



Hudson Valley Chapter February 2005 Newsletter

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President's Message

Have you seen the brochure for ***The Conference That Counts?!*** Well, it's out and it looks like we're in for another great year. This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the TCTC and to celebrate, we've invited back the "best of the best." Select your favorite sessions and sign up now. Don't forget, if you register by February 18, 2004, you can take advantage of the early bird discount.

Register online at: http://www.aganycap.org/education/events/march_tct/tctc.htm.

In last month's newsletter, I told you we would be holding a special luncheon in February to recognize the hard-earned achievements of our newly certified CISAs and CISM's. Well, while we'll still be recognizing these members, it won't be in February. Don't worry though, we'll let you know shortly when we plan to do this.

I wasn't able to attend last month's 5th Annual Technology Conference, but I heard it went very well. The nearly 100 participants learned about increasing productivity through enhanced technology. Read on to find about the next luncheon, an upcoming certification seminar, and other important information that is sure to interest you.

Bernie McHugh

Chapter President

February Luncheon

Just a reminder that our February luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9 at the Italian-American Community Center.

The presentation for this event will be from Henry Seelbinder of Troux Technologies, addressing IT Governance concerns. Troux Technologies (pronounced "True") provides high-performing organizations with a strategic advantage: a business system for IT.

Troux's products and solutions for IT Governance helps organizations align IT strategies and technologies with business goals and truly govern IT for the first time. Please plan on attending this informative event.

Certification Seminar

Want to attain the fast track to success? Considering pursuing professional certifications? Our chapter, in conjunction

with the local chapters for the Association of Government Accountants, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Institute of Internal Auditors, Institute of Management Accountants, as well as the NYS Certified Public Accountants, is co-sponsoring an auditing certification seminar. This event will take place February 10th from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM at the Holiday Inn Turf located on 205 Wolf Road in Colonie. There will be an 8:00 to 8:30 pre-registration with coffee and pastries.

Representatives from each of the certification sponsoring organizations will present an overview of their professional certification and answer any questions you may have. The seminar is free but you must pre-register in advance online at www.aganycap.org or by contacting Cathy Prescott at cprescott@kpmg.com or (518)427-4750. Happy test taking and good luck!

Member Survey

As a way to better serve the needs and interests of our members, the Chapter's Board will be using the monthly newsletter to solicit feedback on a variety of topics. To accomplish this, each month we will have a survey question and request each of you to submit a reply to the question. To help encourage feedback, a random response will be selected each month, and that individual will receive a free admission to one of this year's monthly luncheons. Please take a few seconds to provide your views.

[Please follow this link to this month's survey.](#)

Please join us in congratulating Walter Klimek as the winning selection from the January survey. Walter will be entitled to a free attendance at the next monthly luncheon. Also, a thank you to everyone that submitted their preference regarding locations for Chapter luncheons. The Italian-American center was generally the preferred location, but comments submitted with the survey clearly indicate that the primary issue is one of free parking that is relatively easy to access. This information will be considered by the board in discussing alternatives. Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback.

CISA and CISM[®]

For persons interested in sitting for the upcoming CISA and CISM exams, a copy of the 2005 *Bulletin of Information* for each certification can be downloaded from ISACA's web site (www.isaca.org) or requested from the certification department at certification@isaca.org.

Early registration deadline: February 2, 2005

Final registration deadline: March 30, 2005

Exam date: June 11, 2005

[Register online today](#) and save \$35.

ISACA International News

Asian Tsunami Disaster

ISACA shares the world's heartfelt sympathy at the devastating loss of life and the suffering of so many in the wake of the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

The association has thousands of members in that area of the world, and all members' thoughts are with those affected as they deal with this tragedy. [Further Information](#)

IT Governance Institute Survival Kit Helps Protect Home Computer Users

Kit Includes Tips to Reduce Information Security Risks

Rolling Meadows, IL, USA, 26 January 2005—Along with the joys and benefits of surfing the net, making online purchases, paying bills and sending e-mail to family and friends, come significant risks that home computer user should not ignore.

Uncontrolled use of home and home-office computers by children, their friends or non-technical adults, can wreak extensive damage to the system, cause financial loss and reveal private information. The Information Security Survival Kit for Home Users, a free downloadable document released today by the IT Governance Institute® (ITGI®, www.itgi.org), provides checklists of simple precautions that can reduce the risks of using home computers.

“Leaving your home computer unprotected is about as safe as leaving your front door open when you go on vacation,” said Erik Guldentops, CISA, CISM, advisor to ITGI. “Many people, even veteran home users, underestimate the extent evildoers will go to vandalize systems, commit fraud, or steal identities. Users also receive spam, unwanted pop-ups and other nuisances.

While it is impossible to be 100 percent safe, people can achieve a high level of security by following the advice in the Information Security Survival Kit.”

Tips featured in the ITGI Survival Kit include:

- If children might use a computer, keep the machine in an open place and use the Internet service provider’s content filters.
- Talk with children about potential hazards of using the Internet and set limits. Make sure children do not reveal personal information, such as name, age, address or school, to anyone with whom they communicate online. Nefarious adults can masquerade as children or authority figures.
- Be aware that familiar e-mail addresses can be faked. Obtain reputable security software, sign up for automatic updates, let anti-spam and anti-virus software scan all e-mails and attachments, and follow the advice given.
- Disconnect the computer from other networks and sign off of the Internet when not being used.
- Avoid storing sensitive data on an unsecured laptop computer or personal digital assistant (PDA) and do not leave the devices where they can be stolen.
- People working from home should consult their company’s system support team and follow security rules. Hackers have gained access to the computers of major companies through remote workers’ underprotected systems.

“Computer security is more about awareness and behavior than it is about technical safeguards,” said Guldentops. “All users should be continually vigilant and remember that a lot of awareness, a bit of discipline and some common sense go a long way in providing the security home computers users need. The Survival Kit gives just that.”