CYBERSECURITY
Excellence Awards

2027 Nomination Guide

Independent recognition for the cybersecurity industry

What the awards are, how entries are judged and what to prepare.

ENTER BY	JURY RESULTS	COMMUNITY CHOICE
February 27, 2027	March 2027	July 2027

Presented by Cybersecurity INSIDERS

01 THE PROGRAM

The awards at a glance

Now in its second decade, the Cybersecurity Excellence Awards recognize the companies, products and professionals moving cybersecurity forward. The program is presented by Cybersecurity Insiders and backed by a community of 600,000+ cybersecurity professionals.

WHO CAN ENTER

Anyone, worldwide

Any company, product, team or professional. No minimum size, age, revenue or customer count. Self-nominations welcome.

DEADLINE

February 27, 2027

For the jury awards. Nominations are open now.

PRICE

$399 or $599

Per nomination, depending on award group. Packages on page 6.

RESULTS

March 2027

Jury winners are announced in the week of March 22.

600K+
cybersecurity professionals in the Cybersecurity Insiders community

50+
judges on the independent jury

100+
award categories across four groups

11
seasons of winners, 2016 to 2026

What every nomination gets

- **Visibility from day one.** A public profile page in the awards directory and an announcement of your nomination on LinkedIn.
- **Two chances from one entry.** The jury reviews every nomination, and each one is also entered in Community Choice, a separate public vote.
- **A badge you keep.** Winners use the official badge anywhere, with no time limit and at no extra cost.

2026 Gold winners include

Zscaler
Fortinet
Check Point
Netskope
Proofpoint
KeeperPAM

alongside fast-growing companies such as Cyera, TokenCore, DataPatrol and Safous, and individual practitioners and teams.

02 THE JUDGING

How winners are selected

An independent jury of more than 50 security practitioners, analysts and CISOs scores each nomination on three criteria, against their peers.

50+

Judges. Practitioners, analysts and CISOs, chosen for expertise and independence.

Merit only

Nothing else counts. Your package choice has no effect on a score.

No quota

No automatic winners. A category may go unawarded if no entry meets the bar.

01

Leadership

Where the nominee leads in its category or among its peers.

02

Innovation

What is new or different in the approach, and why it matters.

03

Impact

The measurable results for customers, the organization or the field.

COMPANIES, PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS

Compared with organizations of **similar size and region** in the same category, so a startup is measured against other startups.

PROFESSIONALS AND TEAMS

Compared with peers by **the kind of organization they work in and region**, not by the size of that organization.

GOLD SILVER BRONZE FINALIST

Four levels of jury awards. Gold, Silver and Bronze winners and Finalists are named in the week of March 22. Each level has its own badge; the ones shown are from 2026.

Two honors on top. Best in Class (below) and Community Choice (page 7) are awarded in addition to the jury awards.

Sample badge, 2026

ON TOP OF THE JURY AWARDS

Best in Class

In the domains where Best in Class is awarded, Gold winners in related categories are compared across the domain, and the strongest receives it. No separate entry is needed.

First awarded in 2026, in AI security: Oasis Security, AISLE, Pindrop and Steve Wilson of Exabeam.

03 THE CATEGORIES

Find your award category

Start with what you are nominating, then pick the category that describes it most precisely. Four award groups hold more than 100 categories.

Practitioners and teams

Analysts, SOC teams, CISOs and security leaders. Nominate yourself, a colleague or your team.

Vendor marketing and comms

Enter your company, its products and the people behind them, in one category or several.

PR agencies

Enter on behalf of clients from one account. Your client's finance team can handle checkout separately.

Product / Service

A product or service that solves a real problem for customers, with the results it achieves.

- Agentic AI Security
- Zero Trust Security
- Fraud Prevention

Company

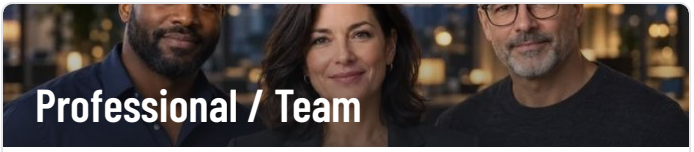
A company recognized for its innovation, growth, leadership or the quality of service it delivers.

- Best Cybersecurity Company
- Most Innovative Company
- Best Startup

Industry Solution

A security solution built for a specific industry or operating environment, from hospitals to factory floors.

- Healthcare
- Critical Infrastructure
- Financial Services



Professional / Team

A security leader, practitioner or team, recognized for the impact of their work.

- CISO of the Year
- SOC Team of the Year
- Pentest Team of the Year
- Woman of the Year

Entering more than one category

A product entry often pairs with a company entry, or with a nomination for the person or team behind the work. An industry solution is a product built for one sector, so it can enter both a product and an industry solution category.

Each category is a separate nomination, judged on its own merits. Parent companies and subsidiaries can enter independently.

Don't see the right fit?

Ask before entering. Send a few sentences about what you want recognized and the awards team will point you to the right category.

All categories
cybersecurity-excellence-awards.com/award-categories

Awards team
info@cybersecurity-excellence-awards.com

04 THE ENTRY

How to enter

The form is short. Gather these items first and the entry takes one sitting. You can save your work and finish later.

