I. Course Description:
In years past, the biggest risks most computer users faced were computer viruses transmitted by infected disks and the failure of a computer system hard drive. Today, things have changed. The online world carries everything from benign data to extremely sensitive data like financial transactions just to mention one. Predators and criminals have found the new online world a fertile ground for their pursuits, rich in things they can steal or victims they can exploit. Playground issues such as bullying can now be carried out on line. We all need to learn what risks exist in the online world and things we can do to stay safe in this new world.
To that end, this class is designed to help you understand the threats common to all computer use, the risks they pose to personal information and computers, ways to combat these threats, and how to stay up to date in the future. You will learn by studying different aspects of Information Security in your text and with numerous online resources. You will create your own Personal Security Plan to help you protect your own data and the computers you use.
While the adequacy and quality of your Personal Security Plan will be the key measure of performance in this class, remember that you are really building the plan that will help you to stay safe online and hopefully give you new tools to use in your own classroom to help your students do the same.
Note: Information Security, Info Sec, IT Security, IT Sec, or the older ADP (automated data processing) Security are all used to describe the same concepts and issues and may be encountered in the wide span of resources used in this class.
Overall Objective: This class will help you gain the necessary knowledge of risks and safeguards you will need to create your own Personal Security Plan that will enable you to better protect your information, privacy, and computer system. This educator’s version will also look at issues students face and resources for teachers to help students develop the awareness and tools to stay safe on line.
Learning Goals:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of Security concepts and laws that affect information, privacy and use of information systems.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of common information risks, what common safeguards need to be implemented on your own computer and how to do this.
3. Identify risks associated common Internet activities like web surfing, file sharing, social networking, and to be able to develop policies / safeguards to minimize risks.
4. Identify risks that are associated with being attached to a network (both wired and wireless), using wireless hotspots, and broadband services such as cable, DSL and wireless and develop policies / safeguards to minimize risks.
5. Identify signs of successful attacks on your computer and what to do if you find one.
6. Identify ways to stay up to date on the rapidly changing threats to information security.
7. Create a plan of actions to take if you suspect your credit card / financial information may be compromised or that your identity may have been stolen.