

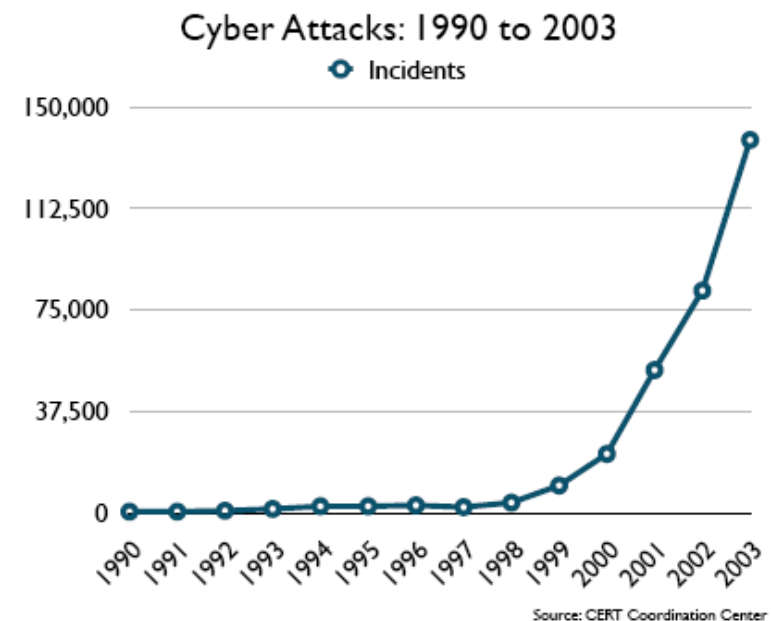


# Issue: Cyber Security R&D Funding

**Position:** The 2002 Cyber Security Research and Development act (P.L. 107-305) authorized nearly \$900 million in long-term cyber security R&D at the National Science Foundation and National Institute of Standards and Technology. CRA remains concerned that the President's current budget request continues to underfund this critical area of research at both NSF and NIST, as well as at the Department of Homeland Security.

Information technology systems underpin key industries such as telecommunications and financial services, and also play a vital role in the smooth functioning of critical infrastructures and services, such as transportation systems, the electric power grid, and emergency response capabilities.

- Out of a science and technology budget of over \$1.3 billion in FY 2006, the Department of Homeland Security targeted only \$17 million on cyber security R&D, a decrease of \$1 million from FY 2005 despite an increase of about \$300 million in the overall science and technology budget.
- CRA is pleased with the increases to NIST's FY 2007 appropriations as included in the American Competitiveness Initiative including a \$2 million dollar increase in NIST's cyber security efforts.
- NSF's Cyber Trust effort represents the only significant long-term, unrestricted cyber security research program, and consequently, the only major effort that enjoys significant academic participation. Given the critical need for long-term cyber security research, we agree with the President's IT Advisory Committee's conclusion that the agency is worrisomely underfunded relative to its importance in driving innovation in the field.
- While it is important that DHS efforts to improve US cyber security in the short term focus on technologies with very short time-to-deployments, we feel it is in the long-range interest of the US to allow DHS to focus some effort on fundamental long-term cyber security R&D.



**“As a nation, we are not focusing sufficiently on this very real threat.”**

-Dr. Rita Colwell, former Director, NSF