

# Reynoldson works to defend university's computer technology

## Spotlight On

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**By Travis Gulbrandson**  
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When Joe Reynoldson started working full-time as the University of South Dakota's information technology security officer in 1998, one of the first things he did was to unplug the school's Web server.

"The Web site had been defaced by someone named Pogo, apparently, who said he now owned the university server," Reynoldson said.

As no headway could be made, the server had to be unplugged, he said.

"That's how things worked back then. I ended up here a couple nights. We worked a couple days straight to rebuild that server from scratch," he said.

It is situations like these that drive home the motto, "Prevention is ideal, but detection is a must,"

Reynoldson said.

"The idea is not that you expect to block all possible attacks," he said. "The idea is that you at least know an attack is happening or succeeding against you so that you can react to it."

Reynoldson made these comments during an international forum called, "Are We Ready for Global Cyber War?" which took place at USD last week.

One way attacks like the one from "Pogo" have since been prevented is by the creation of "air gaps," which blocks users from the Internet from making changes to a server.

However, Reynoldson said hacker technology is catching up.

"Modern malware can cross the air gap these days, so just because the system is not plugged into the Internet doesn't mean that it can't still get infected," Reynoldson said.

The U.S. government



Lt. Col. Damian Donahoe, Miguel Penarada, and Joe Reynoldson discuss cyber warfare during Monday's noon international forum held on the USD campus.

(Photo by David Lias)

has collected approximately 20 security controls to protect against these kinds of attacks, some of which are used at USD, Reynoldson said.

"There are a number of things on there, including keeping an inventory of devices, keeping secure configurations of your devices, performing boundary defense," he said. "The important thing in the training that I did recently that they brought up time and again is that the offense has to inform

the defense.

"The idea is that you need to be watching ... in order to defend against it," he said.

One thing Reynoldson hears complaints about in his position is the number of spam e-mails people on the USD server receive.

While many of the messages pass through the spam firewall, most do not, he said.

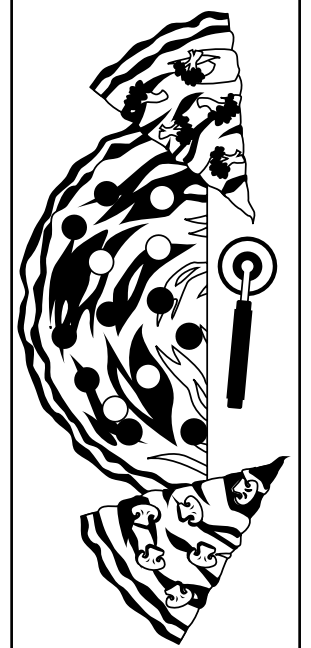
"If you were to see the graphs and could see a day where we have 250,000 inbound e-mail messages," Reynoldson said. "We delivered less than 20,000 messages that day. We're delivering less than 10 percent of the e-mail that's actually coming in. The rest of it's being blocked."

"Essentially, you can

consider each one of those messages to be an attack, because it is possible that any one of those might be a phishing message designed to steal your ID and your password," he said.

USD recently implemented some new network access controls to prevent this kind of activity.

"It's actually able to look at traffic on the network and determine if a system is unhealthy," Reynoldson said. "In particular, we pick out any systems that have Trojans, (which) are designed to steal your information, and possibly control of your system. So we have systems in place to watch for that kind of traffic and block it from the network."



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Private Real Estate

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We will sell at private auction at the offices of Peterson, Stuart, Rumpca & Rasmussen Law Firm the property legally described as Tract 1 Strom's Addition in the SE 1/4 SW 1/4 & SW 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec 1-94-52, Clay County, South Dakota. This is excellent hunting or investment property located along the Vermillion River. Interested parties are to submit a written bid addressed to Phil Peterson, Attorney, 103 N. Third St., Beresford, SD 57004. The top three bidders will be invited to a private auction. The successful bidder will deposit 10% irrevocable, non-refundable earnest money on private auction day with balance due at the date of closing, estimated to be May 15, 2013. Marketable title will be transferred by warranty deed subject to any easements or restrictions of record. Property is sold by legal description only, no survey provided. Neither Sellers nor their representative are making any guarantees or warranties actual or implied.

Seller retains the right to reject any or all bids. The property is sold "as is".

Title insurance will be provided by Clay County Title Company with the cost thereof to be split 50-50. Closing costs shall be split 50-50. 2012 taxes due in 2013 will be paid by Sellers; all subsequent taxes to be responsibility of Buyer.

Buyer may have possession for the year of 2013 after closing. According to FSA there are 53.0 acres of CRP with annual payments of \$104.00 per acre. This is the 7th year of the 15 year CRP contract which expires on 9-30-2021. The new owner shall be obligated to comply with all terms and conditions of the existing CRP contract or buy out the preceding payments. Please contact Sellers or Phil Peterson (605) 763-5024 for further information.

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