

## Security Community of Expertise update Autumn 2013

**Andy Smith MSc FBCS CEng CITP FSyI CSyP**

The BCS remains actively involved in Information Security, this update covers two key areas. The first is general Information Security, Information Assurance and ICT Security, the other is professionalisation of the Information and ICT Security industry.

The subject of Security is generally handled by the Security Community of Expertise (SCoE) and its various sub-groups, and is one of the specialist committees within the BCS (<http://policy.bcs.org/content/security-community-expertise-1>).

Over the last few months since the previous update, the SCoE has been busy on behalf of the BCS talking at various conferences including InfoSec Europe and representing the BCS on various national and international bodies. We have also been busy writing position papers and providing feedback on various legislative proposals.

Our latest report on Aspects of Identity which covers the work of the Identity Assurance Working Group (IAWG) for 2012/13 has been published and is available for download on the website at: <http://policy.bcs.org/content/identity-assurance-working-group>.

Starting with conferences, the BCS held a workshop at InfoSec Europe 2013 back in April. David Williams, Peter Wenham and I presented. This was on the subject of identity assurance, which the BCS feels is a very important area. We concentrated on preventing identity theft and what organisations can do to protect themselves and ensure their staff are who they claim to be. The presentation along with others from previous talks can be found on the website at: <http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/46834>

At the EEMA ([www.eema.org](http://www.eema.org)) annual conference in the Netherlands, Louise Bennett, Peter Wenham and John Bullard presented on the same subject but concentrating more on commercialisation of the Internet and use of your identity as currency to buy things online. In June I was on two panels at the SC Conference. One on consumerisation and security and the other on standards. The consumerisation was very interesting, mainly talking about the security implications of Bring Your Own Devices, but also touching on Nearfield Communication and Bluetooth. When asked what I thought the next few years would bring I suggested Bluetooth headsets as sub-dermal implants that are always connected would not be surprising. People laughed but we already have hearing aids with built in Bluetooth that can be controlled from your phone and provide built in headphones for anything from music to online games to taking the odd phone call....

Some of these connected technologies and ubiquitous communications are becoming a standard part of life. It is very common to see most people in my commuter train using smartphones and tablets on their way in to work, gone are the books, replaced by the Kindle; there are less and less newspapers replaced with the Times or Guardian on iPads. In my household the smartphones are now even used to control the TV and audio systems.

This does not just change the way we live it has a major impact on how we manage risk and the implications on security both at home and work are huge. The SCoE has been doing work in all these areas. Work on Bring Your Own Devices by the SCoE has resulted in a research report and other activity has resulted in the publication of a BCS book on BYOD,

the first 3 chapters of which are free to download. A workshop on NFC was held in February and the workshop report is available on the website. A BCS position paper should be published here soon, if you would like to express a viewpoint or provide input to this, please drop me a line at [andy.smith@bcs.org](mailto:andy.smith@bcs.org).

Most of this work is related to consumerisation of IT. The definition that BCS uses for this is: The introduction of consumer-oriented technology and behaviours into the realm of Enterprise IT. The key point here is that we are currently looking at BYOD in the context of consumer devices such as smart phones and tablets being used in the work environment to perform business functions with business data. However BYOD can extend to people using their own IT including laptops and desktops in place of ICT provided by the employer. On one hand this can significantly improve productivity and improve the work-life balance, on the other there are major implications around security and risk to business data. The Reports are available at: <http://www.bcs.org/category/17513>

BCS will be talking at the UK-Internet Governance Forum and the UN Internet Governance Forum. The UN IGF in October is a prestigious event and it is quite an achievement to have the BCS proposal accepted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running. Members of the Identity Assurance Working Group in collaboration with Keechang Kim from Open Net Korea and Hong Xue from Beijing University are presenting a workshop on Identity Assurance.

This looks to be a lively debate, the main subject is the balance between security and anonymity. The key question being asked is – is there a place for anonymity online, is it needed or even desirable? We are also looking at other areas of identity assurance including protecting the naïve from themselves, how lack of identity assurance can result in digital exclusion and the whole area of online identity governance. The workshop should prove very informative to our work in this area. Full details including a background paper can be found at: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

Everyone is welcome to join the workshop via remote participation and details of this will be sent out nearer the time of the conference. This is a big event for us as it puts the BCS on the world stage and gives us the chance to put the views of the BCS membership over at a premier international event. It also gives us an opportunity to increase international membership of the BCS.

We are still trying to get the Identity Dynamic Coalition formed and running and will pursue this at IGF again this year. If you would like more information or to be involved please email [identity@bcs.org](mailto:identity@bcs.org). We hope to get this running properly in October. We will also be working with others on the Internet of Things Dynamic Coalition. More details will be provided. However a key event will be taking place in September, the 27<sup>th</sup> International BCS HCI Conference will cover the Internet of Things. More details can be found here: <http://hci2013.bcs.org/>

Members of the SCoE represent the BCS on various standards panels, including the British Standards Institute and the International Standards Organisation. In April the ISO SC27 Conference took place in France, this discussed all of the standards developed under SC27. One important outcome of this is the decision to move forward with publication of the new versions of ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 27002. After 8 years we should hopefully have the new standards published by the end of 2013.

