# Dennis Sepede

**Cybersecurity Manager · Governance (NIS2, ISO/IEC 27001) · Security advisory**
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## SUMMARY

I lead security for an Italian industrial group with three sites, more than 100 active construction sites and OT networks: I took the group to ISO/IEC 27001 certification, aligned it with NIS2 although it is not an in-scope entity, and direct the external MDR provider. As a consultant I have also taken a second company to ISO/IEC 27001 certification. As co-founder and CTO of Securitix Solutions I designed the company's managed security platforms and handle customer security reviews, technical proposals and client delivery. My background is offensive research (20+ assigned CVEs), so the programmes I build start from how attacks actually happen and end in decisions leadership can act on.

**Areas**: governance and compliance (ISO 27001, NIS2, GDPR) · risk management and security roadmaps · security operations and vendor management (MDR, SOC) · assessments and penetration testing · OT security · awareness and training

## EXPERIENCE

### Cybersecurity Operations & Engineering Manager

**Comes S.p.A.**, industrial group, Italy · July 2023 to present

*The group's sole in-house security function: I set the strategy and I am accountable for it.*

- **Scope**: 3 permanent sites, 100+ active construction sites, ~350 endpoints, IT and **OT/SCADA** networks. I direct one internal engineer and the **external MDR service** (ESET PROTECT MDR Ultimate across 300 endpoints).
- **Budget**: I manage security spend autonomously, roughly **EUR 100,000 a year** including the MDR, with no formal cap and an efficiency mandate. Negotiated the MDR contract down from **EUR 91,000 to about EUR 50,000 a year (-45%)**.
- **ISO/IEC 27001**: took the group to **certification**; I own the control set and the evidence and **I am the person accountable to the auditor**.
- **NIS2**: the group is not an in-scope entity; I **voluntarily aligned** it with the NIS2 security measures at **NIST Cybersecurity Framework Tier 3 (Repeatable)** maturity.
- **Security operations**: I govern the ESET XDR/EDR SOC with the MDR under my direction: detection tuning, triage, escalation and incident handling.
- **Assurance**: delivered **10 to 15 internal penetration tests** across web, mobile and AI/LLM applications; every High and Critical finding driven to remediation.
- **Shadow IT**: identified an internally built management app running outside IT processes and already used by several project managers; testing found unauthenticated access to company data (CVSS 9.1). My NO-GO recommendation to IT leadership led to the app being shut down; its secure integration under IT control is now being assessed.
- **Architecture**: Active Directory and Microsoft 365 re-architected under Zero Trust (Conditional Access, DLP, privileged access separation); network for a new site designed from scratch (VLAN segmentation, end-to-end HTTPS, monitoring).
- **People**: group-wide security awareness and training programme, including two phishing simulation campaigns.
- **Leadership**: I report to the IT Director with a weekly briefing, discuss security decisions with the **Board of Directors** and have supported it through **customer-led security audits** of the group as a supplier, including **Hitachi**'s.

### Co-Founder & Chief Technology Officer

**Securitix Solutions S.r.l.**, managed security and consulting, Italy · 2024 to present

*Open to agreeing exclusivity, non-compete terms and a redefined role at Securitix in writing, where the position requires it.*

- Co-founder: with the CEO and the Chairman I shape the company's offering, positioning and technical priorities.
- **Client-facing**: I answer customer security questionnaires and security reviews on behalf of the company, and build technical and commercial proposals for security, infrastructure and compliance engagements.

- **Team**: I selected and coordinate a network of **5 freelance engineers**, brought onto engagements as scope requires.
- **Delivered engagements**: forensic acquisition of a company cloud tenant under ISO/IEC 27037 with chain of custody and a GDPR Art. 28 DPA; NIS2 security awareness curriculum for a training partner (86 micro-lessons mapped to Italian ACN measures); post-migration recovery for a retail business, including third-party vendor management (indexed pages from 31 to 76 in 18 days).
- **Products**: designed and shipped the company's managed security platforms, including a multi-tenant XDR (Wazuh, Velociraptor, SOAR, MISP, DFIR-IRIS), threat intelligence, deception and phishing simulation, adopted by Italian companies from ten-person SMEs to industrial groups.
- **AI governance**: designed **Velo**, a gateway that pseudonymises Italian personal data (tax codes, VAT numbers, IBANs, certified email) before prompts reach AI providers and restores it in the response, with an audit trail for the DPO: it makes generative AI adoptable under GDPR. In use at client companies and integrated into third-party software.
- Company in Anthropic's Claude Partner Network and selected for the Google for Startups Cloud Program.

### ISO/IEC 27001 Consultant

**Consolidati S.r.l.**, Manduria, Italy · March to April 2026

- Led the company through ISO/IEC 27001 certification, from programme set-up to award.

### Earlier experience (USA)

**Counter-UAS Researcher**, UAS Research and Operations Center (UROC), University of Maryland · 2022-2023 · defence research on protecting sensitive sites from hostile drones: in-flight detection, geolocation and neutralisation by jamming. Brought in by the college's cybersecurity club lead, who serves at the US Department of Defense.
**IT Technician**, College of Southern Maryland · 2023 · managed 200+ IT assets, 300-400 tickets with a median resolution time of about one day.
**IT Support Technician**, 6ya · 2020-2021 · remote support for 1,000+ users, 95% satisfaction.

## SECURITY RESEARCH

- **20+ assigned CVEs**, 11 rated Critical (CVSS 9.1-9.8): insecure deserialization, command injection, path traversal, SSRF.
- **CVE-2026-40895** in `follow-redirects` (transitive dependency of **axios**): credential leak on cross-domain redirects.
- **CVE-2026-118658** in `labstack/echo`, the Go web framework: redirects to arbitrary schemes via the X-Forwarded-Proto header.
- Coordinated disclosures with open source maintainers and vendors, including AWS and Anthropic; among the first approved into Anthropic's **Cyber Verification Program** for dual-use offensive research; advisories at github.com/Den-Sec/security-research.

## EDUCATION, CERTIFICATIONS, RECOGNITION

**A.A.S. and Certificate in Cyber Security**, College of Southern Maryland, USA, 2023, *High Honors*, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
CompTIA Security+ · AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner · Cisco NetAcad CCNAv7 coursework
Speaker, AI and cybersecurity panel at the Salone Mediterraneo dell'Impresa (Confcommercio Taranto, 2026) · Guest lecturer on threat intelligence, University of Bari Aldo Moro (Computer Science) · Innovation mentor at *Taranto che resta*, a startup factory for 45 high-school students (Confcommercio Taranto and Brindisi-Taranto Chamber of Commerce, 2026) · Author, *Blueprint di Digitalizzazione Sicura* (ebook) · National Cyber League (USA), top 6% nationally · Mid-Atlantic CCDC, 16th place · Press: *Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno*, 2025

**Languages**: Italian (native) · English (C1, three years studying and working in the USA) · Spanish (intermediate)