

**CELEBRATING
THOSE THAT
STAY ONE
STEP AHEAD**





Fortress Cyber Security Awards

The stakes for cybersecurity have never been higher.

As we move through 2026, the digital battlefield has shifted.

We are no longer just defending against unauthorized access; we are navigating an era of hyper-automated, AI-driven threats and increasingly complex global supply chains. The "fortress" of today isn't just a wall...it is a living, breathing system of resilience, intelligence, and rapid adaptation.

At the Business Intelligence Group, we've watched the industry evolve from reactive security to proactive sovereignty. The Fortress Cybersecurity Awards were built to recognize this very evolution. We seek to honor the innovators, the engineers, and the leadership teams who don't just block attacks, but who ensure that the world's most critical infrastructure remains operational and trustworthy in the face of constant pressure.

What makes these awards unique is our crowd-sourced judging model. Your peers, experts who understand the nuances of zero-trust architecture and the weight of regulatory compliance, are the ones evaluating your work. This ensures that a Fortress Award remains a benchmark of real-world excellence.

Whether you are a startup rewriting the rules of encryption or an established enterprise securing the cloud for millions, we want to hear your story. Show us how you, your products and your people are protecting our future.

Good luck to all of this year's nominees.



Russ Fordyce
CEO & Founder
Business Intelligence Group



Nominations Due
April 17, 2026




Winners Notified
May 20, 2026



Winners Announced
June 2, 2026



Nomination Fee
\$949



20% of organizations studied reported a breach linked to security incidents involving unapproved AI tools.

— IBM/Baker Donelson

The average cost of a data breach in the United States surged to \$10.22 million in 2025—the highest for any region ever recorded.

— IBM / Varonis

90% of companies lack the cybersecurity maturity required to counter modern, AI-enabled threats.

— Accenture

NOMINATION TYPE

Fortress Cyber Security Awards will be given out for superior performances in the past 12 months.

Nominees will select a single solution and award category, application type for each nomination.

Organization

Awarded to an organization whose collective performance has driven the entire group to exceed the sum of individual efforts.

Product/Service

Awarded to a single product or service or line of products or services launched or updated in the last 12 months.

People

Awarded to executives, experts and teams who deliver revolutionary security solutions and whose perspective drives the industry.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Nomination Type

- Organization
- Product or Service
- People

Award Categories

- Analytics
- Application Security
- Artificial Intelligence
- Agentic AI Security Platform*
- Authentication & Identity
- Blockchain
- Cloud Security
- Continuous Exposure Management (CEM)
- Compliance
- Cryptography
- Cyber Resilience & Recovery Excellence
- Data Protection
- Deepfake Detection & Anti-Phishing
- Detection
- Encryption
- Endpoint
- GenAI Application Security (AppSec)*
- Identity Security Posture Management (ISPM)
- Incident Response
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Leadership
- Network Security
- Non-Human Identity (NHI) Management*
- Operational Technology (OT)
- Organizational Excellence
- Privacy Enhancing Technologies
- Quantum Security*
- Synthetic Identity Fraud Prevention
- Supply Chain
- Threat Detection
- Threat Hunting
- Training
- Zero Trust

*New for 2026

Solution Type

- Software & Applications
- Hardware
- Private & Public Cloud
- Mobile
- Individual
- Onsite Services

Organization Size

- 1–10 employees
- 11–100 employees
- 101–999 employees
- 1000-9,999 employees
- More than 10,000 employees

People

- Executive
Award: Principal Strategist
- Mid - Sr. Management
Award: Cyber Lead
- Front-Line/Practitioner*
Award: Technical Fellow
- New Tech/AI Leader
Award: Intelligence Lead
- Team (up to 7 members)*
Award: The Unit



All nominations are 100% confidential. Neither the nomination nor any of its content will be shared with anyone other than our staff and judges.

You may submit multiple nominations in multiple categories as a means of increasing your odds of winning.

If you need to amend a nomination already submitted, you can resubmit the nomination following the same process but using the coupon code "RE-WORK".

