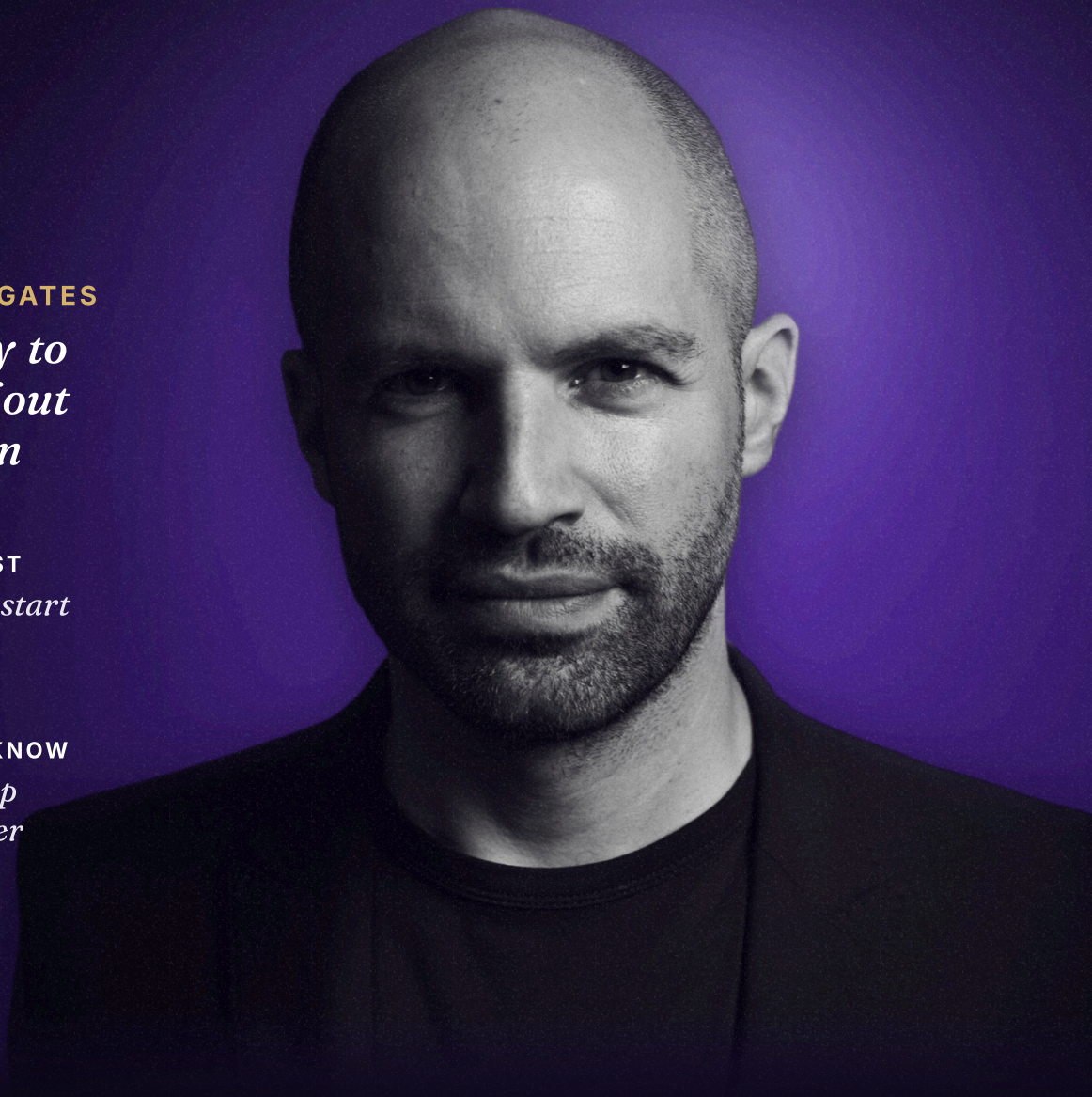
LEADERS

GLOBAL LEADERS TO FOLLOW · BY XRAISED

NO. 10 · 2026 EDITION



GUARDRAILS, NOT GATES

A practical way to govern AI without slowing it down

BEYOND THE CHECKLIST

Why security should start with the business

THE DEPARTMENT OF KNOW

How security can help companies move faster

COVER STORY · P. 4

Security Without the Drama

Fred Descloux

Zero Drama Security

FOUNDER

THE CURATED INTERVIEW MAGAZINE FOR INDUSTRY LEADERS

XRAISED.COM

EDITOR'S LETTER

A word *before we begin*

Few subjects leave business leaders feeling more out of their depth than cybersecurity, and AI has added a new layer of uncertainty. Fred Descloux built Zero Drama Security on the conviction that it does not have to be that way.

His approach is direct. Start with what the business needs to protect. Speak the language of decisions rather than jargon. Treat frameworks as tools, not goals, and measure success by how confident leaders feel about the risks that matter most.

