ITSA Day Celebrates 6 Years of Security

CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

UF Information Technology

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Security is "job one," Al Johnson from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said during his presentation on "Forensic Pitfalls." Johnson said risk is part of the Information Technology world in which we function.

On October 8, IT professionals from across the state gathered for the 6th straight year at UF's J. Wayne Reitz Union to learn from national experts in the field of IT security.

Charles Frazier, vice provost for UF Information Technology, welcomed this year's Information Technology Security Awareness (ITSA) conference attendees by identifying the challenge of securing our computing resources. Approximately 160 people attended.

"Each ITSA Day we focus on security awareness and the only thing that is different between the remarks I made at my first ITSA Day four years ago and today is the need for still more security awareness and still better security," Frazier said.

He said the nature of UF's mission is to be open and available as a two-way street to the world. "People must be able to see us on the Internet and see what we offer. We need to be able to see what's out there. Thus the need for good security practices," Frazier said.

Newly appointed UF Information Security Manager Kathy Bergsma re-enforced Frazier's comments and encouraged the network administrators to continue to be vigilant and pro-active in the fight against worms and viruses.

Jeff Capehart, of the UF Office of Audit Compliance and Review, spoke about his office's role in standards of compliance. Capehart said that another aspect of security is validating that the software we use meets UF standards and practices.

Jeff Crume, Senior Certified IT Security Architect with IBM, covered "Enterprise Identity

UF Information Security Manager Kathy Bergsma assists Al Johnson of the FBI with his ITSA Day presentation.
Management." He likened most computer security to a tasty treat: hard on the outside, soft on the inside. Once the "outside" (firewall or other security measure) is breached, an intruder often has access to anything within the system. Crume explained authentication: "are you allowed in" is only the first step. Authorization: "what are you allowed to do?" is equally important.

The final speaker for the conference was Dr. William (Vic) Maconachy, National Information Assurance Education & Training Program. Maconachy spoke on "NSA Thoughts on Improving University IT Security." He said being vigilant and proactive are crucial to obtaining information assurance. This is especially true in a college environment, he said.

"This year's conference was a tremendous success thanks to the collaborative effort of Computing and Networking Services, speakers from a variety of backgrounds and experience, sponsors and vendors and the wide spectrum of attendees that take security to be 'job one,' " said Bergsma.

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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