

Information Security at Tidewater Community College

In a knowledge-based economy, information is currency and intellectual property, the fruit of knowledge work, is capital. Maintaining control over information assets allows firms to sustain the harvest of value from investment and hard work. Information security describes the various methods by which organizations maintain this control. Through control of information flow, savvy organizations compete more effectively in the global marketplace. Those who fail to maintain control may be, in effect, turning control of critical assets over to external entities for exploitation and gain. Every organization is in possession of sensitive information assets such as customer lists, product designs, business plans, budgets, payroll data and financial information. Safeguarding this information protects business functions, protects customers and protects the future viability of the organization.

Information security at one time involved having a firewall in place to protect information assets from hackers but that is no longer sufficient. Businesses face rapidly evolving threats from the actions of unscrupulous competitors and untrustworthy insiders. Traditional criminals are increasingly using technology to assist them in conducting fraud and other crimes. Response to the complex, developing threats to information involves much more than firewall technology. Maintaining the security of information involves establishing human, technical and operational controls.

At Tidewater Community College, we want to help the community fend off these threats. The network security program at TCC teaches information technology workers to implement the necessary controls to protect information assets. The program also provides students with the knowledge needed to develop internal security programs and to spot operational or process flaws. We would like to continue to work with the community to meet this critical need. To this end, we would like to extend an open hand and invite the local community to participate this exciting program.

For more information on how your company, or employees, can take advantage of this important new program at TCC, contact Dr. Linda Rice, Provost – Chesapeake Campus (757.822.5100) or Robert Guess, Faculty – Network Security Program – Chesapeake Campus (757.822.5022), or on the internet:

<http://www.tcc.edu/academics/divisions/ITBusiness/ist/index.htm>