

## President's Column

Dear Readers,

I thank you for your excellent support during the year 2009.

With economic recovery being the topmost priority everywhere, it is now all the more essential that we help our organizations get optimal value from IT while ensuring that risks are appropriately managed. As ISACA members, we are uniquely positioned in this respect as a result of resources- frameworks such as VAL IT and COBIT, appropriate knowledge resources, conference, journals and certifications from ISACA and by the numerous seminars & monthly meetings from the Chennai chapter. That is why the theme of our recent annual conference (held in November 2009) was "Managing Value IT in uncertain times".

I would therefore call on all of you to get more of your colleagues benefit by becoming ISACA members and pursue certifications such as CISA, CISM and CGEIT. I wish you a very happy new year 2010!

D Namasivayam  
ISACA, Chennai Chapter



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## Managing Value IT in uncertain times

The Annual conference of ISACA-Chennai chapter was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at GRT Grand Hotel. This also marked the Annual Computer Security Day (CSD).

The conference dwelt in detail the approaches to be taken to guarantee that value derived from IT is optimal while ensuring that the risks are appropriately managed.

In his keynote address, Mr. HR Mohan, Associate Vice President (Systems), The Hindu, elaborated, in his characteristic lucid style, the pressures faced by every organization and the expectations from the stakeholders, the ever-increasing priority of deriving optimal value from IT and the role IT governance and risk management professionals and IT auditors can play in this, and set the tone for the conference.

There were interesting talks on (a) Business- IT alignment increases the value of IT (b) IT Value management (c) IT Governance-Tone at the Top and (d) Virtualization and cloud computing. The speakers engaged the participants with the exposition of their expertise; with their valuable inputs and insights, the speakers provided the participants with the much appreciated update on this very relevant topic.

The prizes for the Best Speaker, Rank holders of CISA, CISM and CGEIT were distributed during this conference.

All in all, the conference proved to be yet another annual event of great value to the participants.



## Meet your Board !

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CPE Events

**Seminar on IT Governance and COBIT 4.1**

A one-day Seminar on **IT Governance and COBIT 4.1** was held on October 24 by ISACA-Chennai Chapter. Mr.R.Vittal Raj, Director Certification facilitated this seminar and elaborated extensively on

- Why & What of IT Governance and its place in Corporate Governance
- Overview of COBIT 4.1® - Framework and its components
- How Audit & Assurance professionals can use COBIT components

The seminar emphasized on the fundamentals of IT Governance and COBIT 4.1, the globally recognized standard on IT Governance from the IT Governance Institute, USA.

Participants appreciated the numerous examples and scenarios which Mr.Vittal Raj provided from his extensive experience in Consulting, Audit and Research.

**Monthly Meetings**

**November 2009**

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009, Mr. U.Krishna Mohan, Apriah Consulting Services spoke on **“Impact of ERP controls on business”**. Mr Krishna Mohan highlighted a number of aspects on ERP Controls and Business based on his vast experience in auditing SAP systems and the participants were exposed to some of the finer aspects.

**December 2009**

An interesting talk on “Implementation of Core Banking” was delivered by Mr. R.Kalyanakrishnan of SBI on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

With over 37+ years’ experience in core banking system implementations, Mr. Kalyanakrishnan lucidly presented the evolution of the core banking, implementation issues & challenges faced and how these were resolved.

Certification Events

**CISA Exam Review Course**

The fast-track CISA Exam Review course of the chapter commenced on November 5, 2009 with the usual overwhelming response. The opening session of the course was marked by the presence of most of the directors of the Chennai Chapter, who encouraged and inspired the participants. Spread over 4 full days, the Chennai Chapter’s CISA Review course continues to be the choice for those who want to come out successful in CISA exams. This has been largely possible due to the energetic and enthusiastic volunteer support of the faculty members who come forward to share their knowledge and experience on the subject and constant improvements to meet the exacting expectations.

**CISA Doubt Clarification Sessions**

The chapter conducted two sessions as doubt-clarification sessions for the benefits of exam aspirants, on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009 and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009. These sessions were quite interactive and were appreciated by the participants.

**ISACA – LIBA Partnership**

ISACA, Chennai chapter, jointly with Loyola Institute of Business Administration(LIBA), conducts a certificate programme on “INFORMATION SECURITY” twice a year. This course helps to bridge the knowledge gap of aspirants (both engineering and non engineering graduates, not having working experience in IT or Audit) aiming to write CISA exam. Our chapter has successfully completed six such programmes, with participants from reputed organizations like TCS, WIPRO, HP, Infosys, CTS, reputed nationalized & private banks and manufacturing organizations.

