



*Information Systems
Audit and Control
Association®*

Hudson Valley Chapter

February 2006 Newsletter

In this issue:

- [President's Message](#)
 - [CISA and CISM News](#)
 - [Membership](#)
 - [Upcoming Luncheon](#)
 - [ISACA International News](#)
-

President's Message

I am pleased to report that our chapter continues to enjoy membership growth. As of the end of 2005, chapter membership stood at 167 members. In the space of two years our chapter membership has grown by 26%. Overall, our organization (ISACA) now has over 62,000 members worldwide. Please join me in welcoming our new members into the chapter. And thanks to our existing members for their continued support and confidence in this chapter.

This year's Technology Conference has come and gone, and this year's event was a tremendous success! Over 130 participants were on hand to hear excellent presentations on how data can be used – both for audit purposes to identify performance improvement opportunities and potential fraud, as well as for not-so noble purposes as taking control of someone's life and assets. And the session by various Information Security Officers on the necessary controls over data was both informative and engaging. Congratulations to Frank Pacowski! Frank was the lucky recipient of the ISACA chair who was drawn from all attendees of the Technology Conference.

And, speaking of drawings.....there are only a couple more opportunities to get entered for our Chapter's drawing for an iPod. The February luncheon is fast approaching, and after that only the April Awards lunch and the May luncheon remain. So, to help increase your chance of selection, be sure to attend as many of these events as possible.

I'd be remiss in talking about upcoming events if I failed to mention the TCTC coming in March. Historically, this has been a very well-attended event, and this year will be no exception. One particularly interesting session will take place during one of the lunches: Casino Scams and Schemes. I have seen a similar presentation a couple of years ago, and it is simply amazing some of the things that people come up with to try to defeat and defraud the gambling industry. Make sure you see the details for registering for this conference, and try to be there.

Lastly, although we just passed the half-way mark to our program year, it is not too early to start thinking about next year's chapter officers. With a chapter of our size, the board members have a

tremendous amount of input to chapter activities, and there is always some opportunity for incorporating new people within this leadership. So, if you have been thinking that it may be a bit interesting to help the chapter out and serve on the board, please let me know of your interest. I welcome the opportunity for new perspectives and ideas, and will try to answer any question you may have.

Since the Super Bowl has now ended, just remember.....2006 is a great year to be a Chiefs fan!!

Mike Farrar

Chapter President



CISA and CISM[®]

You can now register for the June 2006 CISA and CISM exams at www.isaca.org. Bulletins of Information for each exam are available on ISACA's website. The early registration period ends February 8th. You can save \$50 by registering early, and save another \$35 by registering online.

Significant CISA and CISM Exam Dates

- ▶ **Feb 8, 2006** - Early Registration Deadline
- ▶ **April 5, 2006** - Final Registration Deadline
- ▶ **June 10, 2006** - Exam

Our Chapter has organized a one-week **CISM Review Course** to assist candidates in preparing for the June 2006 CISM examination. The course will be conducted during May 1st through May 5th at the Albany-Airport Hampton Inn & Suites in Latham. Persons who attend the review course may obtain up to 33 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours. Please [click here](#)

for more information about the course or to learn how to register. Seating is limited, so please register early.

The Chapter offers interested members a special opportunity to better prepare themselves for the June 2006 CISA exam as well. Specifically, the Chapter has agreed to help subsidize the costs of **MicroMash® ExamMatrix CISA Review** Software for its members. Ordinarily, this software costs \$595. However, Chapter members can purchase the software for the June 2006 CISA Exam for only \$150. The software includes multiple-choice questions and comprehensive reference materials. It is intended to be interactive, fully personalized training to help you manage and optimize your personal study program for the CISA exam. For more information, or to actually purchase the software, please click go to <http://www.exammatrix.com/hvisaca>.

Membership Dues Reimbursement for CISA/CISM Exam Passers

To recognize the significant accomplishment of attaining professional certifications, the Chapter's Board of Directors has decided to reimburse Chapter members who successfully pass either the June 2006 CISA or CISM exam for their 2007 ISACA Association Dues.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for dues reimbursement, an individual must be a member in good standing of the ISACA Hudson Valley Chapter as of April 2006, and successfully pass either the June 10, 2006 CISA or CISM exam.

DOCUMENTATION

Once you have received the official notification from ISACA International (usually a notification letter is sent about six weeks after the exam) that you have passed either exam, please forward a copy of the notification letter along with proof of Chapter membership to the following address:

Rich Thomas
RE: ISACA Dues Reimbursement
90 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

PROCESSING

All documentation must be submitted to the above address by December 1, 2006. Upon verifying the information, the Chapter Treasurer will send you a check made out to ISACA International for your 2007 association dues.

From the Desk of Membership

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members of the Hudson Valley Chapter:

Mohammed Aziz
Gaurav Dhawan
Laura Iwan
Cynthia Jamula
Rajesh Uppugonduri
Robert Nied
L. James Thomas
Srinivas Uppugonduri

Please join me in welcoming them! The Hudson Valley Chapter now stands at 177 members strong!

