

BOOK REVIEW

by **Matthew Webster**

What initially drew you to *The Cyber Elephant in the Boardroom*? Was there a particular challenge or curiosity you hoped the book would address?

I was talking to someone the week before about the fact that I focus on CISO and Board education. They brought up the book to me. The following week, I was at a board related event in NYC where Mathieu was handing out the book. I didn't fully know what to expect so I approached it with an open mind with the hopes of learning from his wisdom.

How did the book influence your perspective on cybersecurity leadership, risk, or board-level communication? Were there any moments that particularly resonated with your own experience?

I am an old soul when it comes to cybersecurity leadership, risk, and board communication. I have lived a lot of those experiences myself. I have a training class for both boards and CxOs, and a different course specifically for CISOs. I cover many of the same stories that Mathieu touches on. They are stories that CISOs should be telling their executives and boards.

What influenced me the most was the 5 pillars itself. They are extremely versatile, easy to understand and digest for others. As a framework, you can mix it with anything, add maturity, such as CMMI, and so forth.

I think it is a great alternative to frameworks like NIST CSF. In terms of resonance, the same problems are global. Most board of directors are not technologically savvy so striving to communicate with the boards can be a challenge for many people and organizations. The same can be said for other business leaders.

I use many of the same stories that Mathieu brings out in his book and have been teaching them to executives and CISOs myself. Any good steward of an organization fills the conversation with the stories he presents. Such good material for others in leadership positions or striving to reach leadership roles.

Were there specific concepts such as the 5 Pillars of Security Framework™ that you found especially useful or applicable to your work?

I talked about this above, but I think something like the 5 Pillars I will be integrating into some of the reporting I do to make things easier for executives to digest. Expanding on the 5 Pillars or creating subcomponents are also extremely easy. It can be adopted to Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) too. If companies want to spread out some of the concepts "Legal" could be added as a sixth pillar. The lack of structure I think is what is so fantastic about it.

How have you applied any of the book's insights in your professional or leadership approach since reading it?

I just finished the book a couple of weeks ago, but I'm adding the Five Pillars framework as optional reporting capabilities for organizations. I think some people / organizations will find it very useful.

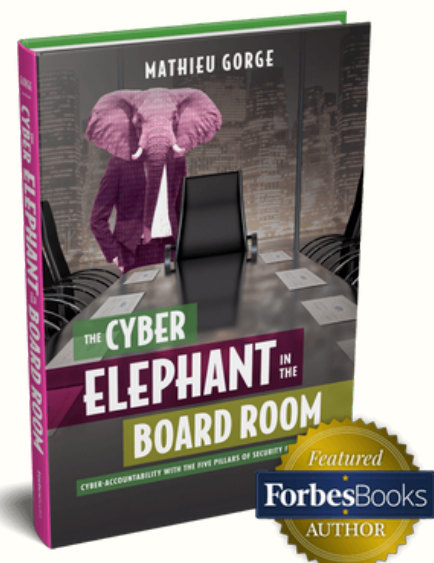


Matthew Webster is an experienced cybersecurity leader with a background in federal, healthcare, and private sectors. He began his IT career in 1997, advancing to leadership roles, including Global CISO, while developing robust security programs. With a Master's degree and over 20 certifications, he merges technical expertise with strategic insight. Active in the industry and experienced in cybersecurity sales, he evaluates solutions based on real-world needs. Currently, he leads Cyvergence, a cybersecurity advisory firm dedicated to enhancing governance and aligning security strategies for organizations.

