



Matthew Pemble – CCP & FBCS Assessor

Joining the military straight from school, with sponsorship to university, I studied Electrical and Electronic Engineering, although with a heavy focus on digital systems and IT. In the Royal Navy, I was a Weapons Engineering Officer – with responsibilities varying from major missiles and their support systems, office IT and heavy electrical and hydraulics. Towards the end of my service, I was the project manager for a deployed worldwide laptop based secure command and control system, which I took to places as varied as Korea, Chile and an all-expenses paid trip around the mostly-disused nuclear bunkers of North-West Europe.

On leaving the Navy, I worked in software testing, mostly Year 2000 and security testing, qualifying as a CHECK penetration tester as well as a BS7799 auditor under the joint BCS c:cure scheme. After working for a couple of small consultancies, I went to run the security incident and investigations team at Royal Bank of Scotland Group, through a whole range of virus incidents, the rise of phishing attacks and the use of DDoS for extortion.

It was during this job that I first became significantly involved with professionalization of the information security workspace – helping to found and becoming one of the first (and few) Fellows the Institute for Communications and Forensics, and contributing to the National Occupational Standards for Countering e-Crime and working with development and practice-sharing bodies such as FIRST. I also contributed to industrial experience initiatives and guest lectured at a range of universities. Eventually, this culminated in the founding of the Institute of Information Security Professionals, and I helped run the pilot membership assessment and interview schemes.

Since leaving the Bank, I worked briefly in another small consultancy, now part of Cap Gemini, and since then have run a niche security consultancy, specialising in financial and HMG compliance. I am also a member of the Army's "Land Information Assurance Group", part of the Joint Cyber Group, conducting security audits and technical testing in places as widespread as Andover, the Falklands, Cyprus and, obviously Iraq and Afghanistan.

With the start of the CESG Certified Professional Scheme, I initially offered myself up to the BCS project team as a pilot candidate but since became solidly involved in most aspects of the project. I am a member of the Lead Assessors panel, have conducted over a hundred assessments and numerous interviews, and was part of the development committee for the Practitioner level information security syllabuses.

I thoroughly enjoy my work as an assessor – even though the Information Security community is significantly smaller and much tighter than the wider IT community, you are still able to get a reasonable appreciation of the variety of different roles and working patterns that are out there. It is, also, vital that, with the ever increasing threat to business, government, personal and mobile computing that we continue to increase the size and capability of the skills pool available to build, maintain and defend computer systems.