

BCS DSC SG SURVEY OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND PREFERENCES FOR SEMINAR DISSEMINATION OCTOBER 2010

RESULTS

The Member Survey was conducted in order to determine the interest areas among group members. The responses are set out in graphical form below.

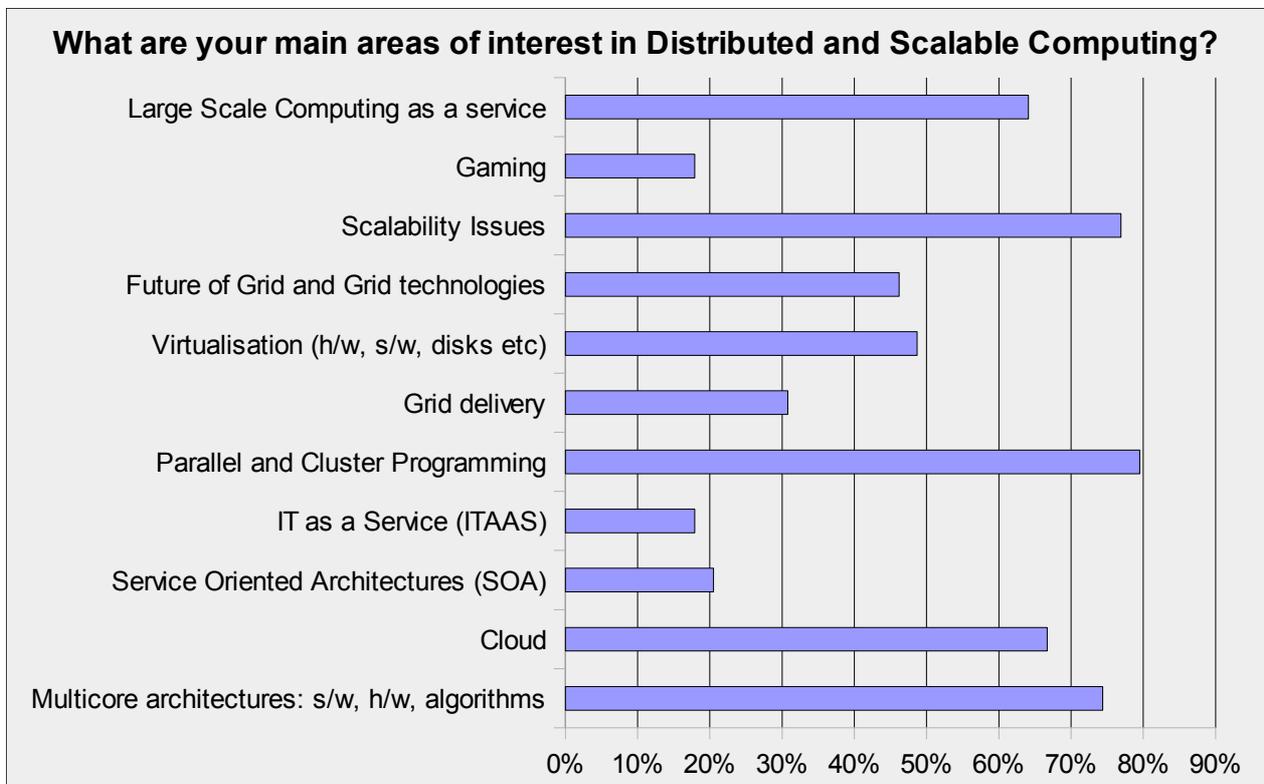
Questions and headings have been edited in some places, in the interests of readability and space. Meaning has been retained. Responses under "other" have only been edited to correct typos.

All members were offered the chance to vote in the survey which was run by Survey Monkey. The response rate was about 11.5%.

Question 1: What are your main areas of interest in Distributed and Scalable Computing?

Members could specify *as many topics as they liked* from the list of areas supplied which was intended to cover most if not all areas of Distributed and Scalable Computing.

Therefore, a result of x% for area A is to be understood to mean "x% of the respondents stated that area A is one of their main areas of interest". Thus: 61% of respondents are interested in Large Scale Computing as a service.

