

Annual Report from the BCS SIGiST Standards Working Party September 2011

The Standards Working Party (SWP) was set up by the BCS SIGiST in 1989 and produced standards for testing vocabulary (BS 7925-1) and component testing (BS 7925-2) that were published by BSI in 1998.

Since then the SWP has been working on a standard on techniques for non-functional testing, fifteen of which have been identified so far: Reliability, Memory Management, Usability, Configuration, Portability, Recovery, Disaster Recovery, Performance, Stress, Security, Procedure, Interoperability, Compatibility, Installability, and Conversion Testing. Expected users of the new standard are expected to be: specifiers of systems, customers and/or users of systems (to check the delivered system), developers who create systems, and, last, but not least, testers of systems.

The work on the new standard is web-based (<http://www.testingstandards.co.uk/>), so all material to do with the working party (and testing standards in general) is now publicly available on the web site. The web site provides comprehensive details on all aspects of our standards activity - it contains details of completed sections of the new standard, sections under review, the agenda of the next meeting, minutes of previous meetings, information on work in progress, an evolving glossary of testing terms, downloads of the previously published component testing and glossary standards, links to other software testing sites, etc, etc. Perhaps most importantly, priority has also now been given to user-friendly examples rather than formal definitions to make the material more easy to use for a wider audience.

We are represented on the BSI IST/15 Software and Systems Engineering Committee and through this body we are now leading the work on producing a set of fully international software testing standards by leading the ISO Software Testing Working Group 26 on the development of ISO 29119. This set of standards will incorporate both the BS 7925 standards and the IEEE software testing standards and should be published in the next couple of years.

Please note that although work at the international level is now progressing well, we still need reviewers and also more volunteers to work on the non-functional testing standard. If you would like to contribute in this area, please contact me for details (sreid@testing-solutions.com).

Stuart Reid

Chair - BCS SIGiST Standards Working Party
September 4th 2011