

# Holistic Information Security Practitioner Institute

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To all our valued members:

I hope this letter finds you well and prosperous. As always, I want to extend our thanks to all of you who have so generously volunteered your time and services to the HISPI.

## Here we grow again!

I am very pleased to announce two exciting changes. Firstly, the HISP Institute has come to an agreement with eFortresses to transfer the HISP course intellectual property over to the HISPI! This is a ground breaking step in our target for expected growth in 2012.

What does this mean for HISPI members? This means more training options, such as two or three day accelerated courses, enhanced e-study guide and finally a complete hard copy study guide that maps to the training materials.

As we roll out the new training options we will keep you informed. Training partners and previously planned courses will not be adversely affected.

A special thank you to Taiye Lambo; HISP Founder, for his visionary thinking and openness to help make this historic change possible.

Secondly, Effective January 1, 2012, I will be working full-time as the President of the HISPI. This is another ground breaking move that will ensure the continued growth and improvement of the Institute and the value of the HISP certification and HISPI membership services.

## Partnerships

**In our effort to continually provide our members with a well rounded education and enhance the HISP certification. We are proud to announce our new partnerships with PENTEST Magazine and Hackin9.**

PENTEST Magazine one of the fastest growing publications, features articles by penetration testing specialists and enthusiasts and experts in the vulnerability assessment and management community. Through this partnership, PENTEST subscribers will receive a one-time discount and full access to the HISPI online library, podcasts, mappings and e-study guides. The partnership will cover the HISPI and PENTEST Magazine global footprint. Yours truly was featured on the cover of the [September issue](#) and we had a great interview where the importance of the Holistic Approach was discussed.

If you can't download a copy, request one from us at [questions@hispi.org](mailto:questions@hispi.org).

PenTest Magazine is devoted exclusively to penetration testing. It features articles by penetration testing specialists and enthusiasts, experts in vulnerability assessment and management. They cover all aspects of pen testing, from theory to practice, from methodologies and standards to tools and real-life solutions.

Hakin9 is a weekly magazine totally devoted to IT security. It covers techniques of breaking into computer systems, defense and protection methods, tools and latest trends in IT Security.

Hakin9 has 4 different editions every month.

- Hakin9 – main issue,
- Hakin9 Extra – every issue is devoted to one topic only,
- Exploiting Software magazine – Partition Analysis, Stack Overflow and many more,
- Mobile Security – hacking and securing of mobile systems and applications.

They will provide us with free subscriptions, 12 free advertisements and free marketing in their newsletter.

This will kick off first quarter 2012. Both Hackin9 and PENTEST will expand our distribution to an additional 180,000 professionals.

## Middle East

We continue to grow in the Middle East. I just returned from another trip where I attended the HEIC Conference on Higher Education. I presented on the HISP Methodology and the HISPI received an award for its fine work and sponsorship in the region.

I met with many heads of Universities who support the HISP Certification over other certifications because of our educational structure and our continued efforts to enhance the "Practitioner" status. We are planning the first HISPI international conference in the Middle East for 2012. Possibly in May. We will keep everyone posted as we will be offering discount packages for those members that wish to attend.

## HISPI Outreach Program Pilot a Complete Success

As many of you may know, in October the HISPI teamed up with ASMGi and eFortresses to provide a free HISP course, materials, mentoring and certification exams to the unemployed. As a pilot we chose Ohio as the test state.

16 unemployed security professionals participated in this program with the majority of them taking the certification exam and passing and to date we are happy to announce that 50% of those that participated have found new jobs! We wish them all the luck in the world and will keep track of the other 50% and provide any possible assistance to them in gaining employment.

We are expanding the program in 2012 and will hold classes in Missouri (St. Louis), Washington (Seattle), Ohio (Cleveland) and Georgia (Atlanta). Other possible locations are Las Vegas and Detroit.

We will announce the 2012 dates soon and of course reach out to our members for help.

## New Programs for 2012

### Cloud Assurance Assessment Program (CAAP)

The HISPI is launching a new initiative called Cloud Assurance Assessment Program (CAAP) in January.

The ultimate goal of the Holistic Information Security Practitioner Institute (HISPI) managed CAAP is to ensure that Information Security is an enabler for Cloud adoption!

Cloud Service Providers will be performing customer driven self-assessments using assessment platforms that are based on, or integrate with, the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) GRC Stack and the HISP framework.

CAAP Opt-In organizations will contract qualified CAAP independent assessors to validate the self-assessment provisional rating and associated evidence along with any internal requirements. For an organization to qualify for CAAP status, they must meet the experience requirements and at least one individual in the organization must hold dual certifications of HISP and CCSK.

A call was put out through the HISPI LinkedIn group looking for volunteers to be involved in the HISPI Cloud Assurance Assessor Program (CAAP) scheme and oversight committee who will manage the scheme. If interested, please e-mail us at [questions@hispi.org](mailto:questions@hispi.org).