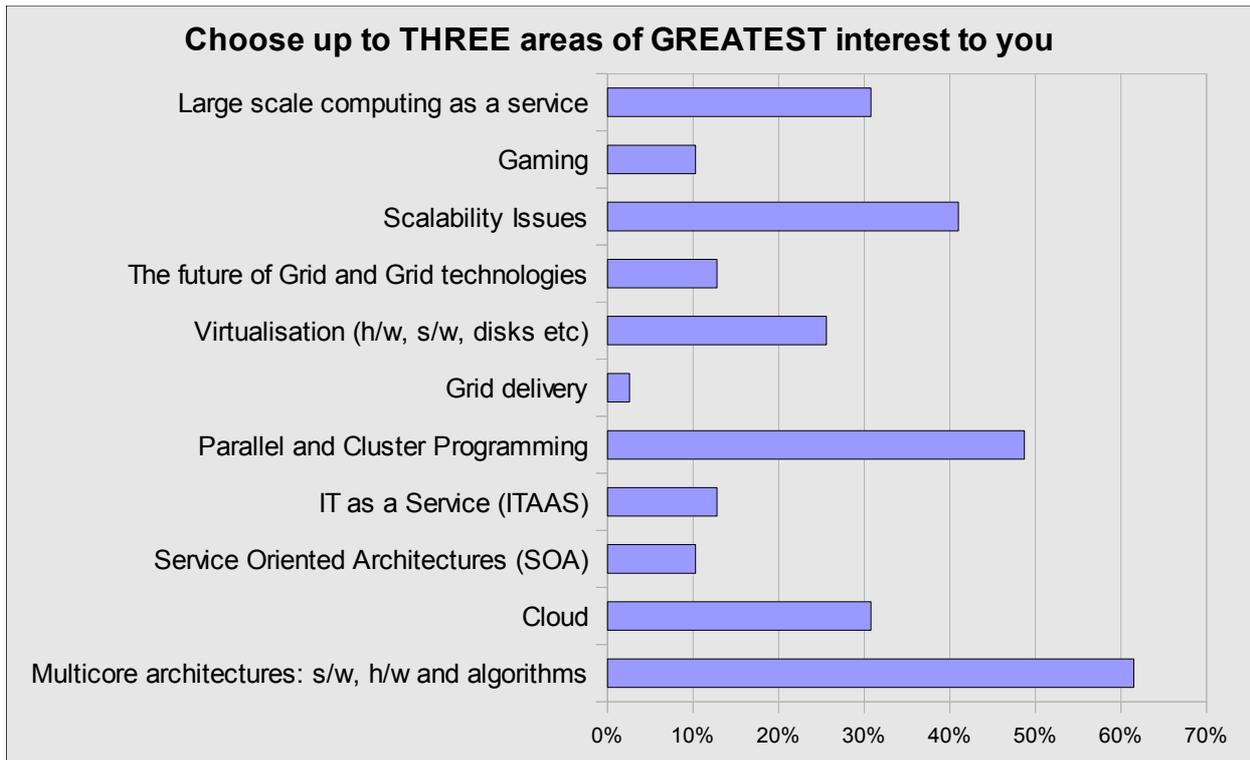


Members were offered the chance to specify other areas. The areas mentioned explicitly were:

1. Issues related to embedded software on multi-core systems-on-chip
2. Pushing towards exascale - how to get software to follow hardware.
3. Ensuring security in distributed and scalable computing
4. Performance, optimisation

Question 2: Choose up to THREE areas of GREATEST interest to you.

In order to refine the areas which were of broadest interest to the group respondents were invited to nominate their top three areas from the list in question 1, or to specify under "other" those areas which they had named under question 1 if they were among their top three.

