



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Neill Edwards
202-482-7473
neill.edwards@ciao.gov

National Cyber Security Alliance Asks Consumers to “Fall Back”

WASHINGTON, DC – October 24, 2002 – As Americans move back their clocks on October 27, 2002, the National Cyber Security Alliance (the Alliance) asks consumers to use the day as a reminder to assess their computer safety. To educate home computer users and to make computer safety a regular part of home computer practices, the Alliance applauds those in industry and government for encouraging consumers to conduct checks of their computer security.

By taking simple precautions like using virus protection software daily, consumers aid in our nation’s homeland defense. Computer security needs to be a regular part of consideration when protecting a home. Just as consumers remember to lock their doors, they also need to remember to secure their computers.

“Homeland security begins at home. In this digital age, home computer users need to routinely check computer safety, as they do their smoke detectors and brakes on their car. Everyone needs to do their part,” said Richard Clarke, Special Advisor to the President on Cyberspace Security.

The Alliance, a unique partnership between the federal government and leading private sector companies, continues to gain momentum. The Alliance’s Stay Safe Online Campaign Web site, www.staysafeonline.info, has received over 5 million hits since its launch eight months ago.

The Federal Trade Commission, also an Alliance member, recently unveiled its Cyber Security spoketurtle “Dewie,” and Web site at www.ftc.gov/infosecurity. The site gives online safety tips for kids, adults, and businesses for securing their computers against hackers and viruses and provides details on how to become a member of “Team Dewie.”

Other highlighted Alliance member activities for National Cyber Security Day include:

- Symantec’s “Symantec Security Check” at www.symantec.com/securitycheck
- America Online’s educational instant messaging robot “AOLSafetyBot” at www.safetyclicks.com
- SECNAP Network Security’s services at www.secnap.com/Support.html
- TechGuard Security’s outreach to consumers at www.techguardsecurity.com

About the National Cyber Security Alliance:

The National Cyber Security Alliance is a cooperative effort between industry and government organizations to foster awareness of cyber security through educational outreach and public awareness. For more information on the Alliance or the Stay Safe Online Campaign, please call Neill Edwards at 202-482-7473, or visit our Web site at <http://www.staysafeonline.info>.

###