AGA

September Newsletter

INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER

President's Message

Over the last two months, we hosted an audio conference, provided opportunities for community service, and held the kickoff cookout. We also met the September 30th deadline and submitted our chapter Citizen Centric Report to National – great job, Alicia Mattingly! Be sure to check it out http://againdy.com/Documents/Indianapolis%20CCR.pdf. The next few months bring many more events and opportunities.

Providing educational opportunities for our members is a top priority. The fall Joint Professional Conference will be on November 2nd at the Garrison. This year's conference will include speakers on topics such as Organizational Behavior, Economics, Accounting, and Leadership and will be worth 8 CPEs. This should be a fun and educational event. Additionally, an audio conference on SSAE 16 - reporting on Controls was held on October 5, with the next audio conference on Fraud scheduled for December 14th. We have also recently purchased and received new study guides for the CGFM. If you are interested in studying for the CGFM or need more information, please contact Dan Neumann.

Upcoming events in the chapter include the Headless Horseman which is scheduled for Friday, October 21st. The Headless Horseman is a great family event that includes traditional fall activities such as sipping apple cider and taking a hay ride at Conner Prairie. Keep your friends and family close as you helplessly wind through dark, wooded areas and near haunted houses, barns, and a cemetery on a tractor pulled hayride. The community service committee has an event scheduled with Our Lil Bit of Heaven Animal Rescue on October 15th. We will be assisting with dog bathing, grooming, feeding, walking, grounds keeping, cleaning, etc. to assist with critical community needs.

I am also excited for the first luncheon scheduled for October 20th at the Garrison. Ron Cox will be speaking at the luncheon and his topic will be a very timely, "Accountability: The Mirror's a Scary Place." For information on upcoming events and opportunities to get involved, don't forget to visit the website. I look forward to an exciting month!

Laura Jankovich, President
AGA, Indianapolis Chapter

AGA Indianapolis Articles

These articles were picked for the AGA Member Audience:

Know any other good articles? Submit to the Newsletter Committee!

Obama plan would cut payroll tax, spend more on infrastructure

President Obama unveiled a surprisingly big $447 billion jobs package Thursday that's intended to spur business hiring and consumer spending in an economy that has sputtered almost to a halt.

The package, more than half the size of Obama's $825 billion economic stimulus plan passed in February 2009, would slash payroll taxes in half next year for employees and small businesses, extend unemployment benefits, and create or save jobs for teachers, police and firefighters, and construction workers.

"You should pass this jobs plan right away," Obama said in his remarks before a joint session of Congress. "There should be nothing controversial about this piece of legislation. Everything in here is the kind of proposal that's been supported by both Democrats and Republicans, including many who sit here tonight. And everything in this bill will be paid for."

Read more about what the plan includes.

Read More http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20110908/CONGRESS01/109080302/1055/AGENCY

Names of 9/11 Attack Victims Echo Across WTC Site

NEW YORK (AP) — President Barack Obama read a biblical passage about refuge and strength and the names of the Sept. 11 dead echoed across a transformed ground zero Sunday as the nation and world marked 10 years since the worst terrorist attack on American soil.

Standing behind bulletproof glass and before the white oak trees of the new Sept. 11 memorial, Obama read Psalm 46 from the Bible after a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., when the first jetliner slammed into the World Trade Center's north tower a decade ago.

Family members began reading the names of 2,983 victims — 2,977 killed in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001, and six killed in the first terror attack on the trade center, a truck bomb in 1993.

Read more about the 10th Anniversary ceremony

Read More http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2011/09/11/Ap-Names-of-9-11-attack-victims-echo-across-WTC-site.aspx

Cyber attacks against the Federal Government Increase

Cyber attacks against the federal government increased almost 40 percent last year, according to government data.

