Message from the President

Felix Ramirez
Chapter President
ISACA® NY Metro Chapter

To my ISACA® New York Metro Chapter family,

Thanks to your support and the involvement of a visibly active Board of Directors, we have continued the progress of our Chapter both internally and in the benefits offered to you. A little over a year ago, I took the presidency of the Chapter and was wondering how it was that I was going to improve on what so many great Presidents before me had already done. We decided to focus on the changing nature of our membership and implemented what I like to call a “membership-based” management strategy. Very few of us have had discussions about what specifically this means but the discussions, events and activities of the chapter have been driven by this strategy.

With that strategy in mind, we have created several committees of the Board of Directors that did not exist before as a way of delivering more timely and better structured services and benefits to our members. As an example, we created the Corporate Relations Committee, which is tasked with the objective of identifying and engaging corporate partners to better serve our membership. We have also paid attention to establishing a better and more responsible internal financial management process through stricter segregation of duties among those of us handling the financial affairs of the chapter. As a result, we created the Finance Committee to handle all matters related to financial planning and budgeting. Those are just two examples of the initiatives we have embraced as a way of improving the governance and overall life of the New York Metropolitan Chapter.

Additional information about these and other changes will be communicated to you in the upcoming months. As we approach the end of the chapter year, we need to remind everyone of the importance of your participation in the elections process. We need to select the group of individuals who will lead the chapter during the next two years. Pay attention to the chapter communications and visit our website (www.isacany.net) frequently to learn more about the elections, upcoming events and our Annual Gala to take place in June 2011.

These are exciting times to be a member of our chapter and to be involved in creating changes to our profession. Our Board is always open to receiving your help.

Spring Calendar of Events

CISA® Exam Review Seminar
April 30 & May 7, 14, and 21, 2011; 9AM – 5PM;
Instructor – Jay Ranade
$700 members; $900 non-members
Location – St. John’s University, 101 Murray St., NY, NY

Description – This course is for individuals preparing to take the Certified Information System Auditor® (CISA®) exam. In this course, professionals will learn the newly established five domain areas as identified by ISACA®.

PROMOTION!! The organization that sends the most people to the Spring 2011 CISA® Exam Review Seminar will win two (2) free seats to any training class sponsored by the ISACA® New York Metro chapter in 2011!!

For eligibility rules and to register for this event visit www.isacany.net
Chapter Leadership

Message from the First Vice President

James Ambrosini
First Vice President
ISACA® New York Metro Chapter

These are exciting times for our chapter for many reasons. First, we’ve hit a new record in membership – we’re now over 2,600 members strong. Also, we’ve engaged in some strategic planning initiatives that I’d like to share with you.

We’ve started a marketing campaign to increase awareness of our chapter’s activities and the benefits we offer our members. This effort will include various promotions, designed to increase member participation in certain events. For starters, we’ve picked our Spring CISA® Review Seminar for our first promotional event. The organization that sends the most attendees will be awarded two slots to any educational event hosted by our chapter in 2011. I hope you consider taking advantage of this and send some of your people to the review seminar. You just may wind up winning more education for you or your company.

Next, I’m very excited to announce that our chapter is hosting its first conference in June. We’re starting small with a one-day event, spotlighting four presenters who will cover interesting topics on Security and Risk Management. The event will feature a networking breakfast followed by presentations and kiosks where some of the presenters will be demonstrating tools or technologies which can aid in risk and security assessments. The conference will be structured similar to ISACA®’s international CACS conference. If you’re familiar with that format, each presentation will be at least 1.5 hours with some time in-between for networking or to catch up with work. We’re offering 7 CPEs and the price will be discounted to drive participation. Currently we are still flushing out the details, though the date of the event will most likely be the week of June 6th at New York Institute of Technology. More information on this will follow shortly.

Lastly, don’t miss our Spring Gala, which will be held on June 23rd at the Union League Club. This is where we welcome the new Board of Directors and, most-importantly, present our annual Wasserman Award to the person who has made significant contribution to the profession. It’s an event not to be missed I assure you. If you’ve never been to the Union League Club, well, it’s just amazing. Everything is first class and it’s a fantastic way to start our new fiscal year and honor the Wasserman Award recipient. Look for more information on our website and in emails during the next month or so.

Until then, all the best and I hope to see you at some of the upcoming chapter events.

PRESENTING...

THE ISACA® NEW YORK METROPOLITAN CHAPTER MENTORING PROGRAM

The Chapter is looking for participants who want to become mentors as well as candidates who want to be mentored. The one-on-one format of the Chapter Mentoring Program provides mentors and mentees the opportunity to spend individualized time-sharing ideas, challenges, and perspectives on specific areas of interest. If you would like to participate, please review the Roles and Responsibilities of Mentors and Mentees at www.isacany.net and submit your application to membership@isacany.org today!

Check out the Job Postings Section of the ISACA® NY Metropolitan Chapter Website!

www.isacany.net

If your company is looking to fill an opening in IT audit, security, management, or operations we would be glad to list it on the ISACA® NY Metro chapter website for free!

To submit a job posting please email the job description and contact information to Membership@isacany.org. The opening will be posted on our site for 30 days unless otherwise directed. This service can only be seen by those logged into our website www.isacany.net.
Chapter Leadership

Strategic Planning

Christopher Westerman
Director
ISACA® New York Metro Chapter

Background
In 2008, the ISACA® New York Metropolitan Chapter formed the Long Range Planning Committee. This committee was charged with creating a long range plan to guide the activities of the chapter’s Board of Directors and provide continuity as our Board composition changes annually.

