

The ISAF Web site opens with IT Security cross-industry support

London, UK 9th June 2008 - The Information Security Awareness Forum (ISAF) the cross-industry initiative founded by the ISSA-UK to raise awareness of information security, has formally opened its Web site.

Located at www.theisaf.org, the site seeks to act as a resource that will over time develop in to a focal point for IT security education, news and other relevant information from the Forum.

Launched in February of this year, the ISAF is backed by a number of key organisations, including the ISSA, ISACA, GetSafeOnline, (ISC)², ASIS International, the British Computer Society, Infosecurity Europe and the Institute of Information Security Professionals.

Announcing the opening of the site, the ISAF's chairperson, Dr David King, said that it will help members, as well as the industry generally, pool their expertise and help co-ordinate the Forum's development.

"The Information Security Awareness Forum has been formed to coordinate and build on existing work and initiatives, to improve their overall effectiveness, and ultimately to increase the level of security awareness that will help us all" he said.

"Our new Web site will act as the foundation stone to help us achieve these aims," he added.

Martin Smith MBE, BSc, FSyl, the chairman and founder of the Security Awareness Special Interest Group, supported the opening of the new site, saying that his group strongly recommends the use of the new Forum pages as a first port of call.

"It serves equally well those individuals seeking security awareness knowledge for themselves and their families, and managers of businesses of all sizes and all sectors looking for advice and guidance about how to protect their data from accidental or deliberate disclosure," he said.

Several other leading organisations have voiced their support for the opening of the new ISAF Web site, including the BCS, the Jericho Forum and the NCC:

"The National Computing Centre's members rely on its ability to quickly direct them to trusted best practice. www.theisaf.org provides a highly relevant link in the information chain."
Danny Dresner, NCC

"Since its inception in 2005, GetSafeOnline.org has been working in partnership with the UK Government, law enforcement and the private sector to raise awareness of internet security issues amongst consumers and micro-businesses. We have always believed that a collaborative approach is the only way to effectively tackle online safety issues – an area that is not only complex, but also relevant to individuals and organizations in different ways. We applaud the initiative to extend this approach through the new Information Security Awareness Forum website."

Tony Neate, Managing Director, Get Safe Online, www.getsafeonline.org

"The new www.theisaf.org website is a great initiative to help improve awareness of infosecurity issues and by coordinating the activities and resources of all the member organisations enables individuals and organisations to quickly find succinct advice to help them. The Information Security Awareness Forum also has a blog on Infosecurity Adviser www.infosecurityadviser.com which is another example of how the forum's members are fulfilling their common aim of improving infosecurity awareness across the entire industry."

Claire Sellick, Event Director, Infosecurity Europe 2008

"ISSA-UK is delighted with the progress that ISAF has made since its formation as an ISSA-UK Advisory Board initiative in September 07. ISSA-UK congratulates ISAF on the launch of its new website which we strongly believe will support the continued growth and development of Information Security awareness across organisations. It will also provide individuals with a central repository of knowledge and a first point of contact for those seeking help and guidance. This new portal will enable those seeking help to locate good, impartial advice from the leading security organisations, working together in the forum, to communicate awareness to a wider audience."
Geoff Harris, President of ISSA-UK

"The National e-Crime Prevention Centre welcomes all efforts to protect the UK from electronic crime and the ISAF Web site is an additional and useful site for advice and guidance. Encouraging people and businesses to take action on the available advice is key to reducing the harm to individuals and the economy."
Ken Rabey, Project Director, National e-Crime Prevention Centre

"Given ISACA's long-held belief in the importance of educating both institutions and individuals on information security we are confident that the resources on the Information Security Awareness Forum website will help to improve awareness. Having a single website to locate the huge amount of valuable information available from all the member associations is an extremely useful feature."
Lynn Lawton, CISA, FCA, FIIA, PIIA, International President of ISACA

"ASIS UK Chapter 208 is delighted to support the launch of the ISAF's Web site and encourages all those who want to work together with other security organisations to visit and contribute to the various activities located on the Web pages."
James Willison, Convergence Lead, ASIS UK, Chapter 208

"The IET is pleased to be a member of the Information Security Awareness Forum and believes that the new ISAF Web site will provide a valuable mine of information for both individuals and organisations. We support the development of a co-ordinated approach to the provision of advice and guidance on all matters to do with information security"
Margaret Smith, Member of the IT Sector Panel, The IET

"This coming together of ICT professional bodies, trade associations and interest groups to work together to promote awareness is most welcome and deserves every support from suppliers, users and the many government departments and agencies with responsibilities for the safety and security of those using their systems."
Philip Virgo, Secretary General, EURIM

