

FISSEA Security Awareness, Training, & Education Contest

Title of Entry:

The Adventures of Dash Dawson – Danger in the Data Zone

Type of Entry: Motivational Item (DVD)

Name of Submitter: Terri Cinnamon

Organization:

Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Information Technology Workforce Development

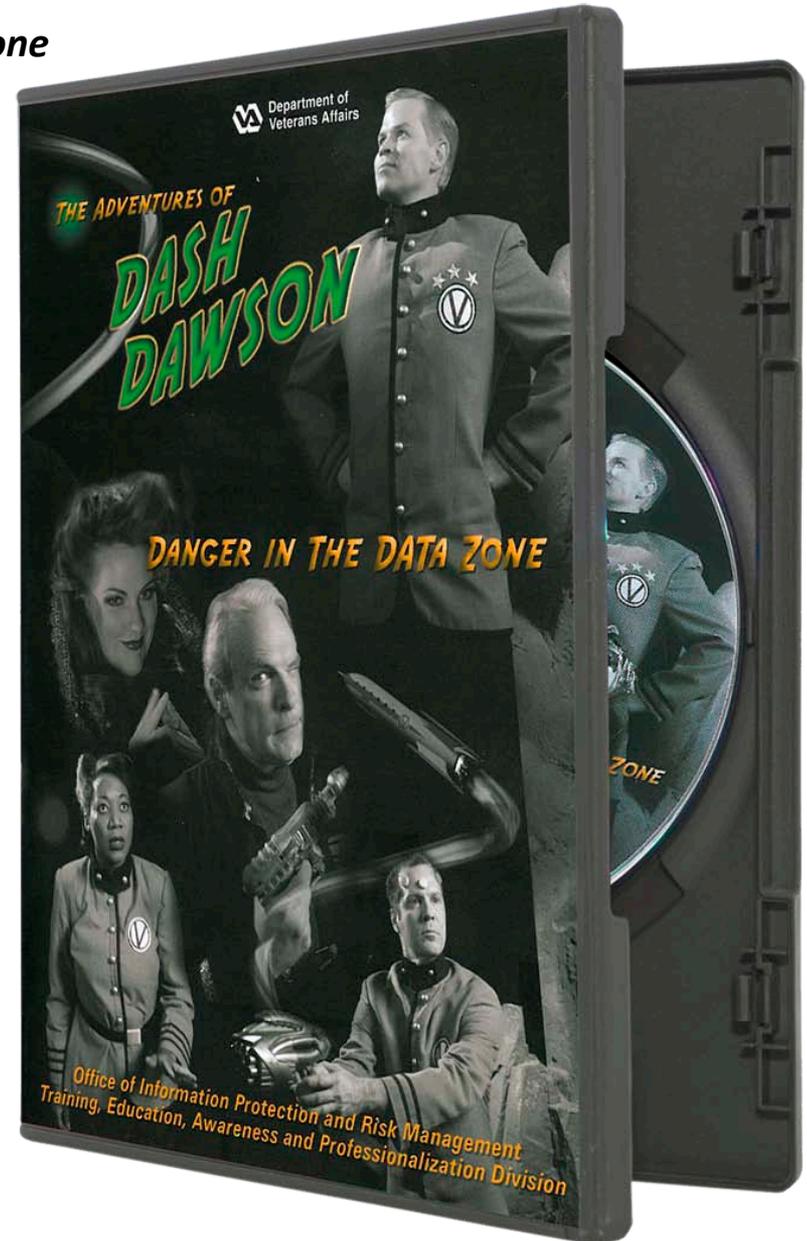
Description of Entry:

The Adventures of Dash Dawson – Danger in the Data Zone is a 25 minute DVD that is used as a motivational give-away to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Information Security Officers and others as deemed appropriate.

It is an entertaining, tongue-in-cheek send-up of the 1930s Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers movie serials with a bit of Star Trek thrown in.

Using the power of storytelling, the video is designed to provide awareness and focus attention on information security best practices, with the intention to prepare individuals to recognize IT security concerns and respond accordingly.