As a result of the work of the original committee, the Board approved a Chapter Mission Statement and a series of objectives for both the Board and its primary committees:

Mission Statement

As a leading chapter, our mission is to serve our membership by providing world-class training, networking opportunities, guidance and to contribute to the profession both locally and internationally.

Some examples of the objectives identified were to (1) host a future ISACA® International Conference; (2) host our own local conference; (3) develop a strategy and target for increasing membership; and (4) develop relationships with other professional groups, regulators and local vendors. Many of the original plan items have been implemented or are currently in progress.

Going Forward
The Board is in the process of re-establishing the Strategic Planning Committee to set direction and objectives for the next few years. A series of brainstorming sessions have been held with small groups of members of the chapter’s Board of Directors to generate initial ideas for topics to include in the new plan.

The committee will consider some key questions originally posed by Peter Drucker: What are we trying to accomplish for our members? What do our members value? How do we measure success? And how do we go about satisfying our members and getting the results that are most important?

The revised committee charter and membership proposals are being developed and will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the April Board meeting. Once approved, the committee will hold sessions to develop recommendations for inclusion in the plan and work with the Board to approve a comprehensive strategic plan. A key theme will be for all activities to have clear metrics to demonstrate progress to the Board.

NORTH AMERICA Computer Audit, Control and Security Conference
15-19 May 2011 | Paris Las Vegas Hotel | Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
www.isaca.org/nacacs
Membership Highlights

Featured Chapter Member – Melanie Medina

Timothy Wallace
Metroline Staff Writer
ISACA® New York Metro Chapter

Metroline recently spoke with Melanie Medina, a professional in the IT audit field. Melanie currently works as an independent contractor at Metadata Solutions as a SOX and Internal Controls Specialist. She has been with Metadata for 6 months and was hired to evaluate and assess IT risk and controls to help management implement best practice internal controls within their system in an effort to comply with Sarbanes Oxley regulations, since they recently implemented SAS solution software. Read below to find out more about Melanie.

Metroline: Which college or university did you attend? What did you study while there?

Melanie Medina: I attended St. John’s University. While I was there I majored in Criminal Justice and minored in Business.

Metroline: Describe your career path. How did you get into IT audit?

MM: After completing my undergraduate degree at St John’s, I attended Saint John’s University School of Law for a year and a half before advancing my career. I worked at Solomon Smith Barney as a Conversion Specialist on the implementation of stock option plans for private and public companies, among other things. After my time at Solomon Smith Barney, I joined Deloitte & Touche as a Consultant and worked my way up the ranks to an Audit Enterprise Risk Services Manager. I worked with investment management clients delivering audit and consulting services including risk assessments, controls readiness and advisory support that led to the improvement of their internal controls. One of my main focuses was to complete SAS70 audits, which provide opinions on the design and operating effectiveness of both internal controls and IT related controls. I performed quality assurance reviews of all audit work papers prepared by the audit team to ensure compliance with SAS 70 Standards and departmental procedures. However, when I wasn’t performing SAS70 audits, I worked on Sarbanes Oxley projects and led consulting project teams to identify risks, remediate control issues and recommend internal control enhancements. During my 7 year, 9 month tenure at Deloitte, I helped pilot an Enterprise Risk Services Mentorship Program to attract potential talent resulting in the hire of several mentees at the conclusion of the program. Currently, I work at Metadata Solutions as a SOX and Internal Controls Specialist.

Metroline: Do you hold any certifications? What are the benefits of holding each?

MM: I am a global Project Management Professional (PMP). This certification allows you to efficiently manage multiple projects or programs to ensure they stay within scope, time and budget. In addition, the certification allows the manager to identify and prevent scope creep. It is important to track the status of any project you are working on. You need to manage any and all new additions to the project to ensure a thorough change control process is in place so that budget/fees stay up to date and to evaluate whether client’s expectations are being met. Currently, I am in the process of applying for the Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC®) certification under the grandfathering provision and am in pursuit of the Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) certification.

Metroline: What do you feel are the in-demand skill sets for an individual in the information systems audit and control industry?

MM: I believe critical analysis, business writing and the ability to communicate are some of the in demand skill sets for an individual in the information systems and control industry. The ability to perform a risk assessment coupled with knowledge of the IT control framework and industry best practices is a crucial skill. Moreover, a solid understanding of internal controls as it relates to the industry, business and IT is required.

Metroline: How did you get involved with ISACA®?

MM: I joined the chapter back in 2007 when I was working with Deloitte. At that time I was performing SAS 70 audits and wanted to get a wider industry perspective in relation to IT. I regularly used the ISACA® white papers as a guide during my engagements, which was my initial contact with this great organization.

Metroline: How do you keep on top of the latest industry happenings?

MM: I keep on top of the industry through my involvement with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), ISACA®, and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. I built a network of contacts that I regularly consult with to determine what has changed from their perspective and gauge the direction we are headed in.

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Membership Highlights

Featured Chapter Member

Metroline: What changes or trends have you seen in the IT audit profession?

MM: Currently, there is a larger emphasis placed on Risk Assessments and Internal Controls (business and IT) resulting from the wave of SOX regulations. IT and the business are working seamlessly rather than in silos. In today’s world, IT is supporting the business. Also, more prevalent now than ever before is the existence of User Acceptance Testing (UAT). It is more in-depth than what we have seen in the past.

