

# A NEW RUBRIC FOR IT RECRUITING AND RETENTION



HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY

**Sandy Silk**  
Harvard University

IT Security  
Education &  
Consulting

# MY “A-HA!” MOMENT

“We’re not getting women and minorities applying to our open IT positions.”



The CIO Council

- **CULTURE and BRAND of the team**
- **Job description**
- **Basic qualification true-up**
- **Job marketing through networks**
- **Interview process**
- **Interview feedback collection and analysis**
- **Professional development opportunities**

**WHAT  
CAN WE  
CHANGE?**

# WHAT'S YOUR CULTURE?

Dog tested.  
Dog approved.

With more than half of Subaru drivers having pets, we believe it is important to celebrate the love of pets shared by our owners.

Alan Bethke  
Senior Vice President  
Marketing  
Subaru of America



# OUR CULTURE: Woman Tested. Woman Approved.



**PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE INNOVATION FUND**

**HARVARDWIT:  
MENTORING PROGRAM  
FOR WOMEN IN  
TECHNOLOGY**

- Participate in diversity and affinity groups at your organization
- Get involved with EDUCAUSE groups
- Promote participation in local groups: e.g. WITI, SIM Education RT
- Watch and discuss webcasts as groups
- Encourage volunteer opportunities
- Post/Like comments about activities on social media and LinkedIn
- Write articles for internal media
- Support informational interviews

NETWORK,  
NETWORK,  
NETWORK!