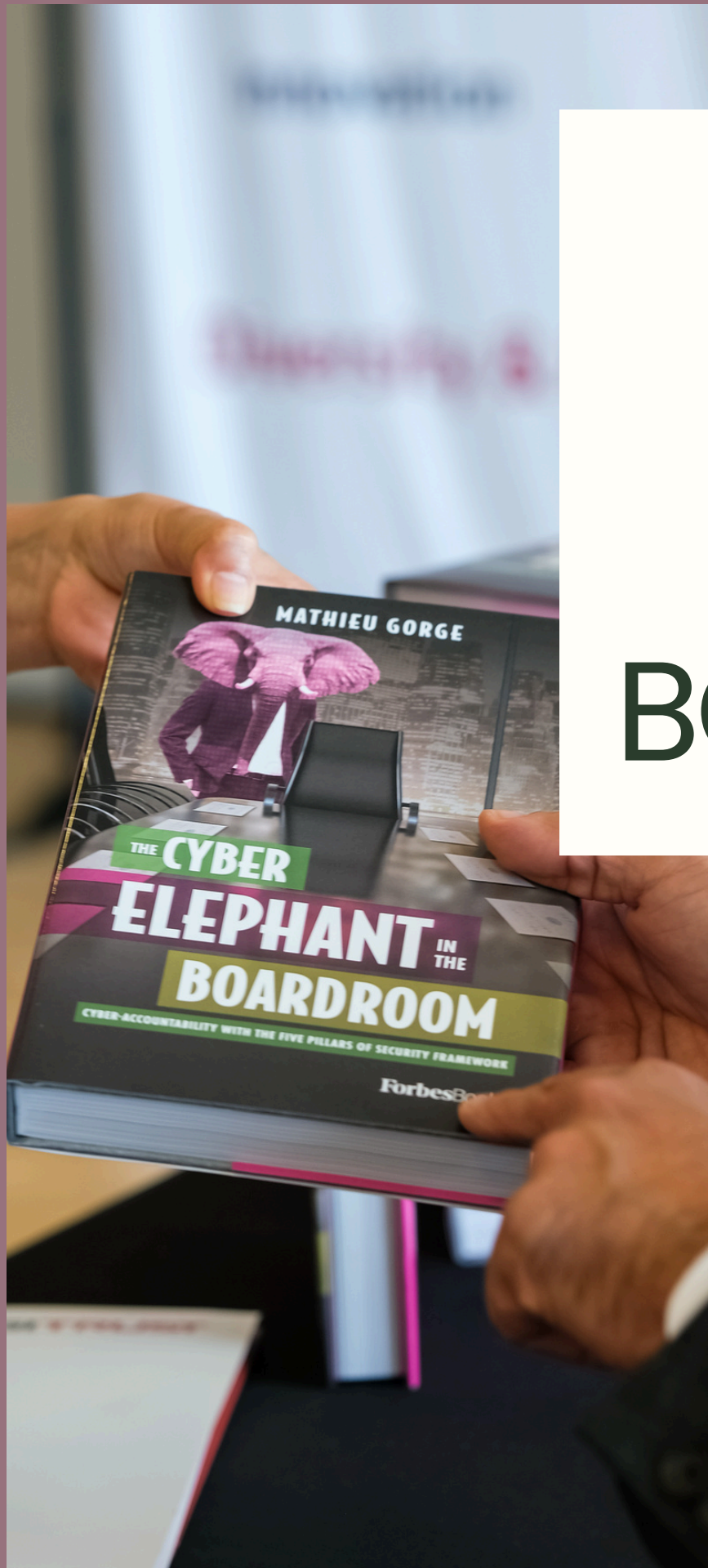
Would you recommend this book to peers or industry leaders, and if so, what would you say is its most valuable contribution to the cybersecurity community?

For me, there are a whole range of different types of CISOs. Some are extremely technology focused where others barely understand technology. There are so many great points to pick out of the book for every single level, that I hate to narrow it down to one. There really is something for everyone in this book.

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THE CYBER ELEPHANT IN THE BOARDROOM



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Mathieu Gorge is the CEO and Founder of VigiTrust, a leader in Integrated Risk Management (IRM) SaaS solutions, serving clients in over 120 countries across various sectors. He advises CEOs and boards on cyber accountability, promoting practical cyber hygiene and compliance strategies. Creator of the 5 Pillars of Security Framework™, he adapts his approach to evolving regulatory and cybersecurity challenges. As a ForbesBooks author, innovator, and keynote speaker, Mathieu influences global cybersecurity discussions.

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