Queen's Centre for Security & Privacy

Distinguished Speaker Series

Jawed Ahmad

The Future of Security Operations: Bridging Human Expertise and Autonomous Systems

Thursday, April 9, 2026, 2:30-3:30 PM

Dupuis Hall – Room 215

Abstract

Security Operations Centers (SOCs) are at a pivotal inflection point. For decades, SOCs have relied heavily on human-driven processes—analysts triaging alerts, investigating incidents, and responding to threats in increasingly complex environments. However, the scale, speed, and sophistication of modern cyber threats have outpaced traditional approaches, creating an urgent need to rethink how security operations are designed and executed.

This talk explores the evolution from manual, human-centric SOCs to augmented and ultimately autonomous security operations. Drawing on insights from Augmented Security Operations: AI, Automation, and Guardrails for Cybersecurity Leaders, Jawed Ahmad presents a practical framework for integrating artificial intelligence, automation, and human expertise to build resilient, adaptive SOCs.

Biography

Jawed Ahmad is the Chief Technology Officer at Bell Cyber, where he leads the design and delivery of advanced cybersecurity solutions for enterprise and critical infrastructure environments. With deep expertise in architecting security operations, Jawed focuses on transforming how organizations defend against modern threats through scalable, intelligence-driven approaches.

He is the author of *Augmented Security Operations: AI, Automation, and Guardrails for Cybersecurity Leaders*, a work that explores how security teams can evolve beyond traditional, manual SOC models toward augmented and autonomous operations. His approach emphasizes the practical integration of AI, automation, and human expertise to build resilient, adaptive security ecosystems.

With over 20 years of experience, Jawed drives innovation in security architecture, helping organizations modernize their SOC capabilities, reduce operational friction, and improve response effectiveness. His work bridges strategy and execution, translating emerging technologies into real-world security outcomes.