Start now

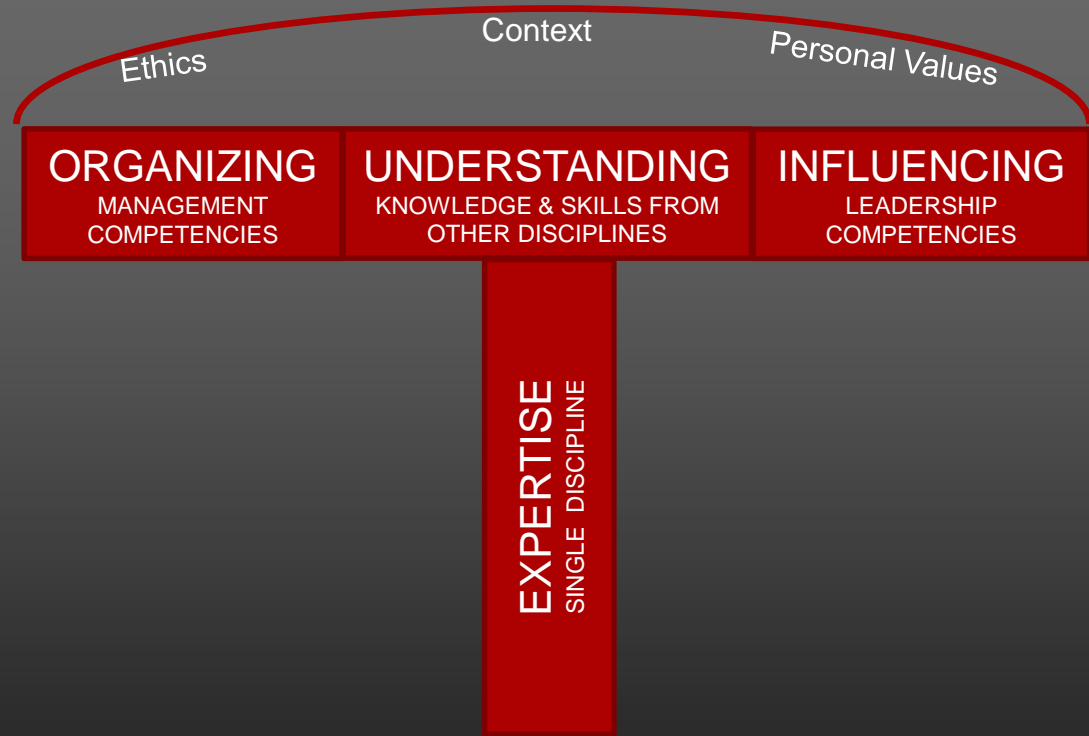
# T-SHAPED PROFESSIONAL & VALUES

User-focused

Collaborative

Innovative

Open



# JOB DESCRIPTION EVOLUTION

## Prior

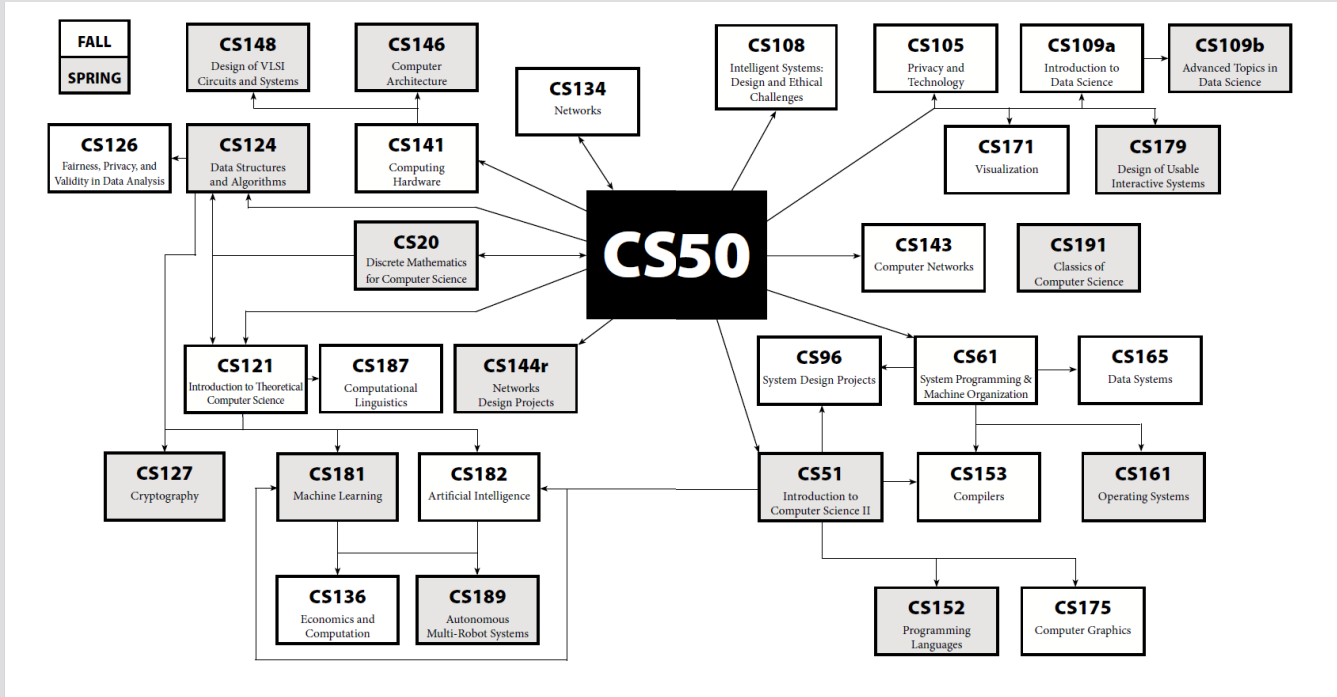
- Compliance-driven
- Policy grounded
- Specific degrees
- Regulatory expertise
- Technical protocols and programming
- Technical certifications

## New

- Risk-based controls
- Behavior focused
- Situational experience
- Privacy concerns
- Security principles and risk management
- Ongoing learning and experimentation
- Inclusive and curious

