A Microsoft-ISSA Partnership

By Lori Woehler

Microsoft is partnering with industry leaders worldwide to help create a more secure computing ecosystem.

I'm very pleased to share the details of Microsoft's new formal partnership with the Information Systems Security Association. Microsoft is partnering with industry leaders worldwide to help create a more secure computing ecosystem. We believe a strong professional body of security practitioners, IT professionals and developers is critical to achieve a more secure ecosystem. Since 2002, Microsoft has provided training and education to over three million IT professionals and developers. In many countries, Microsoft and ISSA have built local relationships that have helped us expand our mutual goals for security outreach and education. Microsoft is committed to expanding our relationship with ISSA, working to identify and build resources which enhance the knowledge, skills and professional growth of ISSA members. We're also committed to working with ISSA on chapter development and expansion efforts.

How will the Microsoft-ISSA partnership work?

ISSA Headquarters will conduct a survey of worldwide chapters to identify strategic security education needs and priorities. This survey will allow ISSA members to share their ideas and recommendations directly with Microsoft. Based on the survey results and feedback from ISSA leadership, Microsoft will develop and provide security education materials for ISSA members worldwide. These materials may include online content available through the ISSA Web portal, as well as training modules for delivery in local chapter activities.

Microsoft's global security outreach team, based in Redmond, WA, will work directly with ISSA leadership to publish an engagement model for all chapter leaders and Microsoft's regional security leaders. The engagement model will serve as a framework to identify and share specific chapter education needs. Microsoft regional security leaders will work locally with the ISSA chapter leaders to address those needs. Activities may include collaborating, hosting or conducting education opportunities for the chapter, as well as formal chapter expansion and new chapter development initiatives.

How have ISSA and Microsoft worked together previously?

Microsoft's Security Academy in many Latin American countries includes participation by multiple industry groups, including ISSA. The Security Academy provides a resource for professional development, networking and sharing best practices. Microsoft incorporates feedback from ISSA chapters and individual members, provides facilities for chapter meetings and hosts networking events for security professionals.

Many Microsoft security professionals, including myself, make individual investments as active ISSA members and participate in chapter boards and committees. There are over 500 CISSPs working for Microsoft, which clearly demonstrates our support for security industry affiliation and certification.

What security guidance and training will Microsoft provide?

Microsoft publishes prescriptive guidance, training and tools in addition to sharing best practices through security events, Webcasts, e-learning and online content in our security guidance centers: www.microsoft.com/security/guidance. The security guidance centers are structured to help IT professionals, developers, mid-size and small businesses, and consumers find resources to learn about security, so they are able to take steps to protect their systems and data.

IT professional prescriptive guidance and training includes resources focused on platform and product security and security processes, such as fundamentals of risk management and security assessments. Developer materials focus on writing secure code, the security development lifecycle, using security tools in Visual Studio, and conducting threat and risk analysis activities throughout software development. Mid-size and small business resources include concise, actionable checklists and guidelines to adopt sound, defense-in-depth security practices. Consumer content, which can also be used for end-user security awareness efforts, includes brief training videos and guidance to help home users protect their computers, their families and themselves. Customers can also register to receive security communications from Microsoft to help them proactively take steps to improve their security and understand how to respond in the event of a security issue.

What is the timeline for the ISSA-Microsoft partnership?

- ISSA Headquarters will distribute the security education survey to chapter leaders in September
- Microsoft's regional security leaders will engage local ISSA chapter leaders to identify opportunities and build an engagement plan, which will cover activities and priorities for a 12-month period beginning November 1st
- Microsoft will provide security education materials via the ISSA Web portal beginning in November
- Microsoft's global security outreach team will provide materials on a monthly basis through updates via the ISSA Web portal, and directly to local ISSA chapters through Microsoft's regional security leads

Who can ISSA members contact for additional information?

You can contact Jim Reavis at execdir@issa.org for additional information about the Microsoft partnership. We will publish a consolidated roster of contacts by country at the ISSA Web portal. ISSA chapter leaders and Microsoft regional security leaders can use this information to make contacts and work on their engagement plans. You can also contact me to share your ideas and feedback. My email address is lori.woehler@microsoft.com. I look forward to meeting many of you at ISSA events throughout the coming year.

About the Author

Lori Woehler is Director, Security Technology Unit, Microsoft, Inc. Lori joined Microsoft in 2002, bringing with her over fifteen years experience in the security industry. She is responsible for the global strategy and execution of Microsoft's security experience for IT Pros, Developers, Enterprise, Mid-size and Small Business segments.