

Issue 007

# WHEN SPARKS SPEAK

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TANIA TANIC

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Founder & CEO of BrainStorm CyberRisque



At When Sparks Speak, we have always aimed to share the stories that have yet to be told because there is never just one path towards your dreams.

Tania Taric shows the way to a path that's not linear. She dared to learn from universities all over the world without stopping at titles. She reminds us that the very first barriers we face are the limits we set for ourselves.

From learning the Science of Information to building her own company in cybersecurity, we share here insights of a Woman In Tech with a lot of experience.

We hope that will inspire you to dream bigger, further, wilder. It might be time to learn something new, to go back to university, or just to explore the topics that spark your interest.

-Elise

In this issue of When Sparks Speak, we are proud to feature Tania Tanic, a leader who is redefining cybersecurity as both a strategic and deeply human discipline. Her journey reminds us that innovation is not only about technology, but about vision, resilience, and the ability to connect ideas across domains.

Tania challenges the notion that technology exists in isolation. Through her work, we see how cybersecurity, governance, and organizational strategy must come together to create systems that are not only secure, but sustainable and trustworthy. Her perspective pushes us to think beyond technical solutions and toward leadership that anticipates risk, embraces complexity, and builds long-term resilience.

What stands out most is her commitment to redefining how we see careers in technology. Tania's path is not linear, and that is precisely its strength. She reminds us that adaptability, curiosity, and the courage to evolve are often more valuable than any title we hold.

As you read her story, I invite you to reflect on your own journey. Not in terms of roles or labels, but in terms of the problems you are driven to solve—and the impact you hope to create.

-Michael



**Elise**



**Michael**



## MEET TANIA:

My name is Tania Tanic. I am a French-Canadian entrepreneur and leader specializing in cybersecurity governance, organizational resilience and digital transformation. I worked in large organizations in France and Quebec before founding BrainStorm CyberRisk. Today, I help organizations and leaders better understand their cyber risks, integrate resilience into their strategy and transform their digital challenges into levers of trust, performance and growth.

## THE JOURNEY

### How did you decide to study science?

I was drawn to science at an early age because I loved understanding, analyzing, and solving. I needed to know how things worked, why they worked, and how they could be improved. Science has given me a structured, rigorous, but also profoundly creative way of thinking. For me, it wasn't just an academic choice, it was also a way of approaching the world.




## **Did you have any mentors when you chose your course?**

Yes, even if it was not always in an official form. I met people who inspired me with their high standards, their courage, their intelligence or their way of charting their own path. Some were professors, others managers, others simply models that I observed. These figures helped me understand that it was not necessary to follow a linear path to build a solid and ambitious path.

## **Do you see your versatility as an asset?**

Yes, very clearly. My versatility is a real asset because it allows me to connect worlds that are often treated separately: technical, strategy, governance, transformation, risk management and people. In areas like cybersecurity, this ability to make connections is essential. It allows us to have a more accurate reading of the issues and to propose more relevant responses.



