Colorado State University
Knowledge to Go Places

Department of Computer Science
1873 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1873

Announcing two talks by

Dr. Eugene H. Spafford

**Professor of Computer Sciences,
Professor of Philosophy, and
Director of the Center for Education and Research
in Information Assurance and Security
Purdue University**

Colorado State University Campus

Monday, November 4, 2002

**Presented by the CSU Information Science and Technology Center
(ISTeC) and the Department of Computer Science**

Dr. Eugene H. Spafford is a professor of Computer Sciences at Purdue University, a professor of Philosophy (courtesy appointment), and is the Director of the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security (CERIAS) also at Purdue University.

Dr. Spafford's honors include Fellow of the ACM, Fellow of the AAAS, Fellow of the IEEE, and charter recipient of the Computer Society's Golden Core award. He was the year 2000 recipient of the NIST/NCSC National Computer Systems Security Award, generally regarded as the field's most significant honor in information security research.

His many activities include co-chair of the ACM's U.S. Public Policy Committee and of its Advisory Committee on Computer Security and Privacy, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Computing Research Association, and is a member of the US Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. More information may be found at:
http://www.cerias.purdue.edu/homes/spaf.

Morning ISTeC Distinguished Lecture

**Myths, Fads, and False Economies:
How NOT to Get Secure Systems**

Dr. Eugene H. Spafford

10:00 a.m., Monday, November 4, 2002
Lory Student Center, Room 230

Sponsored by the CSU Information Science
and Technology Center (ISTeC[1])

ABSTRACT

It is clear from reading any newspaper or magazine that there is a real problem with the security of information systems. Viruses, break-ins, spam, identity theft, and concerns with cyber terrorism are all on the rise. Yet, with over 50 years of experience with building security tools and systems, why aren't things better than they are?

The answer is that the field has been plagued by a number of mistaken beliefs, some bordering on the realm of superstition. If you believe that using strong cryptography provides good security, that open source is more secure than proprietary code, that the next release will be more secure than the current code, that full disclosure prevents break-ins, or that better firewalls are the answer, then you have fallen victim to the myths.

In this talk, I will discuss some of the pervasive (and incorrect) beliefs that make building and operating secure systems such a difficult task.

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[1] **ISTeC is a university-wide organization for promoting, facilitating, and enhancing CSU's research, education, and outreach activities pertaining to the design and innovative application of computer, communication, and information systems.**

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Afternoon BMAC Distinguished Lecture

**ESP and Poly^2: Challenging the
Conventional Wisdom**

Dr. Eugene H. Spafford

4:10 p.m., Monday, November 4, 2002
Ammons Hall, President's Room

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Computer Science
and the CSU Information Science and Technology Center
(ISTeC[1])

ABSTRACT

We have seen about 15 years of development of intrusion detection systems (IDS), and almost 8 years of development of Internet servers. Despite that experience, we continue to have severe problems securing Internet enterprises. Break-ins, defacements of WWW pages, and self-propagating malicious code continue to multiply.

With all the research and money being directed to issues of security, one might think that a solution would be in reach. However, in this talk I will point out how the concept of "intrusion detection" has been blurred, and the assumptions behind current efforts to secure servers are likely to fail. At CERIAS, we are challenging some of this conventional wisdom when designing security services. By focusing on the design of securable systems instead of interoperation with existing platforms we have developed a highly effective IDS (ESP), and are now building a high-performance testbed (Poly^2) to host it. This talk will describe our approach and the results to date.

**Receptions follow both events and are free & open to the public.
For directions to the events please call (970) 491-5862.**

Speaker biography on other side.