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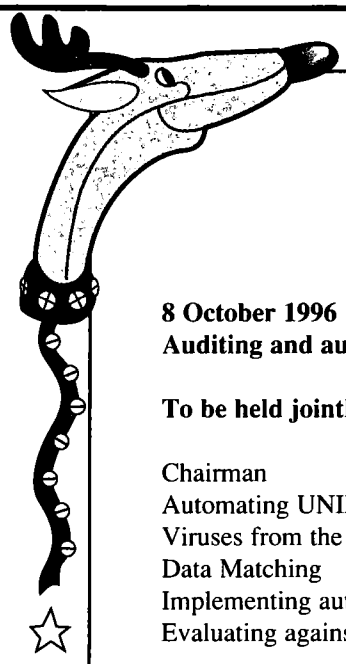
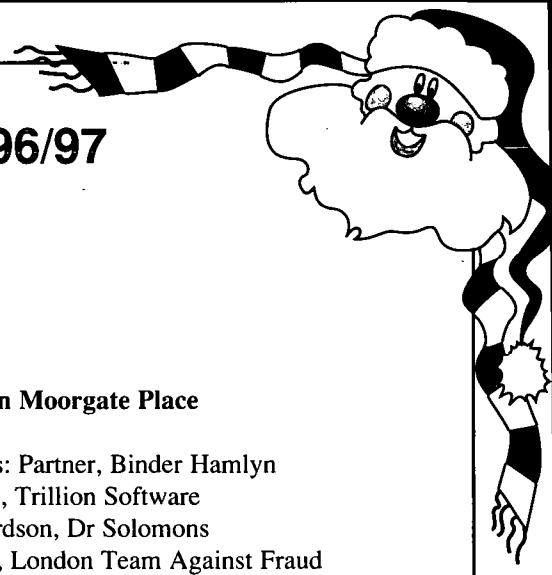
The British Computer Society





Technical Briefings 1996/97

8 October 1996
Auditing and automation

To be held jointly with the IT faculty of the ICAEW at their premises in Moorgate Place

Chairman	Paul Williams: Partner, Binder Hamlyn
Automating UNIX Audits	Mike Chorley, Trillion Software
Viruses from the Internet	Joseph Richardson, Dr Solomons
Data Matching	Simon Keane, London Team Against Fraud
Implementing automated working papers	Ken Ebbage, Pentana
Evaluating against BS7799 using COPIT	Andrew Birkbeck, Glynwedd Steel Ltd

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Tuesday 14 January 1997
Networks: moving ahead securely

Royal Aeronautical Society

ATM and security	Leslie Hanson, Cabletron Systems Ltd
Open doors into networks	Rose Hines, IT Vulnerabilities
Moving to Novell 4: Security Implications	Peter Wood, First Base
Secure Gateway implementation	Yag Kanani. KPMG

Tuesday 15 April 1997
Systems development audit: Adding value

Royal Aeronautical Society

Diagnosing project problems, Signs and Symptoms Services	Ruth Woodhead, Admiral Management
Systems Development audit: The IS manager's view	Graham Folmer, Addenbrookes Hospital
Testing the Testers	Dorothy Graham, Grove Consultants
Preventing problem projects: the auditor's role at the outset	Geoffrey Smart, Coopers and Lybrand
Auditing RAD	Stan Dormer, Stan Dormer Associates

Contents of the Journal

Editorial Panel

The ***Journal*** is the official publication of the Computer Audit Specialist Group of the British Computer Society. It is published quarterly and is free to members.

Letters to the editor are welcome as are any other contributions. Please contact the appropriate person on the editorial panel.

Designed and set by Carliam Artwork, Potters Bar, Herts
Printed in Great Britain by Dodimead Ball, St Albans, Herts.

EDITORIAL

My plea for some feedback from our readership resulted in two letters to me, one of which is published in this edition (thank you Martin Welsford) whilst the author of the second requested that it should not be used. Strange behaviour for a computer auditor I thought until I realised that the letter was actually quite complimentary. Well, no auditor worth his salt is going to risk saying that something is okay, when it could well go wrong tomorrow! The habits of a lifetime are indeed hard to break even when penning correspondence to the editor. Never risk using such words as '*well controlled*' unless they are prefixed with the word '*apparently*'. Do not use the word '*adequate*' unless it is qualified by '*appears to be*'. Under no circumstances heap praise on a well controlled installation unless one can cover one's rear end with the phrase '*currently appears to be*'. Our double speak is only bettered by our IT colleagues who, after all, have been at it somewhat longer. My current favourite is '*rebalancing transition*' which was the phrase used to describe a project that was two years behind schedule.

Monsieur Herrington was duly presented with his bottle of bubbly for the most amusing contributions to last season's editions and has now retired from his role of bringing us news about auditing in a foreign land. His place has been taken by Paul Howett who has volunteered to edit the Hotel & Restaurant Watch column. Please contact Paul if you have details of hotels or restaurant experiences, both good and bad, that you would like to share with your colleagues. Paul's column is only one of a number of changes to the *Journal* and its editorial panel. Alan Oliphant has offered to edit an opinions column which will provide an outlet for your frustrations (well some of them), so take the opportunity to get on your soapbox and let the world know what you feel about audit and IT related issues. Iltaph Khaliq has retired from editing the book reviews column and my thanks to him for his previous sterling efforts in that area.

As well as the two new columns mentioned above, this edition contains a useful article from Andrew Hawker on the work of the Data Protection Registrar and details of some interesting changes at the British Computer Society. I have not always been complimentary about our parent body, but I now feel that things are really improving and I urge you to consider joining the Society, especially in view of the recent changes to its Royal Charter and the resulting extension in the use of post nominal letters. Read Colin Thompson's excellent explanation of all the changes in the *BCS Matters* column. Indeed, it is people like Colin who have put in the hard work that has so improved the services to members and I take this opportunity to thank him for his efforts in producing such an informative column each quarter.

We also have a complete audit report on the operations of SC Logistics. This report will be of particular interest to anyone in the retail sector, but its structure and clarity of presentation should be of interest to auditors from all sectors. I urge you to read it. My thanks to the audit team concerned for giving me permission to reproduce it.

During the next few issues we will be running a competition to identify the most ingenious excuses supplied by management in response to an audit finding. The following one is supplied by Marion Mitchell. "*We had expected to do this earlier in the year, but the member of staff brought in to assist with the task had a baby earlier than expected and the job was not completed.*" Can you do better? A bottle of bubbly for the winner with my decision being final.

The compliments of the season to you all and may your new year be happy, prosperous and full of good audit findings. Now should I qualify that?

John Mitchell

Chairman's Corner

Alison Webb

Two-way traffic

"What should we be doing?" "Are we doing the right things?" "What are the right things, anyway?". Sitting on a committee has something in common with taking a course in moral philosophy: the Big Questions recur at every meeting. There are no certain answers in either area: we stumble along, trusting our innate sense of what's right and wrong and hoping whoever calls us to account will be reasonably lenient.

