Security Resources Update

Among several security developments during the last quarter, the Effective Security Practices Guide, an online service designed to foster the development of sound security practices within higher education, was introduced by the EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Computer and Network Security Task Force. What sets the initiative apart from other efforts to develop IT security standards and best practices is not only its concentration on higher education’s distinctive need to balance security with open, collaborative networking environments, but also its recognition of the diversity of security imperatives across the higher education spectrum. It is intended particularly for college and university information security officers and IT staff who implement and manage security measures.

The guide offers an extensive set of practical guidelines that address the security challenges universities and colleges commonly face, particularly prevention, detection, and response. It includes sections on legislation and policy, risk assessment, and the key components of campus IT security programs. Not just a community-serving but also a community-driven project, the guide includes real-life examples submitted by individual institutions and links to security-related contributions to the EDUCAUSE Effective Practices and Solutions database. Institutions are invited to contribute their own examples of effective security practices.

On the national level, efforts to secure cyberspace moved forward in December with the convening of the National Cyber Security Summit, the first in a series of invitational events focusing on Internet security held by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. At the summit, Security Task Force members had an opportunity to collaborate with Homeland Security and industry in executing the next steps of U.S. cybersecurity strategy. Among the outcomes of the summit were the creation of task forces to address awareness, early warning, corporate governance, technical standards, and software security. The summit work plan and archived Webcasts are available online at <http://www.uscert.gov/events.html>.

On the research front, the EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR) released Information Technology Security: Governance, Strategy, and Practice in Higher Education, a major research study by Robert B. Kvavik and John Voloudakis, with Judith B. Caruso, Richard N. Katz, Paula King, and Judith A. Pirani. The study investigates how higher education is coping with the growing cost of information technology security and with the tensions among preserving confidentiality, ensuring data integrity, and maintaining an academic environment in which information is easily available to authorized users.

College and university IT security officers and practitioners interested in technical security solutions and security management issues will have an opportunity to gather and learn at the second annual Security Professionals Workshop, May 16–18 in Washington, D.C. The Security Task Force-sponsored workshop will address such issues as training, awareness, policies, and procedures.


New Board Members, Officers

EDUCAUSE welcomes to its board of directors three new members—John Bucher, Ellen Waite-Franzen, and John Hitt—who began four-year terms January 1.

John Bucher is director of Information Technology at Oberlin College and has held IT leadership and management positions at Kansas State University, the University of South Dakota, and the University of Kansas. He has supported the profession in numerous capacities, including service with EDUCAUSE as chair of the 2003 annual conference program committee and a member of the EDUCAUSE Institute Leadership Program faculty and Recognition Committee, as well as with the Corporation for Research and Educational Networking (CREN), Educom, the Seminars on Academic Computing (SAC), and the ACM Special Interest Group on University and College Computing Services (SIGUCCS) as member of their boards. He has written, spoken, and consulted extensively on leadership, customer service, and IT staff management, and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas and M.S. and B.S. degrees from Wright State University, all in biology.

Ellen Waite-Franzen is vice president for Computing and Information Services at Brown University. She has previously held leadership and management positions in information services and...
libraries at the University of Richmond, Loyola University Chicago, the University of Arizona, and Marquette University. She has been a board member of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), the Chicago Library System, and the Ocean State Higher Education Economic Development and Administrative Network (OSHEAN), as well as chair of the Illinois Cooperative Collection Management Committee, co-chair of the Illinois White House Conference on Libraries, faculty member of the Frye Leadership Institute, and member of the EDUCAUSE Member Services and Publications Advisory Committees. She has written and presented extensively on information services, research libraries, technology-mediated learning, and the role of librarians in universities. She holds an M.A. in library and information science from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a B.A. in English literature from the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh.

John Hitt, president of the University of Central Florida, has had a career as a teacher, academic administrator, and leader at five institutions and has been a strong advocate for information technology in higher education. He has taught psychology at Tulane University and Texas Christian University (TCU) and has held leadership positions at TCU, Bradley University, and the University of Maine. He chairs the Florida State University Presidents Association and serves on the Economic Development Council of Mid-Florida, the Florida Council of 100, the Florida High-Tech Corridor Council, and the boards of several economic, financial, health, and arts organizations. He has been honored for outstanding contributions to local and regional philanthropic associations. A recipient of fellowships from the Danforth Foundation and the National Science Foundation, he holds both a Ph.D. and an M.S. in physiological psychology from Tulane University and a B.A. in psychology from Austin College.

John Bucher and Ellen Waite-Franzen were elected to the board by primary representatives of member institutions during last fall’s board election. John Hitt was selected by the 2003 board as this year’s appointed member, chosen to ensure balance of representation among the variety of IT sectors critical for advancing higher education.

New board officers were chosen at the board’s quarterly meeting at the 2003 annual conference. The following officers began one-year terms January 1: chair—Kathleen Christoph, University of Wisconsin–Madison; vice chair—Perry O. Hanson III, Brandeis University; secretary—Robyn R. Render, University of North Carolina Office of the President; treasurer—William H. Pritchard, Foothill-DeAnza Community College District.

**EQ Editorial Committee Changes**

Warren Wilson of the South Dakota State Board of Regents System Office has been appointed the 2004 chair of the EDUCAUSE Quarterly Editorial Committee. In addition, Gail McMillan (Virginia Tech), Pamela McQuesten (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona), and Fredrick Miller (Illinois Wesleyan University) joined the committee at the beginning of 2004.

EDUCAUSE extends its thanks to Kenneth Pflueger, outgoing committee chair, and David Bantz and Judith Caruso, outgoing committee members, for their dedicated service. Individuals interested in serving on the EQ Editorial Committee or other EDUCAUSE committees can learn more and apply online at <http://www.educause.edu/committees/>.