

VEERLE PEETERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - MODERATOR

EXECUTIVE BRIEFINGS - WORKSHOPS - STRATEGIC ADVISOR



BELGIUM - EUROPE - INTERNATIONAL

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VEERLE PEETERS IS A **SOCIOLOGIST, CRIMINOLOGIST, AND HUMAN CYBER-RISK EXPERT** HELPING ORGANISATIONS TURN SECURITY AWARENESS INTO MEASURABLE BEHAVIOUR CHANGE. WITH NEARLY TWO DECADES OF EXPERIENCE AT THE BIG FOUR IN **FRAUD, HUMAN RISK, AND CYBERSECURITY**, SHE BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN TECHNICAL TEAMS AND REAL-WORLD HUMAN DECISION-MAKING, MAKING SECURITY PRACTICAL, ACTIONABLE, AND CULTURALLY SUSTAINABLE.

VEERLE'S WORK FOCUSES ON **THE NEWEST BATTLEGROUND IN CYBERSECURITY: HUMAN COGNITION**. AI-DRIVEN SYSTEMS NOW PERSONALISE MANIPULATION AT SCALE, EXPLOITING STRESS, URGENCY, CURIOSITY, TRUST SIGNALS, AND COGNITIVE BIASES IN WAYS TRADITIONAL TRAINING CAN'T KEEP UP WITH. SHE SHOWS WHY ORGANISATIONS FAIL NOT BECAUSE PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT BECAUSE REAL BEHAVIOUR UNDER PRESSURE OFTEN DIVERGES FROM THEORY.

DRAWING ON CRIMINOLOGY, BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE, AND FIELD EXPERIENCE, VEERLE HELPS ORGANISATIONS **REDUCE HUMAN-DRIVEN INCIDENTS THROUGH PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY, STORYTELLING, AND MICRO-DECISION FRAMEWORKS**. SHE ACTS AS A STRATEGIC ADVISOR FOR ORGANISATIONS AIMING TO BUILD SECURITY CULTURES THAT REMAIN RESILIENT UNDER STRESS, IMPROVING INCIDENT REPORTING, REDUCING RISKY BEHAVIOUR, AND CREATING ENVIRONMENTS WHERE EMPLOYEES FEEL SAFE TO SPEAK UP AND TAKE OWNERSHIP.

ABOUT VEERLE

CYBHERSTRONG



KEYNOTES

MOST POPULAR KEYNOTES



2026 CYBERNOVA

THE HUMAN ATTACK SURFACE

MOST ORGANISATIONS MEASURE SECURITY AWARENESS. ALMOST NONE MAP HUMAN EXPOSURE. THIS KEYNOTE INTRODUCES A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW AI HAS MADE PSYCHOLOGICAL MANIPULATION FASTER AND MORE PERSONALISED, AND OFFERS CONCRETE PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING ORGANISATIONS WHERE HUMAN RESILIENCE IS DESIGNED INTO THE SYSTEM RATHER THAN LEFT TO INDIVIDUAL WILLPOWER.



2026 CYBERSEC EUROPE

REAL ATTACKS, RECONSTRUCTED LIVE ON STAGE ALONGSIDE ETHICAL HACKERS AND A TECH JOURNALIST. THIS PANEL DISSECTS WHY SOCIAL ENGINEERING KEEPS WORKING, WHAT THE TAKEOVER OF AN ENTIRE CITY'S COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE REVEALS ABOUT ORGANISATIONAL TRUST, AND WHAT BOARDS AND SECURITY TEAMS NEED TO DO DIFFERENTLY.



2026 AI AI AI

AI IS NOT ATTACKING YOUR SYSTEMS. IT IS ATTACKING YOUR REFLEXES. THIS KEYNOTE EXPLORES HOW DEEPFAKES, FRAUDGPT, AND SHADOW AI EXPLOIT THE COGNITIVE PATTERNS THAT MAKE US HUMAN, AND WHY SECURITY IN THE AI ERA STARTS NOT WITH CONTROL BUT WITH UNDERSTANDING HOW PEOPLE ACTUALLY MAKE DECISIONS UNDER PRESSURE.

MEDIA

ALSO SEEN IN



2026 HACKED STREAMZ

A DOCUMENTARY SERIES IN WHICH A TEAM OF ETHICAL HACKERS, A CYBER EXPERT, AND A TECH JOURNALIST ATTEMPT TO BREACH THE NETWORKS OF REAL BELGIAN ORGANISATIONS, EXPOSING DIGITAL VULNERABILITIES BEFORE CRIMINALS DO. EACH EPISODE CENTRES ON A DIFFERENT SECTOR, FROM FOOD PRODUCTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO SMART HOMES AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, AND SHOWS THAT CYBERSECURITY IS NOT JUST A TECHNICAL CHALLENGE BUT A COMBINATION OF SYSTEMS, PROCESSES, AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR.