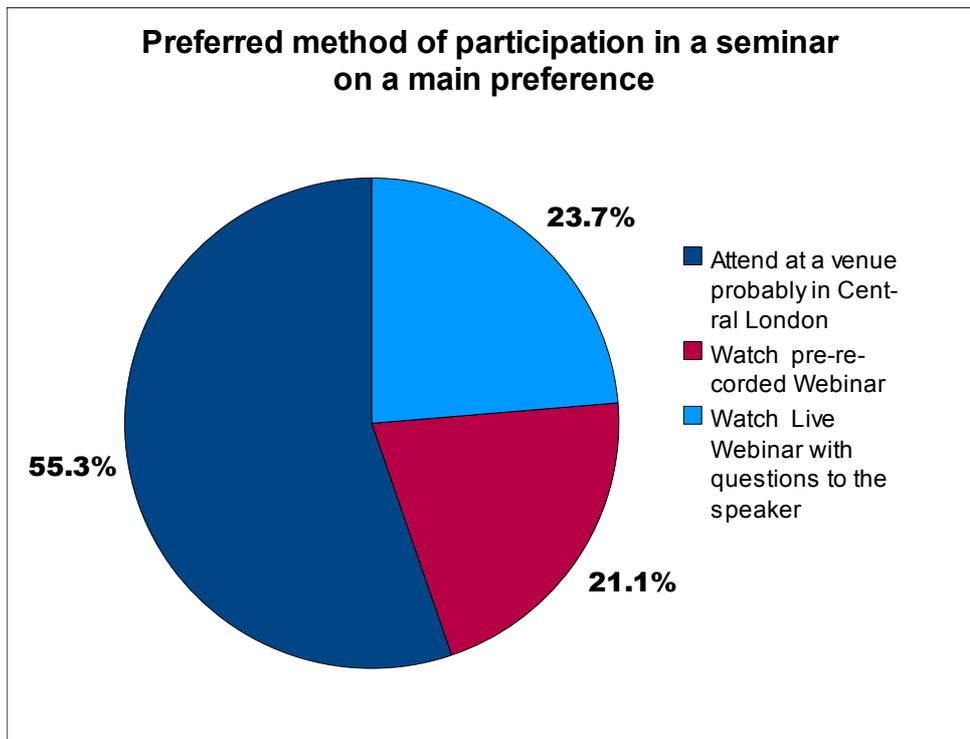


In similar manner to Question 1 above, a result of x% for area A is to be understood to mean "x% of the respondents stated that area A is one of their top three areas of interest". Thus: 61% of respondents stated that "Multicore architectures: Software, hardware and algorithms" is one of their top three areas of interest.

Under "other" in response to the previous question, respondents added:

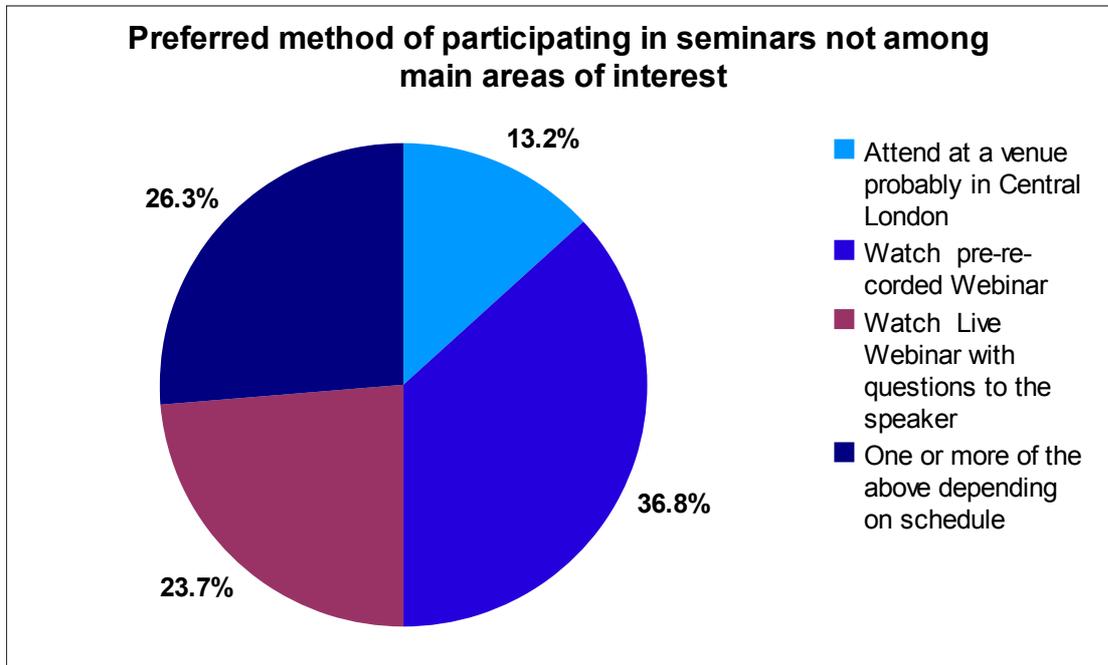
1. Embedded software multicore system-on-chip architectures
2. Security & privacy protection

Question 3: What is your preferred way of attending a seminar on one of the topics listed under your main preferences