Federal agencies suffered 41,776 cyber attacks in 2010, up from 30,000 the previous year, according to the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), which is tasked with defending the dot-gov domain and sharing information with industry and local governments.
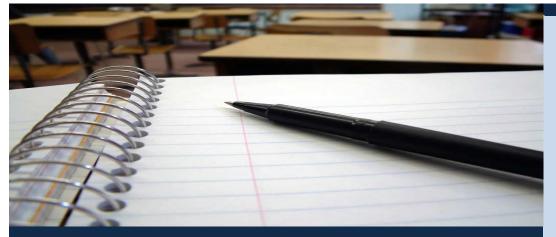
The data is included in an annual report on federal cyber security efforts by the Office of Management Budget.

Of the attacks reported last year, 12,864 — or 31 percent — were classified as malicious code. Another 11,336 (27 percent) are under investigation or labeled as "other." Unauthorized access, denial of service, improper usage and scans probes and attempted access made up the remaining incidents.

Those numbers will continue to increase as new technologies and access to mobile devices and social networking sites expands.

"DHS anticipates that malicious cyber activity will continue to become more common, more sophisticated and more targeted — and range from unsophisticated hackers to very technically competent intruders using state-of-the-art techniques," said DHS spokesman Chris Ortman.

US-CERT reported that attackers continuously exploited unknown vulnerabilities, or "zero-day vulnerabilities," in applications and products.

The report noted that federal agencies, industry and individuals are at greater risk because "exploit codes" for the vulnerabilities were often made public.

Inspector generals at the 24 largest agencies found that most agencies need to do better at protecting their networks and data. Almost two-thirds of agencies, for example, are not yet continuously monitoring their systems for vulnerabilities and intrusions at an acceptable level, and 8 percent of agencies had no monitoring program in place.

Agencies also struggle to provide proper oversight of contractors and security training. Conversely, incident response is one of the government's biggest strengths, according to the IGs.

OMB said it expects "the quality of these metrics will improve significantly over time, as agencies continue the shift to continuous monitoring."

Read more about the report:
http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20110323/IT01/103230303/

AGA Indianapolis Announcements

AGA Audio Conference

AGA will host their next Audio Conference: "SSAE 16 Reporting on Controls-- Revised SAS 70 Report and Service Organization Control Reports"

Date - Wednesday, October 5, 2011
Time - 2:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.
Location - Conference Room 222-R

(2) NASBA Certified CPEs will be offered for the event. FREE for Members and $25 participation fee for Non-Members. NOTE: An SF 182 does not need to be filled out unless you want it on your training history or it is being funded by your department.

To self-register, contact Sally Thelen at 212-5535, sally.thelen@dfas.mil; Lynada Peeples at 212-8939, lynada.peeples@dfas.mil; or Kinzie Kiser at 212-6182, kinzie.kiser@dfas.mil.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September CEC have been posted to the website. To read them visit www.againdy.com/minutesbudget.aspx

CGFM Program

Do you need an extra incentive to apply for the CGFM Program? AGA is offering a $20 rebate (application fee is $85 before rebate) to all CGFM applications received with the assistance of AGA chapters from September 1 until December 31, 2011. For more information on CGFM CHAPTER PROMOTION, please go to www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/promotion.aspx

The new CGFM books are also available now as well! The Indy chapter has 13 FULL SETS of the 2011 edition. If you would like additional information on borrowing a CGFM module or on the CGFM promotion, please contact Dan Neumann, CGFM at 212-3120 or daniel.neumann@dfas.mil

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COPING WITH BUDGET CUTS

GLASBERGEN

"Whenever something goes wrong, the first question we must ask ourselves is: Can this problem be fixed with duct tape?"

