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FINANCIAL SERVICES
R O U N D T A B L E

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Contact:

Cheryl Charles
BITS
cheryl@fsround.org
202-589-2444

BITS RELEASES NEW TOOLKIT FOR PROTECTING SENSITIVE DATA
Announcing a New Educational Publication for Use by Financial Institutions

Washington, D.C. April 19, 2006 — The BITS Security and Risk Assessment Steering Committee today released a new toolkit to help prevent breaches of data security. The *BITS Key Considerations for Securing Data in Storage and Transport: Securing Physical Media in Storage, Transport, and for Data Erasure and Destruction* was endorsed by the BITS Committee and Board of Directors of The Financial Services Roundtable at their meeting annual meeting in Phoenix. This publication is a powerful new tool to assist financial institutions in their efforts to safeguard sensitive data.

“This new BITS tool is another outstanding example of BITS’ ability to move nimbly, culling successful approaches to tackling difficult problems, with the result being increased consumer protections. This work serves the financial services industry and its customers, and is another important facet of our efforts to maintain the nation’s critical financial services infrastructure,” said William A. Osborn, BITS Committee Chairman, and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Northern Trust Corporation.

“Many data breaches reported in recent headlines are the result of loss of data in transport. This new tool helps financial institutions of all sizes apply the thinking of some of the best and the brightest in the industry to assure that every link in the life cycle of data is positioned to resist security breaches,” said Catherine A. Allen, CEO of BITS, the business and technology division of The Financial Services Roundtable. “We are particularly interested in having the vendor community, provider of some of these data transport services, more fully understand the risks and requirements for assuring data security.”

This *BITS Considerations for Securing Data in Storage and Transport* toolkit provides financial institutions with a framework to evaluate the risks associated with the transport and storage of physical media and the destruction or erasure of data on various media and complements individual institutions' risk assessment and risk management policies. The framework is intended to address transport and storage of information for the purposes of archiving, processing, regulatory reporting, backup and recovery, and customer requirements. It recommends policies, inventory management, categorizing and prioritizing risks, third party service provider considerations, security controls and limitations, and evaluation of residual risks.

“While financial institutions have robust procedures for handling media that contains sensitive information, each financial institution will apply this framework differently to fit its unique needs. Procedures and controls that may be useful to an institution in some circumstances may not be applicable in others. Specific risk thresholds must be determined by individual institutions in light of the totality of their circumstances, including the sensitivity and volume of the data, the intended disposition, and various other considerations,” said Eric Guerrino, Head of Information Security at The Bank of New York.

About BITS

BITS was created in 1996 to foster the growth and development of electronic financial services and e-commerce for the benefit of financial institutions and their customers. A nonprofit industry consortium that shares membership with The Financial Services Roundtable, BITS seeks to sustain consumer confidence and trust by ensuring the security, privacy and integrity of financial transactions. BITS works as a strategic brain trust to provide intellectual capital and address emerging issues where financial services, technology and commerce intersect, acting quickly to address problems and galvanize the industry. BITS' activities are driven by the CEOs and their appointees—CIOs, CTOs, Vice Chairmen and Executive Vice Presidents—who make up the BITS Advisory Board and BITS Advisory Council. For more information, go to www.bitsinfo.org.

About The Financial Services Roundtable

The Financial Services Roundtable represents 100 of the largest integrated financial services companies providing banking, insurance, and investment products and services to the American consumer. Member companies participate through the Chief Executive Officer and other senior executives nominated by the CEO. Roundtable member companies provide fuel for America's economic engine, accounting directly for \$50.5 trillion in managed assets, \$1.1 trillion in revenue, and 2.4 million jobs.

Contact

Cheryl Charles, 202-589-2444 or cheryl@fsround.org