The Computer Audit Specialist Group has focused on relaying current information to our membership, via our day events and the *Journal*, and by negotiating favourable rates to events organised by other people. Of course, this is our primary function - and we have some feedback that here, at least, we're working on the right lines - but another area I'd like to explore is the passing of information and opinions the other way, from our membership back to people who are also concerned about computer security. We have among

our membership a wealth of experienced computer audit and security professionals, and they have a lot to offer.

At our next Technical Briefing, on 14 January 1997, as well as the published programme, we have asked Willie List, who chairs the BCS Security Committee, to talk to us about the organisation of the Committee, and to outline its current workload. Many of the issues they are considering will be ones where we have an informed opinion, so I hope as many people as possible will be there to participate.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WORLD - Part 1

(more in the next edition)

We all know how important it is to communicate clearly in our audit reports and we all have probably had one of those unintentional slips that cause immense embarrassment when read by the client, but the problem is not unique to the UK. Below you will find the "history" of the world extracts from genuine student bloopers collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eighth grade through college level. (The spellings are exactly as used by the students) - Ed.

The inhabitants of ancient Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere, so certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The Pramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, once asked "Am I my brother's son?". God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Montezuma. Jacob, son of Isaac, stole his brother's birth mark. Jacob was a patriarch who brought up his twelve sons to be patriarchs, but they did not take to it. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led them to the Red Sea. where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Afterwards, Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Philatelists, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines.

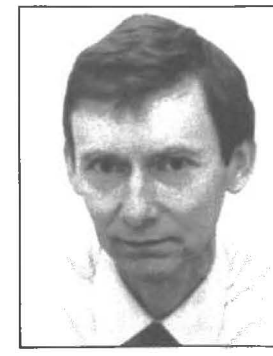
Without the Greeks we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - Corinthian, Doric and Ironic. They also had myths. A Myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Stynx until he became intollerable. Achilles appears in the Illiad, by Homer. Homer also wrote the Oddity, in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. The government of Athens was democratic because people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece, as the mountains were so high that they couldn't climb over them to see what their neighbours were doing. When they fought the Persians, the Greeks were outnumbered because the Persians had more men.

Eventually, the Ramons conquered the Greeks. History calls people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long. At Roman banquets, the guests wore garlics in their hair. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

Revealing all: a problem for the Data Protection Registrar?



Andrew Hawker

Some of the occupational stress of auditing derives from having to keep up with the constant flow of pamphlets and reports which affect the way the job should be done. In the case of data protection, this can mean anything from combing through industry guidelines to assessing the broad implications of EC directives. Since the actual enforcement of the rules depends to some extent on the priorities and interpretations signalled by the Data Protection Registrar, it can also be useful to consult the Registrar's report which is issued in June of each year.

In Eric Howe's day as Registrar, the Annual Report was a rather pedestrian affair. It opened with some short introductory comments from the Registrar and closed with a summary of the accounts. In between, brief descriptions were provided of the cases and causes taken up during the year.

Since the arrival of the new Registrar, Elizabeth France, two years ago the report has undergone some major changes. Some of these are purely cosmetic. The graphic artists have had a field day, and, as with more recent reports from the Audit Commission, the result has been an outbreak of "colour-supplementitis". This gives the pages an atmosphere of street-wise dynamism, but it has actually become more difficult to track down specific items of information, and the picture inserts, which usually have little or no connection with the text, are of dubious value.

There are also some underlying structural changes, which reflect the preoccupations of the new Registrar. She has tended to be quite open in recognising that data protection is unloved by many businesses, who are inclined to resent the form-filling, the vagaries of some parts of the 1984 Act, and the untidy relationships which exist between data protection law and other legislation concerned with record-keeping and data misuse. The Registrar is also frequently involved in issuing warning or advice to government departments, who tend to be heavy users of personal information. The result is a world in which there would seem to be plenty of natural enemies. Yet the Registrar needs to enrol as many people as possible to be on her side, and on at least one occasion she has made it clear that she hopes that she can count on the active support of internal auditors [1].

The new-style Annual Reports devote much more space to canvassing support for the Registrar's wider objectives, and describing the various consultations which are in progress. The idea of a Registrar who is proactive, who anticipates potential problems, and who generally carries the torch for data privacy is to be welcomed. However, questions then arise to exactly why the Annual Report is issued. Who is it intended for? Is it the interested lay person? The data processing professional? The internal auditor? The Public Accounts Committee?

The last in this list is mentioned because one of Eric Howe's final duties was to submit to an interrogation by the PAC [2]. The members of the committee followed the lead of an earlier NAO report [3], and spent a lot of their time probing the "efficiency" of the Registrar's office. The efficiency measures were based on the number of registrations, complaints and enquiries in a given year. These suffer from the same limitations as all other performance indicators, but the PAC leapt on them avidly. It is hardly surprising to find, therefore, that the Annual Report now has a page full of performance indicators. The accounting information has also been expanded. This may show the Registrar as being more generally accountable to her government paymasters. However, those whose primary concern is compliance with the data protection laws are unlikely to be very interested in knowing exactly where all the money goes in the Wilmslow headquarters. Equally, those who are interested in the wider policy issues will have little time for all the prosaic details of legal cases. The Report is in danger of bursting at the seams with good intentions, and ending up by not being particularly useful to anybody.

This is a problem shared by many company reports, as they have expanded in order to cope with the recommendations of Cadbury and Greenbury. But at least companies know that they are addressing one group of readers above all others, namely their shareholders. The Data Protection Registrar has to keep several different constituencies in mind - including individual citizens, businesses, politicians and civil liberties groups. All of these are important, but their concerns rarely coincide, and indeed may be diametrically opposed to each other at times.

Part of the answer to this problem lies with a step already taken by the DPR, in putting the Annual Report on the Internet[4]. This makes the information more readily accessible (particularly so following the recent price hike from £12.25 to £18.50 for the 1996 report). But more importantly, it offers the prospect of finding new ways of catering for each of the different constituencies.

For example, the case summaries provided in the annual reports can be very helpful in drawing attention to potential pitfalls, or showing how the rules are applied in practice. The problem lies with hunting them down - particularly since they are now scattered around in different chapters of the report. These cases need to be developed as a resource in their own right, which users can browse through in different ways - for example, by type of industry or type of infringement.

Similarly, anyone who is interested in the emerging responses to a European Directive needs to be able to review developments as reported over two or three years, not just in one report or commentary. It will be useful to follow such threads through the DPR's publications, but this will call for consistent nomenclature and careful indexing (and perhaps a resistance to the fashion led by the Audit Commission, of giving every report a catchy but not always very meaningful title).