We wanted to share his thinking now because so many organisations are deciding how to govern AI. His answer, guardrails rather than gates, offers a way to keep moving quickly without losing sight of what could go wrong.

— The Xraised editors

Contents

2 EDITOR'S LETTER
Why security needs less drama and more clarity

3 COMPANY PROFILE
About Zero Drama Security

4 COVER STORY
Security Without the Drama

6 THE FEATURE
Fred Descloux: security without the drama

8 YOUR STORY
Get featured in Xraised Magazine



ON THE COVER

Fred Descloux

Founder, Zero Drama Security

About *Zero Drama Security*

Zero Drama Security

WHAT THEY DO

Zero Drama Security helps businesses with cybersecurity, privacy, compliance and AI governance, taking a risk-based approach built on reducing noise, focusing on what matters and communicating clearly with leadership.

Fred Descloux
FOUNDER

Cybersecurity, privacy, compliance
FOCUS

Risk-based, not checklist-driven
APPROACH

Guardrails, not gates
AI GOVERNANCE



FRED DESCLOUX · FOUNDER, ZERO DRAMA SECURITY

COVER STORY

Security Without the Drama

FRED DESCLOUX · FOUNDER, ZERO DRAMA SECURITY

Fred Descloux founded Zero Drama Security on a simple idea: cut the noise, focus on real risk, and make security something that helps a business move rather than holds it back.

> The biggest misconception is that AI governance is about controlling AI.
>
> — FRED DESCLOUX

Security Without the Drama

FRED DESCLOUX · FOUNDER, ZERO DRAMA SECURITY

Fred Descloux founded Zero Drama Security on a simple idea: cut the noise, focus on real risk, and make security something that helps a business move rather than holds it back.

Many organisations know the feeling. A security review arrives, and with it hundreds of recommendations, a lengthy report and an endless compliance checklist, with no clear sense of what actually matters. Fred Descloux named his company after the antidote. "Security has become unnecessarily complicated," says the founder of Zero Drama Security.

The name is memorable, but it is also a philosophy, and Descloux can state it in a sentence: reduce noise, focus on risk, communicate clearly, and make security something that enables the business rather than slows it down.

His starting point is the business, not the framework. Before reaching for a checklist, he asks what the organisation is trying to protect, what could go wrong, what the impact would be and which risks genuinely deserve attention. Then come conscious decisions about which risks to address, mitigate, transfer or accept. Frameworks such as NIST and ISO are tools in that work, he argues, not objectives in themselves, a distinction that matters most for smaller and fast-growing companies. He would rather "avoid creating unnecessary work simply because a framework says so."

Much of the job is translation. Whether the subject is cybersecurity, privacy, AI governance or compliance, "the objective is the same: help leadership make better decisions." That means turning technical findings into what he calls decision language for executives: the exposure, the business impact, the options, the cost and the risk that remains once a choice is made. "I try to translate technical complexity into business language," he says.

The same pragmatism shapes his view of compliance. A requirement such as SOC 2 is, in his view, a business problem to be solved, perhaps the thing standing between a company and a deal, rather than the starting point for a security programme. And security, he insists, should not be the department that says no. His aim is to turn it from the department of no into the department of know.

In practice, that means making the secure path the easiest one: approving common patterns, automating authentication, and saving manual security reviews for genuinely high-risk exceptions. It means bringing security in at the start of product development, rather than at the last minute before launch, when late requirements become costly hurdles. Done that way, organisations "can often move faster because they spend less time fixing preventable problems later."

> *Beyond compliance, I want clients to leave with confidence.*
>
> — FRED DESCLOUX

Nowhere is that balance more pressing than with AI, which has left many leaders excited and unsure at the same time. Descloux sees one error above all. “The biggest misconception is that AI governance is about controlling AI.” It is really about understanding where AI is being used, what data it touches, who owns the risks, and how an organisation can innovate confidently instead of reacting after something goes wrong. His shorthand is guardrails, not gates. Six-month reviews, he warns, simply encourage employees to bypass the process. Governance should also fit the use: rewording an email needs far less oversight than using AI to make material decisions about people or customers.

Ask what he hopes clients walk away with, and compliance is only the beginning. “Beyond compliance, I want clients to leave with confidence.” He means a clear grasp of their risks and priorities, a realistic roadmap, and the ability to make decisions without feeling constantly overwhelmed. Leaders, in his view, should know their biggest risks, what is being addressed, what can wait and what they are consciously choosing to accept. It is, fittingly, a definition of success with no drama in it.

AT A GLANCE

- Founder of Zero Drama Security
- Treats frameworks such as NIST and ISO as tools, not objectives
- Advocates guardrails, not gates, for governing AI
- Measures success by leaders’ confidence in their biggest risks

LEADERS

YOUR STORY, NEXT

Get featured in *Xraised Magazine*

One issue, one story: a founder or a company, written and designed by the team behind 1,000+ interviews, and made to be read and shared.

Apply at xraised.com/magazine/apply →