



## COMPUTER AND NETWORK SECURITY TASK FORCE

Established by EDUCAUSE and Internet2 in July 2000, the Computer and Network Security Task Force works to improve cybersecurity across the higher education sector and actively promotes effective practices and solutions for the protection of information assets and critical infrastructures.

The Security Task Force coordinates its efforts on behalf of institutions of higher education with the support of the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

### HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGY

The following strategic goals have been identified:

- **EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**—to increase the awareness of the associated risks of computer and network use and the corresponding responsibilities of higher education executives and end users of technology (faculty, staff, and students) and to further the professional development of information technology staff
- **STANDARDS, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES**—to develop information technology standards, policies, and procedures that are appropriate, enforceable, and effective within the higher education community
- **SECURITY ARCHITECTURE AND TOOLS**—to design, develop, and deploy infrastructures, systems, and services that incorporate security as a priority and to employ technology to monitor resources and minimize adverse consequences of security incidents
- **ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION SHARING**—to create the capacity for a college or university to effectively deploy a comprehensive security architecture (people, processes, and technology) and to leverage the collective wisdom and expertise of the higher education community

Each goal is supported by a number of specific action items that are being pursued—or updated, as necessary—by a series of working groups established by the Security Task Force (see below). The task force continues to monitor the progress of the working groups at least quarterly and reviews the goals and corresponding accomplishments annually.

### WORKING GROUPS

The Security Task Force has established a number of working groups and committees to pursue projects and initiatives that are part of a coordinated strategy for higher education. The task force continues to monitor the progress of the working groups at least quarterly and reviews the goals and corresponding accomplishments annually.

- **AWARENESS AND TRAINING:** The Awareness and Training Working Group identifies and take steps to implement and publicize various methods by which awareness of information technology security issues is raised among university and college computer and network users, administrators, and executives.
- **EFFECTIVE PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS:** The Effective Practices and Solutions Working Group is focused on identifying and promoting practices, tools, and procedures that higher education institutions have found to be practical solutions to preventing or responding to security problems, with an emphasis on technology and process solutions.

- **POLICIES AND LEGAL ISSUES:** The Policies and Legal Issues Working Group identifies security issues that may be affected by current and proposed laws and the implications for institutional policies. The group identifies and develops material to promote understanding of security-related policies and laws among security professionals, computer administrators, and users. It also identifies and develops examples of effective institutional policies and procedures related to security issues.
- **RISK ASSESSMENT:** The Risk Assessment Working Group is focused on identifying and promoting practices, tools, techniques, and procedures to support institutions of higher education in the application of security risk management, including risk identification, evaluation, mitigation, strategic and operational planning, and monitoring to address information security and assurance.
- **SECURITY PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** The Security Professionals Conference, sponsored by the task force, brings together information security professionals, IT staff, and others from across the higher education community. The committee works together from the initial program planning stages through on-site conference support and develops the themes, organization, and content for the conference. Find out more about volunteering for the committee at [www.educause.edu/volunteer](http://www.educause.edu/volunteer).
- **INTERNET2 INITIATIVES:** Internet2's SALSA initiative brings together technical representatives from the higher education community to advise on leading-edge technology issues, priorities, and new directions for security. Working groups within SALSA tackle specific issues, such as the SALSA-NetAuth Working Group, which explores various security technologies related to authorized network access, style and behavior of transit traffic, and forensic support for investigation of abuse. The FWNA Working Group is a subgroup of SALSA-NetAuth that addresses the substantial technical details of deploying a pilot federated wireless network authentication system. A new initiative, CSI2, executed in close cooperation with the REN-ISAC, is looking at the secure sharing of real-time security information among members of the higher ed community. Learn more at <http://security.internet2.edu>.

*You can help the task force organize and coordinate efforts to improve computer and network security in higher education—consider volunteering for a working group. Contact the task force for more information at [security-volunteer@educause.edu](mailto:security-volunteer@educause.edu).*

## **SECURITY DISCUSSION GROUP**

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Sponsored by the EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Computer and Network Security Task Force, the Security Discussion Group provides a forum to identify problems and share strategies or solutions to improve the security of college and university computers and networks. The discussion group also informs the task force leadership of current issues and trends and helps identify and promote best practices. Subscribe to the group or browse discussion archives at [www.educause.edu/groups/security](http://www.educause.edu/groups/security).

- **For more information, visit [www.educause.edu/security](http://www.educause.edu/security) or contact us at [security-task-force@educause.edu](mailto:security-task-force@educause.edu) or 202-872-4200.**