

# ***INFORMATION SECURITY WORKFORCE TO GROW 13.7% ANNUALLY TO 2.1 MILLION WORLDWIDE BY 2008, SAYS (ISC)<sup>2</sup><sup>®</sup> /IDC STUDY***

*European workforce to reach nearly 680.000 by 2008;  
Profession is penetrating senior ranks*

**LONDON, UK Nov. 8, 2004** – The International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium (ISC)<sup>2</sup><sup>®</sup>, the non-profit international leader in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of educating, qualifying and certifying information security professionals worldwide, and global industry analyst firm IDC today announced the results of the first major study of the global information security profession.

The (ISC)<sup>2</sup> 2004 Global Information Security Workforce Study was conducted by IDC on behalf of the consortium to provide comprehensive, meaningful research data for the first time about the information security profession to professionals, corporations, government agencies, (ISC)<sup>2</sup> constituents, academia and others.

IDC analyzed responses from 5,371 full-time information security professionals in 80 countries worldwide that had purchasing, hiring and/or management responsibilities, with nearly half employed by organizations with \$1 billion or more in annual revenue. Highlights include:

- Based on primary and secondary IDC research, IDC estimates the number of information security professionals worldwide currently to be 1.3 million, a 14.5 percent increase over 2003;
- The number of professionals is expected to increase to 2.1 million by 2008 at a compounded annual growth rate of 13.7 percent from 2003. Regionally, this represents growth rates of 12% for the Americas, 11.4 % in Europe, while the Asia Pacific region is expected to grow at a faster rate of 18.3 percent during the same time period;
- A higher percentage (21%) of IT security staff report to the security department in EMEA-based organizations than in any other region. Similarly, a higher percentage of EMEA respondents identified the existence and ultimate responsibility for IT security of the CSO (26%), a position that did not exist 10 years ago;
- For 93% of security hiring managers, certifications are important when hiring decisions are being made. Certifications afford the employer some degree of comfort or a guarantee as to an individual's competency/knowledge level and they can be critical in terms of legal liability or corporate due diligence.

“(ISC)<sup>2</sup> chartered IDC to conduct this study to offer the industry and society a clearer picture of what has become an enormously significant profession in a very short time,” said James E. Duffy, CISSP, president and CEO of (ISC)<sup>2</sup>. “The rate at which this profession has evolved is a testament to the increasingly complex demands placed on information security professionals and the critical role they play in the global information economy.”

According to Allan Carey, the IDC analyst who led the study, government regulations, new technologies and a dynamic threat environment are driving the growth of the profession.

“With competing demands on industry and government to expand access to services and information, the highly trained and experienced information security professional must now be an active participant to fulfill stringent regulatory requirements and provide proactive solutions to circumvent emerging risks,” Carey said. “Organizations are beginning to understand that it’s the people, processes, policies and technology that create effective security, not technology solutions alone.”

“The study shows a shift in the information security profession, indicating that business acumen is now often required along with technology proficiency,” Carey said. “This widening responsibility means information security professionals not only have to receive a constant refresh of the best security knowledge but also must acquire a solid understanding of business processes and risk management to be successful in their roles.”

The study was conducted via a Web-based portal in the late spring/early summer of 2004, with e-mail notifications sent to 40,000 professionals worldwide to obtain leading market indicators in the profession.

“This initial study provides meaningful, quantifiable context to the information security profession that was lacking in the market before,” Duffy said. “It serves as the baseline for what we hope will become an annual ‘barometer’ of the information security profession.”

## **About IDC**

IDC is the premier global market intelligence and advisory firm in the information technology and telecommunications industries. We analyze and predict technology trends so that our clients can make strategic, fact-based decisions on IT purchases and business strategy. Over 700 IDC analysts in 50 countries provide local expertise and insights on technology markets. Business executives and IT managers have relied for 40 years on our advice to make decisions that contribute to the success of their organizations.

## **About (ISC)<sup>2</sup>**

Based in Palm Harbor, Florida, USA with offices in London, Hong Kong and Tokyo, the International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium, Inc. (ISC)<sup>2</sup><sup>®</sup> is the premier organization dedicated to providing information security professionals around the world with the standard for professional certification based on (ISC)<sup>2</sup>'s CBK<sup>®</sup>, a compendium of industry “best practices” for information security professionals. Since its inception in 1989, the non-profit organization has trained, qualified and certified more than 27,000 information security professionals in 106 countries. (ISC)<sup>2</sup> awards the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP<sup>®</sup>) and the Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP<sup>®</sup>) credentials. Both certifications require professional experience and, for the CISSP, the Gold Standard in information security certifications, an endorsement by a professional who is familiar with the background of the candidate. (ISC)<sup>2</sup> is the first information security certifying body to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024, a global benchmark for certification of personnel. More information about (ISC)<sup>2</sup> is available at [www.isc2.org](http://www.isc2.org).

***To request a copy of this study, please contact: [wfstudy@isc2.org](mailto:wfstudy@isc2.org)***