Metroline: How has networking played an important role in your career? Any pertinent stories to share?

MM: Through the power of networking I was able to land my current independent contractor job with Metadata. I was taking the CISA® review class held by the chapter to prepare for the CISA® exam where I met May To. May subsequently recommended me for the job at Metadata and here I am now.

Metroline: What are some of your hobbies and interests?

MM: Outside of work, one of my passions is physical fitness. I enjoy attending spinning classes along with weight and interval training. When I am not in the office or the gym, I enjoy reading mystery novels and spending time with my family, especially after all the traveling I have done in the past. My favorite author is Mary Higgins Clark.

Metroline: What advice would you give someone just starting in the information systems audit industry?

MM: I would immediately recommend that someone new to the industry understand the COBIT® framework if they are going to be involved in IT. It is important to understand the business’ needs to ensure IT meets the business’ objectives.

Chapter Membership Update

Nigel James
Director
ISACA® New York Metro Chapter

Greetings members, friends and supporters of the New York Metro Chapter. It is my pleasure to write to you in the capacity of Membership Chair, a role that I assumed from Alex Josephite at the start of the year. In this, my first communiqué to you, I wanted to reflect on what it means to be a member of ISACA®, and of this chapter. Many of us ask this question annually when renewing our membership. While we work in different technology fields across many industries, this year over 2,600 individuals were convinced that there was value in being a member of the New York Metro Chapter. This is the first time that we have crossed the 2,600 threshold! We on the Board of Directors are very pleased to see this growth in our membership base as it validates the work that we do on behalf of the members that we serve. But to answer the question at the beginning of this article, I believe that each member needs to feel that their unique needs are being met and that there is a vehicle through which their opinions can be voiced and addressed. There is a wealth of information available on the ISACA® website in the form of assurance work programs, articles, and special projects just to name a few. In addition, the Chapter regularly offers training on ISACA® certifications, as well as emerging technologies or trends that are advertised on the local Chapter website and the weekly email. Networking and mentoring opportunities are also arranged and coordinated through the various committees of the Board. For all of this to be relevant and successful, however, we need you - our membership - to be vocal about ways in which the chapter can continue to provide value to you. That way, when the next call for membership renewal is sent, your response to renew will be without hesitation. To that end, please email any member of the Board or the Membership Committee with your suggestions or ideas so that we can keep the momentum.
Securing the Cloud and Securing Data in the Cloud Are Not the Same

Ulf Mattsson
CTO
Protegrity

Summary

This article will take a look at five of the most impactful vulnerabilities of storing data in the cloud, and offer details on why the most important thing for CSOs and security decision makers to consider is how they will effectively secure the data itself.

Introduction

A December 2010 Cisco study revealed that 52 percent of IT officials surveyed use or plan to use cloud computing. Unfortunately, the biggest hurdle they face in bringing their data to the cloud is security. This is further evidence that despite growing concerns and security breaches, cloud adoption will continue to rise because of its benefits in cost savings, collaboration, efficiency and mobility.

Rather than jumping into the cloud unprepared, enterprises should be taking a close look at the benefits and risks of this IT environment, and creating a strategy to sufficiently protect their data. There are many different vulnerabilities that come with doing business in the cloud, all of which lead to one rule of thumb that must be followed in order to ensure that sensitive data stored in the cloud is truly secure: The data itself must be protected.

Risks of Cloud Computing

The top five vulnerabilities of storing data in the cloud are:

1) Abuse and nefarious use of cloud computing

Infrastructure as a service (IaaS) providers offer their customers the illusion of unlimited computing, network and storage capacity. This coupled with an often painless registration process, means that anyone with a credit card can get on the cloud. If the provider goes as far as offering free limited trial periods, doors are opened for spammers, malicious code authors, and cyber criminals in general that can now operate within the cloud with absolute anonymity and relative impunity. In the past, it used to be that only platform as a service (PaaS) providers were targeted for attacks, but the world is changing and IaaS providers are no longer safe. Organizations need to start worrying about things like key cracking, distributed denial of service (DDoS), hosting malicious data and rainbow tables.

2) Insecure interfaces and APIs

Getting in the cloud is imperative for almost all organizations. Unfortunately, service providers are so eager to get into the cloud that some of them don't think about the vulnerabilities their APIs and interfaces introduce. Typically management, orchestration, provisioning and monitoring are all performed through these interfaces – yet security and availability of general access control is dependent on the security inherent in these very basic APIs.

Everything from authentication to access control to encryption and monitoring needs to be designed into these APIs, and often they're not. This means that not only can innocent accidents happen, but the opportunity for successful malicious activity is also increasingly likely. Often both organizations and third parties will take shortcuts to build on top of these existing APIs which in turn adds a whole other layer of complexity you will need to peel off in order to focus back on the data.

3) Malicious insiders

These people are not going away and most organizations realize the potential for malicious employee data breaches is very real. Unfortunately, it does not get any easier in the cloud; in fact the threat of an internal data breach is only amplified within the cloud. The reality is you have the convergence of IT services and customers under a single
Securing the Cloud and Securing Data in the Cloud Are Not the Same

management domain. This combined with the lack of transparency into provider processes and procedures, can lead to big vulnerabilities.

For example, a cloud provider may not reveal how it grants employees access to physical or virtual data, how it monitors those employees, or how they analyze reports on compliance. Why would they? They are offering you a quick and often cost effective way to grow your business. They’re not going to offer any visibility into how they hire employees to work within the cloud. This makes the cloud even more attractive for hacker hobbyists, corporate espionage, organized crime, and even nation-state sponsored intrusion.