Member Spotlight

NAME and Job:
Labib Dangol
Accountant- Audited Financial Statements/ Budget Execution Other Defense Organizations, Departmental Reporting

HOW WOULD SOMEONE DESCRIBE YOU?
It's kind of hard to portray how someone would describe yourself, but I would say that I am very friendly and easy going. I am extremely helpful and fiercely loyal towards family and friends. I am good at adapting to new situations or places and I can get along with just about anyone. I am social and an extrovert, but I do need my "alone time" to recharge. I can be somewhat indecisive and slightly stubborn at times. I am sensitive and slow to anger but capable of raging if provoked. I am basically your classic Taurus.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU AREN'T WORKING?
I love to travel! I have been to over 20 countries in all continents except Australia and Antarctica. I actually lived in 4 countries before I moved to the U.S when I was 16. When I am not travelling, I enjoy watching the History Channel, playing soccer, and riding my bike. My girl friend made me sell my motorcycle :(so I bought a road bicycle instead to continue my passion for "riding". I just love the feeling of the wind going through my hair :)

Cloud Basics - Barbara Purvis

The Federal government is undertaking a tremendous change with the rise of cloud computing. In the era of reducing resources the cloud is a means to implement streamlined efficiencies by reducing costs of infrastructure and meeting increasing customer demand. In order to understand the value the cloud environment offers we first have to understand some basic terms and design of cloud computing.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) "promotes the U.S. economy and public welfare by providing technical leadership for the nation's measurement and standards infrastructure. " "The "ITL 's responsibilities include the development of technical, physical, administrative, and management standards and guidelines for the cost-effective security and privacy of sensitive unclassified information in Federal computer systems." NIST identifies the cloud model composition as having five characteristics:

1. OnDemand Service - A consumer can unilaterally provision computing capabilities, such as server time and network storage, as needed automatically without requiring human interaction with each service's provider.

2. Broad Network Access - Capabilities are available over the network and accessed through standard mechanisms that promote use by client platforms (*e.g.,* mobile phones, laptops, and PDAs).

3. Location Independent Resource Pooling – The provider pools computing resources to serve multiple consumers (a multi-tenant model). This dynamically assigns and reassigns resources according to consumer demand.   A sense of location independence exists because the customer generally has no control over or knowledge of the provided resources' exact location but may be able to specify location at a higher level of abstraction (*e.g.,* country, state, or data center). Resource examples include storage, processing, memory, network bandwidth, and virtual machines.

4. Rapid Elasticity – This refers to rapidly acquiring (provisioning) the required infrastructure resources. The required resources refer to the size (scale) of the requirement (called capability). Providing Capabilities rapidly and elastically, in some cases automatically, means to quickly scale out and rapidly release to quickly scale in.   This means the consumer can purchase in any quantity at any time as capability often appears unlimited.

5. Measured Service - Cloud systems automatically control and optimize resource use by leveraging a metering capability appropriate to the type of service (*e.g.,* storage, processing, bandwidth, and active user accounts). The provider and consumer can monitor, control, and report resource usage, thus providing transparency of the utilized service.

NIST identifies three service models. There is another service model called Data as a Service (DaaS). An example of Daas is a data-mining company providing its customers with on-demand access to its records, e.g., purchase histories. The three service (delivery) models NIST identifies are:

- Software as a Service (SaaS) - Use the provider's applications running on a cloud infrastructure and accessible from various client devices through a thin client interface such as a Web browser.

AGA Indianapolis Articles

Cloud Basics Continued

- Platform as a Service (PaaS) - Deploy onto the cloud infrastructure consumer-created applications using programming languages & tools supported by the provider.

- Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) - To provision processing, storage, networks, and other fundamental computing resources where the consumer is able to deploy and run arbitrary software, which can include operating systems and applications.

The three service models can be deployed in four deployment models:
1. Private Cloud - Operated solely for an organization.
2. Community Cloud - Shared by several organizations and a specific community that has shared concerns.
3. Public Cloud – The organization selling cloud services owns them and makes them available to the general public or a large industry group.
4. Hybrid Cloud - Composition of two or more clouds (private, community, or public) that remain unique entities but are bound together by standardized or proprietary technology that enables data and application portability.

