

## July 2008 - SCP Interviews Katie Cahill, General Manager at SCP Training Partner Location & Security Certified Network Professional (SCNP)

*About Katie:* Katie has been a technical instructor for many years and has expertise in self-paced learning programs (Mentored Learning). She is currently the General Manager for New Horizons of Las Vegas and assists her sales team as an IT expert that clients can trust when evaluating IT training needs. Recently, Katie completed her Security Certified Network Professional certification requirements. SCP spent an afternoon interviewing Katie to learn more about her desire to obtain SCNP certification and about her thoughts on the IT Security Industry.

### *Why did you decide to train in the SCP classes?*

My background as both an instructor and IT consultant gave me the background to challenge myself with the Security Certified Program. Instructors that teach the SCP courses need to have a strong background in networking and operating systems such as Suse Linux and Windows 2000 as well as an understanding of Cisco routers.

I chose to complete my SCP training through our Mentored Learning option. Mentored Learning offers self paced lecture and lab time at our facilities while still offering an IT instructor in the room to answer any questions that may arise.

Having SCP content in Mentored Learning was an excellent tool for learning the material and preparing for the SCP exams. The SCP Mentored Learning content is some of the best I've ever seen. I tell our students that it maps to the course and the exam perfectly. Candidates can use the Mentored Learning and the lab setup to prep for the program and be successful. Warren Peterson, President of Security Certified Program, delivers the training and he doesn't leave anything out.

### *EWeek recently announced that SCNP is one of five IT certifications of value...why do you think it received such a high value designation?*

Well, the SCP courses are vendor neutral, thorough, and have no filler material. The track is solid. We've offered security programs from other vendors but I really like the resources that SCP provides to its partners to help market and deliver successful SCP training. For example, the Security Skills Map that they developed is a great tool and helps us explain IT security to our customers and how security offerings match up. It provide a concise answer to security training and helps our sales team deliver our offerings effectively and accurately.

Another reason is the association between SCP, the government, and US Department of Defense Directive 8570. Security training is a requirement they have to meet. SCP is the only security organization that actually truly matches the technical requirements at Tech 2 and Tech 3 of the directive. And that's the focus we use when selling it. Any organization near a military base should be pushing SCP hard.

*At SCP, we have seen many people use SCP training and certification as an effective means of getting involved in the IT security industry, why do you suppose that is?*

Security is not going away. It's a wide open field that's only going to keep growing. It's exciting and fun. We used to do a lot of security seminars and when you talk about security and hacking people get really excited about it. It's getting to be more and more important as it gets easier to hack into companies. I've personally had things hacked into, like my phone and email. If it's happened to me personally, and I consider myself very cautious and aware, you can only imagine what's happening to people that are unaware. You can see why it's important from the secretary on up to understand security, its part of everything we do, banking, shopping, and of course within our jobs.

The first SCP course, TPD was a little bit of everything - Linux, MS, history of security, all the tools, and much more. SCP training touches on things people deal with on an everyday basis, whatever environment you're in, because it's vendor neutral.

*What would you tell someone who is thinking about becoming an IT security professional?*

I think they're going to be employed! I really don't think that's market has been really tapped yet by IT professionals. Their just aren't enough true security professionals out there. Everyone needs training. I think some people are in a role because they need someone to do it but a lot of them have not had formal training - lot of survival mode learning under fire, so to speak. If you are serious about security you have to be trained in a lot of areas and have a lot of knowledge. If you are serious you can be really successful!

There's a lot more training needed and SCP is a great part of that requirement.

*What do you like most about the SCP courses?*

Probably I think one of the things I enjoyed greatly was watching Warren Peterson, president of SCP, teach this course. He's really teaching, and showing and demonstrating. Even his lectures involved a lot of hands-on examples. He really showed you everything. It was very thorough and detailed.

With SCP training, like Mentored Learning, I think one of the things I appreciated the most was there was no fluff. My time was not wasted in this class and that's not how it always is. From the very first lesson, it was intense. You had all the hands-on presentation, and then you have a lot of labs to solidify what was just presented. Plus the exposure to multiple operating systems is great because when you walk into a real environment, there are usually multiple operating systems and a lot of challenges. I feel if you really practice the labs, and truly comprehend all the reading in the official SCP courseware, it will be difficult to fail.

The Security Certified Program was so enjoyable that I decided to complete the entire SCP track to advance my security knowledge.