Dear Members

Since our Annual General Meeting at the end of October the winter (in the UK) has seemed to be extraordinarily long – so, as we move into longer daylight hours and hopefully some sunshine, here is our ‘Spring’ newsletter. For all members, I hope the period since early November has been productive and smooth for you.

As ever, welcome to new members joining us since the AGM - over 70 of you, from around the UK and from Asia, Africa and Australia.

This Newsletter is our way of keeping you informed about what's going on in the ICT Ethics arena by offering an overview of topics and links to follow. Members of our Committee are involved in related areas - some of these are covered in this Newsletter.

We also have opportunities for you to participate in discussions via our Linkedin group, and to email your suggestions for topics and events that you think are of interest to this group.

Penny Duquenoy, Chair.

Our Linkedin group is an open group, so anyone can join in – you don’t have to be a member of BCS or the ICT Ethics SG - the more people that join, the broader and livelier the debate! So, invite friends and colleagues that might be interested.

Discussions online now:
- Questioning the ethics of what can be done with coarse datasets (from Scientific Reports, Nature Publishing Group);
- DNA hack could make medical data (from CSO online);
- Proposed EU data protection reform could start a "trade war," US official says (from arstechnica).

Our Web page has our Newsletters, reports and speaker notes from past events (including the AGM), links to relevant external documents, and a link to the BCS Code of Conduct.

In this Newsletter …
- Annual General Meeting: Summary of presentation: “Privacy? What are you talking about?” (Minutes of the AGM and biographies of Committee Members at the end of this newsletter)
- Internet of Things – report from BCS event held February 2013, and report from EU.
- Ethics in Practice: CEPIS (Council of European Professional Informatics Societies) on ethics and codes of conduct; BCS article: Have IT ethics become if-then-else statements? Research Ethics Guidelines
- eHealth workshop in London – 25/26th April
- £500 prize offered for 25 best entries on case-studies and similar “responsible innovation” deadline 19th April
- Books
BCS ICT Ethics SG Annual General Meeting

Held on 23 October 2012, 6.00pm - 8pm
BCS London offices, First Floor, The Davidson Building,
5 Southampton Street, London WC2 7HA.

(Formal Minutes of the AGM at the end of this Newsletter)

Presentation by Dr. David Pullinger prior to the AGM.

Title: Privacy? What are you talking about?

Overview:
Some claim that privacy has already gone in the digital age, others that it is worth fighting for and maintaining. However people mean quite different things when they use the term privacy - protection of personal data, preventing organisations making deliberate attempts to find out information not in the public domain, defending the rights to be an individual from the state. When looking at issues around data collection and crunching, the choice of which privacy is being discussed would result in different actions - and in the case of government, different laws. Moreover, some areas of life considered private in UK are not rated as such in other countries. There is a cultural aspect to the concept of privacy that clashes with global digitalisation of communication, consumerism and services. Are we willing to give up some areas of privacy that some nations already treat as public for the sake of maintaining others? What precisely, in other words, should we be defending?

A lively discussion took place following David's presentation around different notions of privacy, examples of applications such as social networks and attitudes to privacy, new (commercial) players entering the scene, regulation versus non-regulation, increasing collection of information about people and their interests and its use in e.g., behavioural marketing, public policies, issues relating to liability, the tensions between individual choice in offering information and ability to use services (for pleasure, in commercial activities, and as a citizen on public policy engagements), techniques used by individuals to manage the information they give to others, and broader issues relating to social relationships (richness, complexity, and re-growth in commitment to a wider public responsibility). On a practical level, and considering digital life in social and business relationships, consideration of ‘consequent harms’ and a means to evaluate them, perhaps in a wider societal perspective, could offer a new perspective to individuals and businesses in the context of increasing concerns for cost/benefit.

Dr David Pullinger FRSA has authored many contributions to debates in ethics and the Internet over several decades and is also well-known for his initiation of academic electronic publishing and linking academic articles together, transformation of the UK government Web estate and the preservation of access to the digital public record of the country.
The Internet of Things (IoT)

Some of you may remember that we held an event last year (March 2012) with the title:

“Ethics and the Internet of Things - an Oxymoron?”

The summary of the event and speaker’s slides are available on the SG web page (past events: http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/43750).

