

CYBER-SECURITY EXPERT TO SPEAK AT AMERICAN PETROLEUM
INSTITUTE SECURITY CONFERENCE

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Hanover, NH—On November 6, Charles C. Palmer, Chair of the Institute for Information Infrastructure Protection (I3P), will join other experts in a discussion of emerging cyber threats to the oil and gas industry at the American Petroleum Institute's 2nd Annual IT Security Conference.

Palmer will serve on a panel of distinguished cyber security professionals, including Eric Byres, CTO of Byres Security Inc. and David Schuelen of British Petroleum. Two industry experts will moderate the panel: David Poczynek, Director of IT Security and Risk Compliance for Williams Companies, Inc. and Ivan Susanto of Chevron ITC.

The assembled group will tackle an area of paramount concern to national security: the Process Control Systems (PCS) that drive the operation of such critical infrastructures as petrochemical refineries and electric grids. These computerized systems, which we expect to operate reliably and efficiently, are increasingly vulnerable to the many cyber threats—both malicious and inadvertent—that afflict our digital world.

Attackers, both external and internal to a company, can change PCS settings, leading to industrial failure or worse. Even unintentional disruptions to PCS, such as operator error, can have serious safety and economic consequences.

Several aspects of PCS security are especially challenging. One is hardening the systems against cyber intrusion so they can readily detect and deflect intruders. A second is deploying methods for detecting malicious activity on the part of insiders. A third is finding ways for a control system to quickly recover in the event of a system malfunction.

"By working together—for this truly is a multi-disciplinary problem—we can go a long way to securing PCS," says Palmer. "Our panel, with its diversity of views and experiences, embodies the approach needed to gain a frank understanding of the status and future of cyber security initiatives."

"The API is proud to host its second annual security conference, an event that is back by popular demand," says Lisa Soda. "By drawing together security experts from both the IT and Oil & Gas sectors, the conference clearly provides a much-needed opportunity for information sharing and collaborative problem solving."

The 2nd Annual IT Security Conference for the Oil and Gas Industry is expected to draw more than 200 IT Security experts from the oil and gas industry, creating an environment in which they can exchange the latest security developments, share insights, and network with other IT security professionals.

The I3P, which is managed by Dartmouth College, is a national consortium of academic institutions, federally-funded labs and non-profit organizations dedicated to strengthening the cyber security of the United States. In addition to guiding and supporting research, the I3P is committed to finding solutions to infrastructure vulnerabilities, facilitating technology transfer, and forging collaborative alliances with key stakeholders.

Members of the press who wish to interview Charles Palmer should contact the I3P at 603-646-0686. Information about the I3P can be found at: www.thei3p.org