The British Computer Society (BCS) has created a new category in their annual IT Professional Awards to raise the profile of information security and recognize the importance of the work carried out by businesses to protect themselves from security threats.

The President’s Award this year will celebrate investment in Information Security and entrants have until 30th June 2006 to submit their completed application form.

e-crime cost UK businesses £2.4bn in 2004 according to the police* and with the potential to affect every business, large or small, information security is one of the biggest challenges faced by chief information officers (CIOs) today. Protecting a company from an information breach is paramount as attacks can destroy confidence in the brand, lead to fraud and devalue a share price.

Top concerns for companies include the need to protect their brand reputation and intellectual property, compliance, governance, audit and security and identity management. Unfortunately, the nature of attacks on computer security is constantly evolving; in 2006 attacks from emerging markets, the move of organized crime into the arena, blogging and instant messaging have all been identified as key threats against which CIOs need to protect.

This new award, the winner of which will be announced in December, has been created to recognize the most successful investment based on measurable benefits to the company.

The judges will be looking for entrants to demonstrate excellence in a business orientated approach to information security with a successful implementation of a programme that has delivered measurable benefits such as brand value, trustworthiness, fraud reduction or improved service quality.

More information about this award and the other categories can be found at www.bcs.org/awards/professional

* National Hi-tech Crime Unit (NHTCU) backed survey

Contact the BCS Press Office