

BCS Member Group Chair's Report

Member Group Name:	Information Security Specialist Group (ISSG)
Year:	2021
Report Completed By:	Steve Sands

Group Chair:	Ian Fish (Resigned 18/11/2021). Steve Sands (Interim). New Chairman to be appointed at AGM.
Group Treasurer:	Deepthi Ratnayake
Group Secretary:	Steve Sands
Group Inclusion Officer:	Ian Fish (Resigned). For appointment by committee in January
Other Committee Members:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emanuel-Ojo Ademola 2. Dan Cope 3. Paul Figini 4. Wendy Goucher 5. Luke Hebdich 6. Matt Mason 7. Angus Pinkerton 8. Alan Quinlan (Membership Secretary) 9. Paul Skinner 10. Fox Thomas 11. Tim Williams 12. Rob Wilson 13. Alan Woodroffe 14. Patrick Burgess (Co-opted) 15. Sarith Chandrasekaran (Co-opted) 16. Gareth Niblett (Co-opted) 17. Charlotte Walker-Osborn (Co-opted)

The Chair's Report is a vital communication tool for the BCS Community Team to understand and support your activity as a group. The Programme, Practice, and Policy (PPP) Committee will review your submitted report, and suitable action points fed into the Community Board for strategic planning. As one of the critical communication points with our members, your completion of this report supports not only your group but ongoing support and development of other member groups and the BCS itself

Successes

Please list the top three successes the group has achieved in the past year.

Success	Additional Comments
1. 'Legal Day' event series	Legal Day has been a popular annual fixture in the ISSG calendar for some 22 years. This year the face-to-face event, usually hosted at the RAF Club in London, had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. The organiser (Paul Skinner) replaced the one-day event with a series of shorter seminars, all based on legal/InfoSec

	topics, which turned out to be even more popular than usual.
2. Early careers series	A very successful series of interactive events have been delivered in the last 12-months, which have engaged numerous young professionals starting out on their information security careers.
3. Merger of YPISG into ISSG	This year saw the completion of the merger of the Young Professionals Information Security Group into the ISSG. It fits very well with our aim of expanding the membership and makeup of the group. Sarith Chandrasekaran, who previously chaired the YPISG, has become an active member of the ISSG committee.

Plans

Please list the top three activities the group is planning for next year.

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1. Events programme	A full programme of relevant and topical events which will be delivered by experts and professionals in the field of Information Security. The programme will be covering current issues relating to the Information and Cyber Security communities.
2. Engagement with the wider BCS	It is an ambition of the ISSG to attract more members from across the BCS. One of the ways we gain interest is through thought leadership contributions to ITNow, which are presently provided by our committee member and treasurer, Deepthi Ratnayake. We also hope to make better use of the private ISSG LinkedIn group, which has over 6,000 members. And finally, we continue to engage with branches and other specialist groups wherever possible to host collaborative events.
3. Improved alignment with the BCS Strategic Pillars	A wide variety of ISSG activities support the five strategic pillars of the BCS. Supporting Careers has been the focus of our Early Careers series, recognising the

	<p>importance of engaging today with the professionals of tomorrow.</p> <p>For Sharing Expertise, the ISSG maintains an annual programme of relevant, topical, and informative events which are beneficial and can Influence Practice for all IT professionals who have an interest in Information Security. The ISSG committee is committed to Improving Education. The committee is made up of a diverse group of professionals from both industry and education. We are planning a 'bridging the gap' event in the coming year to bring these two areas even closer and encourage greater links between academic and professional development. We believe this will also continue to Drive Standards within the communities we serve.</p>
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Impediments

Please list and describe the top three impediments stopping you from succeeding in your group's ambition and support the BCS vision of "Making IT Good for Society."

Impediment	Description
1. Committee member time conflicting with professional commitments	ISSG committee members are all extremely busy Information Security professionals. They give of their time, knowledge, and experience on an entirely voluntary basis.
2. Covid impacts	<p>Covid continues to impact our ability to meet face to face on a regular basis and hampers networking opportunities within the group and beyond.</p> <p>Only one event has been cancelled due to the impacts of Covid. This event is currently being re-scheduled using on-line tools for the coming year.</p> <p>We have adopted the various 'virtual meeting spaces' to enable us to deliver our programme of events and to run the group. In some cases this has been extremely positive, however I think we are all agreed that occasional face to face brings an additional dimension to human interactions that aren't available on Teams or Zoom.</p>

Additional Facts and Figures

Please provide any facts and figures you think would be useful to the Community Team for further analysis and future activity planning.

Since the 2020 AGM, the ISSG has:-

- Held 5 committee meetings
- Run 4 'Legal Day' events
- And 5 Early careers events
- Maintained links with the 'Golden Valley' project
- Run a hybrid event in partnership with BT in Birmingham

In 2021, we hope to deliver another full programme of events, including:-

- Further Early Careers events
- Bridging the Gap (establishing better links between education and business)
- Supply chain info-sec risks
- Covid's impact on cyber in the NHS
- 'Professional burnout' in collaboration with the British Psychological Society
- Cloud security auditing

Further Comments

If you have any further comments you wish to provide the Community Team; please give them below.

Ian Fish resigned his position as Chairman of the ISSG in November 2021. Ian's contribution to the group has been simply huge since he took over in 2017 from Gareth Niblett. Ian can take much credit for the success of the group during this period. His commitment and excellent guidance and direction for the last 5-years has been most impressive, but unfortunately his current workload prevents him continuing. We wish him well and thank him sincerely for all he has done. Ian will continue to be involved with the BCS at a strategic level, and we very much hope he will keep in touch.

Gareth Niblett has also declared his intention to step down as a committee member this year. Gareth was Chairman of the ISSG for the 12-years immediately prior to Ian Fish and has actively contributed and supported the group as a committee member ever since.

In the previous period, we were superbly supported by Marie Setterfield in BCS Member Groups. We hope that this level of support can be continued since her incredibly well-deserved change of role within BCS.

Basecamp doesn't appear to be widely used within the group. We would be interested in hearing of any future plans BCS may have for Basecamp or other collaborative tools.