



Isle of Man

International Business School

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First Internet Security Awareness Workshops Very Successful.



As the Island progressively adopts computing and communications technology in the home and small business, we continue to see an emerging stream of new risks associated with being connected to the Internet. And yet, we not only adopt, but now rely on the internet for shopping, banking, travel and leisure choices.

In the light of these emerging risks, the Department of Trade & Industry sponsored Internet Security Awareness workshops with the objective of explaining the basic precautions that can be taken to protect small businesses from internet security threats.

The DTI approached Peter Ginty (pictured), from IBS Consulting (a division of the International Business School), to design and deliver the workshops targeted at small organisations on the Isle of Man. The workshops are not targeted at the IT people within business. The theme is that Internet Security is about people, not technology. The lack of understanding of the basic steps that small organisations can take to protect themselves from Internet Security threats such as; Phishing, Spyware, Trojans, as well as viruses, is being actively exploited by organised criminals.

Peter Ginty was originally involved in the development and launch of the UK Get Safe Online campaign (www.getsafeonline.org). Get Safe Online is a joint initiative between the UK Government, the National Hi-Tech Crime Unit (part of the National Crime Squad), and private sector sponsors from the world of technology, retail and finance, including: BT, Dell, eBay, HSBC, Lloyds TSB, Microsoft, MessageLabs, securetrading.com and Yell.com. Peter's involvement in the UK Campaign was to assist in coordinating the campaign objectives and to provide project management services to the development of the UK campaign and key activities.

The UK campaign was launched in October, deliberately aimed at home and small business users, where research has indicated that over three quarters of the UK's population don't know enough about protecting themselves online. In fact 42% of that population just rely on friends and family for online safety advice, rather than taking direct responsibility to understand and take the necessary steps to protect themselves. The campaign aims to increase awareness and to provide authoritative, trustworthy and independent Government and law enforcement generated information and advice to on-line users such that they will feel more confident to use the Internet safely and securely. Ultimately, the UK campaign aims to bring about measurable changes to the behaviour of internet users and their attitudes to the security of domestic and small business ICT infrastructures and devices.

The Isle of Man Government are active supporters of the campaign objectives and the Department of Trade and Industry has commissioned IBS Consulting to design and deliver Internet Security Awareness workshops to promote greater understanding and awareness amongst Isle of Man small organisations.

Alex Downie MLC, Minister for the Department of Trade and Industry says, " The Department is keen to continue support for these workshops. Internet Security is of the utmost importance to all businesses that are online. We are fortunate that in the Isle of Man we can go one step further

than the UK Government. They created an awareness of the threats. The Isle of Man DTI are able to offer solutions and support to local businesses to safeguard their businesses. I would recommend that any business that operates online or even uses email attend one of these workshops.”

The first two series of workshops have now completed with very positive feedback. One of the attendees, Rebecca Knott from the Chamber of Commerce, commented

‘This was a very useful workshop. Peter delivered the workshop very well and is obviously very experienced & knowledgeable in his field. We will now be able to apply the new skills to the Security of the Chamber. The templates etc were also very useful. I think it is important to be offered a refresher every year as this area is constantly changing’

The DTI will offer additional workshops starting Friday morning February 17th 2006, to be held at the International Business School.

Workshop Details:

The security workshops consist of 3 (½ day) modules;

1. Module 1 explains the internet security threats and the basic steps that can be taken to improve security within small businesses and for home computers.
2. Module 2 explains how to complete a security audit of your own company computers and network. This is applicable for any company that has 2 or more computers or laptops. During this module participants are taught how to complete the audit and identify risks
3. Module 3 explains how to develop the security plan for the company and identify specific actions, timelines and responsibilities to ensure that they will implement a secure internet plan.

Interested parties should contact Lacey Cullen, Marketing Assistant at The International Business School on Tel 01625 693709 or Email L.Cullen@ibs.ac.im for more information or to register for a place on the next workshop.

For further information, please contact:

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