

ITRMC Information Technology Achievement Awards Application 2010

Category: Group Award, Securing Digital Government

Title of Nomination: Increasing security awareness: Computer Security Awareness Symposium

Responsible Organization: Information Technology Services, University of Idaho

Project/System Manager: Joyce Davidson **Nominated by:** Mitch Parks

Executive Summary:

The fifth annual University of Idaho (UI) – Information Technology Services (ITS) Computer Security Awareness Symposium (CSAS), held October 15, 2009, provided to the UI campus and the public, an enhanced effort to make us all aware of the dangers we face in cyberspace and particularly the role that information technology (IT) professionals must take to enhance the security and reduce the risk associated with computing in the modern web-enabled world.

Through presentations by state, regional, and local computing professionals, the UI has endeavored to present current IT computing risk and preparedness information to campus and the general public. The 2009 CSAS symposium was the culmination of five years of experience providing this learning opportunity.

The practical application of knowledge learned from the symposium applies to all types of computer users. From the general awareness of *Social Network Security* and *Avoiding Identity Theft* which is applicable to all users, to the more technical information in *Botnets and the Army of Darkness* and the incredibly information-packed presentation on *Safe Surfing*, the symposium provided learning opportunities for every level of user in attendance. Through the ITS website for the symposium, these presentations remain available for the perusal of the public (<https://support.uidaho.edu/csas2009/>).

Enhancements to the 2009 CSAS symposium included the addition of three non-UI presentations, including those from State of Idaho Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Terry Pobst-Martin, SANS certified instructor Bryce Galbraith, and Portland State University CISO Craig Schiller.

Annual corporate sponsorship has recently included Lenovo, Proofpoint, Numara Software, Staples, Sophos, and the UI Bookstore. The symposium has utilized regionally available talent to provide the best information while at the same time keeping the overall UI cost for the symposium under \$2,000.

No amount of spending on technology solutions for security can prevent all types of attacks. Education efforts for university computer users go hand-in-hand with technology to reduce the overall risk that can compromise university systems. The UI CSAS symposium, by raising awareness of current issues, helps reduce this risk that we all face while using information technologies.