



## President's Letter December 2013

HOLISTIC INFORMATION SECURITY PRACTITIONER INSTITUTE



### From the Desk of HISPI President, Ralph Johnson

Looking back at 2013, it was a busy year in security, and a busy year for HISPI.

This year, we focused on a message to the security community: what does it take to be successful in security? Our presentation which outlined top critical factors for success in implementing security at an organization was repeatedly shared at numerous events, and was well-received. The Overview of the Top 10 Critical Success Factors presented at the IT Summit events in:

Seattle, WA – April 24

Dallas, TX – May 29

Houston, TX – September 18

Los Angeles, CA – October 23

San Francisco, CA – November 6

San Diego, CA – December 5



The presentation zeroed in on factors such as leadership commitment, funding, having policies focused on business objectives, security culture consistent with corporate culture, awareness and training, risk management, and displayed how HISPI's framework is a proven, actionable approach to achieving success.

I additionally presented a session looking at changes to the ISO 27000 series at the SecureWorld Expo - St Louis on September 11<sup>th</sup> and the SecureWorld Expo – Seattle on November 14<sup>th</sup>. This presentation got into the details of what was changed, deleted or added to ISO controls in ISO 27000:2012, 27001:2013 and 27002:2013. At these same SecureWorld Expo events Joan Ross, an Advisory

Board member presented on encryption technology on behalf of HISPI.

We have also been heavily involved with NIST and other organizations in the development of the Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) for critical infrastructure. Our founder and current Treasurer, Taiye Lambo, has been present for most of the NIST CSF workshops but there has been HISPI representation at all of them. There is a strong push to ensure that the HISPI Top 20 are included in the final version due out shortly. You can read about the CSF at the following link where Taiye was interviewed about The State of Security: <http://www.tripwire.com/state-of-security/regulatory-compliance/cyber-security-framework-murky-cloud-security-issues/>

The Cloud Assurance Assessor Program (CAAP) continues to move forward as well. We have our first CAAP partnership. SGS a leading independent inspection, verification, testing and Certification Company based in Geneva, Switzerland, has partnered with Cloud Assurance, Inc and HISPI to provide independent assurance of the security of Cloud service providers. This is a giant step for HISPI. See the news release at: <http://www.sgsgroup.us.com/en/Local/USA/News-and-Press-Releases/2013/12/SGS-Helps-Cloud-Service-Providers-Improve-Information-Security-Gain-Customer-Trust.aspx>.



In 2014 we plan to continue our association with the IT Summit as they hold sessions in Denver, Seattle, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego. We are also pursuing promising partnerships with AITP (Association of Information Technology Professionals), one of the oldest IT associations, founded in 1951 and SecureWorld Expo. You will likely begin seeing presentations in 2014 featuring the HISPI Top 20 and its benefits to immediately impact an organizations security posture.

We are in the process of updating the training material to include the changes to the ISO standards and plan to include information on the NIST CSF currently under development.

In addition to this, I am excited that in the next year, you will see our updated logo (which is previewed at the top of this letter), new website and more social media engagement through HISPI presence on LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook. We will also work to train and certify even more HISPs. However, a lot of the ambitious goals we set for ourselves require the participation of volunteers from the membership. Think about sharing a little of your time to participate actively in HISPI. You can help us take the organization to the next level in 2014.

As you can see there is a lot going on at HISPI. You can participate by helping us promote HISP courses in your communities, learning to train and certify other HISPs, or in becoming involved in membership activities. You can even attend events as a HISPI member and present with us. It's up to you. There will be lots of opportunities posted on our new website for you to volunteer, but we are also open to your innovative ideas for HISPI. Get involved. Contact us.

I wish you all a very happy holiday and a brilliant 2014.

*Ralph Johnson*