

9TH
EDITION



Party in the Park

Thursday 24 September 2026
The Orangery | Holland Park | London

Shape the CISO 360 AI Benchmark: Operating at Machine Speed

More than networking. Where CISOs are doing real work together.
Share. Compare. Be inspired by peers.

The topics have come directly from what CISOs told us is on their desks right now:

- Governing and securing AI
- Agentic AI and agentic identities
- AI as adversary
- AI in the SOC
- Vulnerability management at AI speed
- Third-party AI risk
- Board-level AI story
- CISO in the AI era



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Thursday 24 September 2026, 5pm-11pm**Many thanks to our enabling Sponsors**

Welcome to The CISO 360 AI Benchmark @ 9th Party in the Park 2026

The community's event of the year returns – the summer garden party much loved by CISOs, this year with something new for 2026! For the ninth edition, the evening opens with welcome drinks followed by a closed, practical benchmarking session, CISO to CISO: The CISO 360 AI Benchmark – Operating at Machine Speed.

Every CISO privately wonders the same thing: am I ahead or behind my peers on AI?

There is no trustworthy yardstick. Surveys won't tell you. Analyst maturity models won't either. The only place that question gets answered straight is a closed room of peers with no audience and no attribution. That is what this year's Party in the Park is shaped around.

Bringing together 80+ of the UK's most senior CISOs and security practitioners for two rounds of small working roundtables, held under The Chatham House Rule. The topic focuses come directly from what CISOs told us is on their minds right now:

AI governance and agentic AI are consuming attention, PQC has gone mainstream, and the perennials (vulnerability management, third party, identity) are being reframed through an AI lens rather than displaced.

We asked attending CISOs for topical challenges that would interest them in their day-to-day. Nobody arrives having figured AI out. That is the point. You choose your tables in advance, you compare honestly with people carrying the same problems, and you leave with a candid, shared read on where you actually stand – captured afterwards in a short playbook shaped by those in the room.

First the benchmark. Then the garden. From 20:30 the party continues into the evening with drinks, bowl food and live music at The Orangery – a hidden stone-and-glass palace in Holland Park, its rose gardens and resident peacocks the perfect stage for an unforgettable late-summer evening of conversation, connection and camaraderie.

The benchmark is where the evening begins. Conversations that begin here tend to go somewhere.

We look forward to welcoming you.

CISO 360 Team

Pulse Conferences



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Agenda – Thursday 24 September 2026 CISO 360 AI Benchmarking Roundtables

The context: Protecting our organisations and CISO value as AI moves faster than any of us. What we knew yesterday is already outdated. Is this the most exciting time to be a CISO?!

Compare honestly with peers carrying the same problems, and leave with a candid, shared read on where you actually stand, captured afterwards in a short playbook shaped by those in the garden.

Eight roundtables · Two rounds · Your choice of two discussions

The eight tables will run in both rounds. Guests will be allocated to two different discussions based on their ranked preferences, with the order determined by the seating plan.

Table 1 — AI Governance: Shadow AI and Paved Roads

How do we enable AI without losing visibility or control?

Table 2 — AI Governance: Accountability, Policy and Controls

How do we turn AI governance principles into something that works?

Table 3 — Agentic AI and Agentic Identities

Who owns the agent — and how do we secure it?

Table 4 — AI as Adversary

How is AI changing the threat — and what should we do differently?

Table 5 — AI in Cyber Defence

Where is AI genuinely delivering value, and where is it noise?

Table 6 — Third-Party and Supply Chain AI Risk

Do we know where AI risk enters through our suppliers?

Table 7 — Telling the Board the AI Story

Are boards hearing what CISOs actually need them to understand?

Table 8 — CISO at Machine Speed

How is AI changing the CISO's role, skills and value?

Timings at a Glance:

17:00–18:00 **Doors open** – arrivals and welcome drinks

18:00–20:30 **The CISO 360 AI Benchmark: Operating at Machine Speed** — two rounds of working roundtables under The Chatham House Rule

20:30–23:00 **Party in the Park Reception** – bowl food, drinks and live music on the lawn

23:00– **Carriages**

Dress code: Business relaxed / smart casual – outside lawn and indoor stone palace



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Agenda

The CISO 360 AI Benchmark: Operating at Machine Speed

Eight tables, two rounds. Each discussion is designed to get straight into what CISOs are experiencing, what is working and what they can learn from one another.

