

Women of CyberArk

Stephenie Andal

Senior Channel Account Manager



“In my view, there are a few lingering myths about the cybersecurity industry,” explained **Dr. Stephenie Andal**, Senior Channel Account Manager in our ANZ team.

“The first is that cybersecurity is for hackers, with the classic image of industry professionals sitting behind a laptop in a darkened room. My journey to cybersecurity, like many others, was far from that, and indeed was a bit left of field. I had never even worked for a technology vendor before I joined CyberArk.”

In fact, Stephenie’s background is in academics and on the policy side of cybersecurity. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Chinese cybersecurity policies from Sydney University in Australia, where her research focused on the technological competition between China and the United States, including in the cybersecurity dimension. As she completed her PhD, Stephenie realized she wanted to move beyond academia, with a firm belief that there’s a need for diverse perspectives in cybersecurity.

That led Stephenie to roles in the Australian cybersecurity sector, where she helped Australian organizations, as well as government agencies and departments “unpack complex cybersecurity regulatory and policy issues to provide actionable insights to help Australia stay secure.”

For Stephenie, the human connection, like translating cybersecurity jargon into business insights, first drew her to cybersecurity.

“Cybersecurity is people-centric. I wanted to take my skills to a company where I could be out in the market, helping organizations and companies solve pressing cyber security issues and CyberArk gives me that opportunity every day. It’s extremely rewarding for me to work in cybersecurity.”

At CyberArk, Stephenie supports Australia’s strategic advisory partners. “I love collaborating with our stakeholders to learn how we can jointly team up to reach positive outcomes for clients. I get the most joy out of seeing these projects come together – when we’re combining CyberArk’s world-leading technology solutions with our advisory partners’ market-shaping thought leadership to solve complex issues. It’s especially gratifying to see incremental change come to fruition. Change can – and often does - happen in small pieces, and those changes, over time, can have the biggest impact.”

The second misconception of cybersecurity, according to Stephenie? “Women need not apply.”

Stephenie has been encouraged by the increasing gender diversity she’s seen in cybersecurity, and the varied backgrounds of her female colleagues, saying that she’s “had colleagues from all

professional disciplines - law, journalism, and the social sciences." She believes the talent pool will continue to diversify as the sector matures. Because of this, she encourages women to pursue careers in cybersecurity, highlighting the variety of roles, intellectual challenges, and growth opportunities the field offers. In fact, Stephenie credits her success to the mentorship and support of other women in cybersecurity.

"I've been lucky to have known several incredible women who have encouraged and mentored me in this industry. One of my mentors has been instrumental in helping me understand how to best use my skill set in this industry, with a background in geopolitics, policy and academia. She's helped me see the value in being a 'cyber translator' for individuals and organizations."

So, with two major misconceptions about cybersecurity now disproven, what does Stephenie want people to imagine when they think of a cybersecurity professional?

"Cybersecurity is a space with diverse perspectives and abilities, and that is its ultimate strength. It's full of curious people who constantly ask questions and are passionate about security," said Stephenie. "We need diverse perspectives to tackle the significant challenges ahead, so I always urge anyone who is interested in security but unsure if they fit the typical prototype to come and see what this industry is all about – don't wait. You will not regret it!"