

Cybersecurity Awareness

Colleges and university executives coming to terms with the implications of cybersecurity for their institutions will find *Cyber Security on Campus* a helpful resource. This short video was produced by the EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Computer and Network Security Task Force and George Mason University.

In the video, university presidents and CIOs share some of their experiences with information and network security issues. In so doing, they will help other campus executives articulate why cybersecurity matters, what their own institutions have done to fulfill the trust their constituencies have placed in them, and what more can be done.

Moderated by Frank Sesno, former senior vice president and Washington, D.C., bureau chief for CNN and current George Mason faculty member, the discussion illuminates the potential impact of cybersecurity incidents on budgets and reputation and touches on approaches to handling high-profile cases. The video also suggests ways presidents and CIOs can work together to create a culture of cybersecurity awareness within their institutions and build trust among students, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and others whose personal information they must safeguard.

In addition to the video, the Security Task Force also recently developed a cybersecurity awareness library that offers a multiplicity of awareness resources, from general information about campus awareness programs to practical tools. These resources, drawn from a variety of sources within higher education and beyond in industry and government, include checklists, flyers, videos, articles, conference presentations, and links to other organizations involved in information security awareness.

View *Cyber Security on Campus* and access the cybersecurity awareness library at the Security Task Force Web site, <<http://www.educause.edu/security>>.

ECAR Student Study

The EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR) has released its second annual comprehensive survey of freshman- and senior-year undergraduates focusing on the role of IT in student life. The *ECAR Study of Students and Information Technology, 2005: Convenience, Connection, Control, and Learning* was written by Robert B. Kvavik and Judith B. Caruso.

The study uses quantitative data from more than 18,000 freshman and senior students at 63 higher education institutions to create a portrait of today's students' experience and skill with information technology. It addresses four issues:

- What kinds of information technologies do students use?
- With what levels of skill do they use these technologies?
- How does this use contribute to their undergraduate experience?
- What value does the use of information technology add in terms of learning gains?

The study also provides a review of and comparison with the 2004 ECAR study of students and IT and the 2003 ECAR study of faculty use of course management systems undertaken at the University of Wisconsin System.

In its findings, the study points out several areas that merit special attention from institutions. These include integration of IT into the curriculum, defining IT skills, training for students and faculty, consistency in learning environments and instructional approaches, accessible and effective IT support, and monitoring and benchmarking.

Because of the critical importance of this topic, ECAR is delighted to make this report available online to everyone. The complete research study, along with related key findings and roadmap, is available to ECAR subscribers and nonsubscribers alike at <<http://www.educause.edu/LibraryDetailPage/666?ID=ERS0506>>. A hard copy of the study has been sent to ECAR subscribers.

EDUCAUSE Awards Changing

EDUCAUSE awards offer peer recognition for outstanding professional accomplishments and innovation. Award categories have evolved over the years to keep pace with professional and association priorities, and significant changes are planned for 2006.

The Leadership Awards, the highest individual honors given by EDUCAUSE, will still recognize distinguished leaders within the field of higher education information technology. For 2006, the formal leadership categories recognized in recent years are being dissolved in acknowledgment of the rich, complex array of qualities held by those who lead the profession EDUCAUSE represents. The nomination deadline for these awards is February 1, 2006.

Four institutional award programs are being discontinued in 2006—the awards for Administrative Information Systems, Information Technology Solu-

tions, Networking, and Teaching and Learning. In their place, a major new award is being developed to recognize initiatives, projects, or concepts that provide groundbreaking solutions to major challenges in higher education or that change prevailing conditions to allow new solutions to be developed and deployed in remarkable, even watershed, ways. EDUCAUSE is also beginning an initiative focused on Web resources that will include “how-to” templates, toolkits, checklists, and other such model applications and guidelines.

The *EDUCAUSE Quarterly* Contribution of the Year Award, a long-standing tradition dating back to 1981, remains unchanged. It will continue to honor outstanding contributed articles published in this magazine.