It is designed for all users of VA information and VA information systems. It can be used as a stand-alone tool, or to meet the VA's annual information security training requirement when used as part of an organized presentation led by a local VA ISO.



V-Fleet Cadet Dash Dawson Becomes an ISO



The story opens as V-Fleet Cadet Dash Dawson returns to the Spaceship Galahad after successfully completing his Information Security Officer exams where he is greeted by fellow crew Naomi Waters and Lieutenant Bolt.

He immediately learns that they will be sent on an important mission in the Data Zone to combat the evil Empress Luxor, who wants to steal “every scrap of information of every man, woman, and child on earth so she can use that data against us.”

Their orders are to patrol the Data Zone and keep it safe from attack. It’s the most dangerous mission in V-Fleet. “The ISO Library at the Academy has thousands of incident reports from there,” according to ISO Dawson.

Admiral Alten is Awakened from Hibernation to Lead the V-Fleet Mission into the Data Zone



As Planet Earth's best hope, Admiral Thomas Alten is awakened from hibernation to lead the mission. Due to his 200-year sleep, the Admiral has much to catch up on when it comes to information security best practices.

To do battle with the evil Empress, the V-Fleet crew and their spaceship must be miniaturized so they can travel to the Data Zone in micro-space where what looks like constellations of stars are really clusters of data that contain defense, benefits, wellness, financial and other important personal and organizational information that must remain secure and confidential at all costs.

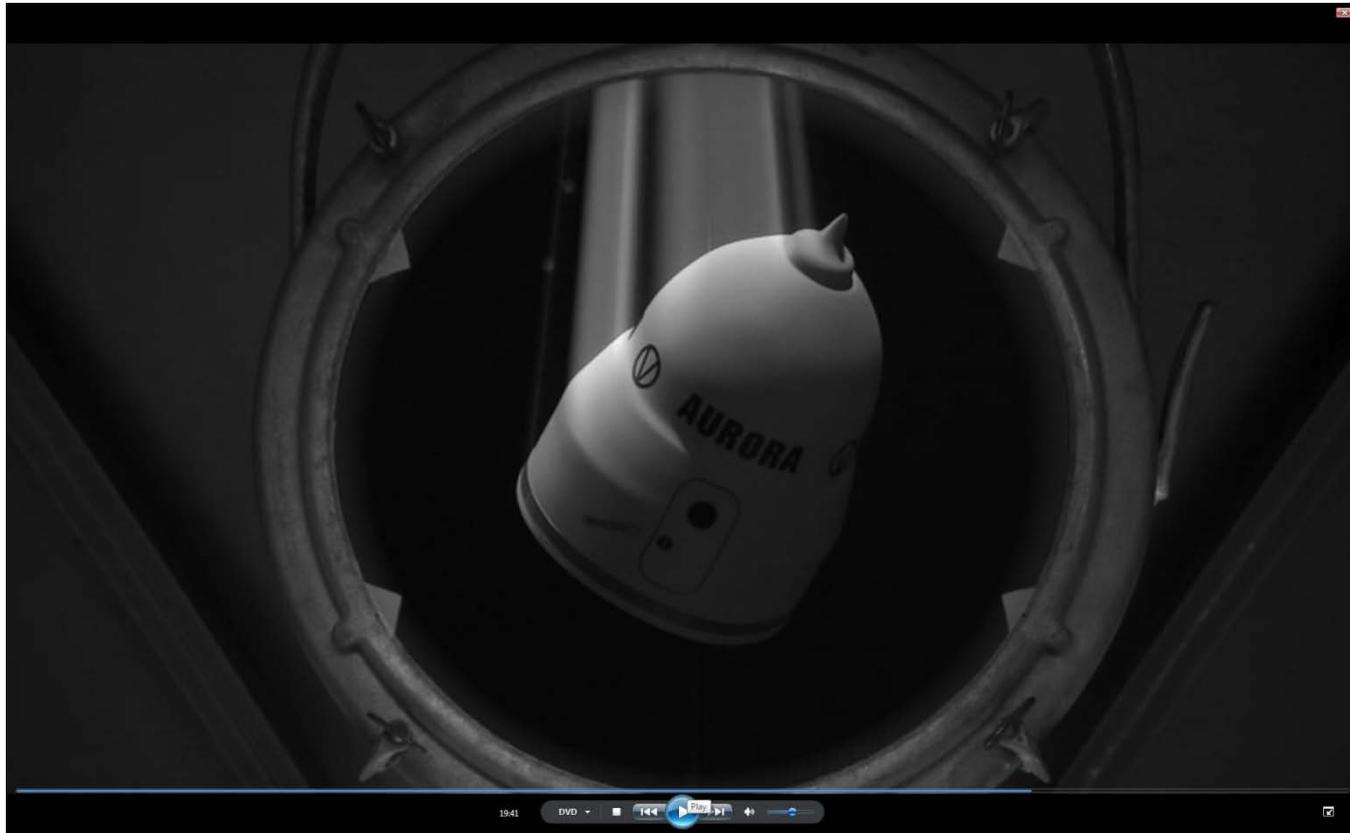
The Admiral Fails to Access the Ship's Computer with an Antiquated Password. ISO Dawson Fixes the Problem



