



Michael Coates is a prominent cybersecurity executive, entrepreneur, and early-stage investor with more than two decades of experience securing global technology platforms and building category-defining security companies. He is the Founder and Managing Partner of Seven Hill Ventures, an early-stage venture firm investing in the next generation of cybersecurity and critical technology infrastructure companies across the United States and Israel.

Michael previously served as Chief Information Security Officer at Twitter and Head of Security for Mozilla, where he built and led security organizations responsible for protecting hundreds of millions of users worldwide. As Twitter's first CISO, he established the company's security function from the ground up, defending nearly 300 million users against threats including organized cybercrime, insider risk, and sophisticated nation-state adversaries. At Mozilla, his organization safeguarded nearly half a billion Firefox users, secured a mobile operating system, and supported a globally distributed workforce and open-source engineering community.

As an entrepreneur, Michael co-founded and served as CEO of Altitude Networks, a pioneering cloud data security company that transformed secure SaaS collaboration by preventing document theft and data compromise. The platform was adopted by enterprises, political organizations, healthcare providers, and technology companies, and was acquired by CoinList in 2022. Following the acquisition, Michael served as Chief Information Security Officer and Chief Operating Officer at CoinList, helping scale security, engineering, and operations in a highly regulated global environment.

Earlier in his career, Michael led Product Security at Shape Security, contributing to the development of industry-leading fraud and abuse prevention technologies. Shape Security was later acquired in a \$1 billion transaction.

Michael has also served as Chairman of the OWASP Foundation, the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing application security, with chapters in more than 100 countries.

Today, he is an active investor and advisor to emerging cybersecurity startups, bringing a rare operator-founder perspective to company building, product strategy, and go-to-market execution.

Michael holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a Master's degree in Computer Information and Network Security from DePaul University.

He resides in San Francisco with his wife, two children, and their friendly, fluffy dog.