

## Matt Snider—CISA Test Enhancement Subcommittee

Matt Snider is an ISACA Austin chapter member, and is employed as a Senior IT Auditor for Clifton Gunderson in Austin. Matt is currently serving as a volunteer on ISACA's 2009-2010 CISA Test Enhancement Subcommittee (TES). The CISA TES is an international committee, with members from the USA, Canada, India, Kenya, and Germany; the team is managed by Kim Cohen, Manager of Certification Exam Development for ISACA.

The CISA TES's official charge is to Identify and support activities required to create new questions for the CISA certification. As part of his responsibilities, Matt and the other TES members submit new questions for the CISA exam twice a year, and then meet in Chicago, IL at ISACA World Headquarters bi-annually to review potential questions for the exam.



The CISA TES is pictured above after their meeting in August 2009. Matt Snider is in the back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right.

### Volume 1 – Fall 2009

#### In this issue:

In the News—Matt Snider—Test Enhancement Subcommittee	1
Int'l News — ISACA An Affiliate of Cloud Security Alliance	1
Presidents Corner	2
Meeting Recaps (Sept -Oct)	2

### IMPORTANT DATES

**November 21st** – ISACA Austin Chapter CISA Exam Review – Day One

**December 5th** – ISACA Austin Chapter Exam Review – Day Two

**December 9th** – ISACA Austin Chapter Exam Review – Day Three

**December 12th** – ISACA CISA, CISM, CGEIT Exam

## ISACA—An Affiliate of Cloud Security Alliance

*Cloud Computing Benefits and Risks Detailed in New ISACA Guidance — Rolling Meadows, IL, USA (29 October 2009)*

Cloud computing is rapidly becoming a business information technology (IT) buzz word, but there is still much debate on what exactly it is and how it benefits enterprises. A new white paper from ISACA, a nonprofit association of 86,000 global information technology professionals, clearly describes how enterprises can achieve greater efficiencies and

mitigate new risks associated with cloud computing. The white paper, Cloud Computing: Business Benefits with Security, Governance and Assurance Perspectives, is available as a free download from [www.isaca.org/cloud](http://www.isaca.org/cloud).

According to the white paper, in addition to the financial savings involved with cloud computing, one of this model's strengths is for enterprises to streamline processes and increase innovation. This can translate into more reliable backup, more satisfied

customers, increased scalability and possibly even higher margins.

In recognition of new risks around this emergent technology, ISACA has become an affiliate of the Cloud Security Alliance, which collaborated on this paper and will be involved in joint projects with ISACA in the future.

[www.cloudsecurityalliance.org](http://www.cloudsecurityalliance.org)

## ISACA AUSTIN CHAPTER

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## The President's Corner - by Kim Bradley

Welcome to the ISACA Austin Chapter Fall 2009 newsletter! We plan to issue quarterly newsletters to include useful and timely information for our members and guests. Please let us know if you have any comments or information you would like to contribute to our newsletter. Our chapter relies on your participation to make us successful.

One of our key objectives is to provide low-cost, high-quality training to our members. To achieve this objective, we plan to support the following events during 2009-2010:

- Monthly luncheons (Sept-Nov, Feb-May)
- ISACA/IIA Joint Session
- ISACA/ISSA Joint Session
- ISACA ½ day Session
- ConSec 2010

We are offering a CISA review course in November/December to help attendees prepare for the December CISA exam. We also plan to offer a CISA review course in the spring to assist attendees in preparing for the June CISA exam.

Twenty-one of our chapter members passed the June 2009 CISA exam and six passed the June 2009 CISM exam. Congratulations to everyone who passed the exams! We recognized the passers who attended our November meeting (and provided them a complimentary registration). We plan to do this again in the spring for the December exam passers, so good luck to all of you taking the CISA, CISM and CGEIT exams in a few weeks!

Between July and October 22, 2009, eleven of our chapter members earned their CISA designations, five earned their CISM, and one earned their CGEIT. We recognized the newly certified members who attended our November meeting. Congratulations to all of our newly certified CISAs, CISM, and CGEIT.

Thanks for reading our newsletter, and please let us know how our board and chapter can meet your needs. I look forward to seeing you at future chapter events!

## Meeting Recaps (September–October)

September 08, 2009

Kim Bradley, the new President, introduced herself to the members in attendance. She provided an overview of the proposed budget and called for a vote by the membership. The budget was unanimously approved.

Steve Webb, PhD, provided a presentation on current exploits in social networking communities and how they could potentially impact businesses. Mr. Webb's presentation provided details around the following.

- Social Networking for business - how it is used, specific examples of major corporations currently engaged in social networking, usage statistics, and potential threats posed by its use.

- Attack Trends - types of attacks, specific worm profiles, cross-site scripting, and click jacking.

- Malware Trends - description of the current threat landscape including social engineering, zero day attacks and botnets.

- Web Security Gaps - The limitations of traditional defenses and what should be done going forward.

October 6, 2009

Kim, President of ISACA Austin Chapter, opened the luncheon, by calling for a vote (by raising of hands) on whether or not registrants who register for events and do not attend should be billed. A round of questions occurred, and then the members approved the motion.

Michael Gough provided a presentation on Platform Hardening, and emphasized the importance of hardening systems. Mr. Gough stated many resources necessary to harden an IT infrastructure could be found though simple online

searches, but recognized that for a baseline level one could use the hardening criteria provided on Center for Internet Security (CIS) website [www.cisecurity.org/](http://www.cisecurity.org/)

According to Mr. Gough hardening can be expressed as a mathematical equation as  $H = VOS + B + C$ , where H = Hardened System, VOS = Virtual OS Hardening, B = Base Hardening, and C = Custom Hardening. Hardening is a process of securely deploying a system, with the practice of least privilege. Hardening includes understanding business needs, documentation, operating systems, virtual servers, coding, application settings, database setup and configuration, network devices, portable devices, etc.

The full presentations can be found on the ISACA Austin website at: [www.isacaustin.org/information-resources.html](http://www.isacaustin.org/information-resources.html)