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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



As many of you are aware, we held our annual general membership meeting in conjunction with the Colorado Springs chapter's annual Fall Information Security Conference, October 2. It was particularly gratifying to see a large turnout of members not only for the conference but also the membership meeting, as well as the first face-to-face meeting of the Chapter Presidents Advisory Council (CPAC). Sponsor support helped make this event a big success; the facility was outstanding; and overall it stands up there as one of the best annual ISSA general membership meetings that I've attended. Thank you to all involved.

When you look at the content of the conference and listen to the dialog among the attendees, it is clear that this security business is not slowing down at all. Whether it was keynote sessions or technical tracks, the audience was engaged, asked really good questions, and appreciated the expertise of the presenters and the expertise that each of them brought to the table as members of ISSA.

At the membership meeting we recognized chapter presidents who have served or are serving the various ISSA chapters, a number of whom were in attendance. To you who were not able to attend, your efforts and dedication to the organization are greatly appreciated, and we missed your presence at the meeting.

As it was not possible to have all our members attend the membership meeting, you can now view the webcast on the ISSA website at your convenience. Learn about some of the projects ISSA has been involved with and were talked about at the meeting. If you have the time and desire, I heartily encourage you to contact ISSA member and chapter relations and get involved.

These days have seen tremendous turmoil in markets and financial institutions worldwide, generating concerns over the viability and presence of security in corporations and small businesses that may be struggling during these tough financial times. The number one question I hear from many sources is will we have a slowdown in security and how will it impact those of us working in the information security business. None of us can really say for sure what business decisions will be made, but it's fair to say that it does not make good business sense to lower the priority of security.

Security is about protecting resources and assets; tighten our belts and restrict spending, yes. But create an environment of increasing our risk by not investing in security? That can only lead to greater losses, more expensive operations, and even loss of business. Many of us have seen cycles where for financial reasons we have had to look to ways of doing more with less – that's just the "business of security," and I think we can all live with that. But making security less of a priority puts us in a position to do more damage than good.

I often suggest topics that may be good for discussion at chapter meetings, and this would probably be one of the more important ones we've had in recent times: to discuss amongst our peers, our fellow ISSA members, the impact of current financial difficulties and the methodologies we are using to continue protecting our resources, securing our data, and ensuring the continuity of our businesses.

Safe computing...until next month,

Howard A. Schmidt
ISSA International President