General Chairman's Message

Having been a part of all the previous symposia, I am happy to introduce this one. The Program Chairpersons Bob Blakely and Dorothy Denning have done a superb job in recruiting and cajoling the community to make possible a splendid program. Thanks to them and their program committee. Again Jim Runyan has done an outstanding job of organizing everything, and deserves our appreciation. All of these people have devoted considerable effort and time to jobs that are extremely valuable to the community at large.

Attendance continues to grow rapidly each year, and this year the number of attendees is expected to exceed 200 -- up dramatically from several years ago. However, popularity presents problems, such as preserving the intimacy found in the earlier symposia, but also adjusting the breadth and depth of the symposium to meet new needs of an advancing field.

It is vital to maintain the effectiveness of the symposium as a truly working environment for the exploration and development of ideas. We continue to avoid parallel sessions, believing in the value of a program that is of sufficiently broad interest to everyone, that can challenge each attendee, and that can encourage a synthesis of diverse views. We will continue to look for mechanisms to increase our consciousness of the issues and awareness of the importance of computer security on a broader basis. In order to continue providing a forum for the open discussion of ideas, we continue to include panel discussions and informal interactions.

There has been a continual and significant broadening of the scope of this symposium, which spans crypto and high-tech computer security, databases, systems, and networks. This year's program also reflects an increased awareness of security problems in the commercial sector. At last year's symposium there was only one active attendee from the commercial sector. This year there is a panel session on the commercial view of data security, recognizing the existence of somewhat different but also highly demanding needs for sound and secure systems. Since these needs are not adequately covered by existing R&D funding, it is important for the security and privacy community to understand the commercial world's problems.

Marv Schaefer
General Chairman