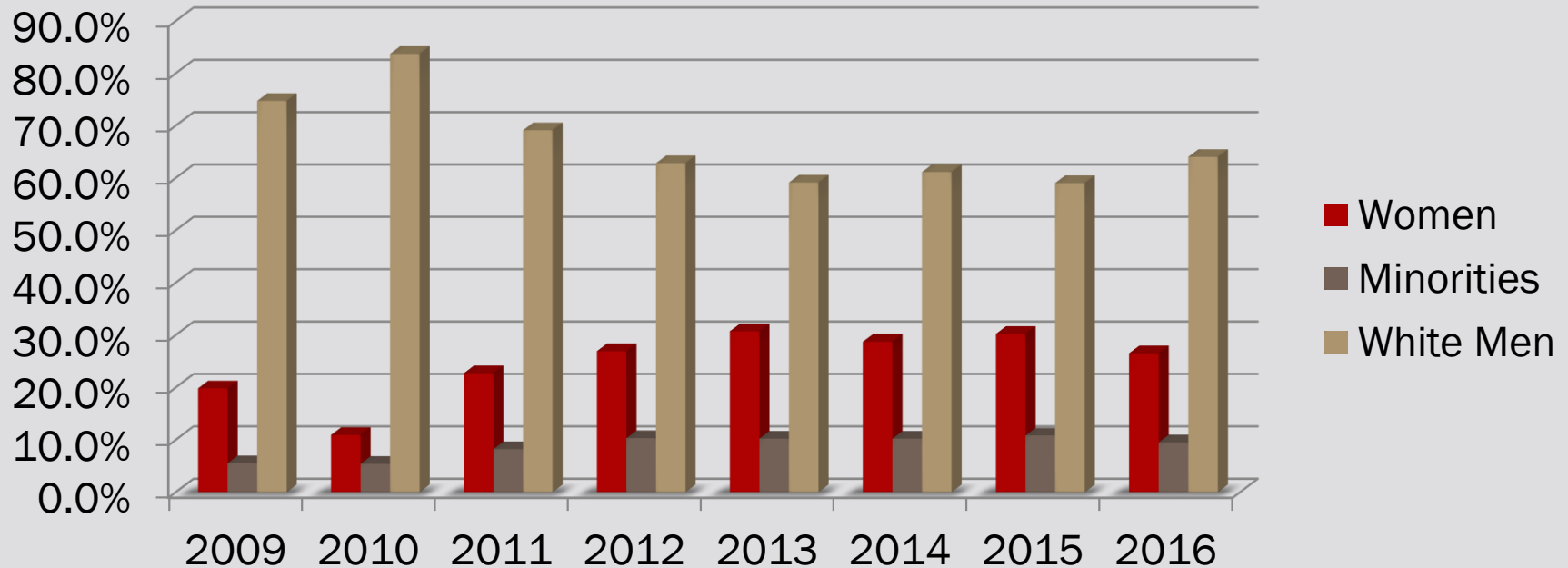


# WHAT'S IN A CS DEGREE AT HARVARD?



- ## REQUIREMENTS
- Multivariable Calculus
  - Linear Algebra
  - Basic Software (2)
  - Theory (2)
  - Electives (4)
  - Math
  - Statistics
  - Engineering
  - Economics
  - Networks
  - Programming
  - Systems
  - Graphics, UI
  - AI

# WHAT'S NOT IN A CS DEGREE?



# LOOK INWARD

Non-tech  
undergrad  
degrees on  
our team

- German
- English
- Philosophy
- International Relations
- Comparative Literature
- Fine Arts

# WORDS MATTER

## Minimize Gender Bias and Number of Requirements

Does the challenge of building new security features for a massive cloud platform get your mind racing? Do you think like a hacker when evaluating software architecture and the resilience of cloud services?

- Responsibilities:  
11 bullet points
- Desired Skills:  
16 bullet points

We are looking for an innovative, positive, self-directed team player who is passionate about securing data and “figuring out” solutions to problems for improved deliverables.

- You’ll Accomplish:  
9 bullet points
- Right Fit:  
8 bullet points

# QUESTION EVERYTHING

EVERY bullet point on the job description must have an associated interview question

If you can't come up with a question, remove the bullet point!

Divide questions among interview groups

What's been your experience with SaaS implementations – from an end user perspective (as end user, vendor management)? What are lessons learned you wish you had? What business benefits?

We're trying to change user behavior in a certain area to improve security. We've had a lot of push-back from some individuals or groups who are resistant to change. "It's not a bank, after all!" What are some methods or approaches you've used to drive change across the community?  
(Communication, trusted advisor, influence, collaboration)

As a large university, we're subject to security and privacy regulations (FERPA, HIPAA, records, credit card information, security requirements for data sets, etc.). How do you handle privacy regulations, etc. Generally, how would you characterize different security requirements? (Familiarity with regulations and goals)

Give us an example of a time you had to be creative and suggest alternative solutions because of limitations in technology, resources (time/money), or expertise. (Negotiation skills, working relationships, trusted advisor – very relevant)

# MARKETING

- Post the job on LinkedIn
- Send announcement to affinity group lists (WIT)
- Post “We’re hiring!” announcement on LI
- Ask friends to like/share



**Sandy Silk**  
Director of IT Security Education and Consulting at Harvard University  
2mo

I'm hiring! I have a spot open for an Information Security Risk & Consulting Specialist to join my team at Harvard. The successful candidate will be a blend of trusted advisor, technologist, and risk assessor. Please like/share this further to reach those who would be interested to apply.

