



Information Systems Security Association

International Board Officers

President

Howard A. Schmidt, CISSP, CISM

Vice President

Kevin L. Richards, CISSP

Secretary/Director of Operations

Vern Williams, CISSP/EP, PMP, CBCP

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Dave Cullinane, CPP, CISSP

Board of Director Members

Debbie Christofferson, CISSP, CISM

Bill Danigelis, CISSP

Pamela Fusco, CISM, CISSP, CHS-III

Owen O'Connor, CISSP

Brian R. Schultz, CISSP, ISSMP, ISSAP

John Walker, FBCS, CITP, CISM, MFSoc

Scott Williams

Stefano Zanero, Ph.D.

Ernest Zernial, CISSP, CISM

The Information Systems Security Association (ISSA)[®] is a not-for-profit, international organization of information security professionals and practitioners. It provides educational forums, publications and peer interaction opportunities that enhance the knowledge, skill and professional growth of its members.

With active participation from individuals and chapters all over the world, the ISSA is the largest international, not-for-profit association specifically for security professionals. Members include practitioners at all levels of the security field in a broad range of industries, such as communications, education, healthcare, manufacturing, financial and government.

The ISSA international board consists of some of the most influential people in the security industry. With an international communications network developed throughout the industry, the ISSA is focused on maintaining its position as The Global Voice of Information Security.

The primary goal of the ISSA is to promote management practices that will ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information resources. The ISSA facilitates interaction and education to create a more successful environment for global information systems security and for the professionals involved.

Hello ISSA members

Howard A. Schmidt, ISSA International President



It's been a busy month all around. I have just gotten back from ten days on the road: the Information Security Management Forum (ISMS) in Barcelona Spain, followed by the Information Security Forum's (ISF) annual congress, fortunately in Barcelona as well, and then to Dubai for the sixth annual Middle East IT Security Conference (MEITSEC). As I'm sure many of you are aware, the number of conferences and training opportunities now available for information security professionals far exceeds anything we've seen in past years. It seems like no matter where you are in the world, there is an opportunity to attend world-class conferences with great speakers, great topics, and a lot of people sharing experiences they've had in this business.

A convenient place to learn about these events is, of course, our own *ISSA Journal* and the ISSA website, particularly for those conferences and venues in which ISSA members can obtain a discount for attendance. And when you attend these events, check with the local chapter in the city, take the opportunity to meet fellow ISSA members, or possibly attend a local chapter meeting or training event.

On another topic, there is a lot of excitement worldwide, and I mean literally *world wide*, over the recent U.S. election and what it means in a lot of areas, especially from the information security/technology perspective. Shortly after the completion of the election, a number of reports were released from various security and privacy organizations proposing agenda items for the new U.S. administration. By the time you read this it will be close to the proposed release of the recommendations from the Commission on Cybersecurity for the 44th Presidency,¹ commissioned by the Center for Strategic and International

Studies. As one of the senior advisors for the commission, I am amazed at how much work has been put into this by a wide array of people willing to serve on the commission, trying to frame the proposed agenda for the new administration. While there is no shortage of agenda items and things that need to take place, I would recommend everyone in our profession, *anywhere in the world*, take a look at the proposals coming out on how the new U.S. administration should deal with issue crucial to cybersecurity.

As I have mentioned in past columns, one of the organizations that is continually releasing informative publications is the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA).² During a recent meeting in Brussels, we had a firsthand look at some of the excellent and freely available publications that could help any of us in our day-to-day jobs. A lot of great work is being done in this area, and I cannot think of a time in my career where I've seen so much dedicated effort addressing issues crucial to the information security profession.

Additionally, as I have been involved with the various groups and functions and travel around the world, I am always delighted when folks come up and introduce themselves as members of an ISSA chapter somewhere in the world. We are truly global, impacting the world of information security, and it's wonderful meeting you all and hearing about the great accomplishments you are achieving in your own organizations.

Safe computing...until next month,

Howard A. Schmidt
ISSA International President

1 <http://www.csis.org/tech/cyber>.

2 <http://www.enisa.europa.eu>.