2026 DE TAFEL VAN GERT

A PRIMETIME TELEVISION CONVERSATION ON THE GROWING WAVE OF PHISHING, ONLINE FRAUD, AND DIGITAL SCAMMING HITTING BELGIAN CITIZENS. THE EPISODE BROUGHT TOGETHER VICTIMS, SECTOR EXPERTS, AND POLICYMAKERS TO EXAMINE WHAT TELECOM PROVIDERS, THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND GOVERNMENT CAN DO BETTER, AND WHAT INDIVIDUALS CAN DO TODAY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.



NOMINATIONS



2026
"CYBERSECURITY WOMAN OF THE YEAR"
SHORTLISTED

UNITED CYBERSECURITY ALLIANCE

2022
"ICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR"
FINALIST - TOP 3

TRENDS DATANEWS

2022
"INSPIRING FIFTY"
NOMINEE

INSPIRING 50 BELGIUM - EQL:HER

PUBLICATIONS

READING LIST

België krijgt 4.000 vacatures in cyberbeveiliging niet ingevuld en AI is niet de mirakeloplossing



DATANEWS - 13/05/2026

BELGIUM CANNOT FILL 4,000 CYBERSECURITY VACANCIES, AND AI IS NOT THE SOLUTION

AN ARTICLE BASED ON AN AGORIA STUDY INTO BELGIUM'S STRUCTURAL CYBERSECURITY TALENT SHORTAGE, FEATURING VEERLE PEETERS ON WHY REPLACING JUNIOR ROLES WITH AI CREATES A DANGEROUS LONG-TERM SKILLS GAP, AND WHY CYBERSECURITY AND DIGITAL ETHICS NEED TO ENTER EDUCATION FAR EARLIER THAN THEY DO TODAY.

TrendsBeleggenBeleggers Chal

‘Na een datalek moet de echte aanval nog komen’

Veerle Peeters

16-04-2026, 08:25 • 3 min leestijd

Biggewerkt op: 16-04-2026, 08:27

Deze week werden miljoenen Belgen en Nederlanders getroffen door datalekken bij BasicFit, Booking.com en ChipSoft. De meesten lazen de melding, voelden even onrust en gingen verder met hun dag. Dat is begrijpelijk. Het is ook precies wat criminelen verwachten. Veerle Peeters is criminoloog, oprichter van CybHERstrong en expert in menselijk gedrag binnen cyberveiligheid. Ze legt uit welke drie psychologische vallen nu op de loer liggen en wat je er concreet aan kunt doen.

DATANEWS - 16/04/2026

AFTER A DATA BREACH, THE REAL ATTACK IS YET TO COME.

AN OPINION PIECE ARGUING THAT ORGANISATIONS FOCUS ON THE WRONG MOMENT WHEN RESPONDING TO A DATA BREACH. THE BREACH ITSELF IS NOT THE ENDPOINT BUT THE STARTING POINT, PROVIDING ATTACKERS WITH THE PERSONAL DATA THEY NEED TO LAUNCH TARGETED SOCIAL ENGINEERING ATTACKS AGAINST THE VERY PEOPLE WHOSE INFORMATION WAS EXPOSED.

knackNieuwsOpinieFacti

‘Phishingslachtoffers zijn niet naïef. Ze zijn uitgebuit’

Veerle Peeters

08-04-2026, 20:07 • 3 min leestijd

Biggewerkt op: 08-04-2026, 20:10

De CEO van de grootste bank van België noemde phishing een ‘door sommigen opgeklopt verhaal’. Intussen verloren tientallen Belgen de voorbije maanden tienduizenden euro’s aan professionele oplichters en botsten ze bij hun bank op het verwijt van eigen

KNACK - 08/04/2026

PHISHING VICTIMS ARE NOT NAIVE. THEY ARE EXPLOITED.

AN OPINION PIECE CHALLENGING THE LANGUAGE USED BY BANKS AND INSTITUTIONS WHEN RESPONDING TO PHISHING VICTIMS. THE PIECE ARGUES THAT CALLING VICTIMS NAIVE IS BOTH PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND LEGALLY WRONG, AND THAT PHISHING WORKS NOT BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE STUPID BUT BECAUSE CRIMINALS HAVE INVESTED IN UNDERSTANDING EXACTLY HOW THE HUMAN BRAIN RESPONDS TO URGENCY, AUTHORITY, AND FEAR. WITH OVER HALF OF PHISHING VICTIMS REPORTING SHAME COMPARED TO A QUARTER FOR TRADITIONAL CRIME, THE LANGUAGE WE USE ACTIVELY DISCOURAGES REPORTING AT THE MOMENT IT MATTERS MOST.

