Computer security conference scheduled

Computer technology has brought about vast improvements for the financial industry. Transactions move from coast to coast at the speed of light. But these improvements also have brought a new level of data security concerns. The value of the information and the number of transactions that occur electronically at nearly every financial institution have increased dramatically. Within the Eleventh District alone, over $31 billion is transferred every day.

On April 29 and 30 the Dallas Fed is hosting a conference that deals specifically with computer security issues. Designed exclusively for Eleventh District financial institutions, the conference will cover computer security concerns and appropriate steps to take to secure electronic information.

The conference will feature recognized speakers from the computer industry as well as specialists on white collar crime and management solutions to the problem. In addition, there will be a discussion on the Dallas Fed's plans for improving the security of electronic information and how these plans will affect financial institutions in this District.

The conference will be held at the Dallas Hyatt Regency and begins at 1:00 p.m. on April 29 and ends at 1:45 p.m. on April 30. A $50 registration fee covers all conference materials, coffee breaks, an evening reception, and breakfast and lunch on April 30. For a conference brochure, please contact Dick Ingram at (214) 651-6212.

Just the facts

What: Computer Security Conference for Financial Institutions
When: April 29-30
Where: Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dallas
Who: Anyone concerned with electronic information security at Eleventh District Financial Institutions
Cost: $50
Fed provides free public services

To promote a better understanding of central bank operations, monetary and economic problems and the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and its branches offer various informational services to the public as well as financial institutions in the Eleventh District.

The Public Affairs Department currently houses bulletins, regulations and circulars pertaining to banking functions, operations and announcements. Any financial institution which will soon be opening or has recently opened should contact the Public Affairs Department at (214) 651-6289 for a binder set of regulations and bulletins if it has not done so already.

In addition to these publications, the department houses pamphlets on such topics as “Coins and Currency,” “Fundamental Facts About U.S. Money,” “Consumer Handbook on Adjustable Rate Mortgages,” “Selected Interest Rates,” “Buying Government Securities at Federal Reserve Banks,” and many more.

The Bank also loans films out to high schools, colleges and financial institutions. Films in the current library include “Money: Summing It Up,” “The Fed...Our Central Bank,” “Economic Stability: The Quest and the Question,” “24 Hours in the Life of a Check,” and various others.

For a list of all pamphlets and films available, call the Public Affairs Department (214) 651-6289 or toll-free 1-800-442-7140, ext. 6289 (intrastate), or 1-800-527-9208, ext. 6289 (out of Texas). A public information directory is available for the entire system as well.

For financial institutions only, the Bank also has a counterfeit currency exhibit which is available for presentations or bank openings/anniversaries. It must be kept in a vault overnight and is ordinarily dispatched and returned via institutions’ designated armored courier. To inquire about the counterfeit currency exhibit, call (214) 651-6288.

Tours of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and its branches are also available to high school seniors, college students, and financial institution personnel.

At the Dallas Office, the tour group should consist of at least six persons, but no more than 30. Tours feature a film describing the functions of the Bank as well as a brief walk-through of the lobby, cash, securities and checks areas of the Bank. Tours can be arranged at the Dallas site on Wednesdays or Fridays. For more information on tours at the Dallas Fed, call Kim Ernst, public affairs representative, at (214) 651-6267.

For tour information at the branches, call the following numbers: El Paso, (915) 544-4730; Houston, (713) 659-4433; and San Antonio, (512) 224-2141.

The Public Affairs Department also provides announcement of interest rates for the three- and six-month and one-year Treasury bills which are auctioned regularly. The recorded message is updated on late Monday afternoons. The recording also quotes the discount rate and Treasury indices on the one-, three- and five-year constant maturity rates which are a popular index in calculating some adjustable rate mortgages. The telephone number for the recorded message is (214) 651-6177 or metro 263-1093. The toll-free Texas watts number is 1-800-442-7390 and the toll-free out-of-state watts number is 1-800-527-9208.

Individuals and institutions contemplating the purchase of an original issue Treasury note or bond may learn of future offerings as they are scheduled by the Treasury. A separate recorded message delivers this information and can be accessed at (214) 651-6384 or by using the last four digits of that number as an extension after reaching the toll-free numbers listed above.

