

Meet Anthony English!

VP & Chief Information Security Officer,
Mariner Innovations



Originally from New Brunswick, Anthony English holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Brunswick. Anthony is a veteran in the security field with a passion for learning new information. Anthony is a Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer at Mariner Security Solutions, and has been in the security space for a number of years – but he does love learning new things every day!

Like many of my peers, I started my career by using old-school computers. In high school, we didn't have a lot of technology available to us - we had computers labs - but the PCs were quite rudimentary. My computer science class in grade 12 was a really big eye-opener for me – I got to actually apply programming with code and that was amazing!

I still remember that one of the best moments I had in high school was when we wrote our own code – it was actually this moment that led me to computer science courses in university later. My second favourite subject was probably chemistry

because I was able to learn the principal of good science and research, and how to apply it in real life.

Almost everyone had a teacher who helped them with career building. I had two teachers in high school who were encouraging me to stay interested in science and technology. One teacher who taught us French loved technology as well - he brought in what was considered cutting edge computer technology in the 1980's, the Timex Sinclair, which was a tiny, high-end calculator and let us use it.

Now, I'm Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer at Mariner Security Solutions, which is based in Saint John, New Brunswick. Working from the Moncton office, I travel frequently to customer sites. My role is to help customers solve security issues, so I get to work with people, processes, and technology all day, every day. Before joining Mariner, I traveled all around the world while I worked in information security and it was really interesting, but it gets exhausting after a few years, so I am really happy to be back to the Maritimes.

At Mariner Innovations, we are dedicated to doing security work for customers including corporations, startups, and government clients. One day we might be helping a large police force with security in their IT, and the next day we might be helping a provincial government assess security on their products and solutions. We have even worked with banks to help them build entire information security management systems.

If you are going into the security field, be prepared to always be learning and be prepared for the unexpected. In security, we see and do things that other people wouldn't necessarily want to know. For example, we've done work on how to break into systems; we do this so we can document how to break into systems that customers have, so we can secure it correctly – but, of course, we don't share this information with anyone else. We treat this information as extremely confidential, so you must have a strong moral and ethical code built into everything you do in this field. That has to be part of who you are.

"The Nova Scotia tech sector has been rapidly growing."

The Nova Scotia tech sector has been rapidly growing. Nova Scotia is encouraging businesses in the tech field to grow and contribute to the research side of things too. It is really important to grow technology, have the research to support it, have people and clients, and have government encouraging it to be done. For example, Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology is very intense right now – it's expanding quickly and is being applied in new ways every day. There are products now

that try to predict the behaviour of hackers. AI is only going to improve and with that comes both benefits and risks if it's not managed properly – so we need smart people in our field to ensure that new technologies like this are built correctly.

For students, I'd say stick with sciences, and be as good in math as you can be because it is very useful in technology. Don't ever discount arts because that is what I have as my foundation, and it has served me very well in my career - it has kept my mind flexible, and my approach to my career flexible. In addition to good universities, I would recommend doing some research because there are tons of online resources right now. There are free resources for both technology and security - just make sure you get the information from a well-known, trusted source.

About Mariner Innovations

Mariner Innovations is located in major cities all across Canada, and has clients throughout Canada, the US and internationally. The company solves problems for businesses and their IT departments – from strategic consulting to implementation and ongoing management and maintenance. Mariner Innovations' professional services are focused on four key areas: IT Professional Services, Technology Advisory, Application Solutions, and Data Analytics.

Mariner's team is made up of experienced IT professionals, many of whom previously held CTO or CIO roles in large businesses. The company has an average of 23 years of industry experience for every person.