The DPR Web pages have got off to a promising start, and already offers instant access to guidance notes and information on registration procedures. It should make it much easier for those in involved in audit to keep in touch with the Registrar's thinking. It should also please the politicians who are concerned about efficiency: one hopes that the Registrar has already persuaded them to recognise that the count of accesses to the pages should qualify as an officially approved Performance Indicator.

References

(1) E France. Data Protection: into the Second Decade. Compacs 95, London.

(2) Data Protection Controls and Safeguards. Committee of Public Accounts.010 204994 7. HMSO June 1994.

(3) National Audit Office. Data Protection Controls and Safeguards. 010 023133 0. HMSO August 1993.

(4) http://www.open.gov.uk:80/dpr/dprhome.htm

Dr Andrew Hawker lectures in information tehnology at the Department of Accounting and Finance at the University of Birmingham. Previously he worked in technical support for IBM and Amdahl. He is a member of a research team concerned with accounting and record-keeping issues in primary health care.

The following document was left in the editor's house last Christmas.
Next to it was an empty bottle of his best sherry and the crumbs of a few mince pies.

Internal Audit Report
S.C. Logistics

Audit carried out by: *
Sarah Blackburn
Caroline Bell
Clare McGarvey
Susan Kovacs

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

S.C. Logistics operates a highly seasonal global home delivery distribution business from its warehouse and headquarters in the Arctic Circle. A long established family owned business, it employs large numbers of gnomes and elves and has a distribution fleet based on reindeer and horses in the northern hemisphere and marsupials in the Antipodes.

As a potential acquisition target Group Internal Audit has carried out an operational review of S.C. Logistics' processes, systems and controls.

1.2 Conclusions

Very little of S.C. Logistics' operations is documented consistently or indeed at all. There are no management accounts: in fact virtually no accounting records. For this reason we have been unable to audit the financial controls of the organisation. When questioned, employees from the Chief Executive (Mr S Nicholas) downwards stated that "This is the way we've always done things round here" and "Everybody knows what they have to do." Profit maximisation and maintaining and growing shareholder value are not concepts in current use. Members of management assured us that the over-riding corporate objective was to give away as many goods as possible within the terms of the ancient charter on which the firm is founded. This document could not be produced to audit.

The entire operation appears to be run with scant regard for the health and safety of those employed by the company. With all distribution activities concentrated within 24 hours, employees and equipment are stretched beyond endurance, whilst asset utilisation during the rest of the year is minimal. Not surprisingly this has resulted in problems with order completion and quality of goods supplied. However, we note that the timeliness of deliveries cannot be faulted.

We are particularly concerned that over-reliance on key personnel is accompanied by no succession planning and no business continuity planning. The Chief Executive habitually takes risks in the course of deliveries, travelling at high altitudes and excessive speed. He appears to think he can live for ever.

2. POLICY AND PROCEDURES

2.1 Customer Acceptance

There is a long standing policy that customers are only accepted for deliveries if they are under eighteen and have been good throughout the past year. It appears that this policy is routinely ignored by S C Logistics operatives.

As part of our audit we surveyed several families throughout the UK and found that:

- goods had been delivered to persons over eighteen;
- goods had been delivered to persons who, according to their parents, had not been good for the required time period; and
- no goods at all had been delivered to a number of persons who had met the policy requirements.

We also found several examples of women over eighteen (recipients of some lightweight under-garments) who asserted that they had received those items precisely because they had not been good.

We consider this policy requires further clarification. Customers should not be accepted without some credit check on their age and behaviour. Where there is a greater risk that a customer may not meet the standards required, any decision to deliver goods should be documented and countersigned by two members of management.

Where customers have met neither criterion but have received deliveries, S C Logistics should arrange collection of the delivered items within sixteen days.

Recommendations

2.1.1 The Operations Manager should ensure that age and behaviour checks are performed on all customers on an annual basis.

2.1.2 The Operations Manager should ensure that supplies to all high risk customers are documented and countersigned by two members of management.

2.1.3 The Operations Manager should ensure that any goods delivered in error are collected within sixteen days for return to the manufacturers.

2.2 Concentration of Duties

Customer and gift matching, route planning and delivery driving are all undertaken by the Chief Executive in person. It is a principle of good control that there should be segregation of duties between people so that no one person can carry out tasks both handling assets and recording the transactions in those assets. In addition, we note that the Chief Executive, although he appears in robust health, is some what overweight and is well over the statutory retirement age for directors. For the sake of his health as well as good control we recommend that the duties currently undertaken by the Chief Executive are delegated to a number of other carefully selected employees.

Recommendation

2.2.1 The Chief Executive should delegate the majority of his customer and gift matching service, route planning and delivery driving duties to other employees.

**** The audit team work for Argos plc, but this report is submitted in their private capacity.***

2.3 Absence of Accounting Records

We have never encountered an organisation with so few accounting records. The Finance Director (Ms J Elf) has no resources with which to record transactions and makes no attempt to recruit any. This is despite the large number of elves on the premises, some of whom we discovered, on interview, to be fully qualified members of the Chartered Institute of Pixie and Fairy Accountants (CIPFA).

Recommendation

2.3.1 The Finance Director should ensure that a satisfactory method of recording transactions is implemented immediately.

2.4 Document Retention Policy

In an attempt to trace transactions we approached a number of S.C. Logistics' customers and found that most of them generated long annual lists of their order requirements. No trace of these orders was found at S.C. Logistics. We were informed that it was normal for customers to place orders on an open fire for despatch. No residues of documents could be produced to confirm this statement.

S.C. Logistics needs a clearly defined policy on the retention of data and documents to meet legal and operational requirements. This policy should then be downlined to all employees and communicated to customers.

We also have concerns about the environmental effects of this form of document disposal.

Recommendations

2.4.1 The Chief Executive should ensure that a policy on retention of data and documents is formulated immediately and downlined to all employees and customers.

2.4.2 The Finance Director should ensure that all transactions are properly recorded, copied in triplicate and retained to provide a management trail.

2.5 Operating Procedures

There are no documented operating procedures despite the complex, high volume, rapid response distribution system in use. The company is dependent on the continuing employment in the despatch department of large numbers of gnomes who have worked for SC Logistics for hundreds of years. We have noted increasing militancy in the Transport and Gnome Workers Union (TGWU) whose members make up over 50% of the workforce.

In the event of industrial action the company would be forced to transfer elves from clerical duties and hire temporary staff, mainly sprites, who would be unfamiliar with operations. The existence of documented operating procedures would help in training such staff.

Recommendation

2.5.1 The Chief Executive should ensure that operating procedures are produced for all areas of the operation.

2.6 Business Continuity Planning

Should the sleigh be unavailable at the critical time on 24th and 25th December, there are currently no plans in place to ensure continuity of deliveries. We can suggest a number of contingency arrangements such as:

- use of Parcelforce or a similar carrier;
- spreading deliveries over a longer period;
- use of the Public Relations Manager's pumpkin.

