

## **Guest Lecture - Information Security Management System (ISMS)**

On Thursday, 1st December 2011, Ecommerce and BIS Students of IILM UBS Lodhi Road had the privilege to receive a guest lecture by Mr. Anil Rathore, Scientist-D, National Informatics Centre (NIC). The topic of the guest lecture was "Information Security Management System(ISMS)".

Mr. Rathore presented a thorough analysis of the ISMS. He began the lecture by explaining the four key terms of the topic through various examples that helped students to understand the key role of information, security and management of systems. Students learnt that information can be created, stored, destroyed and processed and thus is of significance. For example, business information such as fluctuating stock market data proves crucial for decision makers.

One major learning for students was the understanding of the difference between a process and a procedure. Mr. Rathore was very kind to explain the concepts through different examples that helped make the technicalities less difficult for the students to comprehend. A process is the basic workflow system which defines how to prepare a certain result and a flow chart explains this process. However, a procedure differs across companies as organisations have different ways of implementing the same processes.



### **Mr. Rathore explaining the various types of Information Security Management Systems**

Mr. Rathore clearly established that securing information is safeguarding and ensuring continuity of the same in a system. Furthermore, a system can consist of individual levels or a combination of security levels. Students also learnt that an organisation can achieve a security system through the important PPT model of information security in addition to policies and procedures. Mr. Rathore then explained the significance and role of technology evolvment in the security system. He gave examples of improved security attained through IPTVs and CCTV surveillance systems. Mr. Rathore stressed that a company must deploy the latest technology in order to gain competitive advantage and

survive in the market. He explained this idea by giving an example of the latest data centre that NIC has opened wherein the data centre needs to rely on new technology. NIC must deploy latest technology in order to maintain receipt of customers in the government for their services. Thus, evolving technology enables faster processes and more secure systems.

Mr. Rathore also gave an insight of the *CIA* information system: Confidentiality ensures that information is not accessible to unauthorized users, Integrity ensures that information is complete in nature and Availability ensures that information stored is always available to authorised users. Achievement of all three factors will ensure that a system is secure. Nevertheless, Mr. Rathore warned that the more spread a network is, the greater are the threats.

Finally, Mr. Rathore gave an overview and advantages of different standards used for information security such as the ISO 27001 system certification. While he explained the importance of implementing such standards, Mr. Rathore also informed that exceptions always exist and in reality, we can only secure a system to a certain extent. Furthermore, there is a continuity in implementing certain standards whereby in order to implement one standard we need to have knowledge about the previous standard. Again, Mr. Rathore laid emphasis on the importance of changing the security system continuously as per technology and business environment advancements.

Notably, students asked questions about how secure latest technological trends such as cloud services and social networking sites are. In response, Mr. Rathore kindly explained that the security measures of cloud services depends on the network on which they are working. For example, services through *https*, a secured channel, and encrypted mail are secure. Risks might result due to increasing use of unsecured channels. Thus, students beware!

All Ecommerce and BIS students would like to thank Mr. Rathore for his presence in our class. It was indeed a privilege to learn from him. Students now look forward to an industrial trip to a NIC data centre.

### **About NIC**

National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the Department of Information Technology is providing network backbone and e-Governance support to Central Government, State Governments, UT Administrations, Districts and other Government bodies. It offers a wide range of ICT services including Nationwide Communication Network for decentralised planning, improvement in Government services and wider transparency of national and local Governments. NIC assists in implementing Information Technology Projects, in close collaboration with Central and State Governments, in the areas of (a) Centrally sponsored schemes and Central sector schemes, (b) State sector and State sponsored projects, and (c) District Administration sponsored projects. NIC endeavors to ensure that the latest technology in all areas of IT is available to its users.

### **Inputs from:**

*Shailly Gupta (UBS- 3rd year, IILM Lodhi Road Campus)*