
Information Security Education Journal Volume 1 Number 2 December 2014

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- Sixth International Conference on the Applications of Digital Information and Web Technologies (ICADIWT 2015)
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FROM THE EDITORS

CyberSecurity Cometh...

Welcome to the second issue of the Information Security Education Journal (ISEJ). On behalf of the editorial team, we thank you for taking the time to read this issue and strongly encourage you to consider submitting an article to be considered for upcoming editions.

A few years ago now, the U.S. Federal government began a rebranding campaign for the field of study and career preparation previously known by them as information assurance. The first reference to the term in LexisNexis is an article in 2001 discussing H.R. 3394, the Cybersecurity Research and Development Act. It seems obvious that the term was already in use by then, but not in indexed sources. The usage continued to evolve, being used in government circles, most notable in the NICE Security Framework where the shorter definition is given as:

The activity or process, ability or capability, or state whereby information and communications systems and the information contained therein are protected from and/or defended against damage, unauthorized use or modification, or exploitation. — Adapted from: CNSSI 4009, NIST SP 800-53 Rev 4, NIPP, DHS National Preparedness Goal; White House Cyberspace Policy Review, May 2009¹. The longer definition is about three times that length.

And, so the usage continued to grow and expand, until, in July of 2014 the Department of Defense directed all parts of the defense establishment that “the term ‘*cybersecurity*’ be used throughout the DoD instead of the term ‘information assurance’.”² Commentary by Frank Johnson at Telos disagreed with that directive and continued with a clear statement of meaning that we happen to agree with:

In fact, cybersecurity is not the same thing as information assurance. Cybersecurity is a sub-set of information security, which itself is a sub-discipline of information assurance, which encompasses higher-level concepts such as strategy, law, policy, risk management, training, and other disciplines that transcend a particular medium or domain.³

Some suggest that cybersecurity is synonymous with computer security stating that it is “information security as applied to computing devices such as computers and smartphones, as well as computer networks such as private and public networks, including the whole Internet”.⁴ We do not disagree with that definition, yet it is not quite as salient as that put forward by Johnson.

Just over a year ago, when it seemed that there was some traction to the new term, we considered changing the name of our academic program to ‘*cybersecurity*’ from ‘information security and assurance’ or ISA. We had adopted the ISA brand as being inclusive and also clearly defining what we hoped to deliver in our intended learning outcomes. To explore this option we polled our Board of Advisors and the broader local professional security practice community. By a factor of 4 to 1, our constituents recommended we stay the course with the ISA brand. The key points from that discussion were, 1) that we did not undertake to re-brand but, 2) we do use ‘*cybersecurity*’ in marketing and branding initiatives. A telling remark from this constituency was “*What industry really needs is a balanced person who can walk and talk security and put the business side to the problem.*” Contrary opinions existed in that discussion, most noting that it would offer better alignment to Government initiatives or the respondent who said “*I think a degree with the title CyberSecurity makes it more attractive for the youth. It sounds more fun*”. In the end, the question was carried by the constituent who wrote “My vote would be to stick with the Information Security and Assurance name, as I think it accurately describes the program and the associated degree. From my perspective, and based on industry presentations, articles, and books, the term “*cybersecurity*” is specific to information security as applied to infrastructure and national security. I’ve always seen it as an area of concentration within information security. I suppose the upshot of all of this is that what the DOD and the Government want is what the government will get. But some of us also service the business community and they are still more comfortable with information security. What do you think? Address your opinion to infosec@kennesaw.edu with ‘Letters to the Editors’ in the subject line. We will publish select replies in an upcoming issue.

We still plan to offer the journal twice each year, with an occasional special edition. In each issue, you will find several pedagogy-based research articles, and an occasional “*instructional perspectives*” special paper focusing on instruction, lab development or other related instructional topic. We look forward to receiving and reading each submission, and hope you find the subject as professionally engaging and satisfying as we do. Thank you in advance for your patronage.

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¹ Cybersecurity. (2014). National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies (NICCS). http://niccs.us-cert.gov/glossary#letter_c

² Johnson, F. (2014). Cybersecurity isn’t the same thing as information assurance . Telos. <http://multimedia.telos.com/blog/cybersecurity-isnt-the-same-thing-as-information-assurance>

³ Johnson, F. (2014). Cybersecurity isn’t the same thing as information assurance . Telos. <http://multimedia.telos.com/blog/cybersecurity-isnt-the-same-thing-as-information-assurance>

⁴ Computer security. (2014). Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_security