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Featured Article

What is Information Security?

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Information security (INFOSEC) has managed to get a tremendous amount of attention in the past few years, even grabbing headlines in the mainstream media. Despite this attention, asking ten people what INFOSEC is will likely result in ten different answers. To some people, security is about keeping the bad guys out of their systems. To others, security is about elimination of all threats. To still others, security is about management of risk. Despite the presence of security in the mainstream consciousness, outside of the INFOSEC community, there still isn't much agreement about what exactly security means.

Information security is the process of protecting data from accidental or intentional misuse by persons inside or outside of an organization, including employees, consultants, and yes, the much-feared hacker. A security breach can involve anything from a website defacement to a computer virus, to an employee who inadvertently discloses his/her password, to a former employee who sabotages a database, to corporate spies who find out how many widgets your top customer bought last month.

As any trustworthy security professional will admit, there's no such thing as perfect security.

The four basic Information Security tenets are:

1. **Data Integrity:** Detecting if information has been altered by unauthorized or unknown means.
2. **Secrecy (Confidentiality):** Keeping information secret from all but those who are authorized to see it.
3. **Authentication:** Corroboration of the identity of an entity (for example, a person, computer terminal or smart card).
4. **Non-repudiation:** Preventing the denial of previous commitments or actions.

As with physical security, information security depends on individual participation in the quest to protect sensitive areas from misuse and potential threats. For more details on information security, go to <http://www.infosec.uga.edu>.



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The Challenges of Protecting Academia

To understand how to deter terrorism on a college campus, it is necessary to first understand the basic principals of terrorism. Terrorist attempt to influence governmental decisions on a basis of fear. Free and open access as a way of life on college campuses encourages the sharing of ideas, spurs thought processes, and improves research. This openness also provides a climate for the potential threat of terrorism. A change of mind-set is needed in the way open access is viewed.

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 on New York and Washington DC, terrorist and their organizations have become common words in the headlines. Terrorism has been in existence for many years, but September 11th changed how terrorism impacts our everyday life. The scope and impact of terrorism on a college campus, such as UGA, reaches far beyond the teaching and research interest of a campus.

Taking time to explore the vast amount of information that is available on terrorist organizations, their ideology, history, and agenda, will provide a broader understanding of terrorism and cast terrorism in a new perspective.

The University Office of Security Preparedness' website provides links to various state and federal websites that specifically deal with various aspects of terrorism. Colleges and universities must constantly be aware of ever changing threats, and precautions to be taken to lessen the fear of a terrorist attack.

Access control, identification badges, campus event planning, and emergency preparedness play an important part in the challenge of protecting the college campus.

Some of the applications of access control coupled with other security measures aid in an effort to inform campus decision makers of the security potential available.

The vast threats and sheer number of access points to facilities in an academic community make security and access control a required consideration in protecting academia.

The challenge is great, but security is not an option...it's a necessity.

Summer Security Tips for Campus

The weather is warm, fewer people are on campus. Now is the time to be more aware of your surroundings and building security. There is the temptation to leave doors and windows open or unlocked during the summer season. People are staying out later as the days get longer, kids are attending a variety of camps hosted on campus, construction reroutes streets and walkways. Unattended areas, as well as dim lighting in parking lots and walkways, invite potential security concerns. Summer is a time to take extra precautions for your personal safety. An open campus atmosphere along with athletic and musical events, attract different kinds of people. Being aware of what is going on around you may alert you to potential security concerns so that the proper officials may be notified and potential threats averted.



Enjoy the summer while helping to keep yourself and the campus safe.