



National Institute for Cybersecurity Studies (NICS)

Ms. Peggy Maxson

29 March 2012

Agenda

- Background
- What is NICS?
- Components of NICS
 - Portal
 - Advisory Board
 - Virtual University
- NICS Timeline for 2012
- Call To Action



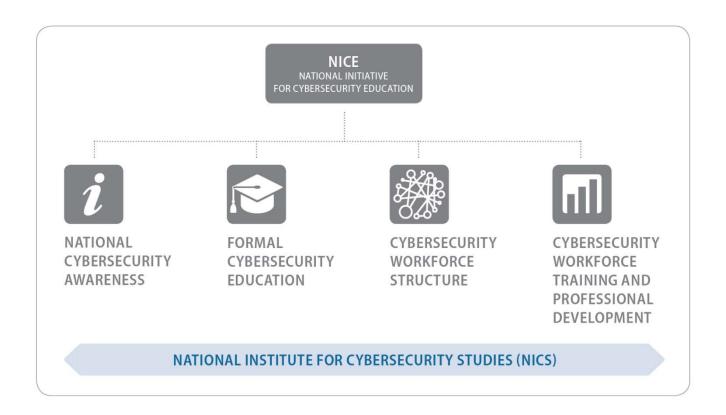
A National Problem

- The Nation needs greater cybersecurity awareness
- The US work force lacks cybersecurity experts
- Many cybersecurity training programs exist but lack consistency among programs
- Potential employees lack information about skills and abilities for cybersecurity jobs
- Resources exist for teachers and students about cybersecurity but are difficult to find
- Cybersecurity Career development and scholarships are available but uncoordinated
- Lack of communication between government, private industry, and academia

NICE was established to create a cybersecurity education program for the nation to use sound cyber practices that will enhance the nation's security.



Four Components of NICE





NICS relationship to **NICE**

NICS was created to implement and share the resources and information produced by the four NICE components.



National Institute for Cybersecurity Studies (NICS)

NICS is a program that makes the awareness, education, training, and workforce development resources created by NICE available to the nation through a portal, an advisory board, and a virtual university.

NICS will:

- Focus cybersecurity education resources
- Influence the nation to become cyber aware
- Drive the pursuit of cyber careers



WEB PORTAL

Makes cybersecurity information and resources more readily available to the nation and promotes greater collaboration among cybersecurity students, educators, and employers.



Comprised of representatives from government, academia, and industry, the advisory board provides recommendations to NICS for the development of cybersecurity awareness, education, and career training.



Enables Federal employees access to online training resources that are optimized for cybersecurity workforce development.



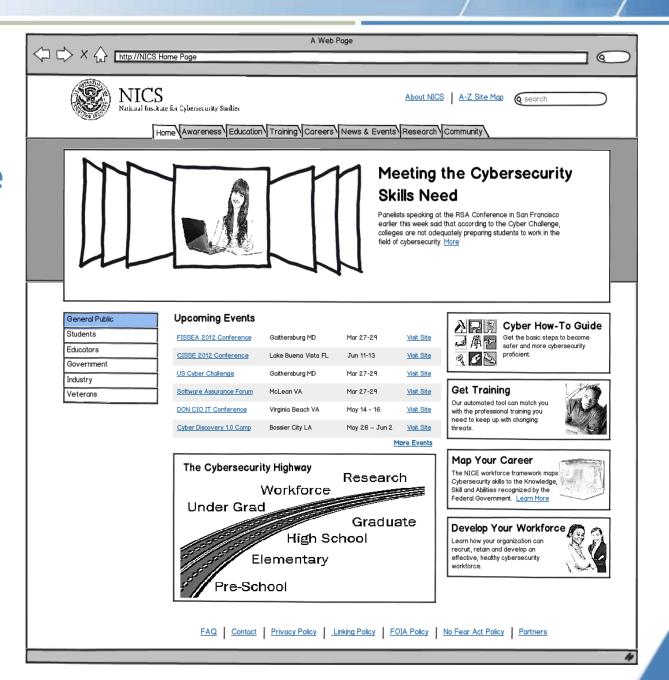
NICS Web Portal

The NICS Portal will be the main outlet of cybersecurity information and resources for the NICS program.