4) Shared technology issues

IaaS vendors build out their infrastructure so it can scale easily. This is usually done by sharing infrastructure. The challenge with this way of architecting a solution is that the underlying components often are not designed to offer strong or even significant isolation for a multi-tenant architecture.

The quick way to address this gap is a virtualization hypervisor that mediates access between the guest operating system and the physical computing resources. But this is not enough as hypervisors, too, have flaws and can enable guest operating systems to gain inappropriate levels of control or influence on the underlying platform. The bottom line is that customers should not have access to any other customer’s data. The cloud cannot make that guarantee just yet.

5) Unknown risk profiles

One of the tenets of cloud computing is the reduction of hardware and software ownership and maintenance that frees up the end user to focus on their core business strengths. This is very powerful, but the financial and operational benefit needs to be weighed against all of the security concerns. The cloud will no doubt make your life easier, but it could also lend itself to forgetfulness on practices you lived by when you owned the hardware and software yourself. Things like software code updates, security practices, vulnerability profiles, intrusion attempts, and security design all need to be applied and voiced during your due diligence of a cloud provider.

Protecting the Data

For the aforementioned reasons, it’s clear that the data itself needs to be protected to guarantee that it is secure in the cloud. You can’t depend on your cloud provider to make the environment 100 percent secure, so you have to take it upon yourself to ensure that the data is protected once it enters the cloud. So what is the best solution for securing data in the cloud?

While there is no silver bullet solution, I view tokenization as a key requirement for securing data in the cloud. For those who don’t know what it is, tokenization is the process of protecting sensitive data by replacing it with alias values or tokens that are meaningless to someone who gains unauthorized access to the data. It can be used to protect sensitive information like credit card numbers and personally identifiable information (PII) such as healthcare related data, emails, passwords and logins. However, it’s important to note that not all methods of tokenization are created equal. There are several different types of tokenization that have emerged in recent years, each of which varies greatly. Let me explain.

Dynamic and Static Tokenization

Dynamic tokenization is characterized by large lookup tables that assign token values to the original encrypted sensitive data. These tables grow dynamically as they accept un-tokenized sensitive data causing the lookup tables to increase in size. Static tokenization is characterized by pre-populated token lookup tables that attempt to reduce the tokenization process by pre-populating lookup tables with anticipated combinations of the original sensitive data.

Both approaches carry large footprints which introduce a lot of challenges. Large token tables are not agile and lead to latency, poor performance and poor scalability. And the size of both dynamic and static token tables when tokenizing multiple types of data would soon become an impractical solution for the cloud or any other environment, should an organization need to tokenize more than one data type – credit cards, email addresses, healthcare information, etc.

In-memory tokenization

In-memory tokenization is the next step in the evolution of this emerging technology and an ideal solution for companies moving more and more of their business data to the cloud. It is characterized by a very small system footprint that

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Securing the Cloud and Securing Data in the Cloud Are Not the Same

compresses and normalizes random data, can be fully distributed and does not require any kind of data replication or synchronization.

When compared to dynamic and static tokenization, it significantly reduces performance and scalability issues that are evident with these two other approaches because token servers with small footprints enable the execution of token operations to be in parallel and closer to the data. This approach also enables different data categories to be tokenized without the impact that traditional tokenization methods impose on system performance.

Conclusion

Securing the cloud and securing the data in the cloud are not the same thing. By considering the five most impactful vulnerabilities of moving your data to the cloud, you should now have a better understanding of why the data itself must be protected. In-memory tokenization helps businesses protect sensitive data in the cloud in an efficient and scalable manner, while allowing them to lower the costs associated with compliance in ways never before imagined. Although no technology offers a perfect solution, tokenization is a critical requirement for any enterprise looking to confidently bring its data to the cloud.

About Protegrity

Headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut, Protegrity delivers centralized data security management solutions that protect sensitive information from acquisition to deletion across the enterprise. Protegrity customers maintain complete protection over their data and business by employing software and solutions specifically designed to secure data, manage the data via a centralized policy, and generate detailed security reports. Protegrity develops solutions that protect data. Protegrity employees are security technology specialists with deep expertise in data security techniques, encryption key management, and security policy in distributed environments. Maximize security with minimal business impact with the Protegrity Data Protection System, a high performance, transparent solution optimized for the dynamic enterprise. To learn more, visit www.protegrity.com or call 203.326.7200.

JOSEPH J. WASSERMAN AWARD NOMINATIONS

Chapter members are invited to submit nominations for the Joseph J. Wasserman Award via e-mail to Wasserman@isacany.org.

Each nomination should include contact information for the nominee and a description of their leadership, visibility, and contributions to the field of Information Systems Audit and Security and to ISACA®.

Every year the Chapter grants the Joseph J. Wasserman Award to an individual in recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions to the field of Information Systems Audit and Security. Joe Wasserman was one of the founding members of the Chapter and was a pioneer in the field of Information Systems Audit and especially in the area of audit software. When, in 1978, the Chapter created the Award, it was the first in our profession and it is regarded as the most prestigious.
Chapter Governance Update

Patricia Martin
Director
ISACA® New York Metro Chapter

The Chapter Board of Directors strives to continually deliver educational training, certification programs, and networking opportunities focused on advancing your career and enhancing your professional status. In support of those efforts, the Chapter Board of Directors is working to steadily improve governance. Since the latter half of 2010, great strides have been made to further improve the Bylaws and develop detailed financial plans. These governance efforts serve as the foundation for the high-quality ideas and innovative thinking that bring us all together to learn, share, and grow, all while having a good deal of fun and creating and building new relationships!