**Information Security Risk & Consulting Specialist**  
linkedin.com

Job SummaryResponsible for comprehensive planning, design, evaluation and implementation of security...

22 Likes · 2 Comments

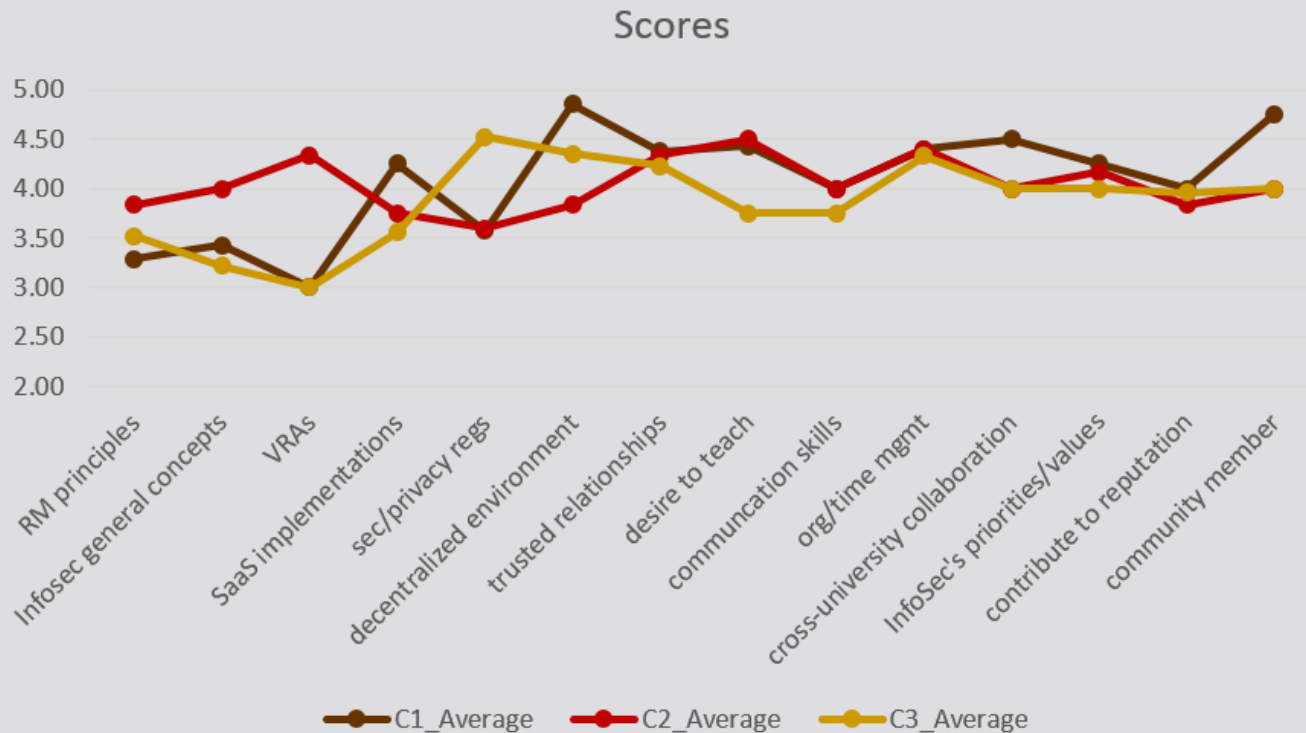
 Like  Comment  Share

 **494 views** of your post in the feed

Please rate the candidate on each of the following*: <i>(*items subject to change based on position)</i>	Excellent	Good	Neutral	Fair	Poor	Not Ass.
Evidence of situational application of risk management principles (threat, vulnerability, likelihood, impact)						
Evidence of situational application of information security general concepts						
Evidence of experience in vendor security assessments						
Evidence of experience in SaaS implementations						
Evidence of familiarity with one or more security/privacy regulations						
Evidence of familiarity with research data security assessments						
Evidence of experience in a decentralized, diverse, and mobile environment						
Evidence of building or strengthening trusted working relationships						
Evidence of desire to facilitate learning (IT Academy classroom instruction)						
Evidence of effective communication skills						