However, we consider that to ensure ownership of the plan, management should be personally involved in analysing the impact of a disaster and making appropriate plans to mitigate the effects.

Recommendation

2.6.1 The Chief Executive should sponsor business contingency planning for high risk and high impact parts of the business.

3. ORDERING, ASSEMBLY AND DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Deliveries in accordance with customer orders

Customers surveyed stated that each year they placed orders for deliveries and that invariably one or many items were not delivered. This was despite their having met the acceptance criteria for behaviour throughout the year.

The check to ensure that goods ordered are assembled and delivered is currently carried out by a very short-sighted pixie.

Errors are difficult to correct because there is no proof of delivery document (POD) confirmed by the customer in writing.

Recommendations

A. The Chief Executive should review the order matching system to ensure that reconciliations are being correctly applied.

3.1.1 The Operations Manager should introduce a requirement for all customers to sign for goods received.

3.1.2 The Finance Director should ensure that PODs are checked on receipt at the warehouse and filed systematically to answer customer queries.

3.2 Incorrectly authorised orders

There is some circumstantial evidence that orders may be placed in another name, particularly where the named individual is illiterate due to age. No attempt is made to check that the order is signed by an authorised customer or to ensure that the order placed does indeed reflect the named individual's requirements. In such instances the choice of gift is likely to be that of the adult. Anecdotally we have learned of persons under school age requesting (and receiving) alcoholic beverages.

Where customers are illiterate they should have the goods request read over to them by an independent adult. They should make their mark upon the paper which must be countersigned by two independent witnesses.

Recommendations

3.2.1 The Chief Executive should review the ordering system to ensure that the authorisation is correct.

3.2.2 The Chief Executive should ensure that a system of double- checking is implemented and used whenever a third party places an order.

3.3 Order Returns

Many customers in our survey stated that, despite delivered goods being of merchantable quality, they in fact did not meet customer expectations. Indeed certain items, although initially thought to be perfectly acceptable, turned out not to be so within twelve hours of delivery. We found that, in many cases, the delivery received by the customer's sibling was judged to be much more desirable than that received by the customer. We further established that, in a significant minority of survey responses, the customer found that the container in which the goods arrived was in fact of greater interest than the goods contained within it.

S.C. Logistics is a well established company with high standards of customer service. However, in the area of order returns it appears to be some way behind competitors, many of whom (despite not offering a comparable highly focused service) have introduced a facility for customers to return goods if they do not meet expectations.

We recommend that S.C. Logistics considers introducing a customer returns policy. Since S.C. Logistics' asset utilisation during the vast majority of the year is extremely low, then we consider that the introduction of such a service would result in a minimal increase in operating costs. However, stock levels would need to be increased for the permitted period for customer returns so that items could be exchanged as necessary. The logistics of this would need to be considered when introducing such a policy.

Recommendations

3.3.1 The Chief Executive should consider introducing a policy which enables customers to make returns of goods within a predefined time period.

4. PERSONNEL CONTROLS

4.1 Succession planning

In common with many businesses with a family origin and a long-serving Chief Executive, S. C. Logistics does not appear to have made any plans to cope with the eventual retirement and replacement of its Chief Executive. Nor is there any underlying plan for the succession to other key positions.

We point out that this omission should be addressed without delay as the Chief Executive is both of advanced years and subjects himself to a punishing schedule in extreme weather conditions.

The situation is exacerbated because S C Logistics does not have any non- executive directors who could oversee any transition period. Non executive directors should be persons of wide experience and good reputation. We understand that there are three Wise Men available, also known collectively as The Magi, who are competent in smaller scale seasonal distribution at the quality end of the industry.

Recommendations

4.1.1 The Chief Executive should set up a succession plan for himself and other key personnel (for example, Mr R Reindeer).

4.1.2 The Chief Executive should approach the Three Wise Men with the proposal that they act as non executive directors for S C Logistics.

4.2 Health and Safety at Work Act

In order to deliver orders, the Chief Executive effects entrance to customer premises via the chimney. This raises several issues, not least of which is the position with respect to Health and Safety legislation. We understand that since this occurs only over a 24 hour period, SC Logistics does not contravene current legislation technically, although it can hardly be said to be observing the spirit of the law.

From an insurance viewpoint, we are concerned that, given the generous physical build of the Chief Executive, he may become stuck on customers' premises. There is a risk that damage may be caused where attempts to free the Chief Executive are particularly vigorous. Additionally, although the placing of orders could be considered to represent an implicit invitation to enter customers' premises, no explicit authorisation is obtained beforehand (such as ringing the door bell). In our view, it would be extremely damaging to the reputation of SC Logistics, and the Chief Executive personally, should he be apprehended by the police on suspicion of breaking and entering.

Further, we found that a significant number of young customers living on modern housing estates were incredulous that the Chief Executive could enter their houses via the chimney. Upon investigation, we found that this was because these houses in fact had no chimney. In order that SC Logistics, and indeed the person of the Chief Executive himself, does not suffer a decline in saliency amongst this important customer sector, it is essential that these concerns are addressed.

We recommend that the Chief Executive adopts more conventional methods of entry into customers' premises, such as through the door.

Recommendation

4.2.1 The Chief Executive should request permission before entering customers' premises, and do so via the door.

4.3 Consumption of Alcohol

We understand that it is usual practice for every customer's parents to leave a mince pie and either a glass of whisky or a glass of sherry for the refreshment of whoever makes the delivery. Whilst we are not suggesting that this is the reason that the Chief Executive carries out all deliveries personally rather than delegating to other employees, it undoubtedly contributes to his robust waistline.

We investigated whether SC Logistics has a policy concerning the consumption of alcohol during working hours, but were advised that it does not. We recommend that a policy is developed prohibiting the consumption of alcohol whilst engaged on company business. In the course of our fieldwork, we noted that the Chief Executive consumes the majority of the alcohol (primarily the whisky) which is provided by the customers, as, in his view, this is essential to maintain the corporate image. We are concerned that the inevitable consequence of this is that the Chief Executive must quickly exceed the legally permitted levels of alcohol for driving. We must stress that the arrest of the Chief Executive on suspicion of driving a team of reindeer whilst under the influence of alcohol would be highly embarrassing for SC Logistics, and we recommend that this practice cease forthwith.

When we enquired as to the disposition of the remaining alcohol provided by customers (primarily sherry), the Chief Executive stated "How do you think Rudolph got his red nose, sweetheart?". We are compelled to point out that sherry in no way forms part of a reindeer's natural diet, and that by encouraging Mr R Reindeer to

consume sherry, the Chief Executive is jeopardising the welfare of company employees. The financial consequences to SC Logistics of reindeer having to take early retirement through ill health could be significant, given their senior positions within the company.

Furthermore, we take a dim view of Chief Executives who address auditors as "sweetheart".