### CISO Outreach Program

This program will be spear-headed by existing HISP members and Certified HISPs that function in the role of CISO within their organizations. These CISOs have derived tremendous value from HISP and HISPI and are willing to evangelize the HISP and HISPI value proposition to fellow CISOs and their colleagues and industry contacts.

More information about this program will be forth coming in Q1, 2012.

### Ask the Experts

Ask the Experts is a security forum where information security professionals can ask security questions and get answers to help improve their organization's information security management systems.

It's your direct connection to some of the leading information security specialists and practitioners in the field. Our panel consists of information security specialists that are members and volunteers of the HISPI and noted for their knowledge of a wide range of specific processes, technologies and integration techniques.

If you are interested in being involved, please let us know.

## **New Open Forums**

New (recorded live) open forums are scheduled for the first half of 2012. These forums will be mostly panel discussions led by some of the top security thought leaders.

We have some exciting topics planned, so keep an eye on the HISPI website as the schedule will be posted in December.

I am also excited to announce that we are teaming up with other forum associations to expand our visibility, outreach and sponsorship opportunities.

## **New Sponsorship Programs**

We have launched some new sponsorship programs that are designed to provide more value than most other programs. The Platinum, Gold, Silver and Academic sponsorships offer leadership roles, marketing opportunities and an array of other programs to allow our sponsors to be more than just a banner on a website.

These programs are designed to provide a real return for the investment. Your help in passing the word would be greatly appreciated. If your organization or anyone you know are interested, please contact us at [partnerships@hispi.org](mailto:partnerships@hispi.org). A link will also be provided on the HISPI home page very soon.

## **ISO/IEC 17024 Accreditation**

The line is drawn in the sand. The target is to be ISO 17024 Accredited by the end of 2012.

We are targeting a pre-assessment around the June time frame.

Tom Stamulis, HISPI Accreditation Officer is spearheading this effort and will need your support. Please try to volunteer if called upon.

## **Final Thoughts**

First of all, on behalf of all the board members I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season. Without the support of our members and the volunteer hours, our accomplishments would not be possible. You are all true professionals and the most amazing group of dedicated individuals I have ever been associated with.

I am convinced that a HISP member and those who move on to certification have an incredible vision into the future and support the fact that practitioners holding certifications like the HISP are truly the next generation of information security practitioners.

In closing as I do in each letter, I want to reiterate the vision of the HISPI. We will always strive to uphold the quality and integrity of the HISPI and the HISP certification. We will not under any circumstances partake in any activities or forge any partnerships that even have the potential of degrading the high level of integrity and quality we have set for ourselves and the HISP certification.

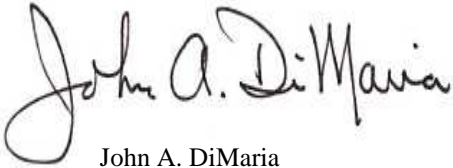
We realize that we cannot measure progress by the above mentioned metrics alone. We measure progress by the success of our certified practitioners and the manner in which our members represent us. You are the people who really matter. Your ability to build on the HISP foundations you have learned and continue to put those fundamentals to practice are a tribute to your level of competence and proves that "HISP" is more than just another acronym behind your name. The rules of our industry have changed. This is a new generation, and there is a revolution taking place in technology and security; a revolution that demands more for less; a revolution that requires multi-talented practitioners. Companies are demanding that both IT and information security professionals understand both the technology and business processes to build an effective organizational ISMS. They are demanding integration and reduction of costs in order to stay profitable. This revolution has changed the way we work and do business.

Competition for jobs is fiercer than it has ever been. You can choose to be a follower or a leader. You can choose to be discouraged or take it as a challenge and kick it up a notch. You can be a "Victim" or a "Victor". The HISPI call to arms is for all professionals to encourage others. Point them to the HISPI website and let them decide for themselves. The responsibility starts in the mirror. We are reinventing what it means to be "certified". We are making a critical statement and paving a path that all others will eventually choose to follow. The way to winning the future is to make a better future for those that follow. Always looking forward not behind us. That's why your windshield is so much bigger than your rear view mirror. Where you are going is so much more important than where you have been. At the HISPI we are looking to the future and by being part of this organization you ARE in fact the future.

As always, we welcome anyone who feels they would like to volunteer some hours to help continued development and improvement for the HISPI and it is a great way to contribute and earn CPEs for your efforts.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support in 2011 and we are very excited about 2012. If you would like to become more involved in the HISPI, we encourage you to volunteer on one of our committees or projects. To become involved contact any governance board member. Contact information for all Governance Board members is at the end of this letter or through the HISPI toll free number 888-247-4858.

Warmest Regards,



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