OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

BCS

2005/06 Programme

Meetings approximately monthly from September to May,
generally 7.00 for 7.30pm at the Computing Laboratory, Wolfson Building, Parks Road, Oxford.

Thursday 15 September 2005
SMARTSOURCING
Robb Mann, *Director of QVIP*
The IT industry has accumulated about 20 years of outsourcing experience, and most present-day organisations use outsourcing. This talk addresses today's need to be selective and how to assess outsource providers and their service levels.

Robb Mann is a specialist in the application of structured methods with a background in Operational Research and its application to metrics and benchmarking. He is a director of QVIP, specialising in driving improvements in IS assessment and IT project benchmarking.

Thursday 6 October 2005
USING STATE TRANSITION TESTING
Peter Quentin, *Qbit*
Finite state computer systems often have an infinite number of possible executable scenarios. State transition testing can help model a finite number of scenarios that will achieve a known level of test coverage appropriate for the considered risk.

This presentation will demonstrate state transition testing and discuss three different levels of coverage that can be achieved.

Thursday 10 November 2005
OPEN SOURCE: Turn On the LAMP
Alan Lenton, *CTO of Interactive Broadcasting*
In the last ten years Open Source software has reached the mainstream of business computing.

The success of Open Source has been built on the rock solid components of the Linux operating system, the Apache web server, the My SQL database, and a scripting language whose name starts with 'P' – Perl, PHP or Python, depending on your religion. These components are commonly known by the acronym LAMP.

This talk will look at the LAMP components and some of the strengths and weaknesses of Open Source software. It will also attempt to strip away some of the myths surrounding Open Source software – myths pushed both by fanatical supporters, and by equally fanatical opponents.

Thursday 1 December 2005
BCS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH CHRISTMAS LECTURE 2005
COMPUTABILITY AND CRIME: How Information Security Affects Criminal Prosecutions
Prof. Neil Barrett *BSc PhD CEng FBCS CITP*
As computers become implicitly involved in the execution, detection and prosecution of more cases, the issue of activity and responsibility becomes correspondingly more important. But ascribing responsibility for computer-recorded events is built on the foundation of information security – a poorly understood, poorly implemented aspect of our high-tech world.

This talk will explore the practical and theoretical limits of information security, and show that – at least in theory – a perfect solution is impossible and that we will therefore always be faced with 'judgement calls' in this crucial forensic arena.
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies at The Lamb & Flag follow.

Thursday 19 January 2006
CURRENT ISSUES IN UK VOIP: An Introduction
Peter Gradwell, *MD of Gradwell dot com Ltd*
Starting from when we lift the receiver, Peter will follow a phone call across the public telecoms network and onto the internet, discussing the different types of VoIP available, the issues that surround implementing

them, including phone number provision, call quality, firewalling VoIP, identifying the location of a VoIP subscriber and connecting a 999 call.

Topics include: What is VoIP? What happens when you make a call? What sort of things are people doing with VoIP? Some problems faced by VoIP Providers.

Thursday 23 February 2006
WEB INTELLIGENCE
Prof. Nigel Shadbolt, *Southampton University, BCS VP Knowledge Services and Deputy President*
The extraordinary human construct that is the World Wide Web is a truly Disruptive Technology. There are now hundreds of millions of users, billions of indexed web resources, it is used in every country on Earth and yet only a tiny percentage of users is trained in any way.

This remarkable construct is both massively distributed and largely open. With this amount of content and usage the integration of information across space and time leads to new opportunities. From on-line shopping to collaborative e-Science the web is changing how information is generated, deployed and used.

This lecture will examine the extent to which intelligent web services are evolving to cope with diverse sources of information on a global scale. It will examine the particular way in which Artificial Intelligence is being woven into the web.

Thursday 23 March 2006
GUIDED TOUR OF SCIENCE MUSEUM, LONDON
Travel by coach, with suitable pick-up points.
Morning: A guided tour of the Science Museum given by Geoff Marshall, a London Registered Blue Badge Guide and a professional scientist. Finishing in the gallery which features Charles Babbage (1.5 to 2 hours).
Afternoon: Science Museum's *Ingenious Tours* at their archive in W Kensington (1.5 hours). We await the 2006 tour programme. Our favourite from this year's would be *From Valves to Chips: the Rise of British Computing.*

Thursday 27 April 2006
COMPUTER GAMES DEVELOPMENT: Past, Present & Future
Simon Prytherch, *Empire Interactive*
This year will see new variants of both the XBOX from Microsoft and the Sony Playstation. The games industry is worth $20bn globally and UK companies are a significant force, contributing £200m in 2004 to the UK balance of payments.

Simon Prytherch is Head of Internal Development for Empire Interactive, a leading computer games developer and publisher.

The average game takes between 70 and 120 man-years and several million pounds to make; this is a chance to look behind the scenes.

Thursday 25 May 2006
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
(after Cheese & Wine buffet), followed by

THE SEMANTIC WEB: Too clever for its own good?
Dan Zambonini, *CTO of Box UK*
The Semantic Web is the natural next evolutionary step of the Web. We can create software that helps us work more efficiently and discover new patterns and relationships.

The enabling technologies have been around for some time – XML, RDF and OWL – together with the software to process and analyse this exciting new information. So why isn't the Semantic Web a reality today? Will we see the Semantic Web in our lifetimes? And, most importantly, what are the technical and non-technical issues holding it back?

For more details of events and speakers, and of any late changes, see: **http://www.oxon.bcs.org**

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