SECURITY UPDATE

Andy Smith FBCS CITP provides an update on the Security Community of Expertise (SCoE).

2014 got off to a good start with the SCoE being involved in a number of activities, including publishing position papers, representing BCS in various forums and speaking at the UK Internet Governance Forum and InfoSec 2014.

Dr Louise Bennett and I ran a workshop at InfoSec, in London, covering professionalising the security industry.

This workshop looked at the options available to support people throughout their career in information security, covering both academic and professional options and professional memberships. The workshop received very positive feedback and the SCoE intends to build on this with other presentations throughout the year.

This workshop ties in with BCS's implementation of the CESG Certified Professional (CCP) scheme as part of helping improve the professionalisation of the IT security industry.

BCS now has a number of courses available in this area too, details of which can be found on the website at: **www.bcs.org/quals.**

The UK-IGF was held in London in July and Louise chaired a panel on CyberSecurity, looking at prevention and detection of online crime and the balance between human rights and law enforcement capabilities.

The panel consisted of Professor Ian Brown from the Oxford Internet Institute, Christian de Larrinaga from the Internet Society and myself. This was quite a lively debate with active audience participation.

The slides and workshop notes are available on the website at: **http://policy.bcs.org/content/reports-research-papers-and-presentations.**

The main area of activity has again been identity assurance. This topic continues to be a key area in which BCS membership have taken specific interest and it looks like it will remain a high profile topic for a while to come.

The yearbooks and more information about the work in this area are available at **www.bcs.org/identity.** Our thinking is now moving towards the balance between

anonymity and security, but various other aspects such as assured online registration and preventing identity theft are still key areas of work.

The only conclusion so far is that there are no simple answers. If you have any thoughts in this area, please share them with us: **identity@bcs.org.**

Following on from this Louise will be at the United Nations Internet Governance Forum in Istanbul in September representing BCS, along with Nominet and representatives of the UK government. UN-IGF once again looks to be an important international forum in which BCS should continue to engage. Details of IGF are here: **www.intgovforum.org/cms**

Cloud computing and virtualisation continue to become key topics for BCS and therefore of interest to the security community. SCoE has been involved in a number of forums and debates in this area, including engaging with the UK government about the security implications

of using cloud services.

It is rewarding that BCS is regarded as an expert advisory group and our input is sought on such topics. If you would like to contribute, all of the current consultation papers are on the website at: http://policy.bcs.org/consultations.

The Security Top Tips have again been updated: www.bcs.org/security/toptips.

This provides a number of useful hints and tips in various areas of IT security and is worth a look. It is especially useful for BCS members helping friends and family with advice on internet security.

Please use this resource and point people worried about online risks to the advice here. BCS is also contributing to Get Safe Online that provides excellent advice and guidance.

SCoE members are presenting on this topic at the Cyber Growth Partnership in Worcester and the Malvern Cyber Festival among other venues.

Get Safe Online is another useful resource when you are called upon to help friends and family venture online. It can be found here:

www.getsafeonline.org.

Various members of the SCoE have been talking at schools across the country about online security and using computers and the internet safely. More mentors and speakers are required and if you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

The Internet of Things (IoT) working group has been busy and this is another area where BCS involvement with IGF is proving beneficial.

You will find updates and a very good report on the societal impact of IoT on the website: www.bcs.org/scoe/internetofthings.

Near field communication is rapidly expanding, especially with smart devices. Many smartphones and associated devices are now using NFC to set up wireless communications.

The NFC position paper will be published on the website shortly. NFC is also becoming a favoured communication channel for internet of things, including watches, fridges and other domestic appliances.

The security implications of NFC are profound and the SCoE will continue to

contribute to this ever more complex area, that will impact all our lives.

This includes the associated areas such as Bluetooth, 4G and pervasive Wi-Fi. It is hoped that this work will be expanded later in 2014.

We have a lot planned for the rest of the year, with the presentations at IGF, EEMA and other events and workshops.

The SCoE will continue to represent the BCS membership on ISO panels, Digital Policy Alliance (http://dpalliance.org.uk) working groups and responding to consultations.

There are also a number of workshops planned in the London office and regional events, to which you are warmly welcome.

If you have time to contribute and help make a difference there are lots of things to get involved in. Details are on the website and provided in the various email updates.

www.bcs.org/security