- **2010 Bylaws Changes**

  The number of Chapter Board members remains the same at twenty-one (21), but the composition was changed to create additional opportunities for members to serve on the Chapter Board, introducing new talent and diversity of skills and opinions:
  
  - Six (6) Officers - No change.
  - One (1) Immediate Past President - Previously there were three (3) Past Presidents.
  - Fourteen (14) Directors - Previously there were twelve (12) Directors.

  We encourage everyone to actively vote for Board members for the upcoming Chapter year in the election to be announced shortly. Please visit the Chapter website to review the Bylaws in their entirety, and for news on the timing of the election that will commence soon.

- **Finance Committee**

  The Finance Committee, together with the efforts of all Board members, developed a detailed consolidated budget with a more robust chart of accounts and definitive cost centers that will:
  
  - Provide financial reporting of actual results on a periodic basis;
  - Assist in the preparation and submission of financial statement, tax, and audit information; and
  - Enhance segregation of duties and provide checks and balances across the financial function.

  These changes are in the process of being incorporated in the books and records of the Chapter so improved reforecast capabilities can be implemented.

We are committed to serving the membership of the ISACA® New York Metropolitan Chapter, and we want to hear from you if you have questions or suggestions. We value your opinions and ideas, so please do not hesitate to contact Patricia Martin of the Bylaws Committee and the Finance Committee at Patricia.Martin@isacany.org. Thank you for your active participation in making this a great group of professionals where we can all share rewarding experiences and grow in our professions!
Val IT  The IT governance framework that focuses on value delivery and ensures that IT-enabled investments are managed through their full economic life cycle.
Get to Know Your Board Member – Rochelle Brenner

Danielle Henry
Newsletter Editor-in-Chief
ISACA® New York Metro Chapter

Metroline recently interviewed Rochelle Brenner, an ISACA® New York Metro Chapter Board Director. Read below to find out more about Rochelle.

Metroline: Which college or university did you attend? What did you study?

Rochelle Brenner: I graduated from Brooklyn College with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Computer and Information Systems, and a minor in Psychology. I have also taken a few courses towards an MBA in Computer Science at Baruch College.

Metroline: Describe your career path. How did you get into the field you are in now?

Rochelle Brenner: I began my career as a student working for the City University of New York (CUNY) educational system in their Computer Center. I was able to apply my school work to my professional work and vice versa, as the two complemented each other. It was at college that I received honors credits from the Dean of Computer Science by working on special honors projects relating to my work at CUNY. After graduation, I started in the financial services industry at (a bank that has now become part of) JP Morgan in their Quality Assurance/Change Management department assisting in the organization’s application development efforts. During my early years in the Information Technology (IT) field, I became a subject matter expert (SME) in database development. Following my time at JP Morgan and other contracting positions at various investment banks, I became an IT consultant for Morgan Stanley supporting worldwide controllers across various asset classes. After six years in that position, Morgan Stanley invited me to join as a full-time employee in their IT Audit team. It was there that I developed audit CAAT tools and web sites enabling the financial auditors to assess the risks and firm exposure involved in each integrated and/or technology audit.

Metroline: What is a typical day on the job like for you?

Rochelle Brenner: Currently, I am a Business Analyst consultant on the Client Integration team at a major financial institution. I work with the firm’s global clients, supporting them with the organization’s central data mart which houses various levels of vendor and market data. I often say that I am “on the front lines,” as my group is the central point of contact for product reference data from sources such as Reuters, Bloomberg, S&P, Moody’s and more. There is always something new going on. My work is exciting as well as challenging on a daily basis as I learn more and more about the various products in the reference data space.

Though I am not working in the audit space at present, I wear my “Auditor” hat often in my current position. I strive to transfer my audit skills and experience to each task at hand in order to improve quality assurance of my work. Auditing comes naturally to me because I pay close attention to detail and best practices. The use of best practices from an audit perspective is applicable to all IT and business areas, regardless of the industry. If a business is able to follow these guidelines, they should have little concern about being audited. Thinking like an Auditor will make you less of a prospect of becoming an “Auditee”!

Metroline: What do you feel are the in-demand skill sets for an individual in the Information Systems audit industry?

Rochelle Brenner: In this day and age oversight is so very important; therefore I feel that individuals in the Information Systems audit industry should have skills and experience in risk management, compliance, and governance. Coupled with programming and development skills, these audit-related skills add value and a certain level of quality to projects. The pursuit of various certifications within the industry is also in-demand. It shows that you take your profession seriously and are keeping up with the latest standards. Across all markets, showing that you can keep up with what is new and fresh, is priceless.

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Metroline: In your opinion, what are the critical success factors of an Information Systems audit department?

Rochelle Brenner: It is crucial that an IS audit department see the big picture and pay attention to due diligence. The ability to address issues early on will make for a more efficient department. Awareness as it relates to control objectives and running a "tight ship", so to speak, are success factors. There is no such thing as a perfect audit department, but being diligent helps to keep the loose ends tied up.

Metroline: How did you get involved with ISACA®?

Rochelle Brenner: I joined ISACA® after I moved from IT Audit to the business side of things to further explore IT in the financial services industry. Audit permeates every aspect of the business so I saw the value in keeping current with the information systems audit and control field by joining the NY Metropolitan Chapter of ISACA®. It was at this juncture that I pursued and received my Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA®) certification.