Current information about EDUCAUSE awards is accessible from <<http://www.educause.edu/awards>>.

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Also in the News

Core Data Report

The annual EDUCAUSE report on campus IT environments, the *Core Data Service Fiscal Year 2004 Summary Report*, was recently released. This report summarizes data collected from colleges and universities early in 2005 for fiscal year 2003–2004 in the areas of IT organization, staffing, and planning; IT financing and management; faculty and student computing; network and security; and information systems. In its third year, the Core Data Service features an online database with powerful sort and selection tools and includes data from more than 900 institutions.

Among the notable findings in the report is that more than half of the participating institutions outsource one or more IT functions. Additionally, the report has uncovered significant increases in the use of wireless, voice-over-IP, video-over-IP, enterprise directory, smart card, and Web services technologies. The report as well as general information about the Core Data Service are available online at <<http://www.educause.edu/coredata>>.

Identity Management Services Program

To help colleges and universities find solutions to their information security and privacy challenges at manageable costs, EDUCAUSE has launched the

Identity Management Services Program. This program offers EDUCAUSE institutional members discounted pricing and customized purchasing arrangements for identity management products and services from a growing number of vendors, including Aladdin Knowledge Systems, GeoTrust, and Verisign, Inc. Institutions of all sizes and varieties of network environments should be able to realize savings well beyond the annual participation fee. For information on participating in this service—including eligibility, available products and services, purchase protocols, application procedures, and FAQs—visit <<http://www.educause.edu/imsp>>.

Connect.educause.edu

Connect.educause.edu is the latest phase of the EDUCAUSE online professional community, featuring a growing number of ways to engage with peers, grow professionally, and stay current with the latest news and practices in the higher education IT community. The site is currently home to a multitude of EDUCAUSE member blogs and news feeds from higher education and IT sources. It will be expanding to offer discussion forums and other ways to learn and exchange information with colleagues. Visit this area of the EDUCAUSE Web site at <<http://connect.educause.edu>>.

EDUCAUSE Quarterly Winter 2005

(ISSN 1528-5324; USPS 458-350). The journal is published quarterly by EDUCAUSE, 4772 Walnut Street, Suite 206, Boulder, CO 80301-2538. Periodicals postage paid at Boulder, Colorado, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to EDUCAUSE, 4772 Walnut Street, Suite 206, Boulder, CO 80301-2538. The journal is also online at www.educause.edu/eq/.

Circulation: 7,600. Subscriptions are available to individuals at EDUCAUSE member organizations at an annual rate of \$24 (\$40 outside North America); to individuals at non-member organizations at an annual rate of \$52 (\$72 outside North America); and to all academic libraries at a special rate of \$24 (\$40 outside North America). Questions about subscriptions, address changes, or membership should be directed to the member services department of EDUCAUSE (info@educause.edu or 303-449-4430).

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Information for Contributors

EDUCAUSE Quarterly publishes articles about managing and using information technology and electronic information resources in higher education. Contributions are reviewed by an editorial committee and articles are referenced in several indexing and abstracting services, including Current Index to Journals in Higher Education (ERIC), Computer Literature Index, and Higher Education Abstracts. Papers should be sent as e-mail attachments to editor@educause.edu. For article submission specifications, see www.educause.edu/eq/pub-guidelines.asp.

Publications Mail Agreement #40033384
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Editorial Committee Changes

Fredrick Miller of Illinois Wesleyan University has been appointed the 2006 chair of the EQ Editorial Committee. In addition, Wayne A. Brown (Johnson County Community College), Catherine Finnegan (Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia), AJ Kelton (Montclair State University), and Patricia Wolf (University of Maryland University College) are joining the committee this coming year. EDUCAUSE extends its thanks to Jeffrey C. Cepull, outgoing committee chair, and William Allen, Eric Bird, and David Gray, outgoing committee members, for their dedicated service.