Spotlight on Women in Privacy®



Jordan Rae Kelly, FTI Consulting, Head of Cybersecurity, Americas

What do you love about being a privacy professional?

The trend of privacy indifference motivates me every day to do what I can to be an evangelist of data security. It seems more and more people are willing to give away their personal information for short-term convenience, not realizing the potential for significant threat over the long term. Whatever I can do to increase the cybersecurity of our ecosystems makes me really proud and motivates me every day to be an active member of the data privacy and security community.

From my time in the FBI, I learned to value my experience as an investigator, and that is another aspect of this profession that I love – trying to outsmart threat actors, who are increasingly creative and sophisticated in their tactics. The cybersecurity threat landscape continues to evolve and requires an outside the box mindset to keep pace. That keeps my days pretty exciting.

What was the best professional advice you received?

Feedback is a gift! When you take a lot of pride in your work and always try to do your best, it can be especially hard to receive criticism, even if it is constructive. Looking back on all that I have learned, and hopefully improved, I remind myself that I'm not perfect, and feedback is a gift. That doesn't mean I have to agree with every piece of criticism I've received, but I do take the time to process it and understand where it might be coming from, which hopefully informs my performance in future situations.

What privacy/cyber development are you paying attention to this month?

It's been an exciting few months in the world of security and privacy regulation and enforcement. Like many in this field, I will be closely following the FTC's Proposed Rulemaking. This is a moment when the security and privacy landscape in the U.S. is very much in flux. Congress and individual states are engaged in active discussion about their own potential laws and rules, and the regulatory bodies have also been very active. Whether it's new requirements from the FTC, the SEC, the NY Department of Financial Services, or even others, I think every privacy and security professional needs to really be on their toes this month and going forward!

What do you do to unwind?

I love cooking and hosting, particularly if it involves a good theme or holiday! Since it is October, I will share that I am a big fan of Halloween, and I love carving pumpkins! Over the years I have carved the logos of all my favorite sports teams, every place where I've worked, and the likenesses of Steve Irwin and Napoleon Dynamite, to name a few!