Metroline: What are your duties as a member of the chapter’s Board of Directors?

Rochelle Brenner: As one of the newest members of the Board, I am helping with the chapter’s marketing initiatives and the mentoring program. With respect to marketing, the Board’s goal is to attract more business and members to the organization. I am using my creative juices to work with the Board to create a marketing plan and unique brand for the chapter to highlight the benefits of joining. We are hoping to better promote that becoming an ISACA® member is not limited to just auditors, as anyone in the IT field can benefit from membership. It opens the door to endless opportunities and career advancement.

Metroline: What type of training have you enjoyed the most during your career?

Rochelle Brenner: I enjoy the webinars provided by ISACA® International because I can take advantage of them at my leisure when I am not working. In general, the training that has impacted me the most has been on the job; performing day to day activities. I have taken many classes in the past, but feel that knowledge takes root best when you actually get to do what you were taught.

Metroline: Do you hold any certifications? What are the benefits of holding each?

Rochelle Brenner: I am a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA®). I feel this certification is the most granular in terms of working with data and covers all the bases of audit and information systems. I wanted to make sure to keep a proactive view of audit in my current and future work, so the pursuit of the CISA® certification was an obvious next step.

Metroline: What are some of your interests and hobbies outside of the office?

Rochelle Brenner: I enjoy using my creative instincts in the areas of scenic photography and clothing design. I also love assembly-required projects that require power tools! On some weekends, you can find me browsing the aisles of the local Home Depot and Lowe’s working on a home repair project. My other interests include domestic and international travel, antiquing and many activities such as karate, kick-boxing, swimming, whitewater rafting/canoeing and tennis. My latest hobby du-jour is dancing, especially Zumba.
NEWLY CERTIFIED MEMBERS / PAST PRESIDENTS RECEPTION
ISACA® NEW YORK METROPOLITAN CHAPTER

On Thursday, February 3, 2011, ISACA® New York Metropolitan Chapter hosted a cocktail reception at the prestigious Union League Club honoring newly certified members and the service of past Chapter Presidents. Many of our current members came to participate in this joyous event to toast the honorees. Our Chapter President, Felix Ramirez made a moving speech to the reception of loud applause. Drinks flowed and good cheer was had by all while the ambience of the locale lent an overall aura of class and sophistication to the affair. Congratulations to everyone! We look forward to hosting another event for our next batch of newly minted certified members in the future.

Chapter President, Felix Ramirez (center) with the Newly Certified Chapter Members

SPECIAL THANKS TO
ROCHELLE BRENNER AND
MAY TO
FOR PROVIDING THESE PICTURES!

Featured ISACA® Member Benefits

Complimentary Academic Advocate membership to ISACA® is available to full-time faculty members teaching in areas such as MIS or accounting at universities that are offering one or more courses in governance of IT, audit/accounting information systems or information security.

Academic advocates enhance students’ careers, increase their libraries of professional resources and help grow the IT profession. Visit www.isaca.org to learn more about ISACA®’s Academic Advocate Program.

Make the ISACA® Career Centre your new job source, where finding that perfect fit could not be easier. Whether you are a job seeker or an employer, visit the Career Centre today!

Visit the ISACA® IT Professional Networking and Knowledge Center—a meeting place for IT professionals where you can browse more than 100 topics, find resources and connect with other members on subjects that interest you.

Note: The above benefits are excerpts from ExpressLine, A Monthly Newsletter for the Leadership of ISACA®
Chapter Education Update

Alexander Josephite
Second Vice President and Education Committee Chairman
ISACA® New York Metro Chapter

What do 2,600 IT professionals need to know in 2011? That is the question we ask ourselves every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8PM. The answer often leads to another question: How do we narrow the list down? You’ll be happy to know that your Education Committee is working on scheduling a mix of technical and non-technical seminars that will be taught now through December 2011. The Chapter is committed to providing affordable seminars often priced at half the cost of professional training services. If you need training on a specific technology or process please email us at Education@isacany.org. I’m pleased to announce that in March the Board of Directors approved the Education Committee’s operating budget through 2011. We'll be posting these on our website soon. Also, if you missed the Assessing Application Security Seminar, it will be available online very soon. Thanks go to J.P Morgan Chase and AXA Equitable for hosting our last two education seminars. If you would like to host a Chapter education seminar please let us know! For those of you with smaller IT Audit, Security or Governance groups, this is a great way to get quality instruction for a great price... FREE. That’s right, hosting organizations can have any two individuals attend for free. Need we say more?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming Seminar</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Networking Risks and Controls Webinar</td>
<td>Barry Lewis</td>
<td>May 3, 4 12:30-2PM EDT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring for Fraud in an Electronic World</td>
<td>Tony Reyes</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditing PeopleSoft</td>
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Note: The above article was submitted on behalf of The Education Committee (Alexander Josephite (Chair), Felix Ramirez, James Ambrosini, Julianne Wu, and Aleksandra Terzano)

ISACA® makes it easy for you to earn the CPEs you need to maintain your certifications. ISACA® members can earn over 60 FREE CPEs per year! Here’s How:

- **ISACA® Journal Quizzes** – Earn 1 CPE credit for each of six journals per year (6 FREE CPEs per year)
- **Monthly e-Symposia Quizzes** – Earn 3 CPE credits for each of 12 e-Symposia per year (36 FREE CPEs per year)
- **Local Chapter Volunteer Activities** – Gain 1 CPE credit (up to 10 per year) for each hour of active participation in “Qualifying Educational Activities” as defined per ISACA® certification. Activities include participation as a chapter officer or member of an ISACA® or ITGI® board, committee, or task force. (10 FREE CPEs per year)
- **Mentoring Efforts** – Earn 1 CPE credit for each hour of mentoring directly related to coaching, reviewing or assisting an individual with CISA®/CISM®/CGEIT® exam preparation, or providing career guidance through the credentialing process. (10 FREE CPEs per year)

Total Possible Free CPEs for ISACA® Members: 62 FREE CPEs PER YEAR!!
Certifications

ISACA® Certification Update

Kwongmei (May) To  
Director, Certification Coordinator  
ISACA® NY Metro Chapter

This year, as the head of the Certification Committee, I was really touched during the Newly Certified Members and Past Presidents Reception which was held on February 3, 2011 at the Union League Club. We all had a lot of fun that evening, especially me. It was great to see so many members that have achieved their dreams by getting certified in the area of their expertise. One special moment during the event was when our Chapter President, Felix Ramirez, announced that Mr. Jay Ranade, the CISA® Exam Review Seminar instructor, did not grandfather into the CGEIT® certification, but took the challenge to sit for the exam and passed it.

Mr. Jay Ranade, a certified CISA®, CISM®, CISSP®, ISSAP, and CBCP, is a New York City-based management consultant and internationally renowned expert on computers, communications, disaster recovery, IT Security, and IT controls. He has written and published 37 IT-related books covering networks, security, operating systems, languages, systems, and more.

Even though we still had snow on April Fool’s Day, the spring season has arrived, which means it is time again to focus on how you can develop your career. I encourage all of you to take our signature CISA® Exam Review Seminar in preparation for the June 11 2011 CISA® examination. I would love to see you at the next reception for newly certified members where your name will be announced and we can congratulate you on achieving your professional goals just like those who came before you. This course is meant to help you pass the CISA® examination leading to a certification. Act now and register for this wonderful course and be on your way to achieve your career aspirations.

CISA® Exam Review Seminar

Date: April 30 & May 7/14/21, 2011 (4 consecutive Saturdays)  
Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Location: St. John’s University - Manhattan Campus, 101 Murray St., New York, NY 10007 (Room 319)  
Cost: Members: $700; Non-Members: $900  
Instructor: Jay Ranade

I am happy to announce that, as a promotion of the CISA® certification, you have a chance to win two free seats to any training class sponsored by the ISACA® NY Metro chapter in 2011. The organization that sends the most people to our Spring 2011 CISA® Exam Review Seminar will win the two free seats to any training event we sponsor in 2011! You can use the two seats however you’d like - have two people attend one training class, or split it by sending one person to two different classes. To be eligible, simply have your colleagues register for the CISA® Exam Review Seminar as normal through our website. Then have someone send an email to certification@iscany.org with the names and contact information of those who registered and the organization you’re with. We’ll tally the results and announce the winner at our Spring Gala in June. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Chapter Board members who made this happen. This is a great initiative between the Education, Marketing and Certification Committees to bring new benefits to our chapter members.

Certification Deadline Reminder

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

The CISA®, CISM®, CGEIT® and CRISC® exam registration deadline is approaching! The deadline was extended to April 15th, 2011 at 5pm Central Time. If you register online you are entitled to $50 off from www.isaca.org. So don’t wait. Act now.

The CRISC® grandfathering deadline has been extended to June 2011 due to the overwhelming number of requests. Please go to www.isaca.org/criscgrandfathering to apply.

The Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control® certification (CRISC®, pronounced “see-risk”) is designed for IT professionals who have hands-on experience with risk identification, assessment, and evaluation; risk response; risk monitoring; IS control design and implementation; and IS control monitoring and maintenance. The CRISC® designation will not only certify professionals who have knowledge and experience identifying and evaluating entity-specific risk, but also aid them in helping enterprises accomplish business objectives by designing, implementing, monitoring and maintaining risk-based, efficient and effective IS controls.
My entry into the computing field occurred in 1994, when I was a programmer for a large insurance company. Back then, the term "mobile computing" was not in the lexicon of any technologist that I knew, nor in the IBM COBOL manual which was my main source of job-related information. Since that time, I've witnessed numerous changes in the field of technology and how it not only enabled but transformed business. From the Dot-com era, to ERP systems and Cloud Computing, the impacts have been many, and far-reaching. Yet, I feel that we're on the verge of another technology revolution – or maybe it's a technology evolution. I'm referring to mobile computing and its new paradigm shift on business and personal productivity.

Mobile computing is certainly not a new trend - companies have been doing it for years. In fact, one can look no further than shipping and delivery companies like FedEx to see how they've reaped the benefits. Handheld scanning units changed the driver's workflow from "work, then record" to "record while they work", increasing both workforce productivity and market share. Mobile computing seems quite suited to such scenarios, but I've often wondered if the same principles would apply to more mainstream businesses. Some would argue that the use of laptops and Blackberries empower workers in a similar way, but I beg to differ. First, my definition of a "mobile workforce" includes not just the road warriors but any employee who needs to conduct business away from their desk, which frankly, is just about everyone these days. Second, to me, there is a fundamental flaw in most organizations' workflow. Too many have adopted the silo mentality of, "if I do my job well, and you do your job well, together we make a great team and get things done". It doesn't always work out like that. For starters, confining employees to cubicles stifles collaboration; collaboration is what promotes innovation; and innovation is the new corporate currency. Don't believe me? Let's take a look at Apple Corporation.