National Consumers Week announced

“Consumers Rate Quality” is the theme of National Consumers Week, April 20-26, as proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan. This year, Consumers Week will recognize and promote the vital role of consumers in our free enterprise system as well as consumer activities and programs.

The goal of the week is to help consumers learn about how the marketplace functions and how their financial decisions affect our economy and their economic well-being.
Koonce appointed to subcommittee

Joel L. Koonce, Jr., vice president in charge of the El Paso Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, was recently appointed to the Subcommittee on Securities and Fiscal Services.

The subcommittee, which consists of six Federal Reserve officers and one staff member from the Board of Governors, looks into areas of current security and fiscal related services which are provided throughout the System to financial institutions and the Treasury.

“We also look at the possibility of future services which would provide financial institutions, as well as the (U.S.) Treasury, with products that are cost effective and beneficial to those using the service,” says Koonce.

Subcommittee members meet approximately four times per year, with meeting places rotated between Federal Reserve Banks and the Board of Governors.

Recommendations from the subcommittee go to the Committee on Securities and Fiscal Services which is composed of Reserve Bank first vice presidents.

Koonce has been with the Federal Reserve of Dallas for 26 years. He started his career at the San Antonio Branch in July 1959, where he worked in all departments of the branch. In July 1972, he was transferred to the El Paso Branch as an operations officer and six years later was appointed vice president in-charge.

Minorities to be honored

Honoring contributions of the nation’s minority business enterprises, President Ronald Reagan has proclaimed October 5–11 as Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week this year.

Recently, a pre-MED week planning meeting was held at the Dallas Fed when a delegation of MED steering committee members and members of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) were welcomed by President Robert H. Boykin, Andrew W. Hogwood, Jr., assistant vice president, and Michon W. Fulgham, community affairs representative.

The MBDA is a program under the U.S. Department of Commerce. It was established to increase awareness that minority enterprises form a significant proportion of all the nation’s businesses. Also, it recognizes the talents, insights and hard work that minority Americans are adding to our nation’s technological prowess by offering new solutions for important problems and creating jobs in many industries.

Since the Fed is interested in promoting increased awareness within the District in regard to minority businesses and entrepreneurs, it will be assisting the regional MED committee with some local events recognizing minority businesses in September and October.

A detailed list of those events will appear in a later issue of *Roundup*. 
Consumer Advisory Council members selected

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System recently appointed 12 new members to its Consumer Advisory Council to replace members whose terms had expired or who resigned. In addition, the Board also designated a new chairman and vice chairman of the council.

The council advises the Board in the field of consumer financial protection laws and other consumer-related matters. It meets several times a year in sessions open to the public. Its 30 members come from all parts of the country and include a broad representation of consumer and financial industry interests.

Margaret M. Murphy was named chairman. Murphy is associate professor and director of the Columbia Center at John Hopkins University, Columbia, Maryland. Her term runs through December 1986.

Lawrence S. Okinaga was named vice chairman. Okinaga is a partner with the law firm of Carlsmith, Carlsmith, Wichman and Case in Honolulu. His term runs through December 1986, also.

The 12 new members, named for three-year terms which began Jan. 1, 1986 are:

- Edwin B. Brooks, president of Security Federal Savings and Loan Association, Richmond, Virginia,
- Michael S. Cassidy, senior vice president at Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, New York,
- Neil J. Fogarty, president of the Consumers League of New Jersey, Jersey City, New Jersey,
- Kenneth A. Hall, president of Great Southern National Bank of Jackson, Jackson, Mississippi,
- Steven W. Hamm, administrator for the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, Columbia, South Carolina,
- Robert J. Hobbs, consulting attorney for legal services for National Consumer Law Center, Boston, Massachusetts,
- Robert W. Johnson, director of the Credit Research Center at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana,
- John M. Kolesar, president of Ameritrust Development Bank, Cleveland, Ohio,
- Alan B. Lerner, senior executive vice president for Associates Corporation of North America and member of the Texas Finance Commission, Dallas, Texas,
- Sandra R. Parker, community organizer and principal of the John F. Kennedy Building of Armstrong-Kennedy High School, Richmond, Virginia,
- Jane Shull, director of the Institute for the Study of Civic Values, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
- Edward J. Williams, senior vice president of Harris Trust and Savings Bank, Chicago, Illinois.