
Dr Gary Hinson, PhD CISSP CISM MBA, CEO of IsecT, commented wryly to me when he fact-checked this article, “The NoticeBored name, by the way, relates to the idea that employees are bored to tears with first-generation security awareness messages (‘Think security!’ or ‘Be aware!’) on dog-eared posters that are never changed.” [Quick note to readers: I check my articles about other people’s work by sending them a draft before publication.]


Their “NB this month” section <http://www.noticebored.com/html/this_month.html> describes a wealth of purchasable security awareness materials that can brighten up any organization’s program. The theme for April is network security awareness. The introduction includes the thoughtful comment, “It could be said that, conceptually, networks and information security are poles apart. Whereas in one view security majors on control and constraint of information assets, networking involves sharing and releasing them. Networks are inherently complex and dynamic, whereas security benefits from simplicity and stability. Reconciling such opposing forces is no easy task. It should be no surprise, then, that networking represents one of the most challenging areas of information security.”

The menu includes 27 files and you can see the whole list yourselves. Highlights (quoting excerpts directly from the Web page with most of the details left out):

**AWARENESS MATERIALS FOR ALL EMPLOYEES**


2. Security awareness posters: network security (HTML and graphics) – Six striking new high-resolution posters plus ten medium-resolution posters previously released. Our awareness posters are designed to promote and brand the security awareness program as a whole, intriguing and encouraging staff to seek out further information on network security.
3. Screensavers: network security (SCR)

4. Internet Acceptable Use Policy (DOC) [MS-Word; all other documents are DOCs unless otherwise indicated] – A generic Internet AUP, designed to stimulate a review of yours (assuming that you have one already!): does yours take account of current Internet/Web security threats?

5. Staff briefing: Web security

6. Staff guideline: securing home wireless networks

7. Case studies: network security – Two hypothetical but realistic network security scenarios are described. Questions are posed and model answers are provided to get the discussion going.

8. Take home messages: network security

9. Crossword puzzle: network security

10. Security awareness survey: network security – To what extent do your employees comprehend this month’s topic? Do they ‘get it’? Survey awareness using this data collection form to obtain useful statistics for the awareness program and solicit feedback comments and improvement suggestions.

11. Glossary: network security terms

12. Links: network security resources (free!)

AWARENESS MATERIALS FOR EXECUTIVE MANAGERS

13. Mind-maps: network security – A suite of Visio drawings, visually representing network security issues in the form of mind maps. The mind maps helped us think about and structure the content whilst researching and preparing the NoticeBored module, and are used to illustrate the awareness presentations and other materials.

14. Board agenda: network security

15. Model security policy: network security

16. Management presentation: network security (PPT)

17. Executive briefing: network security

18. Executive briefing: wireless network security

19. Management briefing: network security

20. Security metrics: measuring network security
21. Newsletter: network security

22. Awareness program activities: network security

23. Technical seminar: network security (PPT) – Presentation slides plus speaker notes to facilitate a seminar discussion on the technical aspects of network security with IT professionals, perhaps a lunchtime session?

24. Technical briefing: network security controls

25. Technical briefing: secure wireless networking

26. White paper: 7-layer network security model

27. Internal controls review checklist: network security

I hope readers, especially those responsible for awareness/training/education, will take full advantage of this excellent material. The monthly modules are sold on a subscription basis <http://www.noticebored.com/html/vfm.html> for about the cost of a cup of coffee per employee per year (a reference to a comment by Richard Clarke, former special advisor to the President on cybersecurity, about organizations who spend less on security than on coffee deserving to be hacked) <http://techupdate.zdnet.com/techupdate/stories/main/0,14179,5103462,00.html>.

Congratulations and thanks to IsecT for making these monthly banks of materials available to the community at reasonable costs.

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