1

Download the entry kit at bintelligence.com

2

Use our handy worksheet to write your nomination

3

Click **NOMINATE NOW** to submit

FEES & RULES

Nomination Fees

The \$949 nomination fee is collected when your nomination is submitted online. We accept all major credit cards, bank transfers, and checks. If paying by check or wire transfer, enter in your nomination and use coupon code “ALT-PAYMENT” when promoted.

Contact us for banking information to complete your submission via wire or ACH transfer.

Mailing Address:
Business Intelligence Group
28 Park Ave, Beverly, NJ 08010 USA

Rules

Nominations must be for performances in the last 12 months.

Nominations must not be duplicative work of others.

You should be able to show the impact or potential impact of your organization, product or individual performance through concrete measurements or analysis.



WINNING

Should your nomination be selected as a winner, you will receive:

- One personalized trophy or secure digital certificate per winning entry
- A digital logo for royalty-free use online and in print
- A press release announcing the winners
- A press release template suitable for release by your organization
- Feedback and scoring on your entry as provided by judges
- Recognition to the community of global 100,000+ executives and leaders
- Recognition on the Business Intelligence Group's website
- Recognition on the Business Intelligence Group's social communities
- Opportunity to tell your story on the Winners' Circle Podcast

Additional trophies and secure digital certificates are available.

Note: Shipping of a trophy to the United States is included with each winning nomination. Winners outside the US will need to supply their own shipping carrier and account number or arrange for a pickup in the US.



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5 REASONS TO ENTER



- 1 Recognize, honor, and show gratitude to the team that works so hard to innovate.
- 2 Establish credibility, build your brand, and show your commitment to innovation and employee culture.
- 3 Build moral, galvanize your team, and show future employees that their hard work and dedication to innovation is part of something BIG.
- 4 Experts in your field review submissions; folks that are in the trenches each day and that understand the difficulty it takes to create something truly unique.
- 5 As a winner we will work with you to promote your success. As part of your entry, you will receive the winner's logo, press release templates, social media exposure, and a great BIG trophy to put in your lobby, take pictures with, and have a physical award for the team to see each day!