**ALL INTERVIEWERS GET A VOICE**

# CHART IT: WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT?



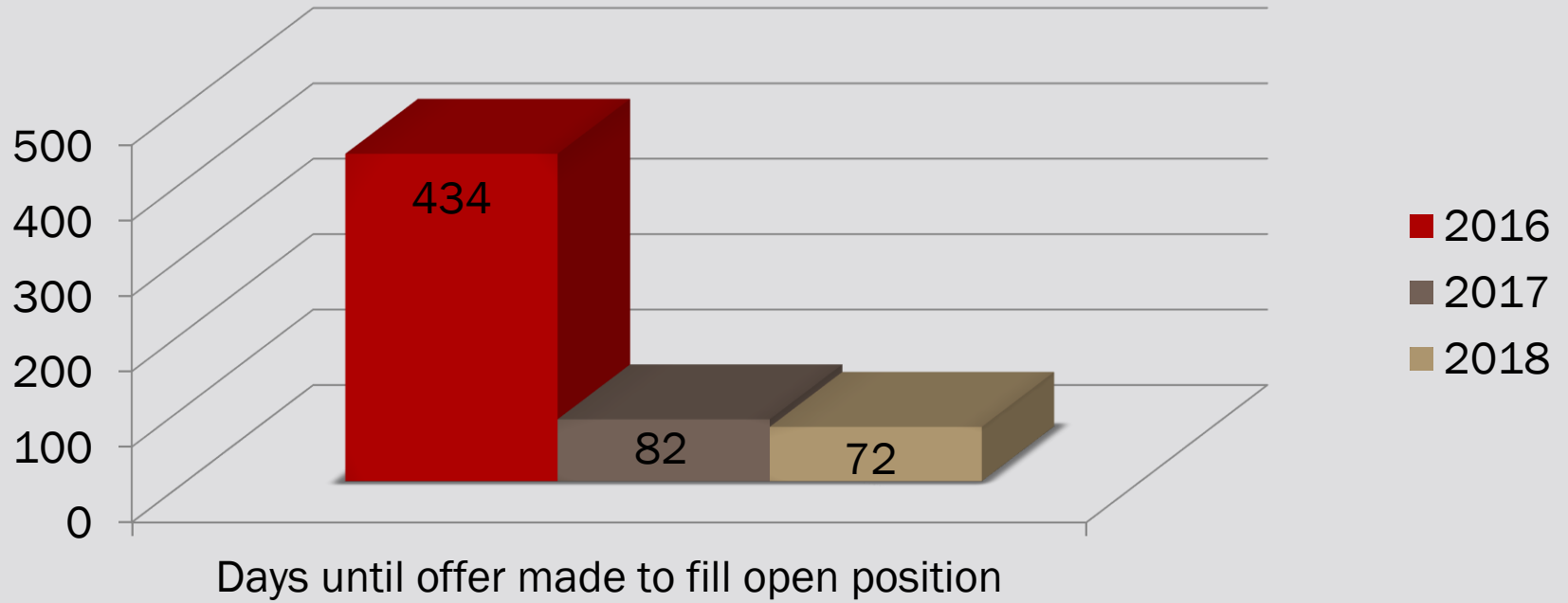


- Management support of diversity & inclusivity programs
- Affinity groups - internal and external
- Group volunteer activities (e.g. Girls STEM Summit)
- Conference participation
- Mentoring opportunities - both sides
- Leadership development programs
- Equitable work flexibility
- Clear career progression paths

## RETAINING AND PROMOTING

Why would I  
want to stay?

# DOES IT WORK? YES!



# A NEW RUBRIC FOR IT RECRUITING AND RETENTION



HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY

**Sandy Silk**  
Harvard University

IT Security  
Education &  
Consulting