Panel Session

TECHNOLOGY AROUND THE NEXT CORNER: THE FUTURE OF INFOSEC

Moderator, Hilary Hosmer
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This panel develops likely INFOSEC scenarios twenty years from now. Our goal is to spur your thinking rather than provide answers. We will explore both technical directions and their impact
.

> *"For William Gibson, who coined the term 'cyberspace,' the real issue is the type of civilization the future will bring and the types of lives that will be lived by the majority of people. ... Though technology and nature help shape our choices, the future is a human creation. That means we must have a clear vision of where we want to go, of the values we want to support, of the practical choices we must decide among. We must participate in the creation process or risk being presented with something that we don't want."*
> *[Steven Miller, Civilizing Cyberspace, 1996]*

Audience

This session is appropriate for those who assume strategic information direction for their organizations.

> *"It's a little scary to contemplate the historical truism that there's never been a leader from one computer technology era who was also a leader in the next. I'd like to defy that tradition. [Bill Gates:* The Road Ahead*, 1995]*

Panelists

Emmet Paige (invited): former strategist for the Department of Defense, now President of OAO in Greenbelt, Maryland;

Kathy Kincaid: INFOSEC strategist for IBM;

Jon Graff, KPMG, Peat, Marwick, LLP, cryptographic architect;

Ruth Nelson, formerly of GTE, now President of Information Systems Security and member of the National Research Council task force for network security.

Ian Angell, Professor of Information Systems, London School of Economics

Debate Format

Each panelist will make a ten minute statement. After all have spoken, the chair will direct questions to the panelists for their responses,then open the floor to the audience for questions and comment.

Example Issues

How will the INFOSEC community of 2020 have met today's critical challenges, such as preventing cyberterrorism, balancing between openness and protection, and developing alternatives to encryption?

Where will INFOSEC be 20 years from now? For example, how will the critical needs and underlying technologies have changed? How will commercial and military INFOSEC differ in the future?

Who will lose and who will benefit from the massive global telecommunications restructuring now underway? Will dominance of the infosphere supplant large combat formations or lull us into a false sense of security?

Modes of Prediction

It's wise to think about the future, since we will all live there.

"While most extrapolate from the present to predict the future, we are in a 'phase' transition; we literally cannot imagine our future. For example, while we are more connected and interdependent than ever, our personal lives are more fragmented." [Danny Hillis, *ACM Communications*, February 1997]

"People often overestimate what will happen in the next two years and underestimate what will happen in ten. I'm guilty of this myself." [Bill Gates, *The Road Ahead, 1995]*

"The secret of correct prediction is to shun wishful thinking and coldly believe the Cold Equations." [Robert Heinlein, 1961]

Chaos theory shows us how minor changes can radically effect the course of the future. Sages offer possibilities and hypotheses, not predictions.

Related Sources

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