Recommendations

4.3.1 The Chief Executive should develop a policy precluding the consumption of alcohol whilst engaged on company business.

4.3.2 In the short term, the Chief Executive should find a less harmful resting place for customers' gifts of sherry and whisky, such as down the nearest toilet.

4.3.3 The Chief Executive should commission the Public Relations department to develop a personal image management programme with the long term aim of changing customers' perceptions of him as a fat old drunk.

4.3.4 The Chief Executive should ensure that employees from racial (?) minorities are encouraged to follow appropriate diets.

5. TRANSPORTATION

5.1 Maintenance

There are no maintenance records for the major mode of transportation used during deliveries, namely the Sleigh. When queried we were told that as the Sleigh was used only once a year it was considered to be low mileage and well outside the MOT requirement. Given the age and use to which the said Sleigh is put we have grave concerns over the lack of maintenance and consider it to be as reliable as a ten year old Trabant.

A standard vehicle insurance policy would be unlikely to pay out in the event of an accident unless the vehicle is properly maintained.

Recommendation

5.1.1 The Operations Manager should ensure that the Sleigh is serviced immediately and that a regular schedule of servicing and maintenance is implemented.

5.2 Vehicle Replacement

Given the dependence on the Sleigh and the distances travelled at high speeds we were surprised that no provision had been made for the capital cost of sleigh replacement. The existing vehicle has been fully depreciated since 1927 but a replacement would involve major capital outlay. The advantages of a newer model would include power steering, anti-lock reindeer braking and global satellite positioning system. It could also provide an opportunity to downsize the reindeer team.

Recommendation

5.2.1 The Operations Manager and Finance Director should evaluate the costs and benefits of investing in a replacement delivery vehicle.

6 ECONOMY, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

6.1 Manual Processes

All transactions are processed manually by the gnomes despite the very large volumes involved. The efficiency of the ordering, picking and assembly, and despatch processes would be greatly increased by the use of a computer based warehousing and ordering system. Alternatively the company could investigate the outsourcing of non core tasks to a third party distribution contractor.

Similarly a telesales call centre would be a more efficient and effective way of dealing with customer orders. Fairies with good interpersonal skills may be employed very cheaply to carry out such tasks.

Recommendation

6.1.1 The Chief Executive should investigate the potential for automation of customer order taking and recording stock movements.

6.2 Resource Planning and Scheduling

As noted above, all deliveries are currently scheduled to take place within twenty four hours. This places undue strain on the employees and equipment and would be extremely expensive in terms of overtime. However, we were unable to find any payroll records for either basic or overtime and suspect an element of slave labour and/or exploitation is involved. When we questioned the gnomes and elves about their terms and conditions of employment, they were perplexed and were unable to provide us with any details. However, the Transport and Gnome Workers Union shop steward stated, "I have been trying to get the mean old geezer to improve conditions for my members for 95 years now, and if he doesn't do it soon we will definitely go on strike."

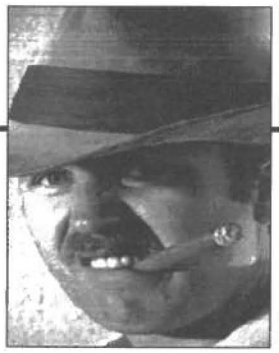
A disruption in S.C. Logistics' operations as a result of an industrial dispute would have disastrous effects upon the business. We therefore recommend that the Chief Executive, as a matter of priority, commences negotiations with the shop steward concerning employee terms and conditions with a view to improving them.

Recommendation

6.2.1 The Chief Executive should consider improving employee terms and conditions and commence negotiations with the union shop steward for this purpose.

Opinion

A new column which gives you the opportunity to air your views in public, edited by ***Alan Oliphant.***



I was pleasantly surprised when John Mitchell got in touch and invited me out to dinner. Living in Scotland, I do not often get the opportunity to meet with professional colleagues, so John's business trip North of the Border (Watford Gap Service Station) was a chance for a natter.

We had an excellent meal in the Hawes Inn in South Queensferry. A fine old inn on the shores of the Forth, underneath the Forth Rail Bridge and immortalised by both Scott (Walter) and Stevenson (Robert Louis). A memorable and pleasant evening (you must try the clootie dumpling).

Then, a week later, an e-mail arrived. "I'm looking for someone to sub-edit an Opinions Column in the *CASG Journal*" Mitchell glibly announces. "I am, of course, hoping for a certain Oliphant to volunteer."

Hook, line and sinker! Several phrases immediately came to mind:

"There's no such thing as a free lunch!"

"Beware Greeks bearing gifts!"

Like David Balfour, I was well and truly "Kidnapped" (read the book for the Hawes Inn connection).

Anyway, the bottom line is that I have agreed to give it a try.

The objective of this column is to give space to people to air their views in public (not necessarily with their real names attached) and maybe get some debate on the issues.

Are you a "Disgusted from Tunbridge Wells?" Do you get irritated by the way the IT world is going and want to get it off your chest? Have you got a pet theory to air?

If so, send me your words of wisdom and, assuming that they are neither libellous or downright obscene, I will try to get them published for you.

Send your opinions to:

Alan Oliphant
37 Hillpark Crescent
Edinburgh
EH4 7BG

Alternatively (and preferably) via e-mail to:

alan_oliphant@msn.com

If I get no submissions, I will be phoning a few people to badger them. You have been warned.

To get us started, here are a few of my pet opinions.

Why is it that businesses which employ Information Technology, a specialisation which essentially developed as a merging of mathematics and electronics, does not demand professionalism of its practitioners? The entry qualifications still appear to be a second class degree in Archaeology or Medieval Languages! How many businesses demand an MBCS as a minimum qualification? Why is programming still regarded as an "art form?"

The same argument can be applied to Computer Auditors. How many adverts do you see where possession of a CISA or QiCA is regarded as a minimum qualification? The basic requirement for a computer auditor seems to be a CA with one year PQA. OK, CA's are quite smart people, but I'll bet that most of the accounting bodies syllabuses are quite sparse on the IT front.

Then there's the ISO9000 (BS5750) issue and the TickIT scheme. Without wishing to be too controversial, what a waste of space! What does ISO9000 actually prove? That you have devised as set of procedures, documented them and follow them to the letter. It doesn't actually prove that you produce a product which works, which people want and which makes the company profitable. I well remember a computer retailer which proudly used ISO9000 certification in its adverts as proof that they were a "quality" organisation with which to do business. I ordered some kit from the. Paid up front with VISA and waited...and waited...and waited. After a very long wait I cancelled the order and tried very hard to get a refund. Luckily I got the VISA credit through a week before the receiver was called in. They had procedures, they documented them, the followed them, but they were c**p. They were surviving off a rapidly diminishing cash flow problem. Despite this, they were awarded ISO9000 as a "quality" company.

