



Justin Farmer was just a typical military brat , moving from place to place around the globe whenever the military decided it was time. Just like that, he would have to start a whole new life in a remote part of the world, like Japan, happily making friends with new people from different cultures.

During this time he developed an interest in technology and began to put in the hard work learning everything about everything that involves the manipulation of 1's and 0's. Justin graduated from Angelo State University in 2004 with a degree in Management Information Systems and then followed up with a Master's of Science degree from Western Governors University in 2011.

In addition to his formal education, Justin holds the following certifications

- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)
- Certified Penetration Tester (CPT)
- Certified Hacking Forensic Investigators (CHFI)
- GIAC ISO 27001 Auditor
- Certified Disaster Recovery Professional (CDRP)
- Certified Wireless Security Professional (CWSP)
- CCNA (Networking/Security/Voice)
- Security +
- Network +

While attending Angelo State, Justin started his own information technology firm and worked with another smaller managed service provider in Chicago before joining corporate America at Staples.

During his tenure at Staples, Justin refined his skills and began to laser focus on ecommerce and network security. He performed penetration tests for large commercial clients and provide large, extremely technical reports that resembled telephone books. He became disenchanted over the years as his reports were used primarily as doorstops and clients were not utilizing the information about serious gaps in their network security.

Thus the idea of Kernel, Inc. was born. Justin and a long time friend, Travis Fischer came together and created a company to perform network security services for governments, military, industrial, and oil & gas companies in some of the most dangerous places on planet earth. As a contractor, Kernel was required to be on site when needed to ensure the integrity of networks that hosted vital security information that everyone wanted to keep out of the hands of hackers.



Kernel Inc. quickly earned its stripes, as they were able to keep tabs on the hacking community and pushing information updates to their customers before the bad guys could exploit them and gain access to critical information. It was a satisfying outlet for Justin's specific skill set until the night outside of Mosul, Iraq. He had just finished up with a phone call to family back home when a gunfight broke out just outside of where he was staying. With blood pounding in his heart not knowing how the fight would end, it occurred to him that he did not want to die in this place for this job. It is one of those moments where one contemplates the value of just having a job versus life itself.

Sometimes, it takes extremely intelligent people the longest to solve a seemingly simple problem. At that time the thought came to mind "why don't I just do this for people back home?" Being a visionary and someone with the highest level of credentials and experience he immediately started working on a novel new concept now that would later be known as 'Neo'.

The two co-founders got to work and created a prototype Neo that automated much of the security consulting they were currently doing in person. They won the Ark Challenge in Arkansas and received a \$50,000 investment along with a matching friends and family investment of \$50,000 and were off to the races to begin scaling Neo to the general public.

After a presentation at the Natural State Angel Association, David Friede, a regular attendee requested a meeting to discuss Neo's marketing strategy. David agreed to work for Neo and see where the Neo rocket would take him.

Neo is the first plug-and-play security auditing device that helps protect businesses on a budget. What's more, having a Neo helps augment existing IT personnel with the skills to incorporate cyber-security into everyday tasks for protecting a business.



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