In February (2013) the BCS in conjunction with the Oxford Internet Institute held a workshop on “The Societal Impact of the Internet of Things” – an extract from the report follows:

“BCS– The Chartered Institute for IT held two workshops about IoT in February 2013. This report is based on the seminar held on Thursday 14 February 2013 at BCS on the Societal Impact of the Internet of Things (IoT), involving input from industry, regulators and academics. This report draws on the position papers prepared for the forum, and the resulting discussion, to provide an introductory overview of the current use and likely future impact of the IoT, the inherent challenges and risks, and issues of governance. Position papers were prepared and presented by Daniel Boos (Swisscom (Schweiz) AG), William Dutton (Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford), Katherina Kinder (Lancaster University/Leibniz Institute, Cologne University), Gerd Kortuem (Open University), Simon Rice (Office of the Information Commissioner), Sarah Spiekermann (Chair of the Institute for Management Information Systems, Vienna University of Economics and Business). Sessions were chaired by Jeremy Crump (BCS) and Ian Brown (Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford). The forum was opened by Roger Marshall, President Elect of the BCS.”

The full report, agenda and terms of reference of the Working Group are available at:
http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/49225

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A detailed report on the Internet of Things can be found from “Conclusions of the Internet of Things public consultation” (28 February 2013) produced as part of the Digital Agenda for Europe initiative (European Commission). Section 3 of the report “Internet of Things Factsheet – Ethics” produced by the Ethics Subgroup of the IoT Expert Group of DV Connect, is of particular relevance to this SG. The link is at:


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Finally, relevant to the Internet of Things is a report from the BCS Identity Assurance WG, produced prior to the setting up of the BCS working group.

“Aspects of Identity Yearbook 2011-12, BCS Identity Assurance Working Group” available at:
Ethics in Practice

Professional Ethics

CEPIS (Council of European Professional Informatics Societies)

CEPIS with the Innovation Value Institute working with the European Commission Directorate General Enterprise and Industry is working on an initiative e-Skills & ICT Professionalism: Fostering the ICT Professional in Europe. One of the four pillars of professionalism identified\(^1\) is Professional Ethics. A discussion meeting, attended by representatives\(^2\) from European IT professional societies was held in February at CEPIS in Brussels to prepare and frame a discussion around codes of ethics, values, accountability, and corporate ethics. From this exercise questions and themes will be developed prior to a Micro-conference (planned for later in 2013). This latest initiative takes forward results from an extensive survey project completed in March 2012. For details click here, and for the final report (March 2012) particularly section 4.4 Ethics/Codes of Conduct, see: http://www.cepis.org/media/EU_ICT_Professionalism_Project_%20FINAL_REPORT.pdf

BCS article: Have IT ethics become if-then-else statements?

For an interesting perspective on Codes of Conduct see this article: “Neil McBride of the Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility, De Montfort University, asks whether computer ethics codes of conduct have failed the IT professional and, if so, what should be done”.

Research Ethics

For guidelines on research - from the “RESPECT” project: “one aspect of the RESPECT project ... development of a set of ethical guidelines to inform the conduct of socio-economic research in the European Union ... aimed at all those involved in socio-economic research ...” http://www.respectproject.org/ethics/412ethics.pdf


The workshop will explore the challenges for eHealth in the next years in the context of the EU eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 and taking into account: increased patient involvement in healthcare; the practical arrangements needed to achieve maximum benefit from research to date; preserving data quality and integrity; making use of analysis techniques to exploit opportunities offered by semantics technology and ‘big data’; and professional responsibilities for technologies in innovation, implementation and support of patients.

The workshop will consider the issues in terms of the law, ethics, and governance, and take further many ideas put forward in the new edited book eHealth: Legal, Ethical and Governance Challenges (George et al, 2013) as well as encouraging new insights and eHealth agendas. Topics will focus on current practices as well as new challenges that may emerge when systems and technologies change.

Speakers represent various eHealth stakeholders: Academics/researchers, Medical Practitioners, Regulators and Policy Makers

Full details, including booking arrangements (attendance is free) location and list of speakers (confirmed to-date) available at: http://www.eis.mdx.ac.uk/research/groups/Alert/ehealthwks2013/

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\(^1\) The four pillars of the project are: Bodies of Knowledge, Education and Training, Competences, and Professional Ethics.

\(^2\) Penny Duquenoy represented BCS.
Are you interested in questions of ethics and responsibility in research and innovation in ICT? Do you have experience of projects or technologies that raised interesting or challenging questions of responsibility? Are you doing research on novel technologies that are likely to have interesting or controversial social consequences?