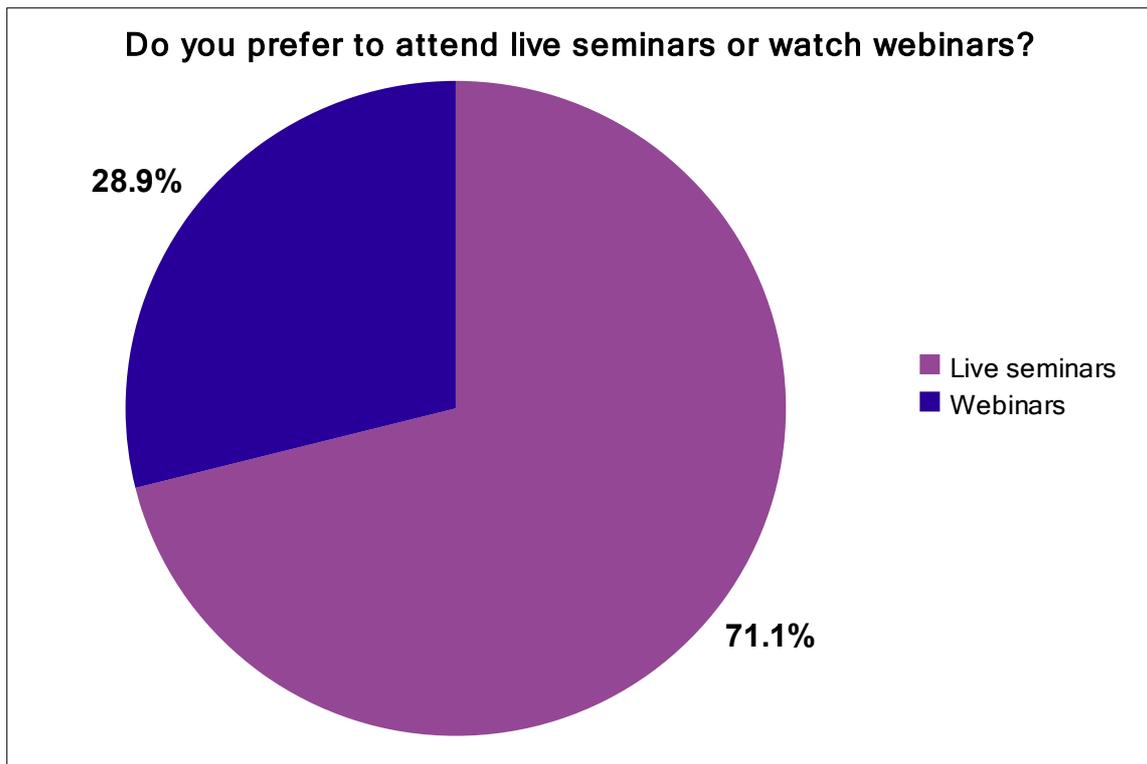
Of respondents, 55.3% were prepared to attend a seminar in London; 21% would watch a pre-recorded webinar and 24% would prefer a live webinar with questions, for a subject which was on one of the areas that they are most interested.

Question 4: What is your preferred way of attending a seminar on one of the topics NOT listed under your main preferences



If the subject was not in one of their main areas of interest, only 13% were prepared to attend a seminar in London; 37% would watch a pre-recorded webinar ; 24% would prefer a live webinar with questions and 24% would one or more depending on their schedule.

Question 5: What is your preferred way of attending a seminar



Next respondents were asked simply to state what their preferred method on attending seminars was. Despite the added flexibility of webinars, 71% stated their preference for live seminars.

Question 6

The final question offered the opportunity for members to add other comments. Responses were as below:

1. Meetings are always in London which is inconvenient for those of us who did not live nearby.
2. It would be nice to have joint meeting with Fortran SG and Institute of Mathematics and its Application London Branch. The former one relates to parallel programming issues and the latter concerns robust numerical algorithms for applied mathematics.
3. For those of us who live outside London would it be possible to hold meeting jointly with other SGs or local Branches?
4. North of England venues?
5. Podcasts for download and viewing at my leisure.
6. I'm currently studying Distributed Systems (EMDC) at UPC/KTH in Barcelona/Stockholm so can't attend anything in London (and don't live in London anyway) so my preference is very much for online content!

The last webinar I saw was very good & useful for my studies, and is the only positive thing I obtained from my BCS student membership (and is making me consider renewing, I have found the ICT junkmail, propaganda and politics from BCS quite tiresome on the whole), so well done! :)

7. "A combination of the above depending on my schedule" was not given as an option for meetings on the subjects I'm most interested in, but obviously the limitation of a live meeting is that a prior commitment may prevent me from attending.

Therefore all meetings should please be recorded for later on demand viewing or listening by members - ideally please provide both podcast and video options. Thanks.

8. What about access grid type technology? It is usually not too difficult or expensive to hire an access grid node from a local university, or failing that the software for your desktop is available free. If preferred, you can pay for a slightly more sophisticated version with support.

9. I've selected Live seminars as I would like the opportunity to ask questions, and because I prefer not lose time travelling to/from a venue if it is avoidable. However, I would very much like the seminar recorded and made available on the web as watching live may not be possible (schedule may conflict, or the internet connection may be poor). It's preferable to record to local equipment, and upload later (you could have a YouTube Channel). You may even be able to attract more speakers if it is possible for them to deliver their presentation without travelling to a venue.