What you'll need to enter

- [ ] **A summary under 300 words**
  The achievement in the category you are entering. Published on your profile page.
- [ ] **Three reasons the entry stands out**
  One line each. Published on your profile page.
- [ ] **Supporting evidence or results**
  Growth, deployment scale, outcomes. For teams: incidents prevented, time to detect, audit results.
- [ ] **Up to three images**
  Logo, headshot or product screenshots. The first is the featured image.
- [ ] **Judges-only details, optional**
  Seen only by the jury, never published. Nominee data is not sold or shared beyond the program.

HOW TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ENTRY

- **Answer the category.** An entry in Fastest Growing Cybersecurity Company needs revenue or customer growth figures. A product entry needs outcomes and what sets it apart.
- **Lead with specifics.** Numbers, scale and named results carry more weight than general claims.
- **Use the judges-only field** for detail that supports the case but cannot be public.
- **Keep the title plain.** The product, company or nominee name, nothing more.

COMMON WEAKNESSES

- Claims of leadership with no evidence behind them.
- The same text reused across categories without adapting it to each one.
- Marketing language in the entry title.

> **Entering for someone else?** You can nominate yourself, your company or another person, and agencies regularly enter on behalf of clients.

Four steps from account to live nomination

STEP 1
Create an account
Register on the awards site

STEP 2
Choose a category
Award group first, then category

STEP 3
Write the entry
Save and finish later if needed

STEP 4
Check out
Card, PayPal or voucher. Invoice on request.

THEN
Your page goes live
After a short review. You can still edit it afterwards.

05 THE COST

Nomination fees and packages

Enter one nomination, or choose a package for several and lower the price of each. A package covers any category in all four award groups.

2027 SEASON Prices for the 2027 season, in US dollars.

	PROFESSIONAL OR TEAM	COMPANY OR PRODUCT	MOST POPULAR PLUS PACKAGE	PRO PACKAGE
	$399 1 nomination	**$599** 1 nomination incl. industry solutions	**$1,100** 3 nominations about $367 each	**$1,900** 6 nominations about $317 each

INCLUDED IN EVERY OPTION

- Public profile page in the awards directory
- Review by the independent jury
- Automatic Community Choice entry
- Badge for winners and finalists

VISIBILITY BY OPTION

Announcement of your nomination	LinkedIn	LinkedIn, Facebook, X	LinkedIn, Facebook, X	LinkedIn, Facebook, X
Regular announcements during the season	–	–	Monthly	Weekly
Links to your own website content on your profiles	–	–	–	✓
Press release written for you if you win	–	–	–	✓

> **The package you choose has no influence on the judging.** Every nomination is scored by the same independent judges on leadership, innovation and impact.

Someone else handles checkout

A colleague, finance team or agency can order without an awards account and pass on the voucher code. A package code works for several colleagues.

Paperwork

Quotes, invoices and bank transfer on request. Prices are in US dollars. Orders are processed by MetaTarget LLC, operator of the awards.

Package terms

Use package nominations before nominations close for the season. For more than 6 entries, ask for a quote.

06 THE SEASON

2027 awards timeline

The jury awards are announced ahead of RSAC Conference in San Francisco. Community Choice, a separate public vote, follows ahead of Black Hat USA in Las Vegas.

1 Nominations open

Open now
Save your work and finish later

2 Nomination deadline

Saturday, February 27, 2027
For the jury awards

3 Jury winners announced

Week of March 22, 2027
Ahead of RSAC Conference

4 Community Choice winners

Mid-July 2027
Ahead of Black Hat USA

RUNS ALONGSIDE THE JURY AWARDS

Community Choice

Every nomination that goes live is entered automatically, at no extra cost. The community votes from that day through early July, and the winners are announced in mid-July.

Community Choice is its own award with its own badge. It is decided by the public, not by the jury, and the two results are independent of each other.

Why enter early. The sooner a nomination is live, the longer it is visible in the awards directory and open to the public vote.

Start now, finish later. You can save your work and finish it any time before the deadline. Nothing is public until checkout is complete.

07 THE WIN

After you win

Winning is the start of the promotion, not the end of it. Every winner receives the tools to announce it.

- **The official badge** for winners and finalists, with a perpetual, worldwide license and no extra cost
- **A winner toolkit** with a press release template and social media images
- **An announcement** to the 600,000+ member Cybersecurity Insiders community
- **An email before the results go public**, so you can prepare your announcement
- **A certificate** on request, at no charge

NO OBLIGATIONS

Winning commits you to nothing further.

- **No cost** to accept an award
- **No case study,** reference or marketing commitment
- **Free, perpetual** badge license

A profile page can be removed on request. A trophy and the Promote Your Win programs below are available separately.

> **How to cite a win.** "Gold Winner, [Category Name], 2027 Cybersecurity Excellence Awards", with the level you received.

For winners who want more reach, the optional Promote Your Win programs from Cybersecurity Insiders turn the award into press coverage and sales material. See **cybersecurity-excellence-awards.com/impact**.

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Ready to enter?

Enter by **February 27, 2027** at cybersecurity-excellence-awards.com. Nominations go live after a short review.

Start your nomination

SCAN TO START

Questions: info@cybersecurity-excellence-awards.com