While I'm on the subject, I hope that the BS7799 certification scheme is not hijacked by the same bureaucracy. I have the honour of sitting on the working group that is devising the scheme and already detect the signs of the "bureaucrats" girding their loins to take it over. God forbid that we get TickIT in another disguise.

I could go on. I could rant and rave about failed IT projects. I could write reams about the way that the IT industry is driven more by need to generate revenue for the vendors that by a desire to improve efficiency. There are times when I despair. The IT business is becoming a solution looking for a problem and we can't get out of the spiral.

Twenty years as a computer auditor has turned me into a cynic. I've seen it all before and I will see it all again. We seem incapable of learning from history.

So, let's have some input.

You can comment on my opinions (letters direct to the Editor please - not me) or you can send me your own opinion directly. I don't mind if you violently disagree with my opinions. Free debate is what it's all about and, as Oscar Wilde said (excuse if I misquote) "All publicity is good so long as you spell my name correctly".

Letter to the Editor

Having just read the latest edition of the Journal and following your editorial where you say that you have not had a single letter, let me therefore be one of the first to write.

I enjoy the Journal immensely and the Autumn edition has been both useful and entertaining. I particularly enjoyed the Eurospeak bit of fun.

The article on the Computer Misuse Act was very useful indeed. One slight quibble might be over the impression that viruses are commonly caught from disks given out with magazines. This has not been my experience and I think that most reputable magazines might take serious issue with such a slur. This said the article was well constructed and included a wealth of useful information. One final point, which I suspect both the authors and many readers will have noted in the recent press, is the successful appeal by two police officers to their conviction under the act and the apparent loophole concerning authorised access and authorised use. The officers' defence it would seem is that they had authorised access to the police database and therefore had not broken the law even though they used the access for an unauthorised purpose. I trust Parliament will soon amend the act and close this gaping hole as it is a particular worry to anyone who has to advise management on control and security issues.

I look forward to the next issue of the Journal and thanks for the excellent content so far.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Welsford, BA QiCA
Freelance Computer Auditor.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT WATCH

This is to be the first of what we hope to be a regular feature of the journal edited by Paul Howett.

The entries for this issue have been put together from this column's editor's own recent experiences and those of his immediate colleagues. For future issues we hope that you the readers will contribute your own experience for review and if appropriate inclusion. We also welcome any comment on any idea or location that has been included. Please contact Paul via the contact column at the front of the *Journal*.

Europe: With the opening of the Channel Tunnel business people from the UK (not just those residing in the South East) are finding that often the simplest way to travel to the North West part of Europe is by Le Shuttle thus removing the problem of complex travel booking, packing enough clothes for a protracted stay into a small suitcase and having to hire a car at the other end (this was penned before the recent fire - Ed). As one who regularly crosses the channel I use both the Chunnel and the ferries. Each has its own plusses and minuses. All I will say to the people who are concerned by being underground is it's not for long and it's quick. For those not liking sea crossings, with the modern Ferries it has to be very rough to be noticeable. If you haven't taken your car across already, whichever medium you choose I recommend it. One item I find indispensable whenever I travel in Europe is a Michelin Guide. The red book has never let me down and the road maps are complementary and cross referenced to the guide. The guides are published each spring and retail at around £14. The hotels mentioned here and the restaurant are included in the current Michelin guide to France.

If you are travelling to, by or near Lille, then the Hotel Mercure Royal Lille Centre, which is on the Boulevard Carnot, is adjacent to the magnificent Grand Place in the centre of the city and convenient for the railway station. (Lille is also a stop on the Waterloo-Paris Eurostar line). English breakfast along with the *Financial Times* is available each morning. Lille has many excellent restaurants and bars (including an Indian Tandoori restaurant, La Maharaja whose speciality is Quail Tikka). If you are staying in the vicinity of Saint Omer in the Flanders Artois Picardie region there are several reasonable hotels and a couple of extremely 'nice' ones. It's all relative and depends on who is picking up the tab. Also reccommended is a restaurant which also has rooms called the Hostel St Hubert . It is about 6 kilometres out of the town towards Hallines on the D211. Three Michelin knives and forks, totally deserved. Last one for France this issue: If you really have to go to McDonalds at least they are licensed !

Mainland UK: A hotel recommended for over-burdened and portable PC packing auditors in BRISTOL is the ex UNICORN now part of JURY'S which is by the historic dock. When you have checked in you get two keys. One for the room the other for entry from the car park to the floor that your room is on. When you have suitcase, briefcase and PC it's luxury to have the car a few yards from your room and, when leaving, packing the car just as good. Just don't forget to have your car park ticket stamped by reception before you leave.

Book Review

John Silltow

Title:	**AS/400 Security in a Client/Server Environment**
Author:	Joseph S Park
Publisher:	John Wiley & Sons Inc
ISBN:	0-471-11683-1
Pages:	290
Price:	£20.00
Reviewer:	John Silltow

"It may be hard to believe, but the AS/400 is not tamperproof" says the cover of this book. Inside, it says it will expose the myths about the AS/400. So let's look in depth at what it offers It is divided into three main sections, each addressing a specific category of user responsible for control and each has a different level of focus and complexity to support the information provided:

- manager,
- technical security officer, and
- auditor.

The management segment is a high level view of the subject with a useful discussion on the advantages of the various security levels available on the machine. It highlights the amount of software (and software publishers) that object to any security implementation above level 30 when in fact level 40 is really the minimum that is needed.

The implementation section starts with a review of physical security but appears to be just scratching the surface on this aspect. Its discussion on the setting up of systems values would probably be useful for a novice but introduces nothing new for the experienced AS/400 security officer. Its primary benefit seem to be on the aspects concerned with designing user profiles and authority management, but the diagram illustrating the concepts of authority validation procedures is well worth the study.

The audit section summarises the audit tools that are available within the operating system and how they should be used to best advantage. A diskette supplied with the book contains additional programs for the auditor to use and the source code to enable them to be changed. An appendix in the book discusses the purpose of each of these programs. At the end of the audit section are some details of hackers and the type of attack that can be perpetrated.

This book is worth considering for the audit detail and tools it contains. Beyond this, it seems to offer nothing new to an established AS/400 installation.

★ ★ (Recommended)

BCS MATTERS

Colin Thompson
Director of Professional Services

Changes to the Royal Charter

Having mentioned the changes to the Charter in the column on a number of occasions it is something of a relief to be able to report that we have now received the long awaited response from the Privy Council and that all changes requested have been approved. These changes include:

A Chartered Title for all Corporate Members;

Two New Membership Grades, Graduate and Companion;

Post nominal letters for the Associate Member grade

New Disciplinary powers and procedures;

An increase in the number of Vice Presidents

Chartered Title

This amendment is designed to provide a more readily understandable label for the particular skills of BCS Members and it brings the Society into line with other professional bodies, including the Chartered Accountants and the Chartered Surveyors. In fact the Privy Council approval gives many members the right to use two Chartered Titles; all Corporate Members - that is all Members and Fellows - may now use the title Chartered Information Systems Practitioner and those who are registered as Chartered Engineers may also use the title Chartered Information Systems Engineer. The new titles should be used in full and not reduced to the letters 'CISE' or 'CISP'. The right to use the existing post nominal letters MBCS, FBCS, IEng and CEng remains unaltered.

