



September 2003

Information Systems Audit and Control Association

Baton Rouge Chapter

President's Letter

Welcome back to another year of the Baton Rouge ISACA Chapter. I'd like to especially welcome back the Chapter Officers who have graciously agreed to once again volunteer their time for the 2003-2004 year:

- Paula Scarton, Vice-President
- Colleen McGehee, Secretary/Treasurer
- Tim Louwers, CISA Coordinator
- Kenny Reynolds, Publicity Coordinator
- Jill Joseph, Board of Directors
- Jeanette Eckert, Board of Directors

The chapter surveys are also in. We received seven responses out of 61 total Chapter members. That's around an 11% response rate. The low number of responses did not reflect a consensus in any one area, but we will have Chapter meetings that will focus on some of the requested topics. The only way that the Chapter can add value to its members is through everyone's active participation. If there is a good topic and speaker that anyone would like to recommend, please let us know.

We have a great meeting planned for Monday, September 29 at 11:30 AM. The meeting will be held at Chef's Court on Essen Lane, and will be a joint meeting with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Dr. Tim Louwers and Dr. Kenny Reynolds will be discussing Computer Forensics, so please RSVP as soon as

possible and make plans to attend.

Lastly, we are in the process of developing a web site for the Baton Rouge ISACA Chapter. Here are some of the things we are planning to include:

- Job postings
- Upcoming Chapter meetings
- Newsletter archive
- Presentations from past meetings (i.e., PowerPoint, etc.)
- Resources page (i.e., audit programs, membership lists, web site links, etc.)
- Training opportunities
- Certification information

If anyone has any other ideas, or would like to help in the design of the web site, please let me know.

Again, welcome to the 2003-2004 year. Thanks in advance for everyone's participation, and I look forward to seeing you on September 29.

Steve Rosales
President, ISACA—Baton Rouge





September Speakers

This month's speakers are Tim Louwers and Kenny Reynolds, both from Louisiana State University. They will be speaking on the topic of computer forensics.

Tim Louwers,

Ph.D., CPA, CIA, CISA has taught financial auditing, fraud auditing, and information systems auditing at Louisiana State University, where he currently holds the Marjorie Ourso Excellence in Teaching Professorship. Professor Louwers received his Ph.D. in accounting from Florida State University in 1993, and the American Accounting Association recognized his dissertation as the 1994 Outstanding Auditing Dissertation. Prior to beginning his academic career, he spent a number of years in public accounting with KPMG. Professor Louwers has authored or co-authored 6 books and over 30 articles on a wide range of auditing, accounting, and technology-related topics, including publications in *the Journal of Accounting Research*, *Behavioral Research in Accounting*, *Decision Sciences*, *Journal of Accountancy*, *CPA Journal* and *Today's CPA*. He currently is working on a book on tracking terrorists through forensic accounting. He has appeared on both local and national television broadcasts, including MSNBC and CNN news programs.

Kenny Reynolds,

Ph.D., CISSP received his Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Missouri in 1999. Prior to receiving his Ph.D. he spent several years in public accounting, focusing on information systems and financial auditing. Professor Reynolds has been a frequent presenter at national accounting and auditing conferences, and has authored a number of articles on auditing, accounting, and information systems issues in top academic journals. He currently teaches accounting information systems,

September Meeting:

Time: Monday, September 29; 11:30-1:00

Place: Chef's Court on Essen Lane (note: this where Drakes used to be, close to the corner of Essen and Perkins)

Topic and Speakers:

What Everyone Should Know About Computer Forensics, by Tim Louwers and Kenny Reynolds

Menu:

Choice of

- Asian Chicken *or*
- "Rushed Crushed" Catfish *or*
- Veal Picata

Selection also includes salad, dessert, and coffee or tea

Cost: \$20

RSVP with the names of attendees to Tim Louwers by Friday, September 22nd if possible, by email at louw@lsu.edu or by phone at 225-578-6233.

financial auditing, and information systems auditing at Louisiana State University.

Suggested Readings

ComputerWorld has an interesting special report on information systems security at <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/report/>. It contains a number of articles on diverse topics such as passwords, securing operating systems, wireless security, protecting against viruses (virii ?), and social engineering. One word of warning from your friendly newsletter editor - the password article does contain what I consider to be some bad advice.





It suggests replacing characters with their similar numeric counterparts - replacing the letter "O" with the digit "0" for instance. Most automated dictionary attacks against passwords make these same substitutions, and therefore cracking passwords with numeric substitutions for letters is almost as trivial as it would be if you left the password unchanged.

ISACA's redesigned website has an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) file containing all of its IS audit standards, guidelines, and procedures. Some of these are quite good. Just click on the "Standards" button from ISACA's website (<http://www.isaca.org/>) to find it.

Using **Benford's Law** for digital analysis to help detect potential fraud is a topic that seems to frequently generate interest among auditors. The dominant audit automation software, ACL (<http://www.acl.com/>) and IDEA (<http://www.audittools.com/>), both contain functions to perform a digital analysis. If you have neither ACL nor IDEA, the analysis is still quite easy to perform using Excel or any database. A recent article in the Journal of Accountancy (<http://www.aicpa.org/pubs/jofa/aug2003/rose.htm>) explains how to perform the analysis using Excel. If you would like to read more about why Benford's Law works (and the many situations in which it doesn't or shouldn't), you can read an outstanding article at <http://www.mathworld.wolfram.com/BenfordsLaw.html>. Also, note that the two URL's above for ACL and IDEA will allow you to download evaluation versions of the audit software if you wish to try either of them.

Training and Conferences

The SANS (SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security) institute will be holding a national training program in New Orleans from November 13th through 19th. It will be offering all of its tracks, including two audit tracks and several specific technical tracks. The SANS programs are expensive but outstanding. If you are interested, you can obtain more information at <http://www.sans.org/>.

ISACA News

According to ISACA, the most recent CISA exam set a new record for the number of registrants. This year nearly 12,000 people took the exam. We know that at least two of our local members passed the latest exam, but have not yet received information from ISACA providing a complete list of those who passed. If you passed or know somebody who passed, please tell us. We would like to recognize everybody who successfully completed the exam at our next meeting. Don't worry - we would *never* do anything embarrassing to those who passed, would we Steve Rosales?

If you haven't taken a look recently at ISACA's web-based research library, K-NET, you might want to do so. Some very good audit, security, and IT governance resources are being added to the library. You can gain access to the library through ISACA's website, but most of the resources are limited to ISACA members only (which shouldn't be a problem for most of us).





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