

ISSA

Information Security Student Paper Contest 2013

Promoting Information Security Awareness in the Post-Secondary Educational Community

1. The Award

ISSA-Ottawa is pleased to announce the creation of an Information Security Student Paper Award for 2013.

This is a new initiative intended to provide post-secondary students with the opportunity to discuss, research and write about developing issues and solutions in information security and in so doing, to have their work recognized by the Ottawa Carleton and Gatineau professional information security community.

Hosted by the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA) Ottawa and sponsored by Dalian Enterprises Inc., this will be an exceptional opportunity for post-secondary students who are actively enrolled in an information security program or closely related curriculum at Algonquin College, La Cité Collégiale, University of Ottawa or Carleton University.

2. Prizes

Prizes for winning papers will include:

- **First Place - \$500;**
- **Second Place - \$250; and**
- **Third Place - \$125.**

The (3) winners will also have the opportunity to deliver a summary presentation¹ on their paper (in person) to the ISSA Ottawa membership at a scheduled ISSA event.

As well, the winners *may* be invited to have their paper published in the ISSA Journal which includes a worldwide readership.

¹ Details to be determined after date of award.

3. Topics

Students may select any topic (please see the criteria, to follow).

However, the following are suggested themes that have been identified as critical or of great interest to the information security professional community in Canada and in Ottawa Carleton in particular:

- Protecting critical infrastructure in Canada, including unique threats and solutions;
- Next Generation Incident Response;
- The pros and cons of Cloud computing, from a security perspective;
- Anatomy of an attack that made the news along with suggestions on how the same form of attack could be countered in the future;
- Hacking of Digital-Analog systems: implications and solution options;
- Credit card chip and pin solutions: secure enough or not?

Note:

We encourage contestants present a topic will engage the reader or which will expose an issue or threat that others need to know about.

Thinking outside the box and writing on “cutting edge” matters is just as important as consideration for known issues.

Topic Criteria

All topics must:

1. Involve information security;
2. Have a relatively broad appeal in the information security community; and
3. If already addressed elsewhere, present a fresh perspective or new conclusions.

4. General Guidelines and Rules

The following are general guidelines and rules for the competition.

Guidelines

1. Entries must be at least 1500 words and no more than 2500 words in size;
2. Please submit your entry a Word document along with any accompanying diagrams, spreadsheets, tools, screen shots etc.
3. All entries should have a title page that provides the author's name, email address, and telephone number;
4. Follow best practices with document style, explanation of concepts, spelling and grammar. Several Websites exist that can be used in helping new writers. If you require more information to help you get started ask your professor or email us at studentpaper@issa-ottawa.ca
5. Electronic submissions can be made via email to studentpaper@issa-ottawa.ca

Rules

1. All entries must be received before March 31st 2013.
2. Late submissions will not be accepted or considered. Late submissions will not be returned to the author.
3. Copyright of all submissions will remain with the author. However ISSA Ottawa reserves the right to distribute copies internally for review purposes. As well the winners may be offered a chance to have their papers published in full or amended form in the ISSA Journal, which may require some sharing of copyright. This will be discussed at award time.
4. Plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification. Primary or secondary sources must be identified and footnoted if used. All papers will be checked using anti-plagiarism services. So, please do original work!

Note: ISSA-Ottawa reserves the right to change rules at any point prior to or during the competition as needs arise.

Questions or clarifications on the general contest guidelines and rules may be submitted to studentpaper@issa-ottawa.ca via email.

Judging

All papers will be evaluated by a panel of ISSA members and executives. The combined scores from the judges will be used to rate the papers. The paper with the highest score will receive first prize, the second highest score will receive second prize, and the third highest score will receive third prize.

Judges will consider and evaluate all papers according to:

1. Adherence to the rules;
2. Consideration for the guidelines;
3. Style, grammar, punctuation and spelling;
4. Inclusion of clear references and explanation of unique terms or abbreviations;
5. Use of diagrams and examples;
6. Use of citations and references; and
7. The value of the paper as a source of information to the information security community (ideally presenting something new in whole or part).

Good Luck!

Steve Lavergne
President
Ottawa Chapter
Information Systems Security Association (ISSA)