Various other standards including a number in the 270xx series and a number on privacy and identity management have also been published or are due in the next few months. There is a lot of work in the standards space. A report on all of this will be published on the website soon. The BCS has also been providing input to a number of UK HMG standards and policies and work on the Government Digital Agenda, most of these are subordinate to the Security Policy Framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/security-policy-framework>

More information on the areas can be found at: <http://digital.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/category/id-assurance/> and <http://publications.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/digital/>. It is an exciting time for the UK Government with the move to 'digital by default' and BCS will remain actively involved to ensure the membership views are taken in to account as these strategies move forward. If you want to become involved there are various ways to do so. The best way initially is via the BCS policy hub: <http://www.bcs.org/category/16406>. This will allow you to contribute and comment on the Government and EU policy as it comes out for consultation. We would like to have your views on all of these areas and if you find it interesting you can become more involved and attend the various workshops and events that take place at the BCS offices.

Our work with the Digital Policy Alliance (<http://dpalliance.org.uk/>) has been quite interesting. Over the last few months work has been going on around the new EU Data Protection legislation and Digital Single Market. This work is being led by Malcolm Harbour MEP and the BCS attends the workshops to discuss the UK input to this area. The other big area is Internet of Things which is now becoming more important as consumer devices from cars to toasters connect to the Internet. BCS has a specialist interest group for IoT, if you would like to join, more details can be found here: <http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/49225>. IoT is a massive area. The SCoE are looking at it from a security perspective, but there are many other aspects which require BCS expertise.

In February the SCoE had a presentation from the National Centre for Cyberstalking Research. This is a critical area of online protection which the BCS feels needs better understanding and better methods to trace and prosecute those who perform online harassment, cyber-stalking and cyber-bullying. The BCS are working closely with NCCR to provide technical expertise.

The SCoE are leading the BCS involvement with the launch of the Home Office initiative on cyber security communication that was recently announced. Through ISSG we hope to involve as many BCS members as possible in this, providing outreach to groups who may be vulnerable online, including children and the retired. We expect specialist packs to be available for anyone who would like to help.

In May the SCoE had presentations from the National Fraud Authority and Get Safe Online. The BCS are supporters of both areas of work and remain involved in their ongoing development. It is definitely worth having a look at the Get Safe Online website: there is a lot of useful information there including lots of good stuff for our children.

The BCS is also involved in the work of the IET and education partners to create a Cyber Security Skills Alliance. The idea is to get Cyber Security built in to more degree courses and improve the quality and quantity of security experts in this area. Improving the academic

options in the area is crucial to upskilling the UK's Internet generation. This feeds neatly in to the other main area of work.

The BCS obviously feels that professionalisation of the ICT industry is really important. Gone are the days when IT experts were few and most knew each other. If you were on the Internet in 1986 the chances are that anyone claiming to be an IT expert was either; known to you, known by reputation or known by someone that you knew. Now there are millions of people working in IT, many claiming to be experts or professionals, so how can you be sure? The BCS, IET, IEEE and other professional bodies have done much to help in this area. Just being a full member of the BCS shows a level of professionalism and competence, with Fellow, Chartered IT Professional and Chartered Engineer providing some of the highest accolades in IT professionalism.

However until recently there has been nothing for Information Security. Last year, Chartered Security Professional came in to being and this again provides the holder with a badge of distinction, which shows them to be one of the top security professionals, but what about those between the apprentice and the Chartered professional? In Information Security there is now a scheme that provides such recognition for Information Security and Information Assurance professionals – the CESG Certified Professional Scheme.

As mentioned in the Spring issue of IT Now, the BCS is one of the three bodies chosen to operate the CESG Certified Professional Scheme on behalf of CESG, the UK National Technical Authority. This is an ideal certification for anyone wishing to demonstrate their experience and expertise in the areas of Information Assurance and Security. The scheme is open to anyone including the complete BCS membership.

The scheme offers 3 levels of practitioner, from those in more junior roles (SFIA level 2) at Practitioner level, to the senior roles (SFIA level 4) at Senior Practitioner level and the real experts and industry leaders (SFIA level 6) at Lead Practitioner level.

The scheme has now been running for more than a year and all of those who wish to retain CESG Listed Advisor Scheme (CLAS) status after October 2013 have to be certified under this scheme. BCS has performed a number of certifications and hopes to see more BCS members go through the scheme.

Though initially targeted at improving professionalisation in the public sector, we hope that it will appeal to the private sector as well. We expect to see this become the defacto certification for security professionals over the next few years. We are really pleased that BCS has been involved in the development of this scheme.

As a result we are also looking for more assessors. If you have CCP and are a full member or fellow of the BCS and want to become an assessor, please get in touch. If you are a security professional and have not yet come across this scheme, its worth having a look. More details can be found here: <http://certifications.bcs.org/category/15865>.

There are also a number of related activities. The BCS offers a number of professional certifications, training courses and exams in the area of Information Security that the BCS has been developing. More details can be found here: <http://certifications.bcs.org/category/15733>. We will continue to improve the facilities

available to members as security follows engineering, accountancy, law and health into being a professional and highly respected domain.

The SCoE has quite a full calendar for 2013 with a number of areas of research and we hope that the publications prove useful. If you would like to get more involved in the BCS security work, there is also the BCS ISSG and other specialist groups that provide online activities, publications, workshops and seminars. If you work in the area of Information Security or Information Assurance we hope you will choose to become a certified practitioner via the BCS.

Updates will continue to be provided via the specialist groups, IT Now and the various mailing lists that the BCS operates. More details of these can be found on the BCS website at: <http://www.bcs.org/category/9231> and <http://www.bcs.org/category/14670>