



Welcome!

Welcome to the Principles of Information Security (a.k.a. POIS)!

Information security is an increasingly urgent concern in our global information-dependent society. Information security is not just a concern that businesses have throughout the world, it is a concern that you should have right at home.

Over 246 million data records of Americans containing personal information such as credit card numbers and Social Security numbers have been exposed due to weak security.



A computer connected to the Internet is probed by an attacker for weaknesses on average once every 39 seconds.

You can infect your computer by just viewing a site without making a single click within the site. This happens to innocent web surfers every 14 seconds.



How do you prevent this? What is anti-virus? What is a firewall? How can you test your computer to see if it had been infected? Is it possible to be safe and in the clear?

This course will present a basic introduction to practical computer security for all users.

Security topics relate to real-life experiences, showing why computer security is necessary and provide the essential elements for making and keeping computers secure.

You will gain practical skills on how to protect your computers and wireless networks from sophisticated attacks.

You will also learn how organizations deal with security issues.



INSTRUCTOR INTRODUCTION

My name is Gregg Husband. I will be your instructor for this course.

This is my 12th year of teaching information technology (IT) at Northcentral Technical College. Prior to becoming an instructor, I was a computer information technology professional for 16 years working for various firms in the Wausau area, the latest being Wipfli LLC, a large CPA/consulting firm headquartered in Wausau.



ME AND MY DOGS CHUKAR AND SHADOW (LAB)

I have a B.S. degree in Business Administration, Economics and Computer Science. I also have a M.S. degree in Education. Education really never ends and I am happy to say this because I like learning new things.

After all of these years working in the field of IT, I am still fascinated with new technology.

COURSE TRANSFORMATION

I had completely rewritten this class back in the fall of 2009 to make this class more in-tuned to your needs. I am now giving the class another facelift. The content will be the same; I am just making the presentation format a bit friendlier for you and for the other instructors that teach this class. These changes will be work-in-process. Once the class starts, the learning plans and assignments will be made available to you at least two weeks before you will need them - sorry if this is an inconvenience for you.

COURSE NAVIGATION



This course will be navigated through the Blackboard interface, specifically with the buttons that you see in the image to the left. You are viewing this, so obviously you already know how to get to blackboard.

The **Announcements** will be the first to display and can always be redisplayed by clicking on the Announcements button. Always view any new announcements that I give you, they are generally very important, otherwise I would not have created them.

If you are new to blackboard, check out the help information within the **Help – How To..** section.

As all good students do, please read the class Syllabus that you will find in the **Course Information** section. This is also where you will find the "start here" message that I had sent you earlier via email. You are required to read both the syllabus and the "start here" message. If you have any questions pertaining to these documents, please email me as soon as possible.

The **Learning Plans** button will take you to the "Mission Plan" assignment folders. When this class was first rewritten in the fall of 2009 it took on the Mission Impossible theme - not to say that implementing security is impossible, but it certainly is a mission. Each mission plan relates to a chapter in your book, except for mission plan 0, which is basically a "getting started with POIS" mission plan. Each mission plan folder will have very specific instructions that you must follow.

The **Discussion Board** button will actually take you to the class discussion board that we will use periodically throughout the course.

The **Web Resources** button will display any Internet links that I feel will be helpful for the class. Currently, you will find the links to both MSDN and VMware - for your product codes.

Within the **My Grades** section you will be able to view the grades that you will be given throughout the course. Grades will be updated weekly on Friday - Sunday.

The **My Instructor** button will give you information about me and how I can be contacted. When a contact is made to me, a reply will be forthcoming within 24 hours.

The **Student Tools** button will give you access to numerous tools that will be helpful for the class; check it out.

WHAT YOU NEED TO HAVE DONE BEFORE THE START OF CLASS

Here's your check list for things that you need to accomplish before the start of class:

1. You've gotten this far so you should have the necessary Adobe products installed (Reader and Flash Player) on your computer. The flash player will be used later in some of the mission plan tutorials.
2. This document (POIS-MP0-Welcome.pdf) introduced you to the purpose of the course and how to navigate the course, but you will still need to read the course syllabus before the start of class. This will inform you of your instructor's contact information, numerous critical requirements and supplies, the competencies for the course, and the time schedule for the course.
3. Satisfy the requirements of this class by purchasing your book and an external USB hard drive. If possible, make sure the drive is formatted NTFS.
4. Begin working on Mission Plan 0.