

≡≡≡CONTROL BITS

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≡≡≡AUDIT BYTES

The Newsletter of the Western Michigan Chapter

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDIT AND CONTROL ASSOCIATION



SPRING SEMINAR



WINDOWS NT

Our Annual Spring Seminar is coming up and no timelier a topic could be presented than Windows NT. Everywhere you turn lately, businesses are migrating their desktop platforms to Windows NT, or Windows 2000, as Microsoft has announced it's next iteration to be called.

Our speaker is Mr. Stan Fromhold. Mr. Fromhold has over 15 years of managerial and hands-on technical experience supervising various computer environments. At American Re-Insurance Company, he was responsible for the Network Security Architecture, including the design, implementation, and administration of firewalls, web servers, proxy servers, SecureID ACE servers, and other network security components. He was also responsible for the IS function, including Corporate Information Security Policies for all platforms. Mr. Fromhold has developed many information security standards for distributed computing environments, including Novel NetWare, Windows NT, Unix, Internet/TCP/IP, WWW, Intranet and remote access.

Prior to joining American Re-Insurance, Mr. Fromhold was a manager with Coopers & Lybrand's Information Security practice. His role was to manage and perform security reviews for several large clients. Such reviews involved detailed analysis of operating system software, security software implementations, data communications software, and communications networks. His responsibilities also included providing support to audit engagements by performing control assessments of Information Technology environments.

A much in demand speaker on information security, Mr. Fromhold has presented at many leading security conferences and seminars. He has coupled his speaking engagements with consulting services for several financial organizations.

When: Tuesday and Wednesday, February 9 – 10, 1999

Where: National City Operations Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Cost: Members: \$ 275.00 — Non-members: \$ 300.00

REGISTER NOW!!! SPACE IS LIMITED!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bernie Powers, CISA, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

What a great couple of presentations we have received for starting this year's activity:

- The Y2K presentation in September was incredibly informative and action packed. I still am amazed Carolyn Fairbank was able to get through 98 pages of information. The statements made in the quarterly SEC filings are drawing increased inspection. Have you reviewed your company's statement with the reality of the situation? Many of us came away from Carolyn's presentation knowing more about the proper documentation that should exist for the Y2K testing and how to better phrase those critical questions that need to be asked.
- The November presentation by John Christensen on Frame Relay and ATM was very good in explaining the rational, configuration, differences and pricing structure of the two communication formats and the virtual private channels they use. Yes, another cloud. The means clouds four and five behind VAN's, LAN/WAN and the Internet clouds. Everyone attending these presentations came away satisfied with the experience and more knowledgeable of the issues facing their organizations.

Attendance has been an ongoing issue for our small chapter. John Arens supplied a thorough survey that many members returned. The Program Committee felt the surveys supplied a good basis for a more technical list of topics that would apply to banking, governmental and manufacturing environments. The turnout for our meetings has not been what I thought we are capable of generating. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to contact me with comments on our meetings. If you are not attending, please let me know why. This will keep me from pulling my hair out trying to figure out the reason for your lack of participation.

Participation by the membership in coordinating the monthly meetings and planning for the seminar has been better than I could have hoped. A big Thank you to everyone that has assisted in bringing together our membership, speakers and facilities. The future meetings and seminar should provide excellent learning opportunities for members.

Our new WMISACA web site is "on the air". We were not able to discuss the site until Michael Sekoni had everything ready. But now ready it is, as you will see in the announcement on the next page. Please take a moment and visit your Chapter's web page.

Best wishes for a prosperous 1999, and I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting!

Bernie Powers



MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

It is with great excitement and anticipation that the *Western Michigan Chapter* of the *ISACA* “moves” up to the twenty-first century with the migration of it’s newsletter, *CONTROL BITS AND AUDIT BYTES* to the new Chapter web site on the Internet! Members and non–members alike will now be able to access current and previous information about Chapter meetings, activities, information, and the newsletter on-line! Just set a bookmark for our new Chapter web page at:

www.iserv.net/~wmisaca/

Please note: As with all major changes, this means that this issue, January, 1999, will be the **LAST** hard-copy printed issue mailed to Chapter members and friends of the *Western Michigan Chapter*. But this doesn’t mean that you won’t know when the latest and greatest info is published, oh no! We will be notifying all Chapter members and friends who currently receive *CONTROL BITS AND AUDIT BYTES* by e-mail when the latest issue of the newsletter is available on our web page.

If you do NOT have Internet capability, the Newsletter Editor is asking that you please contact him at (517) 376–3908 or e-mail him at michael.grinwis@jnli.com and let him know that you need to receive *CONTROL BITS AND AUDIT BYTES* as an e-mail attachment or other means.