The basic understanding of what the cloud is and does gives you a better view of what we look at gaining in the federal government. During the Defense Systems Summit 2011 held in early Sep 2011, Robert Carey, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Chief Information Officer (Information Management, Integration and Technology) discussed the challenges of employing the cloud.   He went on to say department's data centers are being used at less than 15% but this fall the department will release initial guidance on a strategy to maximize data centers at 75% capacity. The information for consolidation in core data centers will be based on importance and security needs.   Although security remains a concern of the federal government, the government established Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FEDRAMP). FEDRAMP will provide a security accreditation and authorization program.   Concerns over funding cuts may undermine FEDRAMP.

The Army is gradually moving to a new enterprise e-mail with a projected change for 1.6 million users. It eliminates the 'us.army.mil' moving to 'mail.mil' extension. It is cloud based and managed by DISA. The migration will have 1.4 million unclassified and 200,000 classified accounts by December.   A great aspect is in the e-mail mailbox size. The 'old' mailbox size was 100 megabyte while the new enterprise e-mail will allow to four gigabytes of storage.   The suffix 'us.army.mil' will disappear over the next year or two according to Air Force Major General Ronnie Hawkins, director of DISA.

DISA and GSA continue to run pilot programs using the cloud environment.

Source: Cloud Computing Overview: A Federal Government and Agency Perspective, Peter Tseronis, Deputy Associate CIO, US Department of Energy, August 13, 2009; Joe Gould, ArmyTimes Staff Writer, http://www.armytimes.com/news/2011/05/army-email-addresses-changing-for-many-051611w/; Cloud Computing for the Federal Community, by Hannah Wald & colleagues, University of Michigan, *IAnewsletter* Vol 13 No 2 Spring 2010 • http://iac.dtic.mil/iatac; DRAFT "NIST Cloud Computing Definition", NIST SP 800-145, http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/800-145/Draft-SP-800-145_cloud-definition.pdf; SP 500-291, NIST Cloud Computing Standards Roadmap Special Publication 500-291, http://www.nist.gov/customcf/get_pdf.cfm?pub_id=909024;
SP 800-146, Draft Cloud Computing Synopsis and Recommendations, http://www.nist.gov/itl/csd/20110512_cloud_guide.cfm

Compiled by Barbara Purvis, CGFM, CPA, CISA, CFE
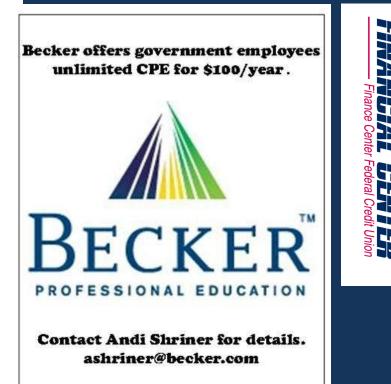
Systems Auditor, Internal Review

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH AGA?
I am a procrastinator and had been meaning to join AGA since 2005 when I started my career at DFAS. However it was not until 2008 when I finally joined, partly because AGA was giving a discount to join, and partly because I was up for a promotion and I wanted to boost my resume. Now that I am an AGA member, I am very happy with my decision to join as it has given me a tremendous avenue to get involved within the DFAS community, and given me the opportunity to meet and network with great people.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD SURPRISE US TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?
I find that some people are sometimes surprised that I can speak 6 languages, 5 of them fluently.

Questions about Sponsorship?

AGA Corporate Sponsors support the Chapter for an entire program year. The benefits and engagement opportunities run from January through December. Between October and January, we solicit Sponsors for the upcoming program year.

We currently have four sponsorship echelons ranging from Bronze to Platinum, each with increasing support levels and engagement opportunities. All Sponsors receive advertising space on our website and in our Chapter Newsletter which publishes six editions per year, with distribution to over 300 members.

Several other benefits are offered depending on your giving level, including complimentary access to our Holiday Party, Awards Banquet, & monthly luncheons for employees from your company. Speak with an AGA Corporate Sponsorship representative for more details.

Contact Andrew Tyler at
andrew.tyler@dfas.mil

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