The UK EPSRC funded project on a "Framework for Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT" (www.responsible-innovation.org.uk) is inviting you to submit case studies and other short documents (less than 2000 words) to share your experience of ethics and responsibility in ICT with the communities of ICT researchers and other stakeholders. Areas of interest include:

- Case studies - discussion of actual projects
- Ethical issues - debates around a particular ethical issue
- Technologies - thoughts on specific technologies
- Solutions - actual or proposed resolution to dilemmas
- Concepts - opinions related to the broader topic

All submissions must be original contributions based on real experience and events. They may involve original research but may also be based on previous work. They should be anonymised where appropriate. The authors are responsible for ensuring the truthfulness of the entries.

Examples of case studies from the first call and other examples of relevant entries can be found at: http://torrii.responsible-innovation.org.uk/

All submissions will undergo peer review. The best 25 entries will receive a prize of £500 each.

Why should I submit?
If you are interested in the potential social consequences of ICT and critical reflection of how research outputs may impact broader society, then there are several good reasons to submit an article:

- Authors of contributions that meet set criteria (see Evaluation section below) will see their article published to the website. They can opt to become an Associate of Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT and be listed on the website.
- The Observatory is part of an EPSRC-funded project and the submissions will undergo stringent peer review and scored. Successful entries therefore may be seen as peer reviewed publications.
- The best 25 submissions will receive £500 each. Each author can submit as many articles as they wish and receive up to 2 awards.
- All submission authors will be asked to contribute to the peer review of other submissions. This will provide you with an opportunity to view a wide range of material that focuses on the broader societal implications of ICT research.
- Students are also encouraged to submit articles following the same principles. There will be a separate ranking for student contributions where the 10 best entries will receive £100 each.

I am interested. What do I need to do next?
We invite you to have a look at the more detailed call describing the required content and submission and review process. The full call is available here: http://responsible-innovation.org.uk/frriict/call-for-contributions/

If you have queries regarding the submission process please contact:
Dr Grace Eden, Computer Science, University of Oxford, grace.eden@cs.ox.ac.uk
Professor Bernd Carsten Stahl, De Montfort University, bstahl@dmu.ac.uk
Dr. Marina Jirotka Computer Science, University of Oxford, marina.jirotka@cs.ox.ac.uk
BOOKS


Ethics of Big Data: Balancing Risk and Innovation. Kord Davis Publisher: O’Reilly Media 2012 (£13.18 Amazon)

IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OF INTEREST, RESEARCH, READING SUGGESTIONS, OR SOMETHING ELSE FOR THIS NEWSLETTER CONTACT US …

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Your participation in this Specialist Group

We encourage you to take part in the group by hosting events (workshops/meetings/web discussions/ etc.) and setting up discussions (Linked-in and the Members discussion area). So far the format of three speakers with presentations and a panel session following has worked well, in the time we have available (around 2 hours).

If you would like to host an event, or can suggest topics of interest (with some idea of speakers) we would be happy to hear from you. If you don’t have experience, don’t worry, we can help. If you can offer a location but need a topic and speakers, I am sure we can help there too …

Most of all we would like this group to reflect your interests in ICT ethics, as well as us sharing our news with you.

Ways to participate:

Join our LinkedIn Group at: BCS ICT Ethics SG LinkedIn

And BCS more broadly … BCS Policy Hub

Seek input on a number of draft BCS position statements.

If you want to share something of interest to our SG, or have something to contribute to our Newsletter, please contact one of the Committee members, or Penny/Denise (email below).

If you would like to host an event, or have a topic you think we should explore further through an event, let us know.

Region/Branch events: please contact us if you would like us to contribute to your local BCS group in some way (e.g. providing a speaker, or topic with materials).

Penny Duquenoy; Denise Oram
Minutes of the
BCS ICT Ethics SG Annual General Meeting
Held on 23 October 2012, 6.00pm - 8pm
BCS London offices, First Floor, The Davidson Building,
5 Southampton Street, London WC2 7HA.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions - Penny Duquenoy

   Officers and committee members present: Penny Duquenoy (Chair), Ian Fish (Membership Secretary), Jennifer Dean, Bernd Stahl.
   Also attending: Dan Bowen (proposed committee member)
   Attendance: 11 others attending.

