

Matt Thomlinson

Vice President, Microsoft Security



Matt Thomlinson is Vice President of Microsoft Security and leads the Microsoft Security Engineering Center (MSEC), the Microsoft Security Response Center (MSRC) and Global Security Strategy & Diplomacy (GSSD) and internal Network Security (NetSec). His teams are responsible for proactively implementing training, tools and processes to improve the security of Microsoft products and services. As such, Matt is responsible for assessing the threat to, and assuring the security of, Microsoft products and services from their inception, development, and through their supported life.

Matt built Microsoft's security research group to further security science, improve the security of products and develop fundamentally new methods to mitigate security vulnerabilities. Once a founding member of the MSRC, he now owns all aspects of Microsoft's security response, from the triage of new vulnerabilities, through the management of Product Group solutions, to responding to vulnerability exploitation emergencies and driving incident postmortems. This technical team investigates vulnerability reports and associated malware, and work closely with the many communities involved in software security ranging from researchers to law enforcement and governments. His GSSD team is responsible for tracking and responding to legislation and government information assurance relationships; the NetSec team is responsible for monitoring and investigating issues on Microsoft's own network.

In his 19 years at Microsoft, Matt has led many security engineering efforts with global customer impact. Early in his career, Matt led various development teams building operating system infrastructure during the development of Windows Server 2003, Windows XP and Windows 2000. In 2003, he was the inspiration for, and directed the creation of Windows XP Service Pack 2, the first significant security improvement of the Windows client platform.

Matt is involved across the software industry as a security specialist, and is the chairman of NIST's Information Security & Privacy Advisory Board (ISPAB). Matt is named as inventor or co-inventor on over 20 patents on technologies ranging from secure secret storage and random number generators to various vulnerability mitigation techniques. He is a Seattle native and holds both Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Washington.