Companion Grade

This new grade is intended to provide recognition for members of other professions who are also involved with information systems. Very many people in areas such as medicine, law, accountancy and general management now have significant expertise in the information systems field. Many are already involved with the Society through the Specialist Groups and the change now approved will provide a more formal recognition of their expertise, through right to use the description Companion of the British Computer Society and the post nominal letters CompBCS.

The new Bylaw covering the Companion grade prescribes that those seeking election will normally be Corporate Members of another Professional Institution and must satisfy the Council that that they have rendered important services to Computing. Applicants must be sponsored by 2 existing Corporate members of the Society.

Graduate Grade

The new graduate grade effectively plugs a gap in the grading structure under the original Charter and enables the Society to recognise those who, although not yet fully qualified for Professional Membership, have achieved the necessary academic qualification. Under the original Charter, this stage has been covered by the Student Member grade so that members have been required to carry a student label for some years into their professional career. The new grade provides a means of recognising an important career stage and a more appropriate description for the early stages of that career.

Post Nominal Letters for Associate Members

Associate Member is one of three professional grades established by the 1984 Royal Charter. The two senior grades, Member and Fellow, were granted the right to use the post nominal letters, MBCS and FBCS respectively but no equivalent right was given to the Associate Members. Under the Charter as now amended all Associate Members are now entitled to use the letters AMBCS.

New Disciplinary Powers and Procedures

The changes approved by the Privy Council are designed to update the Society's disciplinary procedures by providing a wider range of sanctions against members whose conduct falls short of the Code of Conduct. New arrangements for appeal against disciplinary decisions are also introduced.

Increase in the number of Vice Presidents

Council have, up to now, been limited to four Vice Presidential appointments. This limit is now increased to eight, a change which, will enable the appointment VPs for Engineering and Professional and Public Affairs. There are no plans to fill the remaining two posts at this stage.

These changes should increase the appeal of BCS membership and help with one of our most important priorities, membership growth. But they will also assist with one of our other important objectives, raising the visibility and the status of the qualified practitioner in the IS field.

Other BCS News

Turning to other Society news, progress is being made on the introduction of two new Registers - a General Consultancy Register which was the subject of a motion at the recent AGM and the Security Register mentioned in my previous column. The task group looking into the general register is keen to capture views from both members and others. Anyone wishing to comment should write to Peter Barnes, the Chairman of the group, via Sheila Morley at BCS HQ or by e-mail to jd63@cityscape.co.uk (Peter Barnes).

New Senior Officers

October saw a number of changes at the top of the Society. Geoff Robinson's presidency came to an end at the AGM on 30th October and he was succeeded by Ron McQuaker. Ron is a BCS member of very long standing and served as VP Professional until 2 years ago. As usual, his first duty as President was to host the Annual dinner which was held at the Park Lane Hotel with approximately 420 members and guests attending.

At Vice President level, Jennifer Stapleton has now taken over the VP Technical position from Ian Ritchie who becomes VP Engineering and Mike Allen is now VP Professional and Public Affairs (previously Professional Issues). Other Vice Presidential slots remain unchanged:

External Relations	Jean Irvine
Branches	David Holdsworth
Professional Formation	Geoff McMullen

New Publications

News of two publications which might interest readers, the 1996 BCS Review and Directory and a booklet on the Year 2000 problem. The Review which contains a wide range of a articles on issues of current interest in the IS field, also includes a directory on diskette with details of around 19,000 BCS professional members. In most cases these details include postal and e-mail addresses. The Year 2,000 book, is intended as a general guide to the problem for practitioners and business managers and has a foreword written by Ian Taylor the DTI Minister. Further details are available from the Marketing Department at BCS HQ (e-mail marketing@bcs.org.uk).

And Finally.....

a reminder that the BCS pages on the World Wide Web (http://www.bcs.org.uk) now contain a wealth of information on the Society, including an up to date listing of events and activities. The pages are updated on a daily basis and are well worth a regular check.

British
Computer
Society

PLEASE RETURN TO
Jenny Broadbent
CASG Membership Secretary
Room C309
Cambridgeshire County Council
Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge CB3 0AP

Membership Application

(Membership runs from July to the following June each year)

I wish to APPLY FOR membership of the Group in the following category and enclose the appropriate subscription.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP (Up to 5 members)* £75

* Corporate members may nominate up to 4 additional recipients for direct mailing of the Journal *(see over)*

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP *(NOT a member of the BCS)* £25

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP *(A members of the BCS)* £15

BCS membership number: _____

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP (Full-time only and must be supported by a letter from the educational establishment).

Educational Establishment: _____ £10

Please circle the appropriate subscription amount and complete the details below.

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Computer Audit Specialist Group

British Computer Society

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Guidelines for Potential Authors

Types of Article

The Journal publishes many different types of article.

Refereed articles are academic in nature and reflect the Group's links with the BCS, which is a learned institute governed by the rules of the Privy Council. Articles of this nature will be reviewed by our academic editor prior to publication and may undergo several iterations before publication. Lengthy dissertations may be serialised.See below for details of the preferred format for refereed submissions.

Technical articles on any IS audit, security, or control issue are welcome. Articles of this nature will be reviewed by the editor and will usually receive minimal suggestions for change prior to publication.

News and comment articles, dealing with areas of topical interest, will generally be accepted as provided, with the proviso of being edited for brevity.

Book and product reviews should be discussed with the appropriate member of the editorial panel prior to submission.

Academic Articles

All would-be authors should follow the Harvard system of bibliographic references. At the end of your article list all the references in alphabetical order. Always start with the author's SURNAME followed by initials ALLAN G.W. Then put the year of publication in round brackets ALLAN G.W. (1994) Next comes the title of the article which is put in quote marks ALLAN G.W. (1994) "This is the Title of the Article" Next print the title of the book/journal/periodical magazine in which the article was published. This should be in italics ALLAN G.W. (1994) "This is the Title of the Article" *This is the Title of the Periodical.* Then follows the Volume Number and Issue Number ALLAN G.W. (1994) "This is the Title of the Article" *This is the Title of the Periodical* Vol. 12 (3).

Submissions

All submissions should either be on double spaced, single-sided A4 paper, or on PC format diskette in ASCII, Word for Windows or Ami Pro format, or via e-mail in ASCII format. Electronic submission is preferred.

