

Alumni Spotlight: Kimberly Chow



Kim began her KPMG journey as a graduate in the KPMG Sydney office in 2015. An opportunity in KPMG in Singapore brought her to our little red dot which she now calls home. As a cyber security professional, Kim was recently recognised as one of the [Top 20 women in Cybersecurity Singapore](#). Read more about Kim's memorable seasons in KPMG and her successful journey in the Cyber Security practice.

1) Describe your current role and responsibilities

I am currently a Specialist Security Architect for a major cloud computing platform. I work with customers ranging from large regulated enterprises (e.g. banks) to unicorn cloud native organisations to develop, design, and build secure, resilient and compliant applications on the cloud platform.

I balance the desire of business and IT teams to want to move fast, with the requirements of InfoSec and Risk teams that want to stay secure. Companies rely on me to provide them with best practice guidance in automating detection and response, as well as deep technical knowledge regarding data protection, privacy, and managing authentication and identities at scale in my workplace.

2) What part of your job do you find particularly meaningful or satisfying?

Within the Asian Pacific (APJ) region, there has been an unprecedented growth in the adoption of cloud services, due to the agility and speed of development that the cloud provides. However, this also means a rise in new attack vectors and malicious technologies designed to cripple organisations at scale. It is particularly meaningful when I can help customers secure their platforms from potential attacks, or help them recover when they are having a "bad security day".

3) What motivated you the most during your time at KPMG?

Being able to meet extremely smart colleagues and clients, as well as knowing that KPMG is renowned for having a global secondment initiative was particularly motivating. Because of KPMG, I was able to work in Sydney as well as Singapore,

and meet a wide variety of customers in different industries.

4) Are there experiences in KPMG that eventually came in useful for your current career?

Learning how to manage project timelines and teams was crucial when I moved to my current role. You often have competing priorities and initiatives, both internally and externally. Applying what I learnt at KPMG, from prioritising work, and even asking for help when I was overloaded was exceedingly important!

5) What were your most memorable experiences at KPMG?

I began my KPMG journey as a graduate in KPMG in Sydney, and winning the Sydney Dragon Boat races is something I'll never forget. Our tight knit team spent months out on the water before and after work, countless hours at F45 gyms, and it was all over in an intense 2 minutes! At KPMG in Singapore, my first D&D was a winner - seeing the Cyber Partner, Daryl Pereira, in masquerade costume was so much fun, and I'll never forget the after party.

6) What advice do you have for people who may be contemplating a similar career?

Take having a mentor seriously. My mentor was able to guide my career path, as well as act as a sounding board when I came across questions that were out of my technical depth. In cyber security you need to have somebody who has "been there, done that". It is not enough to understand the theory - you need hands on experience.

Until you have that, you have to rely on your mentor to guide you along! Another thing is to constantly be curious, if there is a technology you do not understand, spend time learning about it. It's even better if you can get access to the tool to try it for yourself.

7) What or who inspires you?

The speed that technology changes inspires me as it makes me feel like I constantly have something to learn, and I have to keep striving to ensure that I improve my technical understanding. I still have a long way to go to get to the benchmark that has been set by my current and former colleagues! I have been extremely lucky to have met extremely competent people both at KPMG and at my current workplace - how my colleagues have tackled challenges and displayed ownership of their learning has also been very inspiring.

8) Who was your mentor at KPMG and how did they help you?

I was very lucky to work closely with the cyber leadership at both KPMG in Australia and KPMG in Singapore and consider all directors and partners that I met along the way as mentors.

9) How do you feel about KPMG today?

KPMG gave me the opportunities that I have today. Because of the confidence and belief that was instilled in me by having great colleagues and mentors over the years, I have been unafraid to pursue new challenges. KPMG also taught me how to be detail-oriented, while also focusing on the big picture.

10) What advice can you offer to new joiners to KPMG?

Enjoy your work! Treat every day that you work at KPMG as an opportunity - you never know when you will learn a life lesson that will form how you deal with a particular challenge in future, be it learning how to build repeatable programs, having a difficult conversation with a customer, or even learning how to convey your thoughts in a constructive and value-adding way.

11) Last but not least, how can we reach you?

You can connect with me on LinkedIn! [linkedin.com/in/kimberly-chow-78808b70](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kimberly-chow-78808b70)



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