

❖ Consultants in Minnesota ❖

December 2000

President's Message

By Larry Bremer

Greetings.

Thank you to Mr Mark Lanterman of the Hopkins Police Department for an excellent presentation on Computer Crime and Punishment: Trends in Recent High Tech Investigations and to Ray Giske for chairing this program. Interesting presentation and discussion were followed by a question and answer period. It is amazing to realize how easy it is to steal an identity and scary to think how little resources are available to prosecute these crimes (budget and expertise limitations).

The local chapter has approved production of ICCA-MN logo shirts. There is a choice of white polo short sleeved, with royal blue knitted collar and sleeve cuffs, and a white long sleeved twill. You should have received an offer with order form from me via email. If you did not, please contact me (at ljbremmer@icca.org) and I'll ensure you receive the order form. The logo is an outline of the state of Minnesota with the block letters ICCA and words Independent Computer Consultants Association written across the outline.

The National office has initiated a drive to insure that all local members update their personal profile on the national site. Please visit <http://www.icca.org> and enter the members only area. If you have not

ever done so, you will need to register and get a password – a quick and easy process that emails the password to your given email address. You are doing yourself a disservice if your profile is not up to date as they have a good search engine that lets prospective clients search for a specific skill (keywords on your profile, you can update your profile online).

We are approaching the end of the year – hence the end of term for some of the elected officers. We are seeking volunteers who can provide a few hours each month to support the local chapter in the following positions: President, Vice president and Treasurer. Please consider this opportunity to serve the local chapter and to develop your leadership skills as an additional benefit. Let me know if you are willing to serve.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Holiday party on the 13th of December, at the Driver's Inn in South St. Paul.

Larry



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INDEPENDENT
COMPUTER
CONSULTANTS
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter
of the



Minnesota Chapter

Getting to know your fellow ICCA people

Jim Clark

Jim Clark has recently established Olympic Consulting to provide Management Consulting and Professional Services to clients looking for superior performance in return for their investment in Information Systems. Jim specializes in aligning IS projects and activities with long-term Corporate Strategies and short-term Business Objectives. Sample engagements could include IS Strategic Planning, Organizational Development, Performance Standards or Service Level Agreements. Jim says business referrals are greatly appreciated. He can be reached at 952-944-6967 or via e-mail at jimclark@uswest.net.

Randy Hayman

Randy has over 16 years experience in IT within the Medical, Financial, Manufacturing, Insurance, and Retail businesses - both public and private sectors. He has been a consultant for almost four years, and recently hung his own shingle out under the name of PureIce, Inc. Randy is an experienced project manager, Full lifecycle software engineer and consultant with the SEI CMM, ISO 9000 series and Rational software suite of tools, UNIX and Linux security administrator, UNIX and Linux systems administrator, UNIX and Linux system programmer, SOHO network designer and implementer, and Oracle database administrator. Recently Randy has started delving into the world of Palm PDA programming.

David Hedrick Skarjune

David Hedrick Skarjune is a senior programmer, Microsoft Certified Professional, adjunct faculty at the NEI College of Technology, and operates his own independent consulting business Word & Image, LLC. He has a decade of Information Technology experience delivering business solutions for clients including Fortune 500 corporations. Prior to IT, he worked in publishing as a writer, editor, photographer, and graphic designer. His articles have appeared in Access/Office/VB Advisor, Print, and other national publications; he was a correspondent to Time magazine; and he was the founding editor of the national journal Pub-

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Computer Crime and Punishment: Trends in Recent High Tech Investi- gations.

By Ray Giske

Our presenter at the November ICCA meeting was **Mark Lanterman**, a detective with the Hopkins Police Dept. In addition to discussing some recent trends in computer crime nationally, Mr. Lanterman discussed several "high profile" cases he was responsible for as an investigator here in the Twin Cities area.

Mark began his presentation by quoting from a 1999 annual survey indicating that approximately 58% of the computer crimes are committed by individuals who have authorized access to the system on which the crime is committed. Too often we are concerned about the hackers, competitors, and former employees when we should, in fact, be concerned about persons with authorized access wishing to commit fraud or embezzle funds, embarrass the company, or commit extortion. We should be worried about disgruntled employees or consultants who were given access.

The first case Mark discussed involved a company located in Golden Valley. In this case a former employee had compromised the company's computer system and was carrying around with him on his own laptop a copy of the company's database worth approximately \$2.5 million. It was only by accident that Mark had the opportunity to investigate the former employee's computer and when he did Mark recognized that this was not an ordinary database to be carting around on a laptop.

