

Professional Award

EDITOR'S CHOICE

WINNER

Internet Security Alliance

We're delighted to honor the multi-sector trade association Internet Security Alliance (ISA) as our selection for this year's Editor's Choice Award.

The ISA was established in 2000 and has since attracted big-name members – such as Verizon, Lockheed Martin and Northrup Grumman, as well as other public companies operating in aviation, defense, education, financial services, health care and manufacturing.

The Virginia-based think tank advises White House and Congress officials on cybersecurity – including the U.S. Cyber Security Framework – and does this via an assortment of face-to-face meetings, thought leadership white papers and public policy.

Larry Clinton, the ISA's president and CEO, has published widely on a number of cybersecurity topics and testifies regularly before Congress and other government agencies.

For example, in January, expert witnesses from the security industry gathered before a joint hearing held by two subcommittees of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee to discuss ways in which the federal government – in the wake of several devastating data breaches, particularly that of the Office of Personnel Management – could learn about cybersecurity from the private sector. Clinton advocated for more investment in cybersecurity and urged the administration to step up its actions regarding the nation's IT security.

"We believe that the government needs to follow the private sector's lead," Clinton said. "They need to become more educated, more sophisticated and more innovative, and act with greater urgency and commitment with respect to cybersecurity."

Further, just earlier this month, when President Obama announced the creation of a federal CISO post and issued proposals to strengthen the nation's IT security while increasing government spending on cybersecurity in the next fiscal year by 35 per-

cent to \$19 billion, Clinton was there to offer a nuanced response that praised the moves as steps in the right direction, but urged accountability in the manner in which the government invests money.

"There needs to be better management of the money we are investing in cybersecurity," Clinton said. "Programs ought to be

subjected to systematic cost-benefit analysis so that we can document where they are, and are not, succeeding."

For the Winter 2015 edition of the *Journal of Strategic Security*, Clinton penned an extensive article, "Best Practices for Operating Government-Industry Partnerships in Cyber Security," in which he chastises what he considers the federal government's "dysfunctional" initiatives to secure national systems to further industry-government partnerships. Surveying and assessing past processes, he offered solutions to strengthen "ambiguous strategy" and generated a consensus list of best practices for successfully operating such partnership programs in cybersecurity.

But, in a world more interconnected than ever before, advocacy on this level is not just an American concern. "The Internet Security Alliance is just one example

of industry coming together to influence policy on issues of cross-industry importance such as taxes and regulation," Richard Knowlton, former Vodafone group corporate security director, said when discussions were underway in 2014 to establish a spinoff of the ISA in Europe, the Internet Security Alliance for Europe (ISAFE).

Knowlton, now chief executive of ISAFE, told *SC* at the time that he was instantly in favor of the idea and added that the group's great differentiator is the lack of industry bias. "My first thought was 'this is brilliant, there is nothing like it in Europe,'" he told *SC*. "Lots of [public body] organizations are more or less good, but most are not cross-sector or multinational."



Larry Clinton, president and CEO, Internet Security Alliance (ISA)