The Front Burner
Cyber Security

Planning to take your mobile device on vacation?

Are Working Vacations here to stay?

Are you hopelessly tethered to your Blackberry, reading emails while at the Grand Canyon? Do you come back from vacation with sand in your laptop? You're not alone. A 2007 AP-Ipso poll reported that 20% of workers are just like you. The more easily we are connected, the harder it is to leave it all behind.

Whatever our reasons for wanting to combine work and pleasure, technology advances ensure that the working vacation is here to stay. If you just can't disengage during your time out of the office, here are a few suggestions to manage work time for a more relaxing, but productive vacation.

- Block out 90 minutes or so in the morning when the family is asleep for emails and phone calls.
- If you must keep your Blackberry with you, try to keep it off except during downtime or during time you have set aside for yourself (like at the gym, taking a walk, etc.).
- Learn to do quick email scanning email to see if there is anything urgent.
- Most of all, when there's a question between family and work, family should win.

What are best practices for securing your device?

So before you take that Blackberry or laptop and head off this summer, here are some simple tips to keep your data and devices secure.
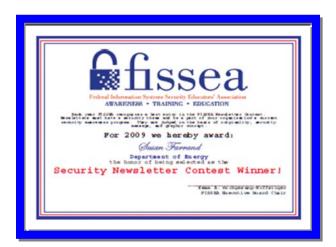
Before you travel
- Plan ahead – Know where you will store (secure) your device so it won't be lost or stolen.
- If you can do without the device, don't take it.
- Backup your files before each trip.
- Keep all liquids and corrosives away from your mobile devices (that includes suntan lotion, sand, and water).
- Encrypt files, emails, and hard drives containing sensitive information (e.g. PII) or eliminate files that contain sensitive or personal information, if possible. Any sensitive data that is stored on the computer, or requires an export license if shared outside the United States, will present a risk if the laptop is taken on a trip outside the United States.
- Use a strong password and never store passwords on any device or in its case.
- Keep your operating system, anti-virus, spyware and firewalls up-to-date and running.
- Carry mobile devices in your hand luggage - never in checked luggage.

While you are away
- Keep track of your mobile devices when you go through airport screening.
- Laptops don't like to tan: avoid subjecting the devices to extreme temperatures. Components can become very brittle and easy to break in cold and can melt or warp in high temperatures.
- Avoid leaving mobile devices unattended.
- Terminate connections when you are not using them.
- Notify management and the help desk immediately if any work device is lost, stolen, or damaged.
- Just say no. Not every mail needs a reply.

When you return
- Change your password.
- Update your security software.
- Scan your system.
- Start making plans for your next trip.

Congratulations to IM-31, Susan Farrand and her Team for winning the 2009 Federal Information System Security Education Association Newsletter Award

Achievement Awards Presented at the 2009 DOE Cyber Security Conference

As many of you are aware, the DOE Office of Cyber Security recently hosted the 2009 DOE Cyber Security Conference in Henderson, Nevada. During the event, a select group of DOE employees and contractors were presented with achievement awards in honor of their demonstrated success in focused areas and for their pursuit of excellence. DOE is proud to recognize such expertise within the DOE Community. The information below recaps the award given and recipient(s)

The *Charlene Douglass Memorial Award* was given to **Dr. Thomas A. Harper** for consistently providing exceptional service to DOE, ensuring conscientious stewardship of the Nation's information assets. As Chief Information Officer for Los Alamos National Laboratory, as well as in his previous positions, Dr. Harper has successfully designed and directed critical initiatives that integrate world-class information technology with effective risk-based security management.

The *Superior Leadership Award* was presented to **Ms. Sue Flores** in recognition of her demonstrated excellence in service as Designated Approving Authority for NNSA computing systems and as a trusted and respected subject matter expert in cyber security policy and procedure. Ms. Flores' exemplary support and uncompromising integrity have substantially contributed to the success of the DOE cyber security program

A *Management Achievement Award* was presented to the Security Engineering Board (SEB) within NNSA for demonstrated leadership and effective vision and direction while supporting challenging SEB initiatives including successful deployment of the NNSA Site Assessment Visit (SAV) program, development of a rapid risk assessment process that utilizes innovative technologies, and providing invaluable guidance and expertise to NNSA facilities. Team members are listed below.

- **James C. Baldree, NNSA**
- **Ernie Crossland, Raytheon**
- **Lydia Mattingly, Raytheon**
- **Mark Wallace, Raytheon**
- **Doner Honrado, Edgewater Federal Solutions**

An *Innovative Technical Achievement Award* was given to the Argonne Federated Intrusion Detection Model Development Team for their demonstrated expertise in the design, development, and implementation of a cost effective method to enhance site defenses against network borne attacks. Team members are listed below.

- **Tamara (Tami) Martin, Argonne National Laboratory**
- **Eugene (Gene) Rackow, Argonne National Laboratory**
- **Scott Pinkerton, Argonne National Laboratory**
- **Mike Skwarek, Argonne National Laboratory**
- **Conrad Zadlo, Argonne National Laboratory**
- **Matthew Kwiatkowski, Argonne National Laboratory**
- **Chris Poetzel, Argonne National Laboratory**

Cyber Hero Answers Your Security Questions

Q: If a mobile device is lost or stolen, what's the chance of recovery?

A: Don't rely on recovery. A recent study that specializes in computer theft recovery, quotes 12,000 laptops are lost in U.S. airports each week, and two-thirds are never returned.

Q: Is there another option for locking your computer when you are away from your desk?

A: Yes, as submitted by one of our readers from Sandia National Laboratories. Another shortcut in windows to lock your workstation is by pressing **window key (**) **+ L key** which is much faster than the previous option.