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From the Editors

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From the Editors

Abstract

Welcome to the Fall 2018 issue of the Journal of Cybersecurity Education, Research, and Practice (JCERP). On behalf of the editorial team, we thank you for taking the time to read this issue and strongly encourage you to submit an article for consideration in an upcoming edition.

Keywords

Vigilance, Compliance, Cybersecurity Mindset, Editorial

FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the Winter 2018 issue of the Journal of Cybersecurity Education, Research, and Practice (JCERP). On behalf of the editorial team, we thank you for taking the time to read this issue and strongly encourage you to consider submitting an article for consideration in an upcoming edition.

In this issue's editorial, we discuss some perceptions of the need for ongoing education in support of the field of cybersecurity at all levels of practice, education and research.

It is easy for those who focus on research to become deeply involved with the daily needs of industry within an organization and lose sight of the need to be constantly vigilant in securing the assets of an organization. Cybersecurity practitioners may be hyper-focused on their responsibilities to the organization or public welfare but what about the other employees. Too often employees may become complacent, ignoring signs of potential threats or even fall prey to schemes designed to infiltrate or otherwise harm the organization. At times, they may even complain about the extra time needed to engage in good security practices.

As educators, we have recently observed students being challenged with a requirement to use two-factor authentication on campus systems. No matter how much we remind them of the importance of the implementation of this enhancement to our systems, more often than not, they have view it as nuisance and a hindrance to their work.

How do we overcome these challenges to encourage a proper response and compliant behavior? There is no simple answer other than to continue to do what we as educators do – educate. In industry, many organizations choose to do ongoing testing to remind employees of recommended practices that comply with policy through periodic phishing schemes and or other similar organized efforts randomly testing the employees' behavior. Even with the most cautious employees, mistakes can happen and that is why we all, whether in education, government or industry, have to educate at all levels from school to work to home and beyond.

Vigilance has to become ingrained in every mind, with leaders and educators constantly suggesting to everyone that they think before they click. The goal is to develop a mindset to view all Internet communications with a healthy dose of skepticism. As educators, we strongly believe that learning never ends, in this field especially. Learning has to continue after graduation in order to remain a step ahead of those seeking to damage, disrupt or steal from organizations.

With our students, we emphasize that they will be learning every day for the rest of their careers in order to keep their skills fresh and able to support their own growth. However, classroom lectures, tests, quizzes, assignments, and hands on projects are not enough. Students need to work diligently outside of the classroom to enhance their skills and prepare them to find their place within the field. Cyber defense competitions, capture the flag events, and industry internships are just a few additional ways we help prepare graduates to enter the cyber workforce ready to begin their careers.

Each of us, whether teaching in the classroom, researching, or working in industry are responsible for helping to continue the graduate's journey. We respect and applaud everyone's continued efforts. Carry on.

The mission of JCERP is to be the premier outlet for high-quality information security and cybersecurity related articles of interest to teaching faculty and students.

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