



EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Computer and Network Security Task Force Open Meeting Summary

Session: Thursday, October 3, 12:45 – 2:05 p.m. (120 participants)

Facilitators: **Rodney Petersen**, EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Computer and Network Security Task Force Coordinator
Dan Updegrave, Security Task Force Co-Chair, and Vice President for Information Technology, University of Texas at Austin
Gordon Wishon Security Task Force Co-Chair, and Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice President/Associate Provost, University of Notre Dame

Over 100 people attended the open meeting, along with staff from EDUCAUSE and Internet2 and members of the Security Task Force. Task Force members were assigned to tables as facilitators. Each attendee was asked to respond to a survey of their respective institution's security program. The questions were aimed at determining the most pressing IT security needs on campus, ascertaining what the Task Force could do to assist security officers, and a request for the specific best practices and solutions that attendees were seeking.

- I. There were a number of common themes among the respondents. The most pressing security needs on campus include:
 - security awareness (for faculty, staff, and students);
 - support or "buy-in" from upper management;
 - policy recommendations;
 - personnel and funding issues;
 - distribution and decentralization;
 - user education;
 - privacy vs. security (explaining HIPAA and the USA Patriot Act);
 - balancing IT security with the open academic environment;
 - virus/intrusion detection; and
 - authentication issues (including eliminating use of SSN's as primary ID number).

- II. The answers to "What can the Security Task Force do for you?" were similarly themed:
 - provide best practice models for IT security;
 - provide general guidelines or "cookbooks;"
 - provide or recommend user and security officer training programs;
 - increase/encourage communications among IT security managers in higher education;
 - collaborate with vendors to provide a more secure product; and
 - provide examples of ways to justify funding and resources at my institution.

- III. Attendees were also asked to discuss their own institution's IT security function. Half of the attendees reported having one FTE (or less) devoted to IT security. One third had three or more FTE's. One tenth of those present had no security officer at all.

IV. The survey asked for suggested topics for a future higher education security conference (such as the Security Professionals Workshop to be held in Temecula). Many of the responses reflect topics already planned for the Temecula sessions, as well as some topics to think about for future conferences. These include:

- balancing security and academic freedom;
- security and the law;
- policy development and implementation;
- executive role in security;
- best practices for user orientation;
- wireless security;
- partnerships with government and industry; and
- national cybersecurity strategy.

V. Respondents also were given the opportunity to submit Web sites or information on effective practices and solutions about which they are already aware.

- Infragard (<http://www.infragard.net/>)
- high performance firewall – Drawbridge, available from pcantrell@tamu.edu
- information security assessment tool, available from pcantrell@tamu.edu
- Windows 2K patch pushing – forrest.smith@duke.edu
- Linux service distribution – www.dulug.duke.edu
- middleware - www.nsf-middleware.org
- security – csrc.nist.gov

Submitted by: Rodney Petersen (rpetersen@educause.edu)
EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Computer and Network Security Task Force Coordinator