



Information Systems Audit and Control Association

Baton Rouge Chapter

September 2000

President's Letter

I hope everyone had a great summer! I'm looking forward to our 2000 – 2001 ISACA Chapter year. We have great programs in the works for this year! If anyone did not receive a chapter survey, please notify me. We really need feedback from our members in order to meet the needs of everyone. Please take the time to complete the survey.

I'm also really excited about our new officer slate. We managed to attract new members into officer positions. Hopefully you will see the effects of the new ideas they brought to the table through the programs we offer.

Our next meeting will be somewhat informal but very informative. Tim Louwers and I have put together a presentation on Defcon 8. Defcon is a computer hacking organization which hosts an annual conference in Las Vegas. The presentation will summarize information obtained at the conference and the different events hosted by Defcon. It was definitely an experience!

Once again I want to stress that our chapter's most important asset is the ability to network with other IS Audit professionals. If you are considering conducting an IS Audit, you can request information or sample programs from any of the chapter officers. If we do not have the information or programs you are looking for, we probably know someone who does.

We are in the process of automating our newsletter distribution. If you are still receiving this newsletter through the mail, please contact Kenny Reynolds to submit your email address. Kenny can be reached through email at

jkreyn1@lsu.edu or by phone at 388-6218.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Drakes on September 19th.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

September:

Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2000
Time: 11:30 to 1:00 Lunch
Location: Drakes
Speakers: Jill Joseph
Tim Louwers
Topic: *Jill and Tim's Excellent Adventures - The latest news from Defcon 8*
Cost: Members \$ 18
Non-Members \$ 21
Students \$ 13
CPE: 1 hour
RSVP: Tim Louwers 388-6233
louwers@lsu.edu

October: (joint meeting with the IIA)

Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2000
Time: 11:30 to 1:00 Lunch
Location: Blue Cross Blue Shield
Speaker: Will Hatcher, FBI New Orleans
Topic: *Overview of Computer Crime and the FBI Response*

Who's Really in Control?

A few weeks ago CBS's *Survivor* managed to do the previously unthinkable - it challenged ABC's *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* for ratings supremacy. Most of us are familiar with the structure program. A group of people are taken to an island, with one person being removed each episode. The final episode would reveal the sole survivor (and levy quite profitable rates on advertisers as well).

To help promote the show CBS's website contained a chart showing the photograph of each contestant who had been removed, along with a red "X" on the face of the contestant. CBS's big buildup to was apparently sent crashing down when a hacker discovered that photographs of **all** the participants had already been placed on the website, with red "X"s on all the photos but one - obviously the series survivor. The identity of the survivor was soon disseminated throughout the web.

CBS publicly stated that their website had at some point been hacked, but refused to comment on any particulars regarding *Survivor*. This partial admission corresponded with other ill-gotten information from the website, and also served as a springboard for a number of lectures on the importance of a company taking responsibility for its own security problems rather than blaming others (in particular, the hacker community).

The truth of *Survivor* was finally revealed in the tenth episode - the truth, but not the survivor. The tenth was not the final episode, but it was the episode in which Gervase Peterson, the man without the red "X", was voted off the island.

CBS may or may not have been behind the hoax, but they certainly knew that it was a hoax and did little to disconfirm it. Give the company credit for being creative enough to take advantage of the situation and getting two climactic endings to their series. By the way -- does anybody know a really good security administrator who would be interested in going to work for CBS if the hacker community decides to even the score?

Securing Management

Do you ever wonder if the security message gets through to management? The SANS Institute recently listed seven common errors made by top management leading to computer security vulnerabilities (www.sans.org).

- Number 7: Pretend the problem will go away if they ignore it.
 - Number 6: Authorize reactive, short-term fixes so problems re-emerge rapidly.
 - Number 5: Fail to realize how much money their information and organizational reputations are worth.
 - Number 4: Rely primarily on a fire wall.
 - Number 3: Fail to deal with the operational aspects of security: make a few fixes and then not allow the follow-through necessary to ensure the problems stay fixed.
 - Number 2: Fail to understand the relationship of information security to the business problem - they understand physical security but do not see the consequences of poor information security.
 - Number 1: Assign untrained people to maintain security and provide neither the training nor the time to make it possible to do the job.
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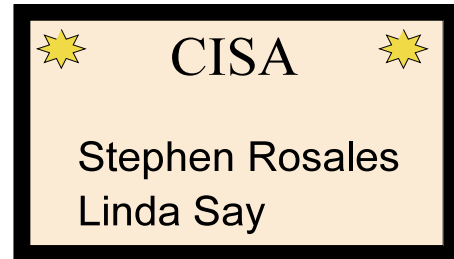
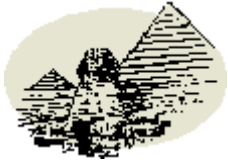
For Your Consideration

Heard any good news or interesting information lately? If so then send it in. We'd love to include it in the newsletter. The more the better. Embarrassing stories involving the Chapter president or vice-president are particularly useful.

This tidbit comes from a presentation given last month in Philadelphia by Robert Elliott, chairman of the AICPA. The AICPA is currently working on a new framework which will include a global, "umbrella" certification. They're trying to keep the certification's name secret for the time being but a few of us got some inside information (hint: it's not a word in any dictionary). Stay tuned for the public release - you're going to love it!

Other Chapter News

Can you believe it?! . . .



Stephen Rosales and *Linda Say* of the Baton Rouge Chapter **passed the most recent CISA exam**. Let's all congratulate them on an important achievement!

Interesting and Useful (?) Websites:

www.auditnet.org contains numerous audit programs you can download. Some of these programs are very good. Others are not so good, but will at least give you a place to start if you're working in an unfamiliar area.

www.securityfocus.com is an outstanding site for the latest information on threats and vulnerabilities, as well as tips and tools to help you assess the vulnerabilities on your own system.

www.techlawjournal.com is a good source of information on the latest proposals, legislation, and rulings related to information systems.

www.artchive.com contains one of the largest collections of art on the internet. Most of these works are available at no charge for your viewing pleasure (you can even download them for a wallpaper or web page), but be sure to read the copyright information.

www.rottentomatoes.com is a "meta" movie review website which summarizes the ratings each movie receives from other reviewers around the web, and provides links to those reviews. It also contains up-to-date information about movies soon to be released.

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