A second case involved a coffee company located in Plymouth, MN where a disgruntled employee embezzled some \$200,000. The employee served as the company accountant and used a system to "skim" by raising the cost of goods sold for the company. The company began investigating when they realized they were not as profitable as they thought they should be. The company's computers were seized by the City of Plymouth Police Dept. and Mark

was called in to examine the data on the computer. It turns out the accountant had used a couple of old 286 computers to maintain an elaborate accounting system so he could keep track of the money he was embezzling.

The third case involved a large international financial institution headquartered in downtown Minneapolis. An entry-level employee had access to the company computers in order to conduct data entry on customer account information obtained over the phone. Unsuspecting customers would call in to make a transaction of some sort, for example, to have funds transferred for making a late house payment. The employee would need to get from the customer information like the phone number, social security number, and other information that would be required to execute otherwise seemingly secure transactions. After completing the transaction with the customer, the employee would fax the customer's data to an associate who would generate counterfeit checks. Perpetrators were finally arrested here in Minnesota after traveling across the country cashing millions of dollars worth of bad checks.

Mark warned that, given only limited knowledge and access to a computer, it is not difficult to essentially 'steal' someone's identity. In closing his presentation, Mark emphasized that local law enforcement units must become better equipped to investigate computer crimes. At this time, they are woefully understaffed and depend too heavily on the FBI to 'do it all'. At the same time, he emphasized that individuals must take greater responsibility in understanding the risks and learning how to protect themselves against these risks.

Mark is one of only a handful of federally trained Twin Cities officers in the exploding field of computer crime. Mark is currently assigned to the Minnesota Financial Crimes Taskforce. As a result, he routinely assists other law enforcement agencies with computer related investigations including Hennepin County, other west-metro police departments, the LA County Sheriff's Dept., and the New Zealand Dept. of Corrections.

Y2K Holiday Celebration

By Jackie Harte

Just when you thought you were safe from those three little letters, well here they are again! And this time they mean fun, laughter and food with your friends in ICCA.

This year's party is being planned as you read this. The festivities details are:

When:

Wednesday, Decemember 13, 2000.
6:00 Social Hour,
7:00 Buffet Dinner

Where:

Best Western Drover's Inn, Concord and I-494,
South St. Paul

Cost:

\$30.00 per person.
RSVP: to Joan Barnes by Thursday December 7th,
2000 at 651.257.2470

Please plan on attending. Your prompt reply will be greatly appreciated to help us plan for a most enjoyable time! So-- mark your calendars and give Joan a call!

ICCA MN Chapter Shirts NOW AVAILABLE!

At the Oct meeting, the members decided to order embroidered shirts with the MN Chapter ICCA logo. We will wear them at trade shows to clearly show what we represent. And any other time you want to advertise ICCA! The logo is an outline of the state of MN, with the blocked ICCA letters down the left side and the words Independent Computer Consultants Association laid across the state outline - much like the logo on the cover of the newsletter.

Two styles are available for ordering:

Polo - White - Short sleeve, no pocket 100% cotton
Royal blue & silver trim on collar neck/sleeves Herring-bone stitch - very sharp looking.

Sizes: Mens S-M-L-XL-XXL
Cost: S-XL \$28 XXL \$32

Twill - White - Long sleeves, 1 left pocket 7.25 oz.
60/40 cotton/poly blend

Sizes: Mens S-M-L-XL-XXL
Cost: S-XL \$30 XXL \$32

We would like to have the shirts finished and available at the Dec 13 Holiday Party. If you would like a shirt(s), please REPLY ASAP with the following information:

NAME:

PHONE:

SHIRT STYLE:

Polo: Qty _____ Size _____

Twill: Qty _____ Size _____

Payment: Due at pickup

Questions: Call Jackie Harte, 651.436.4752

Meeting Reservations: Should have been done by now! See you all at Best Western Drover's Inn!

Have a "Ho Ho Ho"
HOLIDAY



Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 2000

Holiday Party.

Best Western Drover's Inn
Concord and I-494, South St. Paul

Social Hour at 6:00PM
Dinner at 7:00PM

For reservations call
Joan Barnes @ 651-257-2570

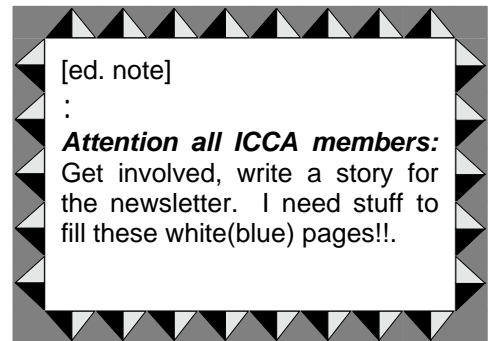
FUTURE MEETINGS

Jan 16 Broker Fair

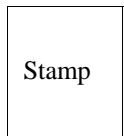
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