

Insanity Rules: The Growing Cyber Security Crisis

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Abstract

Computer crime has been a growing concern for well over two decades. Computer viruses and hackers used to be the biggest threat, but now we face botnets, phishing, spamming, and a steady parade of faults leading to break-ins and system abuses. At the same time, there seem to be more and more security products and tools available.

Is the security situation getting worse or better? What does the future hold? This talk will look at trends and characteristics of the current cyber security landscape, and draw some conclusions about what comes next.

Biographical Note

Eugene H. Spafford is a professor of Computer Sciences at Purdue University, a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, a professor of Philosophy (courtesy appointment), a professor of Communication (courtesy) and is Executive Director of the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security. CERIAS is a campus-wide multi-disciplinary Center, with a broadly-focused mission to explore issues related to protecting information and information resources. Spaf has written extensively about information security, cybercrime, software engineering, and professional ethics. He has published over 100 articles and reports on his research, has written or contributed to over a dozen books, and he serves on the editorial boards of most major infosec-related journals.

Dr. Spafford is a Fellow of the ACM, Fellow of the AAAS, Fellow of the IEEE, and is a charter recipient of the Computer Society's Golden Core award. In 2000, he was named as a CISSP, *honoris causa*. He was the year 2000 recipient of the NIST/NCSC National Computer Systems Security Award, generally regarded as the field's most significant honor in information security research. In 2001, he was named as one of the recipients of the "Charles B. Murphy" awards and named as a Fellow of the Purdue Teaching Academy, and in 2003 was named to the "Book of Great Teachers" -- thus receiving all three of the University's highest awards for outstanding teaching. In 2001, he was elected to the ISSA Hall of Fame, and he was awarded the William Hugh Murray medal of the NCISSE for his contributions to research and education in infosec. He is a 2003 recipient of the Air Force medal for Meritorious Civilian Service.

Among his many activities, Spaf is co-chair of the ACM's U.S. Public Policy Committee, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Computing Research Association, and was a member of the President's Information Technology Advisory Council (PITAC).

More information may be found at <<http://www.cerias.purdue.edu/homes/spaf>>.

In his spare time, Spaf wonders why he has no spare time.