WINNERS MAKE GOOD COMPANY



SEE ALL THE WINNERS

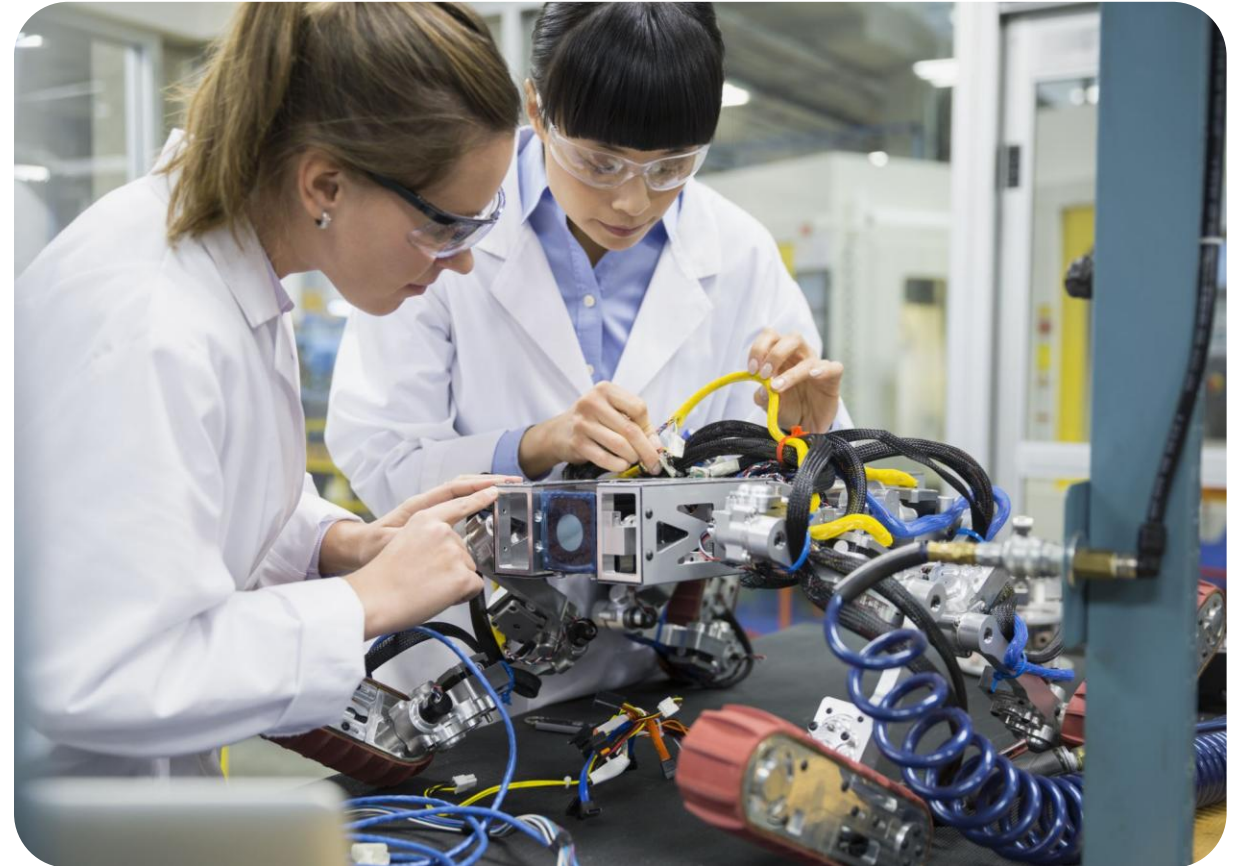


TIPS & TRICKS

A successful nomination should tell a great story. Effectively communicating your message within the entry includes:

- Strong written descriptions
- Clear, concise, and easily understood explanations and descriptions of your product or service.
- Correct spelling and grammar is important. (Former winner, Grammarly, is a great resource!)
- Write it so your mother can understand it. Articulate your message in a way where, more people than your organization's internal experts understand what you are attempting to convey.

Telling a Good Story Creates
a GREAT Nomination



Use additional resources to help enhance your chances of winning.

- Make sure your website is easy to navigate and to learn more about what you do. Is there a clear message about the nomination? Does it showcase its purpose, benefits, and value clearly? Be sure that the URL you want our judges to see is visually appealing and has a clear theme.
- Most successful nominations have videos on their website that clearly showcase and explain their product or service as well.

OUR JUDGING PHILOSOPHY

Judging Process

Every nomination is scored by our volunteer panel of business experts and industry leaders using our unique model that affords judges the opportunity to share public and private feedback. Not Artificial Intelligence, these are real humans delivering real results. Private feedback can be used to improve your future results. Public feedback can be used to maximize the third-party acknowledgement of your performance.

Judging is based upon your business execution and performance for each award.



Additional Exposure

While an executive is not able to judge his or her own award category or those of his or her peers, we strongly encourage business experts to become judges. Judges are asked to score nominations and to share meaningful feedback with nominated candidates.

Business leaders with experience, insight, and knowledge are sought to be part of the volunteer panel of independent experts. Judging nominations is easy and usually only requires an hour or two of time.

[BECOME A JUDGE](#)



MAKE IT OFFICIAL. MAKE IT IMMUTABLE.

WHY BLOCKCHAIN CERTIFICATES?

