



New York Tests Xbox-Based Alert System

Written by: Paul McDougall, Information Week

Gamers are used to confronting invading terrorists, nuclear attacks, and natural calamities—in virtual form. But those living in New York State could soon receive warnings about real emergencies through their favorite video console.

State authorities are testing a plan that would see the Emergency Management Office issue alerts over online gaming networks in addition to regular channels.

The goal, said New York State Deputy CIO Rico Singleton, is to reach younger residents who spend more time on the Xbox, PlayStation, or Wii than with television or radio.

Singleton, speaking Thursday at the Interop technology conference in New York City, said the plan makes sense, "considering the amount of time our youth spend on video games."

Microsoft (NSDQ: MSFT), Sony (NYSE: SNE), and Nintendo operate online networks that allow players to compete against each other over the Internet. Under the state's plan, authorities would tap those networks to broadcast warnings about natural or man-made disasters.

Singleton had few details, but confirmed that the plan is in the testing phase.

It's one of many technology initiatives New York State has launched under a program called Empire 2.0. The goal is to make the state's government more "transparent, participatory, and collaborative," said Singleton.

Under Empire 2.0, the Department of Mental Health is monitoring some Facebook posts in an effort to spot suicidal behavior, the Office of Homeland Security is using Second Life to train 700,000 first responders, and senior members of the state CIO's office are using Twitter to disseminate information about technology initiatives to the public.

Additionally, 15,000 of New York State's 190,000 employees have joined Linked In to improve intra-agency communication, while the Senate is publishing bills on a wiki-style blog so that members of the public can mark up proposed legislation. Empire 2.0 also includes many other collaborative projects.

Web 2.0 "is the world we're beginning to live in," said Singleton. "We should be part of the movement," he said.

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USA Student Region

A message from the President

Nancy Harris

What a year it has been and what a year it will be – with your help of course. Over the past year the IAEM-USA Student Region has grown. New chapters have been added, new programs launched and a record number of students attended the 57th Annual IAEM conference in November. I want to begin by saying Thank You to Brian Silva, Paul Gorczyca, Christian Lanphere and Eric Sawyer. The projects and programs this group created and carried out have increased our numbers and ensured that the student perspective is considered in nearly everything the IAEM does.

This past year saw the launch of the AEM/CEM mentorship program. Several conference calls were held to help guide students through the process. More than 25 students participated with several completing the application process. Congratulations to all who completed the program and received their AEM or CEM. I hope to soon follow in your footsteps as I begin the AEM process.

In October, Capella University became our newest chapter and Savannah State University is nearly official. A number of schools have begun the process of starting a chapter. If your school does not have a chapter, consider starting one. Whether you attend a traditional, an online, or hybrid program a chapter provides you and your fellow students an opportunity to meet, to learn and to share.

Our online presence through Facebook and YouTube has provided students with opportunities to talk and learn. The Kansas City EOC tour is available through YouTube and the Facebook

group has well over 300 members with new members joining almost every day.

Attending the 57th Annual conference in Orlando in November was such a wonderful experience. This year saw 170 students in attendance – the highest number of student attendees ever. Students had many opportunities to network with potential employers, IAEM members and fellow students. Workshops were held on the AEM/CEM process, resume reviews and mock interviews were held. A session was held the first day on what employers wish applicants knew or had done before applying. Students learned what to do beyond wearing the right clothes. Many students took advantage of the volunteer opportunities.

FEMA's new Deputy Administrator, Richard Serino spoke to students at the Future Leaders in Emergency Management reception.

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THE RESPONDER

NEWS OF THE IAEM-STUDENT COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS

December 2009
Volume 2 Issue 11

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Both the AEM/CEM session and the "What I Wish New Emergency Managers Had Before I Hired Them" were recorded. We hope to have those available shortly.

Being involved with the IAEM-USA Student Region has been such a wonderful experience. The opportunities to learn and share with fellow students have only served to make my experience as a student all the better. I am honored and excited to serve as your new President and I invite you to join me and the other members of the Student Region board in this great adventure.

