British Computer Society
Belfast Branch
AGM 2008/2009

Specialist Groups Report

E-Learning Specialist Group (SG)

The BCS eLearning Specialist Group was launched in Northern Ireland on 20th October 2008. Present were the representatives from Ireland, mainland UK and participants from the voluntary, statutory and business sectors. Membership of the group has now exceeded 200 and covering a wide area both geographically and in terms of fields of specialisation allied to information and communication technology.

Aims and Objectives
Promoting e-learning and e-safety and the use of e-learning; of relevance to academics, teachers and those interested in the use of e-learning for continuous professional development and by the wider public.

To provide a focus for the interests in E-Learning and the implications, from across the BCS and the wider profession to the general public. For example, topics where e-learning view could enhance current activities are the implications for IT Professionalism and computing

To achieve this the group will
- Raise awareness and knowledge of the issues and opportunities related to   e-learning futures, through facilitating blogs, web discussions, articles and events.
- Attract new professionals in the e-learning field to membership of the BCS.
- Build credibility as a body of expertise that can act as a source of information in the field of e-learning, for instance through the provision of road maps, policies and guidance.
- Provide a forum across the BCS and wider on e-learning.
- Support a knowledge community for e-learning.
- Develop a programme of events, standalone and with other Specialist Groups.

Specifically the group will
- Keep under review, advise and make recommendations to the BCS on strategy for the development of e-learning in order the society's objective of increasing accessibility to information and inclusivity in education.
- Consider partnership requirements to achieve delivery of e-learning and the promotion of
  e-learning provision in education establishments.
- Consider quality assurance requirements of e-learning and promote best practice in all aspects of e-teaching and e-research.

- Work with others and develop e-learning policies and procedures, standards and specifications, implementations that could be referenced and initiate and coordinate
- e-learning events and publications.
- Participate in any ongoing benchmarking, networking and e-learning related dialogues, build confidence whilst honouring diverse perspectives and maintain an active e-learning community.

Events Organised So Far

e-Learning SG events to date include:
- Presentation to UK Higher Education eLearning Forum in Edinburgh
- CyberSecurity Conference held jointly with the UK CyberSecurity KTN and the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland
- Three practical sessions on Getting Started in Second Life, which were all held in Second Life, arranged jointly with the Hampshire Branch;
- Meetings held in Belfast and Southampton
- An international conference, INSPIRE 2009, which was organised with the BCS Quality SG in April 2009 in Southampton
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Plans are currently in place to hold the INSPIRE 2010 conference jointly with the Quality SG in BCS London Offices, Southampton Street, London on Wednesday 31st March, 2010.

The SG is keen to hold joint meetings with other Branches and SGs

The BCS eLearning Specialist group seeks to collaborative deliver joint events and programmes in promoting integration of technology in education and business. It is one of the few SGs that transcends boundaries as it is bounded by geographical location (space) or area of specialization. We work very closely with Branches and other SGs in the BCS to facilitate and drive the agenda of public engagement and making IT the profession of the 21st century.

The First AGM is scheduled for Friday 12th June 2009. Details to follow.

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