February 27, 2009

Dr. Melissa Hathaway
Acting Senior Director for Cyberspace
National Security and Homeland Security Councils
The National Security Council
1650 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, EEOB Room 344
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Dr. Hathaway:

Congratulations on your appointment to lead the 60 day interagency cyber security review.

The establishment of Comprehensive National Cyber Security Initiative (CNCI) is an important step in organizing government efforts to address these threats. We would strongly encourage you to consider how the expertise of the IT-ISAC can help to address the CNCI related challenges. For more than eight years, the IT-ISAC has worked closely with the U.S. Government.

The IT-ISAC is a non profit membership organization comprised of leaders in the Information Technology sector. It was formed in 2000, in response to PDD-63, and became operational in 2001. Our members contribute 90% of all desktop operating systems, 85% of all database management software; 76% of the global microprocessor market; 85% of all routers and 65% of software security. Our mission is to:

- Report, exchange, and analyze, across the IT Sector, information concerning electronic incidents, threats, attacks, vulnerabilities, solutions

and countermeasures, best security practices and other protective measures,

- Establish a mechanism for systematic and protected exchange and coordination of such information and trusted collaboration; and
- Provide thought leadership to policymakers on cyber security and information sharing issues.

We enable informed risk management by members and partners through effective cyber information sharing and analysis; improve security incident response through trusted analysis, collaboration and coordination; and drive informed decision making by policymakers and industry as a trusted sector wide advisor on IT Sector security response and cyber information sharing issues.

For 2009 and beyond, the IT-ISAC is committed to the following goals:

- Serve as a synchronizing body for threat and vulnerability analysis:
- Share analysis and warnings throughout the IT Sector
- Partner with the U.S. Government on threat analysis and incident response
- Routinely exchange actionable and meaningful threat and vulnerability information with the U.S government

These build upon our established experience in incident response. For example, the IT-ISAC's 24 x 7 Operations Center, combined with the expertise and active participation of our members, enabled us to organize industry's response to cyber incidents such as Code Red and NIMDA. In 2008, we worked across critical infrastructure sectors to issue a joint bulletin with the Communications and Financial Services ISACs to raise awareness of the severity of the DNS Cache Poisoning vulnerability. We organized and coordinated the IT Sector's participation in both Cyber Storm exercises, TOPP OFF 4 as well as NLE 2.

Although we are a membership organization, we recognize and take seriously our obligations to the IT Sector as a whole. We have demonstrated this commitment by sharing alert and analytical information beyond our membership to organizations such as the IT Sector Coordinating Council (ITSCC) with whom we have a strong partnership. In recognition of the IT-ISAC's unique role in incident response, the IT SCC designated the IT-ISAC as the operational conduit between the IT Sector and the federal government.

Whereas the IT SCC leads on policy issues, they turn to the IT-ISAC for operational coordination. One example of this active coordination is the IT Sector Risk Assessment, being conducted through the IT SCC but co-chaired by the IT-ISAC's executive director.

These capabilities and relationship uniquely position the IT-ISAC as an effective and trusted partner in homeland security. Given the complexity of the information infrastructure, the nation's dependence on it and the evolving nature of the threat, maturing the public private partnership we have established is essential. We look forward to working with you, and thank you for your willingness to serve our country.

We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss how we can collaborate with you, leveraging the IT-ISAC operational capabilities and member expertise, to facilitate trusted information sharing and analysis. Please do not hesitate to contact Scott Algeier, our executive director, at 703-385-4969 or salgeier@it-isac.org should you have any questions, or if there is any way we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,
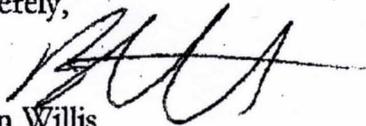
Brian Willis
President, IT-ISAC

On behalf of the IT-ISAC Board of Directors:

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