the security part of the global certification body that had previously acquired my company. I am now, therefore, back to being a formal company director of what was my old company as well as a Director at KPMG LLP.

### What challenges have you come across in your role?

The downturn in the economy, particularly in the Public Sector couldn't have occurred at a worse time for me but we seem to be getting through that quite well with strong growth coming through particularly in the cyber security area.

KPMG is a very different kind of organisation to the one I used to own and run or even the companies I worked at previously like Plessey, AT&T and Philips Telecommunications and Admiral (now Logica) - large organisations with short management chains which meant that decisions could be made quickly. One of the strengths and also weaknesses of a partnership is that every partner can voice an opinion about pretty much everything so decisions tend to be more consensual, which can be frustrating for an entrepreneurially minded person.

### What are your aspirations?

I would like to successfully deliver the KPMG MSSP service and take it to number one in the truly secure managed service provider market with highly skilled and qualified people delivering a premium level of service and all the background security apprentice/learning academy activities that are needed to support it. I would also like to see through the cost-effective third party assessment idea of 'do once, use many' to deliver a Third Party Assurance Centre that every major company signs up to - whether it is called Common Assurance Maturity Model or something else. Finally, and on a selfish note, my ambition is to become equity partner.

### Have you been back to the College since graduating?

I have attended various events such as the Security Alumni event in the summer of 2010 where I presented a paper. I also try to get along to Fred Piper's alumni dinners as often as possible and any colloquiums that may be organised.

### What advice would you give students to help them with their career?

Say yes to everything - it's all good experience (even the bad bits). Keep smiling and don't be afraid to say that you want more challenge but then don't let the ball drop. Work hard and enjoy what you do - be committed to it and don't hang around the edges of something. Keep your eye on the prize and never let anyone tell you that you can't do something. If you want it badly enough you will get it.



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