Robert K. Knake

Rob Knake is the Whitney Shepardson Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. His work focuses on Internet Governance, public-private partnerships, and cyber conflict.

Knake served from 2011 to 2015 as Director for Cybersecurity Policy at the National Security Council. In this role, he was responsible for the development of presidential policy on cybersecurity, and built and managed federal processes for cyber incident response and vulnerability management. Federal Computer Week dubbed him the “White House’s Cyber Wizard” for his work on Executive Order 13636 on Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, which directed the creation of the National Institute of Standards & Technology Cybersecurity Framework. He worked to establish presidential policy that created the Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center and Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations.

Before joining government, Knake was an International Affairs Fellow-in-Residence at the Council on Foreign Relations where he completed the manuscript for Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It and authored the Council Special Report “Internet Governance in an Age of Cyberinsecurity”. He has testified before Congress on the problem of attribution in cyberspace and written and lectured extensively on cybersecurity policy.

Knake is an adjunct lecturer at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy. He holds a master’s in public policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and undergraduate degrees in history and government from Connecticut College and is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.