To activate the miniaturization process, the Admiral tries to access the ship's computer system. He speaks his old password, Cedarway, which is the name of the street on which he grew up. He wonders why it didn't work.

"ISO training specifies a couple of important things," Dawson explains. "First, V-Fleet officers must never speak their password out loud, in case it's overheard. That protects confidentiality. Empress Luxor is always eavesdropping on our systems – one of her signature plays. And second, your old password isn't secure enough." Dawson creates a password for the Admiral and explains it must use upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters.

A Rescue Mission Underway, or Trojan Horse Attack



While in the Data Zone, spaceship Galahad receives a mayday signal and sees an escape capsule that appears to have come from the spaceship Aurora, which was reported as having been attacked and all hands lost. ISO Dawson suspects a ruse and fears they are under attack. He believes a social engineering ploy using normal rules of social behavior is being used to try to elicit confidential information. He also suspects some sort of Trojan Horse attack in which the capsule could be contaminated with some sort of virus. The Admiral, wanting to do whatever possible to rescue V-Fleet crew, orders the use of a retrieval beam to rescue those on board the escape capsule.

Evil Empress Luxor Taunts V-Fleet with a Stolen Data Key



Dawson was right. The distress call was a ruse. The Empress Luxor appears on the Galahad's monitor and taunts the Admiral and his crew, showing an old data key from the Aurora that was not encrypted. ISO Dawson explains that at one time, basic unencrypted data keys were allowed. But that practice was ended out of concern of them being lost or stolen. Now, only encrypted data keys issued by V-Fleet Command can be used.

Galahad's Crew Fight a Trojan Horse Attack by the Mirror Men



And, as it turns out, what the Admiral thought was a legitimate rescue of V-Fleet crew, was in fact a Trojan Horse attack. As a result, Empress Luxor's evil Mirror Men are able to invade the main deck of the Galahad. A battle ensues.

The Admiral Declares Victory Over the Evil Empress



The Admiral and his crew defeat the Mirror Men. “You don’t think you’ve won,” shouts an angered Empress.

“We’ve stopped you for now,” the Admiral says. “And if all the officers of V-Fleet stay on their toes, we can keep stopping you for as long as you’re foolish enough to test us!”

Galahad Returns Home with Important Lessons Learned



“And so, as Dash and his crewmates prepare to head home after another day of keeping the Data Zone safe,” the narrator, in a dramatic voice, reminds viewers to “remember these important tactical tips ...”

- Make sure you know your ISO and report any incident at once
- Protect the confidentiality of everyone in the Data Zone
- Don't use your V-Fleet equipment for unauthorized purposes
- Keep you equipment secure and make sure your portable information processor stays safe
- Remember to use strong passwords and don't share them with anyone
- Beware of social engineering – Don't bring strange items on board. You never know what they might contain
- Always follow the promises made in your V-Fleet Rules of Behavior Pledge

“Good luck and may all your data stay safe”

