I recently received a demonstration copy of a new security-awareness program built on the ISO 17799 standards and designed using systematic principles of adult education. Called WISE (Web-based Information Security Education), the product is available from SoftwareByBay (SBB) <http://www.softwarebybay.com>.

The demo came on a CD; starting the program was just a double-click to launch a browser. A mellifluous voice introduced the training program’s methods and buttons and then we were off into the first demo, a security awareness program. This course includes general security concepts, acceptable system use, physical security issues, and social engineering. Then there’s a testing module at the end with a final exam.

I particularly liked the smooth integration of elegant diagrams with the clear explanations of the principles presented. Multiple-choice review questions were placed in the stream of frames in a way that did not disrupt the flow of thought. The interface was easy to use; the menu of topics provided immediate access to all parts of the course with an intuitively easy hierarchy of pop-up menus. All the spoken material was available in printed form in a frame on one side of the screen. Impatient users could force a faster pace by using the fast-forward feature to push the text on screen as fast as they want.

The WISE program includes the following courses:
* information security awareness
* security management
* security technology
* HIPAA training
* professional security officer training
* law enforcement officer training.

The courses take from two to 20 hours each. Annual updates are available. Pricing starts at $99 per seat per course with site licenses available.

The product specification sheet states, “In addition to the [W]eb-based training, this security awareness product includes optional security posters, newsletters, calendars, e-mail alerts, security tip-of-the-day, etc., all customized for your organization.”

I think security managers would do well to examine this product to see if it suits their security awareness needs. Contact Joel Hudesman at +1.866.973.8324 x 5506 (US/Canada) or +1.973.257.1205 xx5506 or <mailto:jhudesman@softwarebybay.com>.

[I have no financial involvement whatsoever with this company.]

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MSIA: 18-month online Master of Science in Information Assurance offered by Norwich University; see <http://www3.norwich.edu/msia> for full details.

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