Apple has built an Innovation Factory – one that harnesses creativity in its people, stimulating new ideas, and launching successful, profitable new innovations. The result is an exponential increase in business growth:

- Increase in revenue of more than 400% in 8 years
- Increase in net profit of more than 650% in 8 years
- Increase in market cap of more than twenty times to over $170 billion

It's interesting to note that for all of Apple's success, they were not the inventor of the technologies used in their products, but rather the innovator of them. Apple did not invent the MP3 player, the touch-screen or digital e-reader. But they took those technologies and wrapped them in a jazzy interface with a stream of online products and services. The rest, shall we say, is history.

You can rest assured that Apple doesn't create their products by having their development teams work solo in cubicles and then attend weekly staff meetings to catch up with one another.

Apple employees talk incessantly about what they call "deep collaboration" or "cross-pollination." Essentially it means that products don't pass from team to team. There aren't discrete, sequential development stages. Instead, it's simultaneous and organic. Products get worked on in parallel by all departments at once—design, hardware, software—in endless rounds of design reviews. The mobile computing technologies enable this form of collaboration. Employees will take their laptops or iPads with them throughout the facility, and practically wherever they go. You never know when a lunch or coffee break may turn into an impromptu meeting. Or, a product engineer may get the muse for a new concept while vacationing, jot down the design on his iPad and upload it to a secure cloud computing site that his team can access and begin to assess its feasibility.

Most other corporations can take lessons from Apple. The field of mobile computing and all of its supporting technologies and applications is red hot right now. Organizations can continue to have their employees work in the same, linear, segregated way, or embrace the trend and find ways to tear down those walls and increase collaboration. By doing so, they may not only enhance their productivity but measurably increase employee morale and job satisfaction as well. And yes, there's an app for that too.
Risk IT A set of guiding principles and the first framework to help enterprises identify, govern and effectively manage IT risk.
New COBIT® Case Study: Grupo Bancolumbia

Grupo Bancolombia, which was founded in 1875 and is currently the first bank in Colombia for assets and market participation, launched an internal control management system initiative that was sponsored by the group’s board of directors. Goals of the project included enterprisewide process integration and improved efficiency, profitability, growth, reliability and compliance.

Based on the needs of the enterprise, COBIT® was seen as the best reference model to use as a guideline for IT internal control. The full Grupo Bancolombia COBIT® case study available on ISACA®’s web site describes how the financial institution used COBIT® to aid in the design, assessment and creation of an internal control system that enabled alignment between business strategic planning and IT strategic planning and provided clarity in roles and responsibilities. In addition to helping the group proactively address internal and external audits and operating risk compliance, COBIT® helps the enterprise facilitate a balance between compliance and performance.

Visit the Case Studies page of the ISACA® web site for this and other case studies by enterprises in a variety of industries.

NOTE: THIS ARTICLE WAS FEATURED IN THE MARCH 31ST, 2011 EDITION OF @ISACA. FOR MORE ARTICLES FEATURED IN @ISACA VISIT WWW.ISACA.ORG TODAY!
Fall Into Reading...New on the ISACA® Shelves

The newest titles include:

- **24 Deadly Sins of Software Security: Programming Flaws & How to Fix Them**
- **Applied Oracle Security: Developing Secure Database & Middleware Environments**
- **Enterprise Security for the Executive: Setting the Tone from the Top**
- **Mobile Application Security**
- **The Business Model for Information Security**

(* Published by ISACA)

Visit the ISACA Bookstore at WWW.ISACA.ORG/BOOKSTORE or the New Books page, or see the ISACA Journal Bookstore insert, for additional information. Contact the Bookstore at bookstore@isaca.org or +1.847.660.5650 with any questions.

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ISACA® International Training

**Prepared by John Scaramucci**

Metroline Copy Editor
ISACA® New York Metro Chapter

**North America CACS (May 15-19, 2011 | Las Vegas, NV)**

The world’s leading conference for IT audit, control, security and governance professionals. Get the knowledge you need to stay one step ahead of the competition and keep up with changing professional trends at ISACA’s North America Computer Audit, Control and Security (North America CACS) Conference.

**VTS: When Technology and Humanity Collide: Risks and Opportunities (June 15, 2011 | Online!)**

When technology and the people who utilize that technology converge, the resulting impact on business processes can introduce new risks as well as promote growth and opportunity. Join leading industry experts and your peers for this interactive educational experience where we will explore how social behaviors and business needs influence the development and use of technology, and vice versa. We will also look to identify the vulnerabilities lurking in the cyber shadows, and discuss best practices to follow in order to reap the benefits of our ever-evolving technological landscape. This event is FREE of charge. Participants will be able to earn up to 5 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits.

**ISACA Training Week (August 8-12, 2011 | Seattle, WA)**

Discover your potential, improve your performance, acquire new skills and enhance your knowledge. ISACA Training Week is a unique educational event designed to provide the tools you need to maintain, update and upgrade your skills, and to continue your professional development. Training week courses use a combination of lecture, class discussion, group exercises and case studies to explore aspects of IT assurance, audit, governance and security. Attendees will learn about proven strategies and techniques based upon best practices and lessons learned from the ISACA community.
Thank you to all those who contribute to Metroline!
Your efforts and support are greatly appreciated!

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Thank you to all those who contribute to Metroline!
Your efforts and support are greatly appreciated!