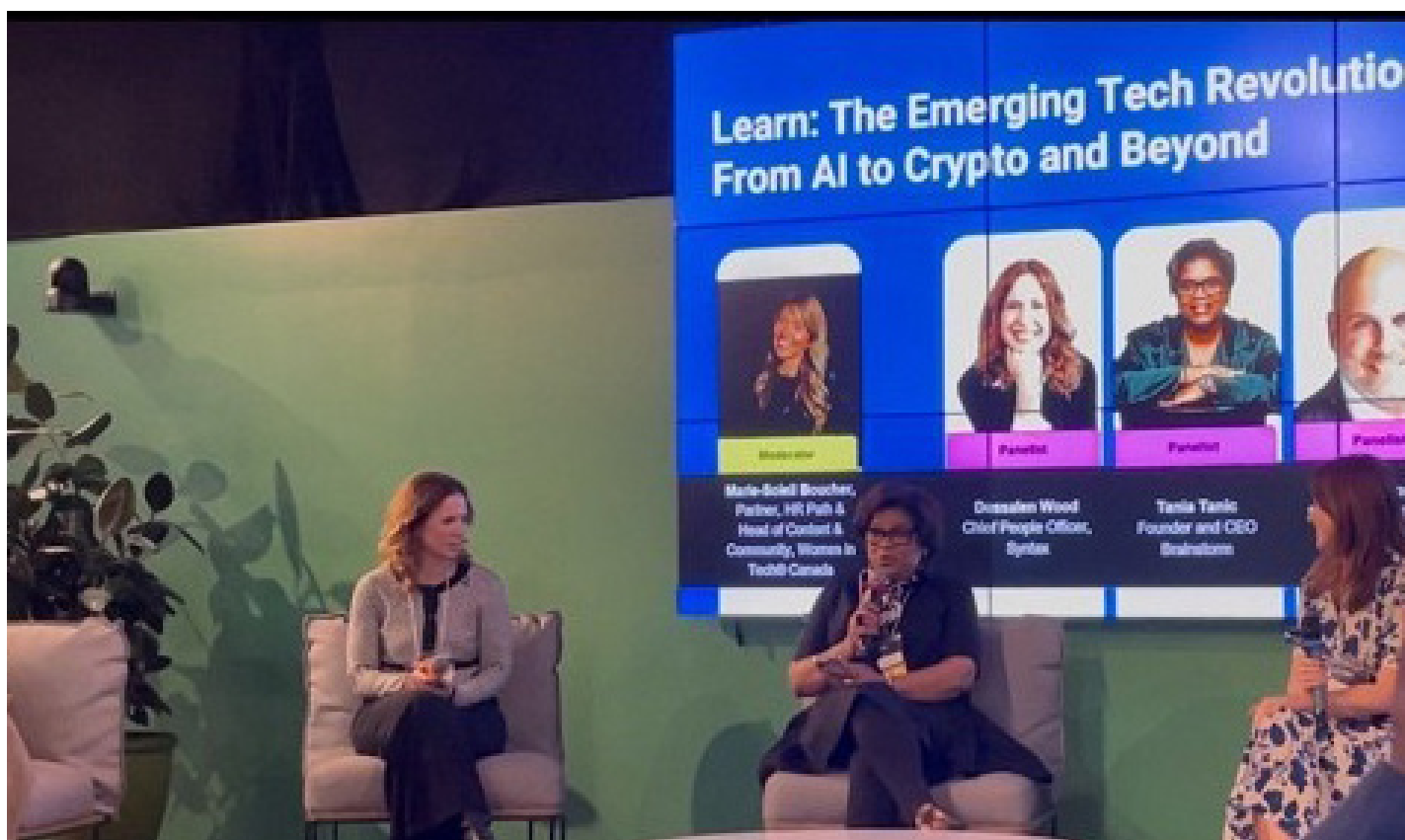
***“I needed to know how things worked, why they worked, and how they could be improved. Science has given me a structured, rigorous, but also profoundly creative way of thinking.”***

## How do you manage to change careers and companies?

I succeed in these transitions by focusing on transferable skills like learning quickly, adapting, understanding new environments, and creating value and trust. I don't define myself by a title, but by the problems I can solve. My advice is to avoid limiting yourself to labels, understand your skills deeply, stay curious, and be open to repositioning your experience.

## What skills have been most useful to you in your career?

I would say strategic thinking, adaptability, and communication. Strategic thinking helps me understand direction and impact beyond execution. Adaptability has allowed me to move across sectors, cultures, and environments. Communication is key to getting others on board and driving change. I would also add resilience, which is essential in any demanding journey.



## You have held many “Corporate” positions, what does that mean? What does the title of “Lean Master” mean?

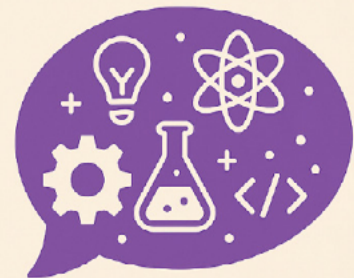
So-called “Corporate” positions generally refer to transversal functions that contribute to structuring, orienting or transforming the organization as a whole. This can affect strategy, performance, governance, transformation, quality or change management. These are often roles that require working across the enterprise, with a global vision.

As for the title of “Lean Master”, it refers to expertise in continuous improvement. In concrete terms, this means supporting organizations to simplify their processes, reduce inefficiencies, improve quality and create more value. But beyond the tools, Lean is above all a discipline of clarity, rigor and continuous improvement.





***I don't define myself solely by a title or a function. I define myself more by the problems I know how to solve and by the value I can bring.***



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# THE INNOVATION

## How did you decide to start your business?

I created my company after noticing that cybersecurity is often treated as a purely technical issue rather than a real business and strategic priority. Many organizations are accelerating their digital transformation and adopting new technologies, but cybersecurity, governance, and resilience are not always fully integrated into their overall strategy.

This gap deeply resonated with me, as innovation can only create lasting value when it is supported by a global vision that includes risk management

and strategic alignment. Too often, companies move forward technologically without fully considering how to protect their business trajectory and support better decision-making.

