

# Women of CyberArk

*Abi Catt*

*Security Services Team Lead*



**Abi Catt** began her journey in cybersecurity by applying for an IT apprenticeship in 2011. Through this experience, Abi gained globally-recognized IT certifications, hands-on experience helping customers – and she realized that a career in cybersecurity was what she wanted.

While Abi had many strong women inspiring and encouraging her every day, one person on her journey made a lasting impact. **Maria Oliva**, Senior Director for Security Services in EMEA, recruited Abi to CyberArk, an opportunity for which Abi is still incredibly grateful. “Maria saw something in me and thought I had what it takes, and I’m so glad she did” Abi commented.

Maria did, in fact, see something special.

“In our first interview, we touched on some topics that Abi wasn’t very familiar with. Then, in our next interview, Abi told me she’d researched those topics and explained what she learned. She blew my mind! That passion and dedication, and how well she understood those technical topics – in just a short amount of time – was a great indicator that she had what was needed to be successful in the role.”

Having demonstrated her abilities over the years, Abi was promoted to Team Lead. “I’m enjoying my continued work with customers and helping train and be a champion for my team in this role,” she said. When reflecting on her leadership style and what she brings to her team and customers, Abi says she seeks to demonstrate a personal touch, a quality that Abi admires in Maria.

“Maria has a really strong ability to simply listen and see a person for who they are,” she said. “I try to bring that to my team and customers—a compassionate and empathetic touch.” This key ingredient helps her understand and respond to the needs of customers and colleagues. Maria praised Abi’s leadership abilities, saying, “She’s proven to be a strong and empathetic leader, enabling and coaching her team. We’re proud of what Abi is achieving and can’t wait to see what she accomplishes next!”

At CyberArk, Abi feels empowered and supported to grow as a woman in tech. “This is a place where I am treated equally and fairly,” Abi mentioned. “I’m always given opportunities to speak and be heard. CyberArk’s drive to build an inclusive, open-minded community has also helped me feel valued in my role working with the team and our customers.”

Although she did not know what career path she would travel after college, with the help of the women around her, Abi has grown and developed in the cybersecurity field. She feels proud of her achievements, as well as her team’s.

“When I reflect on how my team and I support our customers in the UK and Ireland, and then consider those who do the same for other customers around the world, it’s really humbling and motivating. I want to help other women feel their contributions make a big difference.” Her message to other women is simple, “Don’t feel intimidated by cybersecurity; it’s a very exciting industry to be part of!” Abi believes that if other women learn about her path, they’ll know “it’s possible to acquire the necessary skills and apply their knowledge to be successful in this industry.”