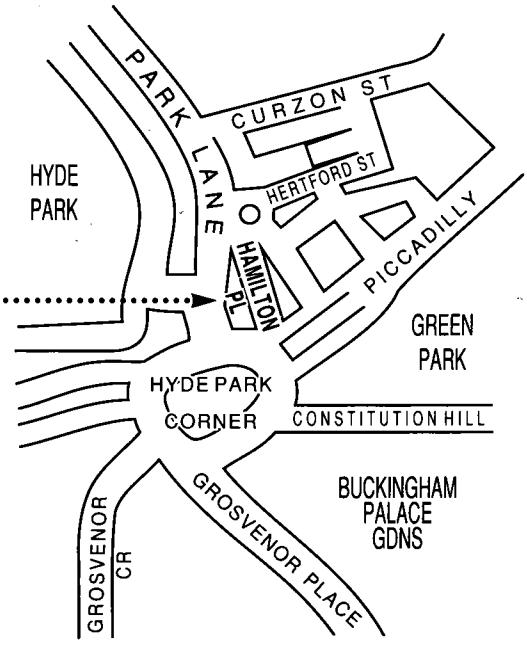
Submissions should be accompanied by a short biography of the author(s) and a good quality monochrome photograph, or electronic image.

Submission Deadlines

Spring Edition	7th February
Summer Edition	7th May
Autumn Edition	7th August
Winter Edition	7th November

Venue for Technical Briefings

Royal Aeronautical Society,
4 Hamilton Place
London W1V 0BQ



The British Computer Society
Registered Charity No: 292786

"Networks: Moving Ahead Securely"

The second of the 1996/97 season's technical briefings.

Tuesday 14 January 1997 in London

The points at issue

- Our IT Department think a firewall is an unnecessary expense. We only use the Internet for e-mail, so they say a router which directs all traffic to and from the outside via the mail server is perfectly adequate. Are they right?
- Every application these days is called "Client/Server": but apart from using a PC instead of a dumb terminal to access corporate applications, and remembering to call the mainframe the "Corporate Server", are there really any big changes?
- Our network seems to have examples of just about every architecture, protocol and operating system there is. We've done our best to define secure rules, but the whole thing is so complex, it's difficult to be sure we've covered everything.
- The Novell servers on our network are managed by user departments, who are used to acting more or less autonomously. We want to move to Novell 4, but we've heard this needs a key server which manages the others. Our users won't accept being told what to do by someone else: what should we do?
- ATM drops some data integrity checks in favour of faster through-put. Will we need to put extra checks in our applications to catch any remaining errors? It's claimed that ATM allows us to define closed networks or closed user groups to limit access: how's this done?

Networking is no longer just a way of letting a few remotely-based staff access corporate computers. The majority of new applications are to some extent distributed, and therefore underpinned by a communications network.

This briefing looks at three widespread trends in networking: the move from Novell 3 to Novell 4, the control of traffic using firewalls, and client/server computing: and in each case focuses on how to keep them secure. We also look at ATM, which seems set to become the standard mode for high-speed data transfer.

The Details

All our technical briefings start at 9.30 am for 10.00 am to allow those outside London to attend without an overnight stay.

Our venue is The Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Place, London W1V 0BQ

The fee for the day, which includes conference papers, coffee, lunch and tea is £65.00 plus VAT (gross £76.38) for members of the following organisations:-

CASG, ICAEW IT Faculty, BCS, ISACA, IIA

The fee for non-members is £100.00 plus VAT (gross £117.50).

Our agenda for the day

1. ATM and security

ATM has been talked about for some years now, and seems set to become a standard. What are the risks in using it, and does it have any security advantages?

Leslie Hanson of Cabletron Systems Ltd will be discussing the pros and cons of this new transfer method, and giving her views on its future.

2. Open doors into networks

Rose Hines of IT Vulnerabilities spends her time breaking into other people's networks - legitimately. Companies employ her to penetration-test their systems, and to check if the security measures they use really will keep people out. We look forward to hearing how it's done!

3. Moving to Novell 4

Many companies are hesitating over the move to Novell 4, because it seems to demand more co-operation among network users than they've had in the past. On the other hand, as those of us who remember mainframes know, there's nothing like a strict hierarchy for good security.

Peter Wood of First Base specialises in such moves, and will be highlighting the key issues.

4. Secure gateways

Whilst firewalls are becoming ubiquitous, companies haven't really explored fully how much it costs, particularly in management time, to define the security rules and reflect them in the firewall configuration. Yag Kanani of KPMG considers the best ways to approach these problems.

5. Client server: the devil in the detail

Rosie Harrison of National Savings is a CASG member who has experienced at first hand the implementation of client server systems, and has gone well below the hype to look at the real security issues involved. We particularly welcome our own members as speakers, and we look forward to her views on what's really significant in this area.

To Register

Send this form (or a copy) and cheques made payable to BCS/CASG to

Allan Brown, 26 Rosehill Gardens, Kingkerswell, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 5DN

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This briefing looks at three widespread trends in networking: the move from Novell 3 to Novell 4, the control of traffic using firewalls, and client/server computing: and in each case focuses on how to keep them secure. We also look at ATM, which seems set to become the standard mode for high-speed data transfer.

The Details

All our technical briefings start at 9.30 am for 10.00 am to allow those outside London to attend without an overnight stay.

Our venue is The Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Place, London W1V 0BQ

The fee for the day, which includes conference papers, coffee, lunch and tea is £65.00 plus VAT (gross £76.38) for members of the following organisations:-

CASG, ICAEW IT Faculty, BCS, ISACA, IIA

The fee for non-members is £100.00 plus VAT (gross £117.50).

Our agenda for the day

1. ATM and security

ATM has been talked about for some years now, and seems set to become a standard. What are the risks in using it, and does it have any security advantages?

Leslie Hanson of Cabletron Systems Ltd will be discussing the pros and cons of this new transfer method, and giving her views on its future.

2. Open doors into networks

Rose Hines of IT Vulnerabilities spends her time breaking into other people's networks - legitimately. Companies employ her to penetration-test their systems, and to check if the security measures they use really will keep people out. We look forward to hearing how it's done!

3. Moving to Novell 4

Many companies are hesitating over the move to Novell 4, because it seems to demand more co-operation among network users than they've had in the past. On the other hand, as those of us who remember mainframes know, there's nothing like a strict hierarchy for good security.

Peter Wood of First Base specialises in such moves, and will be highlighting the key issues.

4. Secure gateways

Whilst firewalls are becoming ubiquitous, companies haven't really explored fully how much it costs, particularly in management time, to define the security rules and reflect them in the firewall configuration. Yag Kanani of KPMG considers the best ways to approach these problems.

5. Client server: the devil in the detail

Rosie Harrison of National Savings is a CASG member who has experienced at first hand the implementation of client server systems, and has gone well below the hype to look at the real security issues involved. We particularly welcome our own members as speakers, and we look forward to her views on what's really significant in this area.

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