Next programme commences during third week of January 2010. For further details, please refer to LIBA’s website <http://www.liba.edu>

2010 Chapter Events

Participate in the Chapter Events in the year ahead and benefit!!

Following are the usual ISACA Chennai chapter events:

- Monthly meetings, every 3rd Saturdays
- Seminars (usually one every quarter)
- Annual conference (timed with the Annual Computer Security Day in November)
- Certification Review Classes
- Founders’ day event

These events provide excellent opportunities to

- Keep current on the developments
- Network with peers and benefit from their experiences and insights
- Pursue further certifications and in a smart way

Please visit our website <http://www.isaca-chennai.org> to know of the forthcoming events and participate in them.

You can also bring your friends who are looking, as per the participation guidelines, for enhancing their professional growth by appropriate certifications and knowledge.

**Plan your certifications in 2010 the right way**

Key to succeeding in the certification examinations – be it CISA, CISM or CGEIT is an organized plan of study and with the right study guides, material and review courses from ISACA. ISACA-Chennai chapter conducts review courses both over many week-ends and as a 4-day Fast Track program on CISA & CISM. Please watch out for the dates at the ISACA-Chennai chapter site. <http://www.isaca-chennai.org>



## Security and Storage Trends to watch



### **Top Internet Security trends of 2009**

**Malware-bearing spam** is now common with a 9-fold increase in the number of spam messages with malware (more than 2 % of spam emails had malware between Sept & Oct 2009).

**Social networking website attacks** have become common (attacks in the latter half of 2009 saw attacks utilizing the social networking sites increase in both frequency and sophistication).

#### **Rogue security software**

Between July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, Symantec reports 43 million rogue security software attempts (rogue security software is software that pretends to be legitimate security software but which actually provides little or no protection and can in reality infect a computer with malware it purports to protect against)

#### **Ready-made malware**

Malware has become easier than ever to create, with the availability of user-friendly toolkits.

**Bot networks surge** with bot designers expanding their forte by using Social networking sites as communication channels.

**Intra- and Cross Industry cooperation** is now evidenced by the efforts to stamp out Internet threats as for example the Conflicker Working Group, the FBI's "Operation Phish Phry" and the Digital Crimes Consortium.

**Current events leveraged more than ever**, as for example, Valentine's day, H1N1 flu, the crash of Air France 447, Serena Williams, deaths of Michael Jackson and Patrick Swayze used by malware authors and spammers of 2009 to try and lure unsuspecting users into downloading malware, buying products and falling for spam.

#### **Drive-by-Downloads lead the way**

Attackers secretly infecting Internet surfers by compromising legitimate Web sites continued to grow in popularity.

**The Return of Spam to Pre-McColo levels** is now evident with overall spam levels returning to the average of 87.4 per cent of all emails.

**The Rise of Polymorphic Threats** is evidenced by online criminals using these to circumvent traditional anti-virus technology

### **An Increase in Reputation Hijacking**

This is observed as exemplified by smaller fee web services, such as URL shortening sites, whose names and legitimate reputations are getting abused by spammers.

#### **Data Breaches continue**

While organizations are increasingly focussed on data loss, it's clear that more needs to be done to prevent sensitive data from leaving an organization.

### **Security Trends to watch in 2010**

#### **Antivirus is not enough**

We have reached a point where it no longer makes sense to focus solely on analyzing malware. Instead, approaches to security that look to ways to include all software files, such as reputation-based security, will become key in 2010.

#### **Social Engineering as the Primary Attack Vector**

Social engineering is already one of the primary attack vectors being used today, and Symantec estimates that the number of attempted attacks using social engineering techniques is sure to increase in 2010.

#### **Rogue Security Software Vendors Escalate Their Efforts**

In 2010, expect to see the propagators of rogue security software scams take their efforts to the next level, even by hijacking users' computers, rendering them useless and holding them for ransom.

#### **Social Networking Third-Party Applications Will be the Target of Fraud**

Attackers will more likely turn to vulnerabilities in third-party applications for user's social networking accounts, just as we have seen attackers leverage browser plug-ins more as web browsers themselves become more secure.

### **Windows 7 will come Into the Cross-Hairs of attackers**

As the Windows 7 gains traction in 2010, attackers will undoubtedly find ways to exploit its users

#### **Fast Flux Botnets increase**

Fast flux is a technique used by some botnets, such as the Storm botnet, to hide phishing and malicious Web sites behind an ever-changing network of compromised hosts acting as proxies. Symantec predicts that more of this technique is to be expected to be used in the attacks.

