

Holistic Information Security Practitioner Institute

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To all our valued members:

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

Here we grow again!

We are proud to announce our new Center of Excellence (COE) in the Middle East; Modern University for Business and Science (M.U.B.S) in Lebanon. M.U.B.S. will be the second COE opened within the last 4 months in addition to Corporate College in Cleveland, Ohio.

HISPI sponsored a HISP class at the M.U.B.S. campus the week of January 8th (where yours truly taught the class) and it was a great success. Many of the attendees were from the Lebanese Government Security Forces. You can read all the details and find pictures on the M.U.B.S. website http://www.mubs.edu.lb/en/home/news/hispi_certificates.aspx.

We will be going back in May for a special security conference where HISPI will once again be featured and introduced to a number of Middle East dignitaries of the Arab States.

We are becoming very popular in the region and with many other countries. Comments we have received have noted that they like the HISP program and certification because they want a security certification that supports a true practitioner educational process rather than a boot camp that just teaches one how to pass an exam.

We are also in negotiations with Tiffin University <http://www.tiffin.edu/> and hope to have a MOU in place there soon. Tiffin wants to include the HISP Certification as part of their Cyber Defense & Information Security degree program. We are excited about partnering with Tiffin and add yet another example of how the HISP certification is being used to enhance student's educational background but to also add immediate value to organizations they work with once they graduate as they will leave the university with a true practitioner certification armed with the skills that can make a instant positive impact.

HISPI LinkedIn Group

I would like to formally invite everyone to join the HISPI LinkedIn group launched just recently. This is an open group and all HISPI members were originally invited via e-mail back when it was created. If you have not already joined, please do so and invite anyone else you feel may be interested. Do not confuse this with the HISP Class Alumni Group. The HISPI group is managed by the institute and fosters a wide open educational forum for all that are interested.

BCI Certification Courses

The HISPI has launched new course offerings for Business Continuity Management.

Go to <http://www.hispi.org/calendar-2011.php> and click on the link.

2011 HISPI Information Security Summit, Tiffin,

The HISPI is proud to sponsor an upcoming GRC seminar at Tiffin University. Plans are underway to hold this event on May 12-13, 2011 at the University. Stay tuned for details and registration information. The HISPI is planning to have a special reception at this event for all HISP certified individuals. Make sure to save the date so you can meet some of your HISP certified peers.

CSA Launch of Cloud Controls Matrix

I am sure you all have seen the press release related to the release of the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM1.1).

Our HISPI community of experts provided Quality assurance and validation of the CSA CCM 1.1 prior to launch.

I would like to thank all who took time out of their busy schedules to get this done in a very short period of time. We answered the challenge! All the volunteers received a minimum of 20 CPEs for this very important work.

If you missed it, the press release can be accessed through the HISPI.org website at the top of the page.

New Face of the HISPI

One of the challenges an organization faces with rapid growth is keeping the technology current. After just about 12 months of putting up a new website, we are at it again. I am sure many of you feel as we do, that we have out grown our current website already. We are in the process re-designing the site and expect to launch the new look this quarter. Anyone is welcome to send us your thoughts and ideas while we are still in the design phase.

Final Thoughts

So to set the stage for the New Year, I want to reiterate the vision of HISPI. We will always strive to uphold the quality and integrity of HISPI and the HISP certification. We will not under any circumstances partake in any activities or forge into any partnerships that even have the potential of degrading the high level 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 foundation 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 4 letters behind your name. Those of you, who volunteered for the most recent CSA mapping exercise, lived what I am taking about. What a great job and testimony to the HISP methodology. 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 and a revolution that requires multi-talented practitioners. Companies are demanding that both IT and information security professionals know both the technology and processes that run the 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". HISPI calls to arms all professionals to encourage others. Start by pointing 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 wanting 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 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. Volunteering 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 continual support. 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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