17:00–18:00 Doors open – arrivals and welcome drinks

18:00–18:15 Welcome and framing. Where do you think you sit vs peers on AI readiness?

18:15–19:00 Roundtable Round 1 (45 mins)

19:00–19:10 Move tables, top up drinks

19:10–19:55 Roundtable Round 2 (45 mins)

19:55–20:20 Shareback: one moderator per table gives the single most honest finding from their table, 3 mins each.

20:20–20:30 Close of discussions, take-away framing

20:30–23:00 Party in the Park Reception – bowl food, drinks and live music on the lawn

23:00– Carriages

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Table 1 — AI Governance: Shadow AI and Paved Roads

What does your paved road actually look like today, and how much AI use across your organisation can you genuinely see? What have you banned, what did the ban achieve, and where has data already gone despite your controls? How do you make the approved route easier than the unofficial one?

2

Table 2 — AI Governance: Accountability, Policy and Controls

Who actually owns AI risk in your organisation – the CISO, CIO, legal, business owner or someone else? When a new tool or model version arrives, who signs it off, how is it tested, and who decides what constitutes acceptable risk? Which policies and controls are working in practice, and which exist only on paper?

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Table 3 — Agentic AI and Agentic Identities

Are agents already running in your environment, sanctioned or not? Who owns an agent's identity, permissions and actions, and how do you know what it has actually done? What's your best and worst agentic use case so far, and what did the bad one teach you? Where must a human remain in control?

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Table 4 — AI as Adversary

What has actually changed in the attacks you're seeing, versus what's hype? Have you dealt with a deepfake incident? Has anyone attacked your AI systems through prompt injection, data poisoning or model manipulation – and would you know if they had? Which emerging threats are changing your priorities today?

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Table 5 — AI in Cyber Defence

Name one thing AI genuinely does better in your SOC. Across your AI tooling, what has it replaced, what has it assisted, and what has it quietly made harder? Has your team built anything internally with AI that replaced a vendor, or could? What evidence would convince you that an agentic SOC is delivering real value?

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Table 6 — Third-Party and Supply Chain AI Risk

Do you know which of your suppliers are using AI, what data they're feeding into it and whether their models or providers have changed? What are you actually asking vendors during assurance, and what answers would make you walk away? How are you dealing with fourth-party dependencies, contractual protections and concentration risk?

7

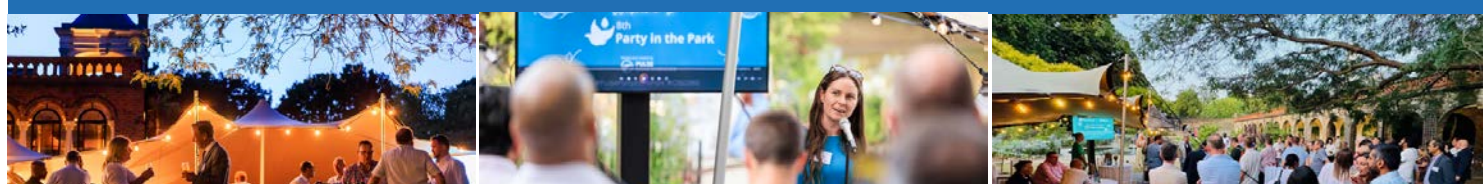
Table 7 — Telling the Board the AI Story

What does your board actually want to know about AI risk, and how different is that from what you're presenting? How are you quantifying exposure, explaining acceptable risk and making the case for investment without relying on fear or headlines? After a high-profile cyberattack, what changes in the boardroom – and how do you move the conversation from reactive scrutiny to informed decisions?

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Table 8 — CISO at Machine Speed

Is AI making you more valuable as a CISO, or simply giving you more responsibility without more authority? Which skills are becoming essential, which tasks are you delegating to AI, and what must remain human? How are you reshaping your team, demonstrating value and preparing for a role that looks very different 1–3 years?





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The Venue The Orangery – Holland Park
Ilchester Place, Kensington, London W8 6LU



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