My goal is to bring cybersecurity back to the heart of corporate strategy and transformation, helping organizations innovate more safely, make better decisions, and build stronger resilience. I am also committed to being an agent of change and increasing the visibility of women in science and technology.

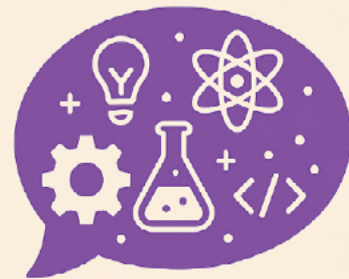


***“Cybersecurity was still too often approached as a purely technical subject, and not as a real business issue”***



**What does your innovation consist of?**

CYBERTACTIK is a cyber crisis simulation and resilience platform that helps organizations prepare for and respond to real cyber incidents. It goes beyond traditional awareness by combining cybersecurity, governance, decision-making, and team coordination in immersive scenarios. The goal is to train leaders and teams together in realistic conditions so they can develop the right reflexes, improve coordination, and strengthen overall organizational resilience.



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## **Can you tell us briefly about the trajectory of this project from its inception to its presentation in Dubai last year?**

CYBERTACTIK was born from a simple but fundamental observation: many organizations invest in cybersecurity, but few are really ready to manage a cyber crisis at the governance and management level. I have observed a gap between technical protection and an organization's real ability to react, decide, coordinate and hold out over time when a major incident occurs. It is this observation that led me to imagine a platform capable of bringing together crisis simulation, executive decision-making, operational coordination and resilience in a more dynamic and immersive format.

The project then evolved in stages. It went from an idea from the field to a structured concept, then to an innovation with strong international potential. I refined the vision, consolidated the value proposition and positioned CYBERTACTIK as a response to a global need. Presenting it in Dubai last year was a major milestone, because it not only gave the project visibility on an international stage, but also confirmed that this innovation resonates far beyond its home market.



## **Why the desire to set up in the Caribbean as well?**

The Caribbean holds a special place for me, both personally and strategically. Personal, because it's part of my roots, my history and my sensitivity. Strategic, because I deeply believe in the potential of this region, its talents, its capacity for innovation, but also in the need to strengthen digital ecosystems, trust and resilience. Setting up there is not only a business development logic. It is also a desire to contribute, to transmit and to create lasting bridges between territories.

## **What was your biggest challenge, and how did you overcome it?**

One of the biggest difficulties has been to build entrepreneurial credibility in a very demanding field, while developing an innovative vision. When you leave a large group, you no longer rely on the reputation or structure of a recognized organization. You have to carry your own vision, your value and your ability to execute. I have overcome this by consistency, the quality of the work, the clarity of my positioning, the strength of the relationships I have built, and above all by a very strong discipline in action.



## **LEGACY & LEADERSHIP**

### **What made you sign up for Digiwomen?**

I signed up for Digiwomen because I deeply believe in the importance of women's representation, transmission and visibility in the scientific and technological fields. These spaces are essential to allow other women and girls to project themselves, to feel legitimate and to build their ambition. For me, it's a concrete way to help open up the field of possibilities.

### **Are you involved in other groups or volunteer projects?**

I am involved in spaces focused on female leadership, mentoring, entrepreneurship, innovation, and education, and I see supporting, connecting, and guiding others as a natural extension of my leadership. In particular, I mentor at ÉTS Montréal and serve as an administrator at the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Canada, reflecting my commitment to giving back and supporting others.

## What would you recommend to young people who are still hesitant to do science or who don't think it's for them?

I would tell them that science is not reserved for an elite or a single profile. They are for the curious, the persevering, the creative, the observant, for those who like to understand and build. You don't need to have a

perfect course or be sure of everything to start. Sometimes you just have to dare to explore. What matters is not to fit into a mold, it is to give yourself the right to try.



## In your opinion, what actions can teachers or parents take to get children interested in science?

I think that we must first make science accessible, alive and concrete. Children must be shown that science is not reserved for a few so-called “exceptional” profiles, but that it is a way of exploring, understanding and creating. Parents and teachers can nurture curiosity, encourage questions, value experimentation, show inspiring examples, and connect science to everyday life. The most important thing is to give confidence very early on and to make the children understand that they too have their place in this world.

***“What matters is not to fit into a mold; it is to give yourself the right to try.”***

# A Note to Our Readers

Thank you for spending time with this issue.

