

# ***NEWS RELEASE***



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## **Leading Internet Trade Association Head Testifies on Need for Cyber Security Awareness**

***Says Security Products and Education are Key to  
Fighting Internet Fraud and Scams***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The head of a leading Internet trade association told a congressional subcommittee today that proper use of security products and better consumer education for Internet users are the key components for combating Internet fraud and scams.

Thomas Dailey, United States Internet Service Provider Association (USISPA) chair and president, who also serves as Verizon Online general counsel, outlined a variety of current online threats and the need for Internet users to take advantage of available online resources as part of an overall cyber security awareness program.

He stressed that proper use of Internet security products and consumer education are key components for any Internet user in mitigating the risk of security threats.

“To stay safe online, residential and small business users must first understand that running anti-virus and firewall software is essential to securing any computer connected to the Internet, and that such software needs to be used frequently and updated,” he said in testimony before the House Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census.

But, he said, use of software alone is not enough. “Equally important is staying current on threats, whether in the form of the latest worm or identity theft scam,” he said. “Knowing where to look for help – and who is a trusted source of information – can be a challenge for many users.”

He said that the USISPA members fully support online security and safety education. “ISPs take very seriously the role of educating their customers about Internet security and helping customers to help themselves in this important area,” he said.

“USISPA members realize that Internet security is no longer an add-on feature, but must be part of the basic service offering. Taking advantage of these services is an important part of any customer’s cyber security strategy.

“For example, AOL, BellSouth, EarthLink, Microsoft, SBC and Verizon Online each provides its customers with access to extensive Internet security Web sites and other online help areas that include child protection, anti-spam, anti-spyware and firewall software and other security services,” he said.

Dailey encouraged the continued support by Congress of the efforts of the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as public-private partnerships that have generated such online security-help Web sites as [www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org) and

[www.staysafeonline.info](http://www.staysafeonline.info). He further urged that schools take a larger role in educating kids about Internet safety.

Dailey also suggested federal training grants, scholarships and national public service advertising to further enhance basic security awareness. He recommended the National Cyber Security Partnership's Top Ten Cyber Security Tips as a common point of reference for Internet safety. These tips can be found at [www.staysafeonline.info](http://www.staysafeonline.info).

He said that the task ahead is large and complex but that it's a worthy one, best achieved through a multi-pronged, long-term approach with each element of the Internet community energized, and with the continuation of public and private initiatives and partnerships.

"In the end, no single group or industry can dictate the behavioral change necessary to significantly improve the security awareness of Internet users," he said. "Such change requires a joint public-private sector education effort targeted to enhancing cyber security awareness of the Internet-using public."

The U.S. Internet Service Provider Association is a leading Internet industry group that represents some of the nation's largest Internet service providers, portal companies and network providers on important policy issues with a focus on security related matters. The group's members include AOL, BellSouth, EarthLink, MCI, Microsoft, SAVVIS, SBC and Verizon.

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