2. Apologies for absence received from: Denise Oram (Treasurer and Secretary) (ill); Peter Buchanan (teleconference; line poor); Marina Jirotka; Ian Thornton-Bryar (teleconference; line poor).

3. Minutes of the previous AGM
   This was the first AGM of the group, there were no previous Minutes. However all members were informed that the notes from the Inaugural Meeting were available on the Specialist Group web page.

4. Matters arising from the minutes
   Not applicable.

5. Report from the Chair on the year’s activities
   The Chair presented a set of slides on the year’s activities, including events held, communications with members (newsletters and the creation of a LinkedIn group\(^3\); Specialist Group web page with information and links to other relevant sites and information).

   Ian Fish, the manager of the LinkedIn Group, encouraged members to join the group, join discussions, raise discussions, and share items they think would be of interest to the group. These types of online interaction need activity to keep going – the group is open, so anyone can join in, and attendees were requested to ‘spread the word’ to their friends, colleagues and networks. Suggestions were made by attendees on how to facilitate greater interaction (one example through occasional short headlines in eBCS).

6. Treasurer’s Report
   In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chair presented the Treasurer’s Report (slides attached).

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\(^3\) http://www.linkedin.com/groups/BCS-ICT-Ethics-Specialist-Group-4223099
7. Election of Chair, Treasurer and committee members
   Each attendee was given details of all the members of the committee, including officers – all of whom were willing to continue to serve on the committee. Jennifer Dean (committee member) agreed to conduct the election process. All current officers (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary) were willing to continue in their roles. No other nominations had been received.\footnote{Short biographies of the proposed new members and Committee members standing for re-election distributed to the attendees of the meeting are on the following page.}

   **Outcome:** all three officers were re-elected (unanimous vote): Penny Duquenoy as Chair, Denise Oram as Treasurer and Secretary, Ian Fish as Membership Secretary. All remaining committee members were re-elected (unanimous vote).

   Election of new committee members – two members of the Specialist Group had expressed an interest in joining the committee, and short biographies of each were included on the committee list given to attendees.
   - Dan Bowen (MBCS) – proposed by Blay Whitby, seconded by Jennifer Dean.
     **Outcome:** duly elected (unanimous vote)
   - Caspar Bowden (FBCS) – proposed by Sheelagh Keddie, seconded by Diane Whitehouse.
     **Outcome:** duly elected (unanimous vote)

8. Any other business
   No items received in advance of the meeting.

9. Other items discussed
   Attendees queried how the current debate about British Computing Society governance will hypothetically affect the specialist group(s). There was also interest in exploring further or facilitating the international character of the specialist group membership.

**Draft Minutes prepared by Chair:** Penny Duquenoy
**BCS ICT SG members standing for election to the Committee**

**Dan Bowen (MBCS)**  
I am originally from, and currently based in south Wales. I read a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science at the University of Bristol. I joined BCS in the mid 2000s as a student member, and have been an active member of several specialist groups and branches of since that time. Most of my career has been spent as a Civil Servant at the Office for National Statistics, a non-ministerial government department and the largest producer of official statistics in the UK. Over the past few years my duties have chiefly been concerned with modernising the way in which we gather and store data about the UK economy and society. This has included work across government on issues such as identity management and data sharing. Outside of IT & Computing I complete the ‘geek’ image with a love of Science Fiction, and then attempt to round things off by taking part in various sorts of cycling.

**Caspar Bowden (FBCS)**  
Caspar Bowden is an independent advocate for information self-determination rights, and public understanding of privacy research in computer science. He is a specialist in data protection policy, EU and US surveillance law, PET research, identity management, and information ethics and philosophy. For nine years he was Chief Privacy Adviser for Microsoft Europe, and four years director of the think-tank the Foundation for Information Policy Research (www.fipr.org). He was an expert adviser to the UK Parliament on privacy and surveillance legislation, and co-organized six public conferences on encryption, data retention, and interception policy. He has previous careers in financial engineering and risk management, applied cryptography, software engineering in systems programming and 3D games, including work with Goldman Sachs, Microsoft Consulting Services, Island Games, Acorn, Research Machines, and IBM. He is a fellow of the British Computer Society, a member of the advisory bodies of several civil society associations.

