

Commission on Cyber Security for the 44th Presidency

January 2008

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) has established a Commission on Cyber Security for the 44th Presidency – the administration that will take office in January 2009. The goal of the nonpartisan Commission is to develop recommendations for a comprehensive strategy to improve cyber security in federal systems and in critical infrastructure.

While cybersecurity in the U.S. has improved in the last five years, our opponents in cyberspace have made even greater progress, and the risks to U.S. security and economic well-being are steadily increasing. The new Presidential Cybersecurity Initiative promises substantial progress for federal networks, but even with the Initiative, there is still work to be done. The Commission will outline a forward-looking framework for organizing and prioritizing government efforts to secure cyberspace. It will consider federal organization and strategy, cybersecurity norms and authorities, investment and acquisition policy, and government engagement with the private sector.

The members of the commission are experts in cybersecurity with extensive government experience. In addition, CSIS intends to make the work of the Commission an inclusive process and will ask other experts and groups to participate in the development of recommendations and to make plenary presentations on substantive issues.

The workplan for the commission is to hold five plenary sessions: to assess current and future threats to federal systems and to critical infrastructure; review authorities, policies, and government organization for cybersecurity; and identify requirements for critical infrastructure protection, including the need for new incentives, legislation, or regulation. The Commission has created four new working groups to examine these issues in detail and develop specific recommendations for the plenary to consider.

The final product from the Commission will be a well-supported package of recommendations for improving cyber security that could help to guide both a legislative agenda and Presidential policy documents. The Commission will complete its work by November 2008.

CSIS is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research center organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. with more than 200 staff and a large network of affiliated experts. Its research focus is on security in a changing global environment. CSIS has been conducting research, holding seminars and other public events, and advising government agencies on cyber security since 2000. This work will provide the foundation for the Commission on Cyber Security for the 44th Presidency.

For additional information, contact Ashley Rasmussen, (202) 775-3175 / arasmussen@csis.org