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Center for Internet Security Recognizes National Cyber Security Awareness Month

More Than 4,000 Citizens Have Already Taken CIS Cyber Pledge; State of Delaware and City of Phoenix Selected as Winners of Best of the Web Contest; CIS Hosts October 11 Webcast and Offers Online Cyber Security Toolkit

EAST GREENBUSH, NY, October 3, 2012 – The Center for Internet Security (CIS), a not-for-profit organization [dedicated to improving cyber security in the public and private sectors](#), is providing resources and activities in celebration of National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) to help educate users about staying safe online. NCSAM highlights the importance of empowering citizens, businesses, government, and schools to improve their cyber security preparedness. NCSAM, now in its ninth year, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and includes collaboration with the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (a division of CIS), the National Association of Chief Information Officers, the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), and many other public and private sector organizations across the nation.

“In our increasingly inter-connected society, each of us has a responsibility to understand our role in protecting cyberspace. There are many basic steps we can take, and Cyber Security Awareness Month places an important spotlight on the need for vigilance at all levels,” said William Pelgrin, President and CEO of CIS and Chair of the MS-ISAC.

Cyber Pledge

CIS is conducting its second annual Cyber Security Pledge campaign, which encourages citizens to declare their commitment to online safety. The pledge outlines positive behaviors such as creating strong passwords, protecting mobile devices, and reporting cyber security incidents. The pledge can be signed online at <https://msisac.cisecurity.org/cyber-pledge/>

Webcast October 11

CIS is hosting a live webcast on Thursday, October 11 at 2:00pm Eastern in partnership with DHS and NCSA to provide users with practical tips for avoiding phishing scams, malware attacks and other malicious activity. The webcast is free and open to the public. Registration is available at <https://msisac.cisecurity.org/webcast/2012-10/>

State and Local Government Best of the Web Contest

In preparation for Awareness Month, CIS conducted its 4th annual Best of the Web contest to recognize state and local governments that use their websites to promote cyber security. Websites were reviewed based on several criteria including cyber security content,

usability, accessibility, and appearance.

CIS is pleased to announce the [state of Delaware](#) as the winner in the State Government category and the [city of Phoenix](#) as the winner in the Local Government category.

"The Best of the Web Contest is one of our favorite competitions of the year and we are delighted to be named as the 2012 winner in the State Government category. The Delaware team has worked very hard over the past months to improve our overall ranking," said Elayne Starkey, Delaware Chief Information Security Officer.

"The city's public safety mission includes providing resources to our residents to help them stay safe, including online," said Councilman Michael Nowakowski, chair of the Phoenix City Council Public Safety, Veterans, Transparency and Ethics Subcommittee. "This award is validation that we have created a tool that our residents can use to protect their security when they use smartphones and surf the web."

Finalists in the State Government category: [North Carolina](#) and [Texas](#).

"Security professionals alone cannot stop hackers and email scams. Information technology security is everybody's business. That's why we include information for a wide audience, from children to savvy tech users, on our web page. I am pleased and honored that we have been named a finalist for this award," said Jonathan Womer, State of North Carolina Chief Information Officer.

"On behalf of the State of Texas, I am pleased that we were named as a finalist for this award. The Texas Department of Information Resources is honored to lead statewide initiatives that are building business and government partnerships in information protection and leading collaborative efforts to protect our 25 million Texans," said Angel Cruz, Texas Chief Information Security Officer.

Finalists in the Local Government category: [city of Seattle](#) and the [Washtenaw County \(Michigan\) Citizenship Cyber Coalition](#).

"The city of Seattle is honored to be recognized for a third year as a finalist in the local government category. Seattle is very serious regarding our responsibility for information sharing through our web and social media presences. We are very appreciative of this recognition, and for the work done by the Multi-State ISAC on behalf of local government," said Michael Hamilton, Chief Information Security Officer, city of Seattle.

"Community engagement and outreach along with strong partnerships are major components of Washtenaw County's community safety strategy. The Washtenaw County Cyber Citizenship Coalition initiative is a sterling example of our strategy in action," said Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton.

Cyber Security Toolkit

CIS developed a Cyber Security Toolkit that features a variety of material—including calendars, posters and bookmarks—with important tips for staying safe online. The Toolkit was distributed to all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several U.S. Territories for use in awareness campaigns. The Toolkit is free and available electronically at <https://msisac.cisecurity.org/resources/toolkit/oct12/index.cfm> ###