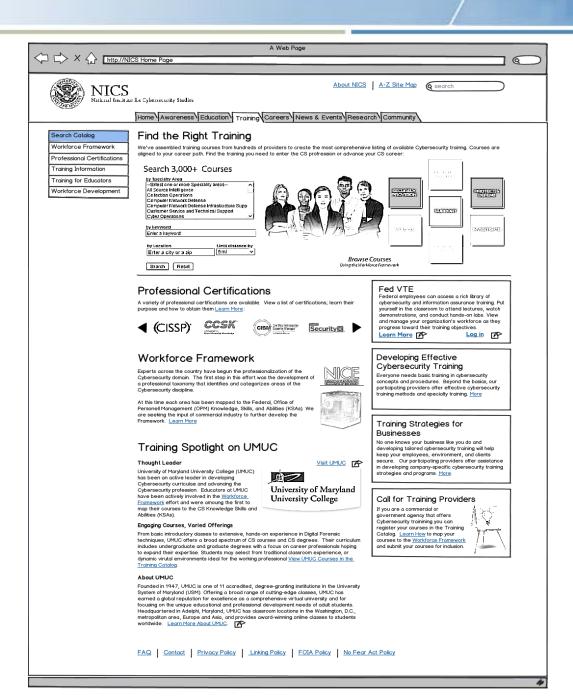




Draft NICS Portal Home Page



Draft NICS Portal Training Page



User and Subject Matter Expert Outreach

- Conducted user testing at NIST Workshop in September 2011
 - Total of 61 participants
 - 26 Educators
 - 15 Government Officials
 - 10 Workforce Professionals
 - 2 Students
 - 8 Other
 - Used 215 Scenarios to identify design concerns such as navigation and layout and conceptual issues such as the purpose of and the audience of the NICS portal.
- Conducted WebEX Sessions in January & February 2012
 - Held 4 sessions to gather feedback on the operation and content of the Portal
 - Content Vetting
 - Education
 - Training
 - Workforce Development



NICS Advisory Board

An advisory board composed of stakeholders with training and education focus from each of the target sectors will guide:

- Identification of cybersecurity best practices
- Identification of gaps and strategies for national cybersecurity training and professional development
- Academic institutions in addressing cybersecurity education needs based on skills sought in current cybersecurity environment







Government

Federal

State

Local

Tribal

Academia K-12

Colleges

Universities

Industry

Critical Infrastructure

Vendors



Virtual University

NICS Virtual University

- Federal employees access online cybersecurity training
- Link to Federal Virtual Training Environment (FedVTE)
- Access to a database of 160 brick and mortar facilities providing classroom training opportunities
- Future plans expand the online training to State Local Tribal Virtual Training Environment (SLTVTE)
- Link to the Federal Cybersecurity
 Training Exercise (FedCTE) platform





FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY TRAINING EXERCISE





What Are the Current NICS Activities for FY 2012?

FY 2011 FY 2012 FY 2013

NICS Portal: Launch portal that serves as the nation's online resource for government, industry, academia and the general public to learn about cybersecurity awareness, education, careers and workforce development opportunities.

Key Activities*: Design Portal (Mar 2012), Focus Groups for Portal (Apr 2012), and Launch Portal Phase I (Sep 2012)

Project Management Office: Establish a Project Management Office (PMO) which will manage, support and maintain the NICS portal.

Key Activities*: Develop PMO Operational Documents (Jun 2012), Acquire PMO Resources (Aug 2012), and Establish PMO (Sep 2012)

Advisory Board: Establish an Advisory Board to provide guidance, recommendations, and best practices on cybersecurity awareness, education, careers, and training programs.

Key Activities*: Identify Advisory Board Tasks (Apr 2012), Identify Portal Advisory Board Members (Jun 2012), and Convene Advisory Board (Sep 2012)



Call To Action

Please use the NICS mailbox NICS@hq.dhs.gov to:

- Provide general comments or feedback on the Portal.
- Provide suggestions for additional material that should be included on the portal.
- Provide suggestions for Advisory Board members.
- Join our focus groups!



FOCUS GROUPS

Do you want to help us define the cybersecurity field? Are you interested in participating in a Focus Group?

Session Date/Time	Participant Requirements
Tuesday, April 10 th , 10:00am-12:00pm	 Mid/Seasoned Federal Government Professionals & Cybersecurity Trainers 7+ years working in Cybersecurity field or as a Trainer for cyber Federal Government career focus
Thursday, April 12 th , 10:00am-12:00pm	 Early Career Professionals & Cybersecurity Recruiters 1-5 years working in Cybersecurity field or as a Recruiter for cyber Federal or Private Industry/Commercial career focus
Tuesday, April 17 th , 10:00am-12:00pm	 Mid/Seasoned Industry Professionals & Cybersecurity Trainers 7+ years working in Cybersecurity field or as a Trainer for cyber Private Industry/Commercial career focus
Thursday, April 19 th , 10:00am-12:00pm	 Educators/Administrators in Cybersecurity Academia 5+ years working in Cybersecurity with grades P-12 Cybersecurity education career focus

Contact Peggy Maxson: Margaret.Maxson@hq.dhs.gov; 703-235-3654

