

Panel — The Economics of Security

Moderators:

Jim Ellis, Sun Microsystems
Gary McGraw, Reliable Software Technologies

Panelists:

Nicholas Economidis, INSURETrust.com
Nick Pasciullo, Jones, Gregg, Creehan & Gerace, LLP
Fred Chris Smith, Attorney
Laurie Wagner, ICSA.net

With the explosion of e-commerce, the need for workable and usable security solutions is greater than ever before. As computer security practitioners and experts, NDSS attendees understand that security amounts to risk management. Everyone agrees that there is no such thing as 100% security, especially from a technology perspective. But how does this play out in the real world? This panel is about how business approaches to risk management directly impact security technology. Even the best technology will not be adopted unless it fits the reality of today's business environment. Panelists will discuss how businesses manage computer security risks, what technical characteristics the insurance industry uses to justify lower insurance rates, and what some of the legal ramifications of good and bad security practices are (especially with regard to liability).

Topics of discussion are likely to include:

- What is the most effective way to promote better security? Lawsuits? Insurance rate incentives? Education? Better technology?
- Should vendors be held liable for security vulnerabilities in their products? When security-critical software fails, who is to blame?
- Why don't most insurance companies encourage businesses to install current security, intrusion detection, etc. technologies?
- What messages do security technologists and practitioners need to hear from the business, insurance, legal world?