



September 1, 2012

Dear HISPI Member,

It has been several months since my last letter to you, and what a whirlwind time it has been. I think it is time that I take a few minutes to fill you, our members, in on what has been going on here at HISPI.

New Advisory Board Members:

In the past few months we have added a few new members to the Advisory Board. I would like you to welcome the following individuals:

CRAIG SCHERMERHORN: Craig is employed at Securitas Security Services where he is in Audit, Compliance and Standardization. As an ASIS International Certified Protection Professional (CPP) Craig brings an interesting perspective to HISPI since his role at Securitas is primarily focused on physical security of Microsoft's data centers globally.

At Microsoft, on behalf of Securitas, Craig is responsible for the development and execution of Audit and Compliance program management across all Critical Infrastructure operations for Security Management and personnel, pre-audit assessment and training, procedural standardization and policy development as well as new construction and startup oversight for organic growth and acquisitions.

VIDYA SHAKER: Diya is employed as a Program Manager at Microsoft. In her role in the Microsoft Malware Protection Center, she formed a cross-group risk management program as part of the business intelligence team to manage and mitigate risks raised in the anti-malware technologies space.

Prior to this role, she worked as Compliance PM for Microsoft's Engineering Excellence organization, moving to the corporate headquarters in Redmond, Washington to establish and drive engineering policy compliance efforts across the company's online teams, having managed Hotmail's Security & Monitoring Programs from Microsoft's Silicon Valley Campus for a couple of years.

We believe that these practitioners will bring a great deal of value to the advisory board.

Training Materials Update:

As I told you in May, in January Taiye Lambo, Founder of the HISP Course and HISPI transferred all pre-existing intellectual property and the HISP training materials from eFortresses to HISPI. Since that time members of the Governance and Advisory boards have spent countless hours updating and enhancing these resources. Since the completion of these updates we have conducted two courses and the feedback has been very positive.

We will soon be rerecording the HISP online course which may interest many of you as a refresher course. We will provide currently certified members a deeply discounted price for this course once it is available. This course is intended to be a more flexible alternative to attending the classroom course at a lower price point. The difficulty of taking the online course is then sitting for the certification examination. We are investigating ways of securely providing the examination in circumstances where a proctor is unavailable. As you may know ISC² has finally gone paperless, we would like to do the same. Not because they did it but because it provides our examinees with immediate feedback and conserves resources. If any of you have ideas, please let me know.

Non-Profit Status:

I told you in May that we would be working to obtain status as a not for profit 501c3 corporation. This has proven to be a more difficult task than previously anticipated. As a result we have rethought this decision and decided to remain in our current state as a for-profit organization. The cost and difficulties of converting outweigh the benefits.

ANSI Certification:

We have made little progress towards obtaining ANSI certification. This is a very expensive and complex process. We have however been contacted by another organization that has an ISO 27001 Lead Implementer certification program which is ANSI certified. They see the HISP course as complimentary to theirs and have offered to assist us in obtaining ANSI certification. Negotiations are in progress.

Web Site Redesign:

This is another area where we have made no real progress. Our attempts to obtain assistance to redesign the web site by partnering with a community college web/SQL development program have not come to fruition. We are still hoping for such a partnership.

I would like to call out to any of our members that have web design experience to take on this project. This can be a way for you to give back to HISPI and the information security community. We really need to get this done and the current board members do not have the necessary expertise. If you do, I challenge you to step up and help us out.

Sponsorships:

In the last few months we have obtained two new sponsorships, CloudeAssurance and GSMI.

CloudeAssurance, a new eFortresses start-up, has signed up for a Platinum sponsorship (\$5,000 level) with HISPI. Along with this sponsorship CloudeAssurance is co-sponsoring booths with HISPI at the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) EMEA Congress in Amsterdam in September, the Think G-Cloud symposium in London in October and the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) Congress in Orlando in November. These three events will broaden our member outreach toward the cloud community and illustrate how HISP certification can benefit cloud providers and customers.

As a result of the CloudeAssurance and HISPI Co-sponsorships, CSA is offering HISPI Members 50% discount to attend the CSA EMEA Congress in Amsterdam in September and 10% discount to attend the CSA Congress in Orlando in November. Contact Taiye Lambo at tlambo@hispi.org for information on how to obtain this discount.

I would like to ask for your help in signing up more sponsors. I challenge you to approach your own organizations, promote HISPI and HISP certifications and ask them to sponsor your institute. Sponsorships start at \$1,000 and the benefits are enormous. Descriptions of the sponsorship levels, prices and benefits can be found at: <https://www.hispi.org/Corporate%20Sponsorships.pdf>. If you have any questions about sponsorships contact either Taiye Lambo (tlambo@hispi.org) or I (rjohnson@hispi.org).

Our other sponsorship is a media partnership with Global Strategic Management Institute (GSMI) for their GRC Summit in Chicago, September 23rd – 25th. This partnership provides cross promotional efforts between GSMI and HISPI.

You should have received an email announcement regarding this event from me a few days ago.

The 2012 GRC Summit marks the 7th installment of the most comprehensive GRC program available for risk and compliance officers worldwide. The Governance, Risk Management and Compliance Summit has set out to provide an outlet for educating corporate decision makers on the value of a comprehensive GRC strategy.

The GRC Summit is the only event available that offers a comprehensive understanding of what a GRC Framework can do for organizations, the necessary components for successful integration as well as highlighting practical solutions with use case examples.

