

IT Security Planning Heats Up

During the first quarter of 2003, efforts to heighten the security of higher education information technologies advanced on several fronts, fueled by significant contributions from the EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Computer and Network Security Task Force.

Among these efforts was the February 14 release by the White House of the final draft of the *National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace*. The strategy, developed by the President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board, seeks to diminish vulnerabilities in the computer systems that support the nation's critical infrastructures and to limit the harm from any disruptions that occur. The strategy directly addresses the role of higher education in a section developed by the Security Task Force with input from the higher education community.

Following the *National Strategy's* release, David Ward, the president of the American Council on Education, dispatched a letter to college and uni-

versity presidents urging them to take specific steps on their campuses for cybersecurity preparedness. The letter, which emphasizes the importance of leadership in the success of an institutional initiative of this magnitude, advises cybersecurity awareness, cabinet-level responsibility, and ongoing risk assessment. The letter credits the leading role of the Security Task Force.

In response to specific recommendations of the *National Strategy*, Indiana University established the first Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) focused on the high-performance network infrastructure dedicated to research and education: the Research and Education Network Information Sharing and Analysis Center (REN-ISAC). Developed through an agreement with the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC), the REN-ISAC will undertake a wide set of security services—including proactive security monitoring, assessment, and

reporting—to fortify the Internet2 community's network service. Under the agreement, the NIPC will share security information about the national IT infrastructure from other organizations in exchange for summary information from the REN-ISAC, based on its analysis of network traffic irregularities thought to be related to security incidents.

The Security Task Force has released a white paper to shed light on the legal issues involved in IT security, *IT Security for Higher Education: A Legal Perspective*. Prepared by the Washington, D.C., law firm Dow, Lohnes, and Albertson, PLLC, with funds from a National Science Foundation grant, the paper offers an overview of existing federal and state privacy- and security-related laws and discusses their practical implications for institutions of higher education.

To access the above-mentioned documents and find additional security-related resources, visit <<http://www.educause.edu/security/>>.

.edu Eligibility Expansion

EDUCAUSE and the U.S. Department of Commerce announced in February 2003 that, effective mid-April, eligibility for .edu names would be extended to postsecondary institutions that are institutionally accredited by agencies on the U.S. Department of Education's "Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies" lists. The lists include both "Regional Institutional Accrediting Agencies" and "National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Bodies."

The U.S. Department of Commerce awarded management of the .edu domain to EDUCAUSE in October 2001 in a five-year cooperative agreement. At that time, EDUCAUSE opened the .edu domain to accredited U.S. community colleges and institutions that award two-year degrees, institutions that previously had been excluded.

The current policy change extends eligibility to nationally accredited postsecondary institutions, which provide specialized training in health services, education, technology, and other pro-

fessions. Nationally accredited postsecondary programs, however, are not included in the domain name expansion. Current .edu domain name holders are not affected by the change.

The expansion was approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce in response to a recommendation by the .edu Policy Board following a review of submissions to a comment forum on the .edu Web site. According to EDUCAUSE Vice President Mark Luker, "This expansion will allow a broad segment of postsecondary education providers to benefit from the immediate recognition of the '.edu' tag on an Internet address."

Requests for new names in the domain are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for eligible institutions and can be made through the .edu Web site.

For more information on the .edu policy change and links to eligible accrediting agencies, go to <<http://www.educause.edu/edudomain/eligibility.asp>>.

Ryland Fellows Named

Seventeen information technology professionals are recipients of this year's Jane N. Ryland fellowships, which support attendance at EDUCAUSE events in 2003. The fellowship program, sponsored this year by Blackboard Inc., An EDUCAUSE Platinum Partner, recognizes a combination of past achievement, personal and institutional commitment, potential benefit, and financial need.

The program bears the name of Jane N. Ryland, who, as president of CAUSE

from 1986 to 1998, recognized the importance of educational programs to support and develop IT professionals throughout higher education. The program has honored 66 individuals since its inception in 1998, with grants totaling more than \$84,000. Those interested in applying for 2004 fellowships should look for application information in September.

To learn more about the program and this year's winners, visit <<http://www.educause.edu/awards/fellow/>>.

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