When Sparks Speak was created to highlight the voices, experiences, and ideas of women working across the technology landscape. Our mission is simple: to create a space where stories of innovation, leadership, and perseverance can be shared with a global audience.

If you enjoy this publication, there are a few ways you can support it:

- Share the magazine with colleagues, friends, and students
- Connect with the women featured in these pages and follow their work
- Reach out if you would like to nominate someone for a future issue

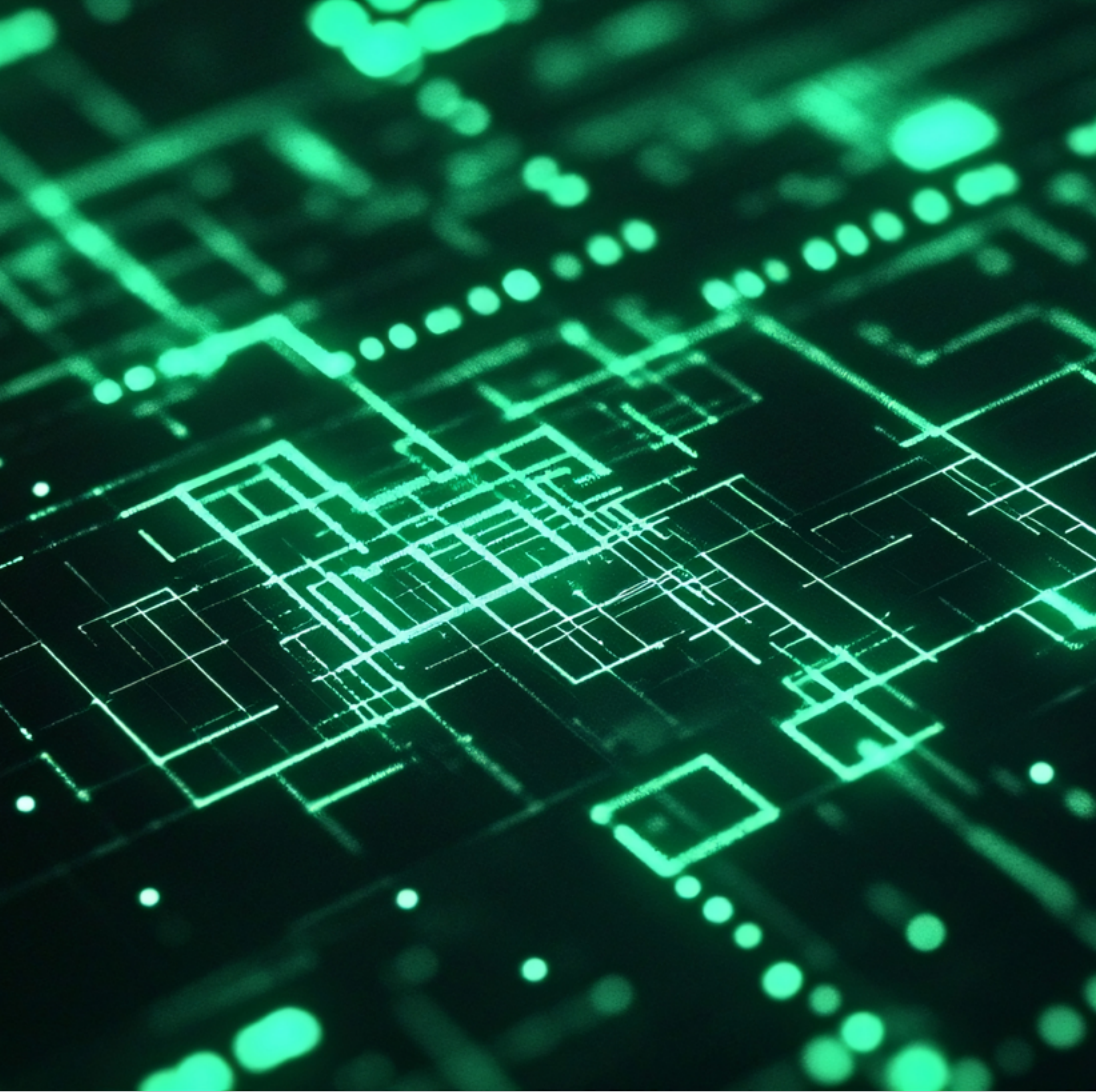
We believe that visibility matters. Every story shared here helps expand the conversation about who builds technology and how the future of the industry is shaped.

If you would like to collaborate, be featured in a future issue, or contribute to the publication, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for reading – and for supporting the voices that spark new ideas.

– The Editorial Team

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# Contact Us

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