**BCS ICT Ethics Committee Members October 2011-2012 - Standing for re-election**

**Penny Duquenoy (MBCS)** is currently Chair of the SG. She is a Principal Lecturer and researcher at Middlesex University, London, teaching professionalism and ethics to engineering and information science students. Recent funded research projects* investigate how to consider and address ethical and social impacts of ICT during the project design and development stage (current and future technologies). A long-standing member of IFIP (International Association of Information Professionals) with Working Group 9.2 on Social Accountability, and Chair of IFIP Special Interest Group 9.2.2 “Framework for Ethics”, she is also a member of the BCS Ethics Group.  
*ISIS project (EPSRC/ESRC) and EGAIS (Ethical governance of emerging technologies) EUFP7.

**Peter Buchanan (FBCS)** runs an independency consultancy www.thinkgov.co.uk focussed on using IT to enable the public sector, in strategy, innovation or procurement. He is also a founding Director of www.savingfrompoverty.org.uk, a Community Interest Company that has developed and continues to campaign for a weekly budgeting service for vulnerable consumers. Within the BCS Peter is Vice Chair of the Membership Board, Chair of its Policy Committee, Vice Chair of the Shropshire Branch and Vice Chair of the Ethics Group.

**Bernd Carsten Stahl (FBCS)** is Professor of Critical Research in Technology and Director the Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK. His interests cover philosophical issues arising from the intersections of business, technology, and information. This
includes the ethics of ICT and critical approaches to information systems. From 2009 to 2011 he served as coordinator of the EU FP7 research project on "Ethical Issues of Emerging ICT Applications" ETICA and from 2012 to 2015 he serves as coordinator of the EU FP7 research project “Civil Society Organisations in Designing Research Governance“ (CONSIDER)

Jennifer Dean (MBCS) is currently a member of the Internet Specialist group committee as a general member and Chair of the Law SG. As such she is interested in where these areas interact.

Ian Fish (FBCS, CITP) is currently membership secretary of the SG, and member of BCS Membership Board Best Practice Committee, an active member of BCS Information Security Specialist Group (ISSG), a member of the Security Community of Expertise (CoE), the Information Privacy Expert Panel, as well as the BCS Identity Assurance Working Group (and as such represents the BCS at the UN Internet Governance Forum). Ian also founded the BCS Internet of Things WG (now handed over to a new chairperson).

Marina Jirotka (MBCS CITP): Marina Jirotka is Reader in Requirements Engineering, Associate Director of the Oxford e-Research Centre and Associate Researcher of the Oxford Internet Institute. Her research interests have long been concerned with bringing a richer comprehension of socially organised work practice into the process of engineering technological systems with a focus on supporting everyday work and interaction. In October 2009 she was appointed Deputy Director of ESRC’s National Strategic Directorate of the eSocial Science Programme. She is currently leading an EPSRC project into a Framework for Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT in collaboration with De Montfort University. This project aims to create a network of ICT researchers in Responsible Research and Innovation and will develop an “Observatory for Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT”.

Denise Oram (MBCS) is currently Secretary and Treasurer of the SG, a member of the BCS Ethics Group, and an examiner for BCS Professional issues. She is currently Senior Lecturer in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Glyndwr University and is a member of both the university’s Ethics and Research Ethics Committee. Her research interests cover systems failure, social responsibility and professional and ethical dimensions of emerging trends in IT, and Technology and Society. She is interested in creating awareness of the wider implications that new digital technologies have on both education and society. She is especially interested in exploring frameworks for ethical decision-making in the process of creation and development of new technologies to address sustainability to develop new standards in order to support this change.

Ian Thornton-Bryar, (DipM, DMS, FIMC, FBCS, CMC, CITP), a Prince2™ and MSP™ Practitioner and a Lead TickIT (ISO 9000) Assessor was eventually a multi-nationally practised Programme/Transformation Director or Manager, based on 40 years industry experience. His project/programme budgets have ranged up to $220m/£301m, operational budgets to $2.5bn. During the last 15-20 years he gained wide-ranging project/programme disaster recovery expertise. Many of those incipient disasters stemmed from questionable ethics by one or more of the parties. For about 5 years he was membership secretary of the Association for Professional Computer Consultants, a body which believed that IT Consultants should not have conflicts of interest. He also acted as an Expert Witness in 14 IT contract disputes, which experience strongly reinforced his belief in the need for more rigorous ethics in IT professionals. He now mentors around 4 BCS PPM members.