

ISPIA Reaches Out to the Calgary Business Community

The Institute for Security, Privacy and Information Assurance (ISPIA, www.ISPIA.UCalgary.ca) is a multi-disciplinary Institute at the University of Calgary. It is devoted to research and educational activities in all aspects of information protection, with strong linkages to industry and community.

The ISPIA-Business Book Club is an initiative to build personal relationships and kick start a mutually beneficial engagement between ISPIA and Calgary's information security business professionals. It works like a familiar book club, but rather than a book, the required pre-reading will be a published article of mutual interest.

Information security professionals from the Calgary business community are invited to participate. Please RSVP if you will do the pre-reading and attend the initial meeting. It's OK to bring many more questions than answers. Attendance may need to be limited.

Here are the details for the first meeting:

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| Where | UCalgary Downtown Campus, Room 222, 906 - 8th Avenue S.W. |
| When | 4:00 to 5:30 PM, Thursday, 2012-Feb-02 |
| Article – pre-read for discussion | <i>Understanding Cloud Computing Vulnerabilities*</i> , Globauer et al, IEEE Security & Privacy, 2011-MarApr., pages 50-57. http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/freeabs_all.jsp?arnumber=5487489 The article may be in your library, or may be purchased online from IEEE for 19\$: http://preview.tinyurl.com/6pf5ckh |
| Questions | Helen Mortl: hjmortl <at> UCalgary.ca , or Merv Matson: MatsonM <at> RightsX.ca |
| RSVP | Helen Mortl: hjmortl <at> UCalgary.ca |

* ABSTRACT The current discourse about cloud computing security issues makes a well-founded assessment of cloud computing's security impact difficult for two primary reasons. First, as is true for many discussions about risk, basic vocabulary such as "risk," "threat," and "vulnerability" are often used as if they were interchangeable, without regard to their respective definitions. Second, not every issue that's raised is really specific to cloud computing. We can achieve an accurate understanding of the security issue "delta" that cloud computing really adds by analyzing how cloud computing influences each risk factor. One important factor concerns vulnerabilities: cloud computing makes certain well-understood vulnerabilities more significant and adds new vulnerabilities. Here, the authors define four indicators of cloud-specific vulnerabilities, introduce a security-specific cloud reference architecture, and provide examples of cloud-specific vulnerabilities for each architectural component.