HUMO

Abonneren vanaf €1,00 per week

Jaren na ‘Schalkse ruiters’ en ‘Basta’ deed ‘Hacked’ op Streamz ons nog eens op het puntje van onze stoel belanden

HUMO’s tv-recensent Frederik De Backer keek naar ‘Hacked’ op Streamz. ‘Liefst 60 procent van onze bedrijven heeft niet het minste plan klaarliggen voor de dag waarop ze door hackers worden belaagd.’

HUMO - 26/03/2026

REVIEW HACKED - *1/2**

HUMO CRITIC FREDERIK DE BACKER AWARDED 3.5 STARS TO HACKED, CALLING IT THE MOST GRIPPING BELGIAN TELEVISION IN YEARS AND COMPARING IT TO ICONIC UNDERCOVER FORMATS LIKE SCHALKSE RUITERS AND BASTA. THE REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS THAT 60 PERCENT OF BELGIAN COMPANIES HAVE NO PLAN IN PLACE FOR THE DAY THEY ARE ATTACKED, AND PRAISES THE SERIES FOR MAKING CYBERSECURITY GENUINELY SUSPENSEFUL FOR A MAINSTREAM AUDIENCE.

Het was één grote speeltuin’: hoe ethisch hackers in ‘Hacked’ zonder veel moeite bedrijven en besturen binnendringen

DE MORGEN - 13/04/2026

IT WAS ONE BIG PLAYGROUND

AN IN-DEPTH FEATURE ON THE MAKING OF HACKED, IN WHICH THE TEAM REFLECTS ON SHUTTING DOWN PRODUCTION AT ORDAL, TAKING OVER ALL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS OF THE CITY OF HERENTALS, AND SEIZING CONTROL OF A SOLAR PANEL PARK. VEERLE PEETERS ARGUES THAT COMPLETE SECURITY DOES NOT EXIST, THAT AI IS ACCELERATING THREATS AT A PACE MOST ORGANISATIONS ARE NOT PREPARED FOR, AND THAT OPENNESS AND SHARING EXPERIENCES BETWEEN COMPANIES IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO RAISE COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE.

TESTIMONIALS



"VEERLE WAS AN INCREDIBLE PANELLIST (DAY 1) AND CHAIRPERSON (DAY 2); WITH HER EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE AND ENGAGING PERSONALITY, SHE SHARED VALUABLE INSIGHTS AND LED THE CONFERENCE WITH A CONFIDENT, KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND VIBRANT TOUCH. SHE WAS TRULY A FANTASTIC ASSET TO OUR SPEAKER LINE UP!"

CYBER LEADERS' SUMMIT - 2025 - QUOTE BY ABI NICHOL, CLARION EVENTS

"I RECENTLY HAD THE PLEASURE OF HOSTING VEERLE PEETERS FOR OUR WEBINAR, 'THE HUMAN FACTOR IN AI GOVERNANCE: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE,' AND SHE WAS AN ABSOLUTE STANDOUT.

SPEAKING TO A HIGH-LEVEL AUDIENCE OF AUDIT, RISK, COMPLIANCE, AND INFOSEC PROFESSIONALS IS NO SMALL FEAT, BUT VEERLE NAVIGATED THE COMPLEXITIES OF AI WITH EASE. WHAT IMPRESSED US MOST WASN'T JUST HER PREPARED CONTENT, BUT ALSO HER ABILITY TO JUMP INTO THE LIVE DISCUSSION AND PROVIDE DEEP, PRACTICAL INSIGHTS ON THE FLY.

OUR ATTENDEES DESCRIBED THE SESSION AS 'EXCELLENT,' 'INSIGHTFUL,' AND 'DELIVERED BY TRULY COMPETENT INDIVIDUALS.' IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER WHO BRINGS BOTH EXPERTISE AND ENGAGING ENERGY TO A PANEL OR PRESENTATION, I CANNOT RECOMMEND VEERLE HIGHLY ENOUGH!"

WEBINAR "THE HUMAN FACTOR IN AI GOVERNANCE" - 2026 - QUOTE BY MARISSA PROCHASKA, SR. DIGITAL EVENTS SPECIALIST AT OPTRO (PREVIOUSLY AUDITBOARD)