Implementing a comprehensive GRC program that addresses different levels of governance will not only help mitigate corporate risk, it will substantially improve business processes, producing both profit and long term value.

If you wish to attend the GRC summit GSMI is offering HISPI members a 15% discount. To register visit <http://thegrcsummit.com/> and use discount code **TDHISPI15**

Cloud Assurance Assessor Program (CAAP):

HISPI is the oversight body of the recently launched Cloud Assurance Assessor Program (CAAP). The CAAP provides assurance of the qualifications for those purporting to have the necessary experience and skills competency as Cloud Assessors engaged to independently validate Cloud Service Provider's scores derived from their self-assessments against the requirements of the CloudeAssurance rating system platform.

CAAP was recently launched in partnership with our latest sponsor CloudeAssurance. This program has been under development since November 2011, with the CAAP Oversight Board (CAAPOB) currently chaired by Lisa Peterson of Progressive Insurance and Co-Chair Marlin Pohlman working tirelessly with the rest of the CAAPOB to fill a critical market gap by bringing this offering to market.

For more information about this program, please visit www.hispi.org/CAAP.php, www.CloudeAssurance.com or contact Taiye Lambo at tlambo@hispi.org.

Other Activities:

We have recently explored partnership opportunities for expansion into India, Australia and South Africa and we will keep you posted as these partnerships materialize.

I recently attended a US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) sponsored conference where I learned about one of their initiatives to make information security training easier to find. By the end of the year DHS intends to have a web site available which lists information security training at all levels. I have discussed the matter with DHS representatives and am assured that HISP certification will qualify to be included in the listings on this site. This type of listing should give much needed exposure to our training and certification program.

How You Can Help:

As always, your help is needed. We have made calls for your assistance in the past. The people who gain the greatest value from membership are the ones who actively participate. As I have said before, support can take many forms, such as writing articles for the newsletter, joining committees, helping to build new content, liaising with other security and compliance organizations.

What can you do?

- As mentioned above, if you have the skill set, volunteer to help redesign the web site.
- Challenge your organization to be a sponsor or convince one of your vendors of the benefits. The benefits to sponsors are high and the dollar value is low. Our platinum sponsorship is only \$5,000 per year and silver sponsorship is \$1,000 per year. Compare that to other security organizations. For information on sponsorships, visit: <https://www.hispi.org/Corporate%20Sponsorships.pdf>.
- Keep your membership fee up to date. If you are in arrears for 2010 or 2011, pay up. You can also pay membership fees for 2012 if you haven't already. All of us working to support HISPI are volunteers. All of the funds that you pay go to support the organization's operations, marketing, web site hosting, email and voicemail accounts so that we can be contacted, etc. **When you pay your membership fees, remember to update your contact information and enter your CPEs.**
- Promote the training and certification within your organization and other associations of which you are a part such as ISSA, ISACA, InfraGard, HTCIA, ASIS and any others. Help us to coordinate and schedule classes in your area. If you wish to have a class anywhere, contact me, and we can work something out.
- You can submit articles for the newsletter or allow us to publish your white papers on the web site. Your research and contributions will benefit the HISPI community; you will receive CPEs for any contributions.
- Submit examination questions. Improving the examination improves the value of your certification.
- There are many other ways in which you can help. If you think of something that you believe HISPI may benefit from contact me via email or phone (888-247-4848, select option 1).

One very special way you can help and this should only take you a few minutes. If you are a LinkedIn, Facebook and/or Twitter user follow us/like us on these social media sites. On LinkedIn I encourage you to write us a recommendation. Follow our events. I have one for each of our upcoming classes. These sites make it easy for you to help us promote our classes by simply sending them out to your contacts/friends/followers.

Our links are:



Page



Discussion Group

To volunteer send emails directly to me (rjohnson@hispi.org) or volunteer@hispi.org.

Member Relations:

We say this all the time and it is true, you are important to us. In fact you are the reason we do what we do. Board participation is 100% voluntary, with its reward entirely tied to the value we deliver.

Constructive criticisms welcome – Tell us what you would like to see from HISPI. What can we do to enhance the value of your certification? We do want to hear from you. Give us advice on how we can improve the web site (better yet, if you have the skills help us improve it), how we can improve materials or provide what you might like to see from the organization (better yet help us develop those materials). Suggest ways to make the certification more valuable and beneficial to both you and our other members. However, **remember ideas without bodies to advance them go nowhere, so above all else, volunteer to help us move your ideas forward.**

One Last Thing:

Our next public HISP class is scheduled for September 18 – 20 in Dallas, Texas. Help us get a larger enrollment, if you are interested in taking a refresher or know of anyone interested in HISP certification have them register at <https://www.hispi.org/training.php>. This session is an accelerated three day class and the price is \$1,995 including the exam fee (a \$499 value). We have arranged discounted guest room rates with the Hyatt Place Dallas North Hotel, where the class will be taught, of \$99 per night which includes a continental breakfast each morning. Don't delay, let your contacts know so they can get registered and make arrangements.

In closing let me remind you that I want to hear your ideas, your offers to volunteer and anything else that you wish to discuss or mention. Contact me by email at rjohnson@hispi.org or telephone 888-247-4848, select option 1.

Ralph Johnson, CISSP, HISP, CISM, CIPP/US
HISPI Governance Board President

