



SANS Institute Top-20 2004

Government agencies, academia and industry experts join forces to present the most authoritative report on the Top 20 Internet vulnerabilities

The SANS Institute is proud to announce the "Top-20" 2004, an international consensus paper on the most critical Internet threats facing organizations. Unveiled at the DTI Conference Centre in Westminster, London, this is the fifth annual Top-20 report, and the first time that the launch event for this authoritative study has taken place within Europe; reflecting both on the Top-20's growing significance outside of the US and the essential leadership role played by British government agencies in this year's study and in cyber-security, overall. In prior years, the US White House and FBI hosted the annual announcements.

The Top-20 listing is a unique initiative compiled each year as the result of systematic analysis of Internet vulnerabilities conducted by security researchers at leading government security agencies including: GCHQ, CSIA, NISCC, US NSA, Canada's RCMP, as well as security experts from dozens of user organizations and IT industry leaders such as Microsoft, Symantec, Qualys, ISS and CISCO.

"The Government of Canada considers global cooperation a key to protecting our shared critical infrastructure from cyber threats and reducing its vulnerability to attack," according to the Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre. "The SANS Top-20 list of vulnerabilities is an important part of these efforts. Initiatives like this help to reinforce our partnerships between governments, industry, and information technology security professionals that are the essential to the continued protection of our critical cyber systems and networks."

Howard Schmidt, former White House cyber-security advisor, describes the SANS Top-20 as “the definitive guide to the most serious internet vulnerabilities and security exposures, providing organisations around the world with clear guidance on how to identify, mitigate and eliminate core threats to their network and business”.

The European launch was broadcast in real-time over the Internet and an archived copy of the proceedings is available from www.sans.org/webcasts.

Keynote deliveries at the European launch included:

- Dr Stephen Marsh, CSIA
- Alan Paller, Director SANS Institute
- Roger Cumming, Director NISCC
- Kevin Thacker, Dep. Director Technical NISCC

Formal statements of support for this initiative have been issued by:

- Hazel Blears; MP of State for Resilience and Counter-terrorism
- Cheryl Peace; Homeland Security Council, US White House
- Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
- Department of Homeland Security
- CESG/GCHQ
- British Computer Society
- Information Systems Security Association
- Howard Schmidt; former White House cyber-security advisor

The SANS Top-20 2004, available languages from Korean to Croatian, is available at www.sans.org/top20 For further information on the SANS Institute or the SANS Top-20 2004, please contact top20@sans.org

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