



Hudson Valley Chapter

March 2004 Newsletter

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President's Message

Hello Members!!

Have you checked out our membership numbers lately? Lisa LeBlanc, our hardworking Membership Chair, welcomed our newest members in her column below. These new recruits bring our current total up to 140. Excellent job, everyone!

I would encourage anyone, whether a new member or a seasoned veteran, to take an active role in our Chapter. As with anything, the more you put in, the more you'll get out of it. So what does that mean to you? Participate in the events and programs, join a committee, sign up a friend. No matter what role works for you, get involved!

You'll find, like the rest of us have, that ISACA is an enjoyable organization engaged in a lot of worthwhile activities.

To that end, last month, I asked if any of you were interested in becoming a Chapter leader, and I'm proud to say that the response was a YES!

In the next few months, we'll finalize the slate of board members and publish the proposed names. The annual election of Officers and Directors will be held at the Chapter's regular June meeting.

See you at [The Conference that Counts](#).

I *Bernie McHugh*

Chapter President

Securing Home Computing

By Wes More

In the February newsletter, I gave a brief overview of securing the home computer and invited questions for future articles. Thanks to all who read the article and to those who asked questions. In this article, I will answer questions regarding anti-virus, personal firewalls, and messaging pop ups.

One reader asked, "*Which virus protection software and personal firewalls would you recommend? How would you address the pop-up issue?*" When evaluating software, you want to look for features that work best for you. Anti-virus products should be capable of recognizing all known malicious software signatures, and the software vendor should have a good track record of responding to new viruses. The ability for the vendor to quickly response to a new threat is critical. Of course, the consumer must then apply the newest updates to their systems. To assist with this, you want an anti-virus product that allows you to automate the updating.

Consumers looking for a personal firewall product should evaluate how easy it is to use. The personal firewall is used to allow or block programs or Internet users from accessing the information on their PC. You want a product that provides protection from both inbound and outbound threats. The personal firewall should allow traffic deemed safe and block traffic deemed unsafe.

The personal firewall should also have the ability to ask if inbound or outbound traffic should be allowed giving you the opportunity to evaluate traffic as safe or unsafe.

Optionally the firewall should remember your response so that the same traffic is handled that way in the future.

There are products available that will block pop-up messages. These products should be evaluated for ease of use, and over all effectiveness. Again, you want a vendor with a reliable history in the market space.

Many Internet Service Providers are beginning to offer some variations of anti-virus, personal firewall, pop-up message blocking software as a part of their service.

You should evaluate these products to ensure they provide the protection you desire. But remember, a little protection is better than no protection.

Please keep your questions coming. You can email your questions on secure home computing to Wmore_12066@yahoo.com. I will answer additional questions in the next article.

Joseph Maloney Scholarship for 2004

By Kathleen Whitsett, Director of Awards

The Hudson Valley Chapter of the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) announces the availability of a \$500 scholarship to support a student in Information Systems related studies during the academic year 2004-2005.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be an ISACA member or a relative of an ISACA member.
- Have received or will receive a high school or GED diploma.
- Be enrolled in an Information Systems, Accounting or IS Auditing certificate or degree program at an accredited college or university during 2004.

To apply send a completed application to Kathleen Whitsett by e-mail at Kwhitsett@osc.state.ny.us or mail to Hudson Valley ISACA, P.O. Box 1458, Albany, NY 12201 by May 31, 2004. The scholarship award will be presented at the June 2004 luncheon meeting.

[Scholarship application](#)

From the Desk of Membership

by Lisa LeBlanc, CISA

I would like to give a warm welcome to eight new members of the Hudson Valley Chapter!

- Thomas F. Cooper, CISA joins us from Fleet Boston Financial Group in Albany.
- Jeffrey A. Ewing, CISA, also from Fleet Boston Financial Group, rejoins the chapter. Welcome back, Jeff.
- Gary Lyons, CISSP is from Careerfile.com in Adams, MA.
- Gerard Marino joins us from SUNY System Administration.
- Wayne P. Ploof, CFE is from the Vermont Department of Banking, Insurance, and Securities in Montpelier, VT.

- Sergey Romanov from Grahamsville, NY has also joined the chapter.
- Peter Russo joins us from Albany Molecular Research.
- Craig M. Zurek, CCP joins us from Glens Fall National Bank

Whew! With these new additions to the Hudson Valley chapter we are now at 140 members strong. Welcome!

CISA and CISM[®]

Our chapter is considering holding another CISA review course this year if we have enough members who are interested. This course has proven valuable in past years to chapter members who sat for the CISA exam. Please contact our CISA Coordinator, Bill O'Toole (wmotoole@gw.dec.state.ny.us or 402-9147) to let him know if you are interested in our chapter holding a CISA review course this year.

2004 CISA and CISM Exam Registration Deadline

The final registration deadline is March 31, 2004 for both exams. According to ISACA International's website, registration for both exams is once again at a record pace. Therefore, interested individuals are strongly encouraged to register well in advance and to take advantage of on-line registration.

[Register today!](#)

ISACA International News

ITGI's Activities

The IT Governance Institute (ITGI) strives to assist enterprise leaders in their responsibility to make IT successful in supporting the enterprise's mission and goals.

Its goals are to raise awareness and understanding among and provide guidance and tools to boards of directors, executive management and chief information officers (CIO's) such that they are able to ensure within their enterprises that IT meets and exceeds expectations, and its risks are mitigated. ITGI approaches its goals through a variety of activities. Each year, the institute hosts the annual [IT Governance Forum](#), a full-day symposium dedicated to the in-depth examination of IT governance and related topics. Presented and attended by senior level IT managers and executives, the forum offers divergent opinions, seasoned advice and global viewpoints.

The ITGI web site offers an array of electronic resources and links on IT governance and pertinent topics, arranged by professional topic area. The Resource Center contains articles, white papers, slide presentations and downloadable books. The ITGI conducts original research into the concepts and application of IT governance. One of its primary research publications is *Control Objectives for Information and related Technology* (COBIT), now in its third edition. [COBIT](#) is a breakthrough IT governance tool that helps enterprises meet their objectives by facilitating the understanding and management of information and IT risks. The institute's other publications examine the meaning of IT governance, its relationship to enterprise governance, the roles and responsibilities of boards and senior management in effecting IT governance and the increasing importance of information security governance. Virtually all of ITGI's publications are available on a complimentary download basis from the web site.

To help facilitate the optimal learning that often takes place in discussions among seasoned experts who gladly share questions, concerns, experiences, lessons learned and situations to avoid, ITGI has established an [IT governance listserv](#). Anyone interested in IT governance is invited to join this listserv, which offers excellent opportunities to share advice, seek assistance and raise questions pertinent to the topic.

**North America CACS***9-13 May 2004**Chicago, Illinois, USA*

ISACA members are encouraged to attend the North America conference on IS audit, control and security (CACS) where experts from around the world will gather to discuss issues facing the IT and IS communities. The conference sessions focus on IT assurance, information security technology, information security management and IT governance. Whether confronted with global issues or in need of answers to local challenges, North America CACS will provide state-of-the-art practices and knowledge to meet these needs with confidence. For more information, visit www.isaca.org/nacacs2004.