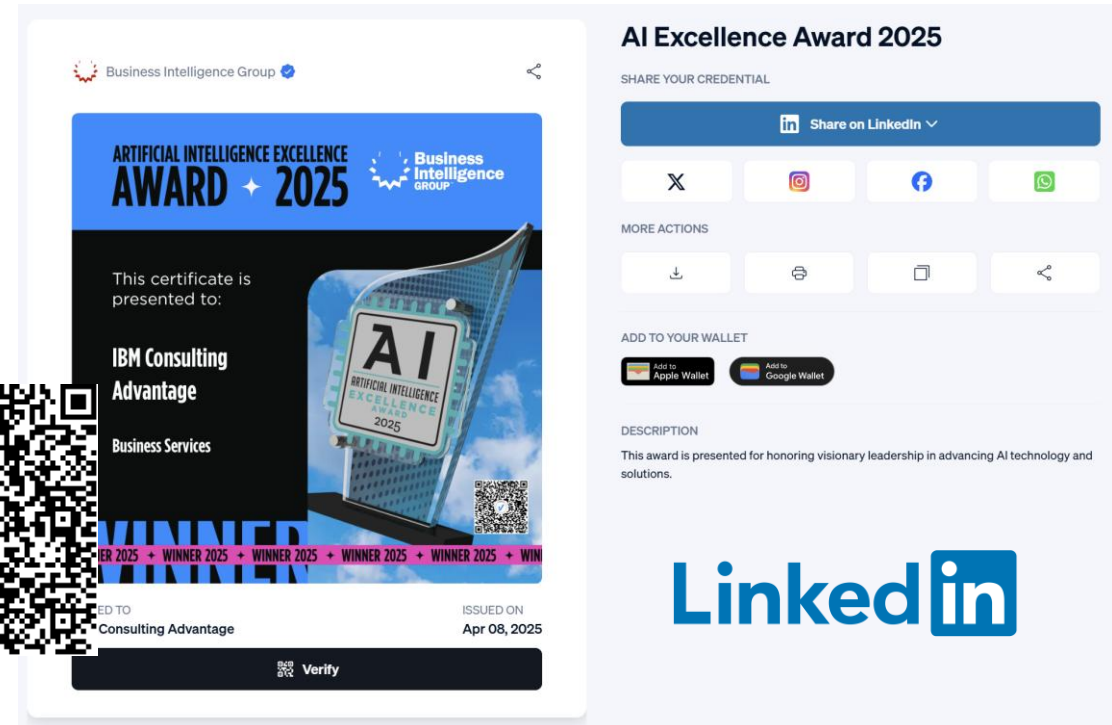
- ✓ Tamper-Proof – Authenticated and verifiable by anyone, anytime
- ✓ Shareable – Easily added to LinkedIn, resumes, email signatures
- ✓ Permanent Record – No re-issuing, no lost PDFs
- ✓ Branded – Your course, your logo, fully white-labeled
- ✓ Secure – Built on Verix's trusted blockchain platform

📧 No frames to dust.

😓 No PDFs to lose.

🙄 No gimmicks.

Just real, verifiable achievement.



SEE HOW IT WORKS



AMPLIFY YOUR WIN

Winning isn't the finish line. It's the beginning of your story.

Every winner is invited to join us on the **Winners' Circle**, where we spotlight the innovators, leaders, and changemakers shaping the future of business. With your complete approval, you'll reach thousands of industry peers, analysts, and executives.

Podcast Interview

A relaxed, story-driven discussion featuring you or your team, shared across all major listening platforms.

Social Media Clips

Professionally edited highlight reels optimized for social feeds, designed for engagement and shareability.

Feature Blog Article

Based on your podcast transcript. SEO/GEO-enhanced and published on bintelligence.com for ongoing exposure.

Your story could be the one that inspires the next wave of change.



TUNE IN AND SUBSCRIBE



SHARE YOUR VOICE



Our advisory boards include industry experts who shape categories, ensure judging integrity, provide feedback on trends, guide program evolution, and elevate the credibility of each of our award programs.

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

BIG Innovation Awards	Wed., June 11, 2025
Best Places to Work	Wed., April 09, 2025
Artificial Intelligence Excellence Awards	Wed., October 29, 2025
Excellence in Customer Service Awards	Wed., November 5, 2025
Fortress Cyber Security Awards	Wed., November 12, 2025
The Sammy - Sales and Marketing Awards	Wed., December 10, 2025
Sustainability Awards	Wed., January 14, 2026
Stratus Award for Cloud Computing	Wed., March 04, 2026
Herizon Awards	Wed., April 08, 2026
BIG Awards for Business	Wed., May 06, 2026



JOIN A 2026 ADVISORY BOARD





WINNING BIG!

Drive clicks, sales and eyeballs with insider tips and tricks on how to win and leverage business awards!



STAND OUT IN A WORLD GONE DIGITAL



How we evaluate companies, products, and people has continued to evolve as the world around us changes – just as companies have had to revamp the ways they earn their customers' trust. Learn how business and industry awards can help put your company ahead of the curve.

[DOWNLOAD OUR EBOOK](#)



2026 AWARD CALENDAR

JAN		FEB		MAR	 
APR		MAY		JUNE	 
JULY		AUG		SEPT	
OCT		NOV		DEC	



GET ALL THE DEADLINES

START YOUR NOMINATION

Nominate Now

