CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Risk Assessment Kickoff Outlines
Security Objectives

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UF Information Technology

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Risk Assessment Kickoff Outlines Security Objectives

The UF IT Risk Assessment Kickoff was held on January 29, 2003, at the Reitz Union. Presenters included Dr. Charles Frazier, UF vice provost for Information Technology, and Richard Rees of Predictive Systems. More than 70 network administrators and security personnel from all over campus attended this meeting to learn more about the risk assessment.

In response to a recent IT security audit performed by the Office of the Inspector General, the University of Florida contracted with Predictive Systems to perform a comprehensive risk assessment of UF IT resources to gauge the overall effectiveness of UF’s security posture.

The risk assessment is expected to take two months. Much of the on-site work will be conducted during February and will include a high-level review of existing security controls and technical testing. Predictive Systems will also be conducting interviews with key personnel as part of the assessment.

Key objectives include:

1. Determining the critical information assets (information, software, physical).

2. Validating the information security posture by measuring the site against 13 key security control areas listed in ISO 17799, an internationally recognized security standard.
3. Determining if there have been information security incidents, and identifying whether information is available for those incidents.

4. Assessing the information security risks from management's and IT staff's perspective.

5. Identifying the security issues and providing ways to address them.

During the kickoff, Rees stressed that this is not an audit but rather an effort to improve UF's security. The result of the assessment will be a detailed analysis of UF’s security posture and high-level action plan to reduce the risk of security breaches.

For more information on the risk assessment, contact Network Security Coordinator Kathy Bergsma at kathya@nersp.cns.ufl.edu.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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