This change is being done not only to promote use of our web page, but to also help reduce the costs to you, our members. By posting the newsletter to our Internet page, we are not only providing a more timely means of disseminating the news to your, our Members, but we’re also saving the Chapter an average of \$60.00 per newsletter mailing, or close to \$400 per year. This may not seem like a large sum, but it is the opinion of the Officers and Board of Directors that we’d rather put this money to use in providing timely program topics and presentations.

If you have any questions, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

— Editor



NEW MEMBERS

We are please to announce the addition of two new members to our Chapter:

- ✓ Cathy R. Ellis, of Meijer, Inc. Cathy is actually a former member who has been working in the operational and financial Audit area of Meijers. Welcome back, Cathy!
- ✓ Pam B. Kammermeier, of Amway Corp.

WELCOME to both of you, and we hope to meet you at our next meeting!!!

1998 – 1999 Chapter Meeting Schedule

- February 9 - 10, 1999..... National City Operations Center
Annual Spring Seminar: Windows NT..... Kalamazoo, MI
- Wednesday, March 10, 1999 Location to be announced
Topic: Internet Issues Lansing, MI
- Wednesday, April 21, 1999 Duba's Restaurant
Topic: Penetration I-96 & East Beltline, Grand Rapids
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1998–99 Western Michigan Chapter Officers & Board of Directors

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— THE FINE PRINT —

Control Bits and Audit Bytes is a publication of the Western Michigan Chapter of the *Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA)*. The purpose of this publication is to disseminate useful and timely information on automated systems control and security issues to Chapter members and selected practitioners of computer systems audit and security. Articles, submissions, and advertisements are the responsibility of the submitter, and do not reflect the opinions, beliefs, or practices of the Western Michigan Chapter.

Materials submitted for publication in *Control Bits and Audit Bytes* must be received by the Newsletter Editor no later than the submission deadline published in the newsletter. If no submission deadline is published, the default deadline is approximately three weeks prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Western Michigan Chapter of the *Information Systems Audit and Control Association*.

The deadline for submissions for the next Newsletter is Friday, January 29th, 1999!



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A Recap of ISACA events from the *ExpressLine* Newsletter

CALL FOR CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE — The Research department has issued a letter calling for Chapter Representatives to assist the ISACA Research, Standards, and Academic Relations Department as a Chapter Research Representative. This Representative will provide contact information for local colleges and universities, and may eventually make a presentation to these institutions about ISACA, its Model Curricula, CISA, and COBIT. Interested members should contact the Chapter President or the Newsletter Editor for a copy of the letter.

ISACA KEEPS GROWING — Manuel Aceves, Membership Board Chair, is pleased to announce two new chapters to ISACA: Coimbatore, India, Chapter #155, and Irish Chapter #156, both approved in October 1998. The Slovak Republic Chapter has gained Phase I approval as of October, also.

ISACA STANDARDS ON THE WEB — Two new guidelines were issued for exposure with Volume I of the *Journal*: Audit Considerations for Irregularities (revision of Statement #8) and Effect of the Involvement Process on the IS Auditor's Independence (revision of a previously issued exposure draft). Both will be available until May 31st, 1999. Please send your comments to the Research department. You can view and download these on-line at:

www.isaca.org/standard/draft2.htm

A change management process flowchart with COBIT references, submitted by ISACA member Deborah Cannon, has also been posted to the web page on November 12th.

COBIT™ UPGRADE PRICING REMINDER — This is to remind all of you who were thinking of updating to the COBIT 2nd Edition after the holidays, that the price break is **NO LONGER AVAILABLE!** A notice was sent out in November, 1998 to all owners of the original edition of COBIT of the coming price change.

CISA / BOOKSTORE UPDATE — The Bookstore has updated its shelves with two revised versions of CISA examination reference materials.

- The ***CISA Review Technical Information Manual*** has been updated for 1999 after a careful review process. Both the content and structure of the manual have been carefully revised to assure continued high quality of this useful exam study aid.
- ***Auditing & Systems: Objective Questions and Explanation*** by Irving Gleim and William A. Hillison is now in its eighth Edition. The Bookstore now offers the most current edition of this popular professional certification study guide.

ISACA MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE — The Membership office is reminding all members that Association dues are \$100.00 for 1999. All members were notified this past fall of the increase, however, the Membership office has received several new applications which have the old dues amount on them. If you have any old membership applications, please destroy them and obtain new ones from your chapter Officers or download one from the Association's web site.



*Information Systems
Audit and Control
Association*

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