We want to hear from you. We want to know what we can do to help you reach your goals. Get involved. Join a committee. Share your ideas with us.

YOU are the IAEM-USA Student region.
Nancy Harris

Chapter News

American Public University System / American Military University (APUS / AMU)

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Fugate speaks to AMU/APU's EDM Students

On November 18, 2009, the IAEM/IEMSA Student Chapter of the American Military University (AMU), was greatly honored to host a question and answer session with **FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate**.

This was the inaugural speaking event of the 2009-2010 'Masters of Disasters'-- AMU 2009-2010 Guest Speaker Series. The purpose of this speaking

series is to expose EDM students to the teachings and experiences of eminent members from the field of emergency and disaster management and allow for an interactive opportunity.

Questions were submitted by the IEMSA Student Chapter membership of AMU and a set of twelve were eventually chosen by the Chapter Executive and approved by Faculty Advisors to be posed to Administrator Fugate. The selected questions reflected a cross-section of the various current issues and trends in the field of EDM. They are all of particular interest to students.

Welcoming words and introductions were provided by AMU's EDM/Fire Management/Homeland Security Programs Director Professor Chris Reynold's and Provost Dr. Frank McClusky. Student Chapter President Dorian Young then proceeded to read each question to Administrator Fugate prefaced by some salient details of the respective student originator thereof (i.e. name, EDM program, occupation and location). Administrator Fugate provided full, interesting and insightful responses which were appreciated by one and all.

This event was recorded with the kind permission of Administrator Fugate for future public dissemination. We now have the pleasure of inviting you to listen to this important session by going online to the following link:

www.kador.com/modfugate.mp3

If you are in the field of EDM, you will not want to miss listening to Administrator Fugate field the many challenging and pertinent questions put to him.

An excellent background profile of FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate is available at www.kador.com/modfugatebio.doc

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A commemorative poster is also available for this event and can be downloaded at: www.kador.com/modfugateposter.pdf

Please be advised that the 2009-2010 'Masters of Disasters'-- AMU/APU 2009-2010 Guest Speaker Series resumes with Professor Emeritus Joseph Scanlon speaking at AMU in January 2010 (date TBA) and Professor Emeritus Thomas Drabek speaking on February 4th, 2010. The AMU IEMSA Student Chapter is pleased and honored to host such eminent personages speaking to its EDM student body. Further publicity for these events will be forthcoming. They will also be recorded and publicly disseminated afterwards (by kind agreement of the speakers).

We hope you enjoy listening to the AMU/APU IEMSA Student Chapter's 2009-2010 Master of Disaster Guest Speaker series.

Dorian M. Young



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The EADP students at the University of North Texas have had a very fruitful fall 2009 semester. Last month approximately 20 students from UNT attended the annual IAEM conference in Orlando, Florida. While there, we held an alumni dinner for EADP program graduates, where our students could network and make personal connections as well as enjoy some tasty food. Many of our students are already looking forward to

next years' conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Recent elections for the open positions of president and treasurer along with the secretary's position due to a resignation have now been filled. Our new officers for next year are: Lauren Simmers - President, Elliott Reep - Treasurer, and John Stradal - Secretary, effective immediately.



At our November 12th meeting, we hosted Summer Wilhelm, an alumni of the EADP program and the Emergency Manager of Lewisville, Texas. She led a very informal discussion like presentation on getting into the field, how to best take advantage of an internship and other opportunities.

On Thursday December 3rd, we are holding our last meeting of the semester and hosting our keynote speaker Rick Laskey. Chief Laskey is the with the Lewisville, Texas Fire department and we are looking forward to his valuable insight from his 25+ years of experience and his extensive speaking background.

IAEM-SC of UNT is looking forward to kicking off another semester beginning with our first meeting on the 27th of January, 2010.

Warm and festive wishes from UNT IAEM-SC!

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Individuals, student chapters, regions and allied organizations are invited to submit articles, events, training opportunities and news. Submissions are due by the 24th of each month.