# Group/Branch: ISSG

## An Overview

Overall this has been a successful year for the ISSG. The detail of what we have done, and what we intend to do, can be found in the following sections.

However, I want to give special thanks to:

- Barclays and, in particular, our committee member Alan Quinlan for hosting the AGM.
- Alan Woodroffe for so effectively managing the panel judging the annual prize given to the top dissertation by a Royal Holloway cyber security student.
- Alan Quinlan for his invaluable work as secretary for the group.
- All of the committee members for their unstinting support, good humour and, most importantly, flow of excellent ideas.
- Marie Setterfield, without whose support we would achieve very little.

## Programme

**What We Did Last Year:**

28/02/2019 – Legal Day – the 20th edition of our ever-popular event at the RAF Club.

05/03/2019 – Problems to Solve in GRC – an evening event at BCS London exploring contemporary issues with governance, risk and compliance and proposing potential solutions.

01/05/2019 – Cyber Security and the DPO – a seminar in co-operation with Barclays at their Canary Wharf headquarters exploring the link between cyber security professionals and the DPO.

23/10/2019 – Authentication in the Modern World – an evening event at BCS London surveying the changing face of authentication.

03/12/2019 – Defence Against the Hack - a half day seminar in co-operation with Barclays in their technology centre at Radbroke Hall, Cheshire.

**How We are Making IT Good for Society as a Member Group:**

The ISSG Committee considers that our main mission is to ensure that, in the first instance, all IT professionals should understand the fundamental importance of information security in ensuring that IT is, and remains, good for society. We continue to approach that by overlapping initiatives: the first consists of an adjustment to what the ISSG has been doing for years in staging events and is aimed primarily at BCS members; the second involves widening out to all IT professionals; the third involves all citizens. Any opportunity to contribute to the second and third initiative while

developing the first will be taken.  In the year of this report we have majored on the cyber security skills shortage and our committee members have supported a number of events related to this; an example is committee member Fox Thomas being involved in a DCMS event - Inspirational Day for Cyber Security with Young Adults.

In the coming year we will be harmonising our efforts around making IT good for society with the work of the Security and Privacy Executive.

# Community

**Who We Serve and How We Engage with Our Community:**

The ISSG Committee believes that we are not primarily a group for cyber security professionals although we will always take the opportunity to cater to them.  Our main mission at the moment is to grow the membership of the ISSG from within the BCS; in principle the membership of ISSG should include every member of BCS!

We continue to explore the possibilities of collaborating with Branches and other Specialist Groups. During the last year we have delivered an event on GDPR to the Hertfordshire Branch. Considering the wider community of information security professionals we have been co-operating with the Cyber and Convergence Special Interest Group of the Security Institute and have been represented at an executive level round table event on the state of IT in the UK.

# Leadership

**Who We Serve and How We Engage Our Community:**

Our main mechanism for providing leadership is in endeavouring to provide events that are directed at looking at the current and emerging concerns in cyber security.

We also provide leadership through contributions to ITNow which include the Chair's regular short article introducing the security section of the magazine.

Our intention going forward is to expand our leadership in increasing awareness of the importance of cyber security in every facet of IT.  The achievement of this aim will necessarily be constrained by the fact that all of the committee are volunteers, and, because of the global shortage of cyber security professionals, they tend to be extremely busy with their day job.

# Excellence

**How We Excel:**

The ISSG excels in providing relevant events for BCS members.

The ISSG has achieved engagement with the Security and Convergence SIG of the Security

Institute.

In the coming year we intend to improve our performance by close co-operation with the Security and Privacy Executive and hence to other members of the Cyber Security Alliance.

# Objectives for Next Year

**Our Plan:**

Our objectives for the next year are to:

- Mount a minimum of 5 ISSG events.

- Ensure all committee members are trained in unconscious bias.

- Develop a method for engaging with Branches.  Collaborate/contribute to a minimum of 3 Branch events.

- Develop a method for engaging with other Specialist Groups. Collaborate/contribute to a minimum of 3 other SG events.

- Develop closer liaison with the other SGs reporting to the Security and Privacy Executive.

# Achievements

**Our Successes:**

Our main success of the year is in providing events that BCS members want to attend.  We have been innovative in trying to look at different styles of event while continuing to provide the tried and tested ones.

We have continued to provide significant input to the BCS guidance for member groups and assessors with respect to GDPR.

# Challenges

**The Barriers We Face**

The major barrier that we face in achieving more is the issue mentioned under leadership.  All committee members are volunteers, and, because of the global shortage of cyber security professionals, they tend to be extremely busy with their day job.

Another barrier to achieving more (still continuing from last year) is the perception amongst the ISSG committee members that the Institutes' commitment to gender diversity is less than complete.  This has come about because of the opaque nature of BCS response to an apparently misogynistic response to the last ISSG Women's Day by the Chair of another SG.  As a result the committee determined that they would not run another of these innovative, and very successful,

events until they had transparency on what measures were taken and the reasons for them.

# Inclusion and Diversity

**How We Are Working for Everyone**

Inclusion and Diversity is an imtegral part of the work of the ISSG committee. However, please see the challenges section above for the reason why we are not currently providing any events which overtly deal with, for example, the gender divide. That said, we examine all of our activities from an inclusivity viewpoint.

**About the Committee**

The committee is fully staffed and almost all members are demonstrably active and participate in the majority of our committee meetings. Our meetings are all set up to be mixed face to face (in BCS London office) and remote dial-in. However, for about half of them the face to face element is dropped for lack of members able to make the venue; we have not found this to be any hinderance to us achieving our business. We held five committee meetings between AGM 2018 and AGM 2019.