February Luncheon

Host Intrusion Prevention

Organizations face serious outages based on rapidly spreading worms or viruses, such as Slammer, Nimda, Sasser and MyDoom. Although signature-based antivirus tools represent the most-significant security investment in most companies, many new threats exploit system vulnerabilities that these tools can't address.

Host Intrusion Prevention (HIPS) products provide threat protection for servers and desktops. They help reduce operational costs by identifying, preventing, and eliminating known and unknown security threats. Mr. Kenney will review:

- Architecture of behavior-based HIPS agents
- Security Policies for HIPS
- End User perspective of HIPS
- Compare HIPS to Anti-Virus and Distributed Firewall solutions

Charles Kenney is a Security Specialist with Cisco. He holds a MBA and BBA from James Madison University. He is a CISSP and is a member of ISC(2), ISACA and Infragard.

Charlie is responsible for educating customers, prospects and partners on Cisco's Security Strategy and Products. He supports Cisco's Enterprise Sales teams in the Boston Financial and Retail segment, and Upstate New York's Major Accounts segment.

Charlie joined Cisco through its acquisition of OKENA in April, 2003 with responsibility for product training and sales of the Cisco Security Agent (CSA-OKENA) in the Northeast Area.

Charlie has worked in information technology for over 20 years with a concentration in security and bringing new technology to market. He has held engineering, consulting, sales and management roles in both start-up companies and large integrators and manufacturers during his career including Nortel Networks, Bell Atlantic, and Ernst and Young.

Topic:	Host Intrusion Prevention
Date/Time:	Tuesday, February 28, 2006 Registration: 11:30 - 12:00 Lunch: Noon Program: 12:00 - 1:30
Location:	Italian American Community Center Washington Avenue Extension
Menu:	Chicken Francaise or Atlantic Salmon Fillet (Includes Appetizer, Dessert, Coffee/Tea)
Cost:	Members: \$5 Non-Members: \$10 Payable by check, Purchase Order or Government Voucher (payee ID# 22-3001385) made payable to: ISACA - Hudson Valley Chapter
RSVP:	by Thursday, February 23, 2006 Wendy Nelson, wnelson@nysif.com or 437-5205 Register On-Line

ISACA International News

Nominations for ISACA Board of Directors

Maintaining a strong and devoted Board of Directors is crucial to ISACA's ongoing success. Recruitment of candidates for ISACA's Board of Directors reflects input from many sources, including nominations submitted by members. ISACA is looking to its members to recommend individuals for board leadership who can help carry the organization to new heights of excellence and innovation.

When considering nominations, members should review the specific responsibilities for each position listed on the nomination form. International board appointments are for one year terms. To submit a nomination, members should complete the Board of Directors nomination form that was included with volume 1, 2006, of the Information Systems Control Journal. The form is also available online at www.isaca.org/nominate. Nominations are due 2 April 2006.

Security Alliance Convergence Survey

To gain a better understanding of the impact of convergence on enterprise security, The Alliance for Enterprise Security Risk Management® (AESRM), an alliance of leading international security organizations ASIS International, ISACA and the Information Systems Security Association

(ISSA), conducted a survey of chief information security officers, chief security officers and other security professionals from US-based global companies with revenues ranging from US \$1 billion to more than US \$100 billion.

The resulting report, titled “Convergence of Enterprise Security Organizations,” contains the survey results, tips on how to facilitate convergence and the benefits of convergence.

The survey results point to several internal and external forces that are driving convergence, including:

- Rapid expansion of the enterprise ecosystem
- Value migration from physical to information-based and intangible assets
- New protective technologies blurring functional boundaries
- New compliance and regulatory regimes
- Continuing pressure to reduce costs

The full report is available as a complimentary download at www.isaca.org.

ISACA Survey Reveals Top Six Critical Elements of a Successful Information Security Program

Rolling Meadows, IL, USA (22 December 2005)—Senior management’s commitment to information security initiatives is the top critical element for ensuring effective information security, according to a new study by ISACA®. Results of the study were released today in *Critical Elements of Information Security Program Success*, available as a free download at www.isaca.org/research.

The remaining critical elements in the top six are:

- Management’s understanding of information security issues
- Information security planning prior to the implementation of new technologies
- Integration between business and information security
- Alignment of information security with the organization’s objectives
- Executive and line management’s ownership and accountability for implementing, monitoring and reporting on information security

“This study reaffirmed that information security is not just an IT problem—it is a business problem,” said Everett Johnson, CPA, international president of ISACA. “Executive and senior management need to be involved in security risk assessments and provide sufficient resources and consistent support for information security initiatives, and information security professionals need to develop a solid understanding of the business.”

The study consisted of a 10-person focus group of information security management specialists from eight countries and a 157-person survey group from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. Survey respondents included C-level executives, senior management, information security managers and staff, research directors, and consultants.

Each group was tasked with identifying the top 10 critical elements for the success of an information security program. Both groups agreed on the top six elements but differed on the remaining four.

The report includes a list of the 35 critical elements for security awareness programs developed by the focus group, from which the top six were selected, as well as suggested actions for ensuring that an organization’s information security program contains the necessary critical elements.

Media Contacts

Kristen Bertholomey, +1.847.590.7455, kbertholomey@isaca.org

Deborah Vohasek, +1.847.590.7466, dvoasek@isaca.org