IS 497B: Information Security and Assurance
Reading Preparation Assignment
Week 1 Lecture

Below are some readings and discussion questions/suggestions for our first lecture in Information Security and Assurance. These are intended to spark our thinking and enthusiasm in general topics of Information Assurance. Please have read all of the included materials and have an idea of how you would answer the questions posed or would otherwise respond to what you have read. I do not require you to provide written responses to these preparatory assignments.

Search for definitions of Information Security and Information Assurance. You may begin with the descriptions from Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_Security and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_Assurance. Attempt to form an understanding of the terms and the differences between them.

Read the paper, _The Weak Link in Information Security_, which I wrote in the summer of 2006. Look up the current status of information security breaches. Have the conditions and causes of the breaches changed since I wrote this paper? Explain.

Search for further readings on information security awareness like SECURITYsense. This is a service provided by the National Security Institute, an NGO.

Read the Annex of NSTISSI No. 4011 (pp. 18-26) on the Information Systems Security Model. I have also provided a figure of the Security Model that is not included in the 4011 document. Be prepared to discuss the CIA triad as well as the two other dimensions of the model.

There is a fundamental conflict for management in Information Security. Do you know, or can you guess what it is? Can you find anything online to support your position?