



UAE National Security Awareness Campaign

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Central to the goals of aeCERT's mission of 'Towards a Safe Cyber Culture' is the proactive role of educating our users, businesses and our youth on matters relating to Cyber-Safety. This educator role as part of our National Security Awareness campaign is a vital key element in the long-term success of the UAE and the region, helping us to benefit from the many advantages of Information Technology; whilst helping to sustain a resilient and vigilant ICT infrastructure against a broader set of cyber security threats.

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H.E. Mohamed Nasser Al Ghanim, Director General of the TRA, aeCERT sponsor

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The aeCERT National Security Awareness campaign is the first UAE and GCC National Information Security Awareness campaign to be made available to the public.

The campaign is a key factor in aeCERT's national strategy and vision and is designed to help build and promote a safer cyber culture within the UAE. Open to all UAE residents, the campaign provides comprehensive E-learning content via the web, free of charge. It is available in both Arabic and English and caters to business, general users, as well other technology users such as students in universities.

Campaign Update

This month aeCERT releases a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) and posters for the resoundingly successful first installment in this ongoing campaign.

The next installments to look forward to that will be released by aeCERT are centered around various related themes, namely: "Understanding Internet Threats", which covers the issues and safeguards for E-mail, Web and Instant Messaging security; "Understanding Technology Threats"; and "Understanding Cyber Culture and Society", which will address various issues including Cyber Law, Social Networking and Web 2.0.

Following the successful launch of the UAE National Security Awareness campaign in November 2007, where aeCERT delivered three essential E-learning modules via the aeCERT website, all centered around the theme of "Protecting Your Information and Online Identity".

The first E-learning installment in the aeCERT campaign was delivered in both English and Arabic, on the following critical information security topics:

- Information Security Essentials
- Password Security

- Understanding Social Engineering

These modules that have been developed by aeCERT for the UAE highlight the essential risks and their safeguards, addressing both main issues and best practices.

All content is supported with related collateral such as downloadable reminder cards and screen savers.

"The feedback and response from both Arabic and English speakers worldwide has been extremely positive, and welcomed internationally by other CERTS, and Information Security-related organizations alike", said Eng. Fatma Bazargan of aeCERT, citing some of the excellent feedback from various people and organizations.

Looking Ahead

As part of the aeCERT "National Outreach Program", aeCERT will be hosting seminars and workshops for organizations and individuals (technical and non-technical alike), with a special focus on universities and colleges.

More details will be available soon via the aeCERT Events Schedule hosted on the aeCERT website. For currently available and future scheduled Security Awareness E-learning content, please visit

<http://www.aecert.ae/security.html>

on a regular basis and take advantage of this excellent, free educational resource.

InfoSec Awareness Facts & Stats

What's more important: Password length or complexity?

Answer: whilst both are important, password length is more of an obstacle to password 'crackers'. Complex passwords of 10 characters or more can be virtually un-crackable.

The results of a recent survey conducted by aeCERT related to Information Security Awareness are:

50% of all respondents used the same password for all their online accounts.

20% of all respondents have not changed their password(s) since creating them.

85% of all respondents used 'complex or secure passwords'.

18% of all respondents have shared their passwords with others.

29% of all respondents have

written their passwords down for 'safe keeping'- not very wise.

47% of respondents did not know their organization's password policy.

Finally, less than **5%** of UAE organizations have addressed or plan to address Security Awareness as part of the corporate Information Security Strategy.

What does this all mean?

The lack of effective and applied Information Security Awareness on fundamental

issues such as personal password management is a global issue that has resulted and will continue to result in security and privacy breaches worldwide. Both organizations and individuals need to do more and learn more in order to circumvent this glaring security failing and loophole.



Security Awareness & Your Children

On the Internet & Children:

Knowledge gained via the Internet should not necessitate lose of innocence, values nor dignity. Protecting our children online is about protecting our future.



Increasingly, as our lives and society become more technology-enabled, so do our youth's.

Information Security Awareness for the younger generation is of critical importance to every parent, teacher, community leader, and role model. The Internet and technology offer countless exciting and endless opportunities for the younger generation to learn and explore and communicate, which is invaluable and to be encouraged.

However, the dangers that exist on the Internet are not only to information security, but also could affect the children's development, morals, and self esteem. Cyber-bullying is just one of the issues that the youth of today now face, with little recourse and ways of remediation. Education of your children and students on all matters relating to Information Security Awareness and being safe online is a duty often neglected by parents, older siblings, and teachers alike.

Parents and teachers need to be more actively involved in what their children are doing online to advise, mentor, assist children and youth and tackle the significant 'social risks' that youth of today now face online.

aeCERT @ an Event Near You

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The aeCERT will be participating at several Security Related events in the coming quarter including the International Security National Resilience (ISNR) spanning from the 2nd to the 5th of March 2008, in Abu Dhabi.

For more details on this event and others, please

visit the aeCERT's Events schedule at

<http://www.aecert.ae/events.html>

Your Valuable Feedback & Suggestions:

aeCERT welcomes feedback and suggestions on this National Awareness Campaign. If you or your organisation would like to host an aeCERT Awareness

public seminar, or require more information about aeCERT Services and functions, please email:

feedback@aecert.ae

Best Regards,

The aeCERT Team