"EEMA welcomes the ISAF website initiative which will increase awareness of the online security issues. EEMA is also honoured to be a member and bring a European perspective to the ISAF; time and resources are a scarce commodity in this day and age and co-ordination in the security space is essential if we are to face up to the issues and challenges of online crime."
Roger Dean, Executive Director, EEMA

"The BCS is pleased to be a member of the Information Security Awareness Forum and hopes that the endeavours through the new ISAF Web site will signpost both individuals and organisations to resources that they should be aware of both personally and professionally. This is certainly a resource that our 62,000+ members should find useful ongoing."
Andrea Simmons, CISSP, CISM, MBCS CITP, M.Inst.ISP, BCS Consultant Security Forum Manager

"The CMA, as an early supporter of the Information Security Awareness Forum, fully supports ISAF's pragmatic initiatives to promote industry wide collaboration and particularly welcomes the

new ISAF web site (www.theisaf.org). This web site should become the destination (or portal) of choice for people, be they the man or woman in the street or a company Manager, seeking advice and guidance on how to secure information in this electronic and ever more inter-connected world."

Peter Wenham CISSP MICAF CLAS, Director, CMA

"The Jericho Forum welcomes the Information Security Awareness Forum's practical initiatives to promote collaboration between groups working in this crucial area. Collaboration is an essential part of our vision to allow seamless and secure communications between businesses, suppliers and customers across an open, Internet-driven, networked world."

-- Andrew Yeomans, member of Jericho Forum board of management.

Additional Background Information about ISAF Members

A number of professional bodies and organisations involved in information security have come together to form the Information Security Awareness Forum to coordinate and build on existing work and initiatives, to improve their overall effectiveness, and ultimately to increase the level of security awareness in the UK that will help protect us all:

The Information Systems Security Association UK Chapter (ISSA-UK) provides educational forums, publications and peer interaction opportunities that enhance the knowledge, skill and professional growth of its members. ISSA-UK is a founding member and primary supporter of ISAF.

The British Computer Society (BCS) is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness and productivity of security professionals by developing educational programs and materials.

The Communications Management Association (CMA) is the UK's premier independent membership body for professionals and organisations focused on exploiting communications, networking and ICT, for business advantage.

The Cybersecurity Knowledge Transfer Network provides a single focal point for UK cybersecurity expertise, and provides special interest groups and runs events.

EURIM brings together politicians, officials and industry to help improve the quality of policy formation, consultation and implementation.

Get Safe Online is sponsored by the British Government and leading businesses to give you free objective advice.

The Institute of Information Security Professionals (IISP) is setting the standard for professionalism in information security, speaking with an independent and authoritative voice.

The Information Technologists' Company are all senior IT professionals who have joined the Company in order to give something back to the IT sector and the wider community.

The Information Assurance Advisory Council (IAAC)'s aim is to work for the creation of a safe and secure Information Society. It is a unique, not for profit body with high level support from government and industry backed by world class research expertise.

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) provides a global knowledge network to facilitate the exchange of ideas and promote the positive role of science, engineering and technology in the world.

The Information Security Forum (ISF) delivers practical guidance and solutions to overcome wide-ranging security challenges impacting business information today.

The Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) is a recognised worldwide leader in information technology (IT) governance, control, security and assurance.

ASIS International is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness and productivity of security professionals by developing educational programs and materials.

Infosecurity Europe addresses today's strategic and technical issues in an unrivalled education programme and showcases the most diverse range of new and innovative products and services from over 300 of the top suppliers on the show floor.

(ISC)² is the globally recognised Gold Standard for certifying information security professionals throughout their careers.

The Jericho Forum is an international IT security thought-leadership group dedicated to defining ways to deliver effective IT security solutions.

The International Underwriting Association of London (IUA) is the world's largest representative organisation for international and wholesale insurance and reinsurance companies.

The Security Awareness Special Interest Group (SASIG) is a subscription free quarterly networking forum open to those who have an interest in, or a responsibility for, raising awareness about security within their organisations.

The National Computing Centre (NCC) has pioneered a methodology for managing the 'human vulnerabilities' in information systems.

The National e-Crime Prevention Centre (NeCPC) is a multidisciplinary and multi-agency network and currently a virtual centre of excellence in e-Crime prevention and enterprise security.

The Police Central E-Crime Unit is a centre of excellence in regard to computer and cyber crime committed under the Computer Misuse Act 1990, notably hacking, maliciously creating and spreading viruses and counterfeit software.

The organisation, EEMA – the European association for e-identity and security – brings together over 135 member organisations (and over 1,500 employees of member organisations) in a neutral environment for education and networking purposes.

For further information visit www.theisaf.org

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Notes for editors

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