Off-Line

Newsletter of the SC Midlands Chapter of ISACA

This Month's Seminar:

How To Audit MVS Security

Mainframes aren't dying; they're thriving. If you don't believe it, then look at your disaster recovery plan to see which applications are most critical, and which of these execute on the mainframe. If you think there's been no change in the mainframe in your organization, then you should check to see if you are using USS (UNIX under MVS), JAVA, connections to the Internet, and connections to other organizatons' networks, including organizations that you don't know about.

In this seminar, Stu Henderson, an experienced system programmer and IT Auditor, will explain how mainframe security works with the MVS operating system, and how to audit it. You will learn a security model that will help you with any IT security audit you perform. For MVS audits, you will learn how to conduct the audit quickly and effectively, including what data to gather, how to analyze it, and how to produce practical and effective recommendations for improvement. You will learn what the hardware controls are, what the backdoors are around the hardware controls, how to determine what backdoors have been opened in a given installation, and how the backdoors can be effectively controlled. You will learn about recent developments in MVS and how to start investigating them on your own. (While this session will describe the new developments to you, it will not show you how to audit them, just how to audit MVS itself.)

About the Speaker

Stu Henderson is an experienced system programmer, IT Auditor, and Consultant. He is able to translate his technical knowledge, gained in 35 years of hands-on mainframe experience, into non-technical terms for non-technical audiences. Before forming his own firm, the Henderson Group, in 1990, he worked for five years at Coopers & Lybrand (now part of PWC) as director of the mid-Atlantic IT security practice. His seminars, including "How to Audit MVS, RACF, ACF2, CICS, and DB2 Security" are taught nationwide. He is founder of the New York RACF User group and edits both the RACF User News and the online Mainframe Audit News. His website www.stuhenderson.com provides a wealth of useful information on IT security and auditing. He can be reached at (301) 229-7187.

JANUARY 2006 * ISACA CHAPTER SEMINAR

DATE:
Thursday, January 26

Time:
Registration: 8:30 AM
Seminar: 9:00 AM to Noon

CPE / COST
3 Hour / $ 50.00 (includes lunch)

LOCATION:
Seawells
1125 Rosewood Dr
Columbia, SC
803-771-7385

REGISTRATION:
Contact Ernie Mehaffey by Monday, January 23
803-217-6189 (emehaffey@scana.com)

Big Iron Poetry

Over 700 students wrote a haiku as part of a mainframe student contest.
Here are a few examples:

F3 - Please take me
To a previous menu
And I will thank thee
        - Marc Turnes, Northern Illinois U.

Mainframes confound me
About them I am learning
With great interest
        - Nathan Kruser, SUNY Binghamton

Less a lumbering
Dinosaur as is believed
Big iron is speed
        - Brian Capps of Portland Community College

Thousands of options
Stable like the mountain peak
Can it play Starcraft?
        - Ian Penney, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Find more of these and other topics of interest discussed daily in the Mainframe Weblog
(mainframe.typepad.com).