#### **URL Shortening Services Become the Phisher's Best Friend**

**Mac and Mobile Malware Will Increase Spammers Breaking the Rules** We'll see more organizations selling unauthorized e-mail address lists and more less-than-legitimate spammers spamming these lists.

#### **As Spammers Adapt, Spam Volumes Will Continue to Fluctuate**

Spam volumes will continue to fluctuate in 2010 as spammers continue to adapt to the sophistication of security software, the intervention of responsible ISPs and government agencies across the globe.

**Specialized Malware** trend will continue in 2010, including the possibility of malware targeting electronic voting systems, both used for political elections and public telephone voting, such as that connected with reality television shows and competitions.

#### **CAPTCHA Technology Will Improve**

Spammers in emerging economies will devise a means to use real people to manually generate new accounts for spamming, thereby attempting to bypass the improved technology.

#### **Instant Messaging Spam**

One in 12 Instant messenger messages will contain a link to a domain that has been considered suspicious or malicious.

#### **Non-English Spam Will Increase**

As broadband connection penetration continues to grow across the globe, particularly in developing economies, spam in non-English speaking countries will increase.

For the complete report refer to:

<http://www.symantec.com>

### **ISACA Member Benefit**



**Make Employment Connections**

Visit [ISACA Career Centre](http://www.isaca.org)



## Have you renewed your Certifications?

The annual renewal period is underway for all certificate holders. The renewal deadline is 15 January 2010. Individual must report their total 2009 CPE hours and pay the maintenance fee to complete the renewal process. If you have not already renewed your ISACA membership, it's time to renew your ISACA membership!

To renew certifications online, certificate holders should log in to the ISACA web site using their personalized login credentials. In the "My ISACA" area of the web site, a link to "My Renewals" is provided in the left navigation menu.

## Here is yet another interesting way to earn CPE hours!

ISACA offers exclusive CACs live capture presentations bundled into three areas of focus: Security, Governance and Audit, as follows:

ISACA Security Series - \$115 members / \$165 non members

- Implementing Security KPIs and the Benefits to Internal Audit
- The Hunt for Fraud: Prevention and Detection Techniques
- Business Benefits of Deploying a Practical Model for Information Security and Risk Management

ISACA Governance Series- \$115 members / \$165 nonmembers

- COBIT based IT Governance vs. ITIL Service Management: Conflict or Cooperation
- Five Traps of IT Governance Professionals
- IT Governance: Strategic Alliance and Convergence with Business

ISACA Audit Series- \$115 members / \$165 non members

- Integrated Auditing of IT Applications
- Top Ten It Audit Issues
- Auditing Your UNIX and Linux Operating Systems

For more information and details about each series, please visit the ISACA e-Learning Campus at [www.isaca.org/elearning](http://www.isaca.org/elearning) today and click the Go to Campus link.

Latest @ ISACA Book Store

**Information Technology for Management: Improving Performance in the Digital Economy, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**IT Governance: Policies & Procedures, 2010 Edition**

**Unlocking Value: An Executive Primer on the Critical Role of IT Governance**

## What Global Executives Expect of Information Security – Survey Highlights

The seventh annual Global Technology Survey was carried out by CIO magazine, CSO magazine and PricewaterHouseCoopers in 2009 covering as many 7300 Technology Executives across the world. The findings from the survey are clearly indicative of the current state of Information Security and what Global Executives expects of Information Security.

### Finding # 1

The Economic Downturn has shaken the normal roster of leading drivers of information security spending- and very nearly jumped to the top of the list.

### Finding #2

Not surprisingly, security spending is under pressure. Most executives are eyeing strategies to cancel, defer or downsize security-related initiatives.

### Finding # 3

Yet far fewer executives are actually "cutting security back". And among the half or less that are taking action, most are taking the least dramatic response.

### Finding #4

Although given a reprieve, of sorts, from the budget knife, the information security function is under pressure to "perform".

### Finding #5

After years of "thinking differently", business and IT leaders may be starting to think like each other.

### Finding #6

Companies have made strong advances in several critical arenas over the last 12 months including strategy, assessment and compliance as well as people and organization.

For the complete report, please refer to <http://www.pwc.com>

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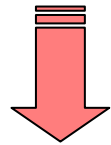
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from: ISACA Chennai



Next



@ Mumbai  
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Send your comments and suggestions on this newsletter to: [hon.secretary@isaca-chennai.org](mailto:hon.secretary@isaca-chennai.org)