

Michele D. Guel
Distinguished IT Engineer/Senior Security Architect
Cisco Systems

Michele's passion is to inspire, lead and mentor people. Prior to joining Cisco, Michele spent 11 years at NASA Ames Research Center in multiple roles. In her last role, she formulated, founded and headed the information security program for the Numerical Aerodynamic Simulation (NAS) Facility at Ames Research Center.

She joined Cisco in March 1996 as the founding member of Cisco's internal security team, which is now the Corporate Security Programs Office. During her 16 years at Cisco, she has had the opportunity to work on all facets of information and network security. In 2009 Michele founded the Security Knowledge Empowerment (SKE) program which is geared towards growing and developing security knowledge within Cisco IT. In the fall of 2010 Michele was promoted to the level of Distinguished IT Engineer, one of 14 in all of Cisco IT and the first and only female within Cisco IT.

Outside of Cisco, Michele has been an avid participant, speaker, teacher, influencer and evangelist in the cyber security industry for over 22 years. Her most recent work focuses on developing & codifying the practice and art of Information Security Engineering & Architecture. Her motto is all about "Building it in and not bolting it on"

Michele has B.A., in Mathematics with a minor in Cybernetic Systems, and has also completed a two-year program in Biblical Studies.