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ISP Program Update

June 2011 – New Orleans, LA



ISP Committee



- **Dotti Bitner, ISP – Chair, ISP Certification Committee**
- **Recertification Sub-Committee**
 - Dianne Raynor, ISP (Chair); Alycia Harris, ISP; Debra Holtzclaw, ISP; Hazel Martinez, ISP and Dotti Bitner, ISP
- **Barbara Taylor, ISP, Exam Review & Exam Coordinator**
- **Exam Review & Update Subcommittee**
 - Cheryl Pelton, ISP; Barbara Taylor, ISP and Dotti Bitner, ISP
- **Karin Lee – Exam generation and maintenance**



ISP Committee



- **Jim Hickok, ISP – Certification Program Advisor and Chair, ISP Accreditation Committee**
- **Sharon Tannahill – On-line exam administrator and application & re-certification credit application review**



ISP Certification Metrics



ISP Program Metrics

- **Total Number of ISPs:** **299**
 - **ISPs who re-certified since June 2010 seminar:** **38**
 - **ISPs who re-certified since January:** **35**
 - **Number of ISPs who did not recertify:** **38**

- **June 1, 2010 – June 1, 2011**
 - **Number of candidates who passed the exam the 1st time:** **81**
 - **Number of candidates who failed to pass the exam:** **25**



2010-2011 Objectives & Accomplishments



- **Implemented the on-line practice exam**
 - The BoD decided that the practice exam should be only 10 questions
 - Selected 10 questions, eliminating questions that were too similar to current exam questions
 - Edited questions for proper exam format
 - On-line practice exam is now available – Contact Sharon Tannahill for access to the practice exam



2010-2011 Objectives & Accomplishments



- **Reviewed and update the ISP exam, as necessary**
 - **Evaluated the questions missed by a number of candidates on the June 2010 exam and made minor revisions to clarify several questions**
 - **Reviewed all current exam questions and made necessary revisions/deletions/moves to different sections of the exam**
 - **Beta testing was completed for the SAP Elective. The new SAP elective will be incorporated into a future ISP Exam.**



2010-2011 Objectives & Accomplishments



- **Implement the SAP elective**
 - Will work with the Education & Training committee to include SAP elective as part of the Exam Prep Program (EPP)
 - An implementation date for the SAP elective has not yet been determined.



2010-2011

Objectives & Accomplishments



- **Incorporate new questions into the exam**
 - **The New Exam Question Subcommittee reviewed a number of new questions to incorporate into future exams**
 - **Reviewed these against current exam questions – eliminated new questions that were too similar to current questions**
 - **All proposed new questions have been incorporated into the Exam. A date for implementation is forthcoming.**



2010-2011 Objectives & Accomplishments



- **Determine whether or not to change to Continuing Professional Education credits for recertification**
- **Dianne Raynor, Re-certification Sub-Committee Chair, will provide more details on the re-certification program.**



Program Revisions



- **Decided that hardcopy exams would normally be given only at the NCMS Seminar**
 - When there are a minimum of four (4) candidates who want to take the hardcopy exam, e.g., a Chapter-sponsored exam, and an ISP will act as the proctor, the ISP Certification Committee may approve an exception
- **Made minor revisions to the Recertification Guide for clarity in what will be counted for credit**
 - Recertification credit is given for being an EPP Mentor and an exam Proctor



Exam Prep Program



- This voluntary program is related to, but separate from, the ISP Certification Program. It is an informal program, run by ISPs, that is designed as a method to assist candidates in preparation for the ISP Certification Examination. This program does not provide “answers” to the ISP examination questions. Rather, it provides a structured approach to studying, a platform for discussions that will assist the candidate in confirming the accuracy of their knowledge, and a refresher on test taking strategies.



2010-2011 Objectives



- **The ISP Accreditation Committee will continue to pursue obtaining accreditation of the ISP Certification Program**
- **Implement the SAP elective into the ISP Test**
- **Monitor the ISP web page for accuracy**
- **Continue planning for conversion to CPEs/CEUs for re-certification**



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ISP Recertification



Purpose for CEU Conversion



- **To align NCMS' ISP recertification point system with the industry standard of CEUs.**
- **To align the recertification process to meet or exceed the ANSI Accreditation standard.**
- **To Support Strategic Goals**
 - ◆ **#2(a) Develop, maintain, and improve the ISP Certification Program, to include accreditation;**
 - ◆ **#2(b) Develop, maintain, and improve the Mentoring Program I**
 - ◆ **#6 Establish an Information Security (IS) Program that attracts and retains IS professionals to NCMS and addresses their unique needs**

Be Proactive – Predictable is Preventable



Methodologies [past two years]



- Established recertification sub-committee
- Researched security organizations to determine industry re-certification practices
- Researched accreditation standards to determine industry CEU standards
- Compiled findings into a spreadsheet
- Numerous telecoms and e-mails
- Retain current criteria and apply a comparable amount of time to each item
- Drafted proposed re-certification criteria and submitted to the Board of Directors in January and March 2011
- In March, the Board approved converting the ISP recertification to CEUs and retaining the 50%-50% split

The Efforts of the Individuals Exceed the Sum of the Group = Synergism



Ways to Obtain CEUs



- **CDSE Courses [Free]**
- **ENROL [Free]**
- **IOSS OPSEC [Free]**
- **Company security-related courses [Free]**
- **Committee work at local or national levels [Free]**
- **Carolinas Chapter Brown Bags via WebEx [Free]**
- **Serving as a Mentor for your Local Chapter [Free]**
- **Chapter Training [Portion is Free]**
- **Chapter seminars [Generally reduced fees]**
- **Membership/Participation in other security organizations [varied costs]**

Keep Doing What You Have Been Doing!



So, What's the New Equation?



- **ANSI, NCMS' Accrediting Company has accredited ASIS' recertification programs at one hour of instruction = one CEU**
- **Recommend that NCMS follow this equation for it's simple record keeping; for example:**
 - **National seminar at 24 hours = 24 CEUs**
 - **CDSE Course rated for three hours = three CEUs**
 - **Eight hour chapter seminar = eight CEUs**
 - **Two hour chapter meeting = two CEUs**
 - **Committee/officer time: defined in the new criteria**
 - **Formal education: defined in the new criteria**
- **Recommend 60 CEUs in three-year recertification term**

To Stretch is to Grow!



Other Changes to the ISP Recertification Program



- + Added chapter level committee work and officers in addition to the chair**
- + Added credit for mentoring**
- + Added items focused in computer security**
- Reduced the minimum number of hours for a chapter meeting to one hour**

Working to Simplify



2010-2011 CEU Conversion Objectives



1. Formally implement the CEU transition with board approval
2. Develop three-year CEU transition plan
3. Update the ISP Certification handbook to reflect CEU changes
4. Research on-line recertification programs to eliminate paper submissions
5. Survey ISPers for input as needed on program conversion
6. Expand the recertification committee as needed
7. Develop a CEU tracking/conversion tool for ISPers to use during three-year transition
8. Begin marketing efforts to advertise the CEU transition
 1. Write articles for the *Bulletin*
 2. Post information on the ISP website

Striving for Excellence in Program Development

Take away notes



- The level of effort for re-certification should be practical to obtain with or without company budgets
- One point [old @ six points] \neq one CEU [new @ 60 CEUs]
- May require more detailed record keeping
- Quantifying re-certification efforts
- You can achieve re-certification without training budgets
- There is still much work to do and we can use your help!

Exceed Accreditation Standards for ISP Recertification



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