



The  
Chartered  
Institute  
for IT

➤ London Branches &  
➤ Information Security SG

MON 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY - 6:30PM - HYBRID (IN-PERSON AT BCS & LIVE WEBINAR)

#BCSEvents  
@BCSLondon

UKRAINE: 8:30PM  
UK: 6:30PM





**Dalim Basu MBE**  
Chair of BCS London  
Branches



**Steve Sands**  
Chair of BCS  
ISSG



**Mike Lloyd**  
Founder of  
learn-tech.io



**Helen Oluyemi**  
Security Lead at  
Pollinate



**Anastasiia Ostrovska**  
Founder WLSIF,  
Ukraine



**Chris Lewis**  
Head of Solutions at  
Synectics Solutions

## HOW CAN DISINFORMATION BE DEFEATED?

### Event Recap: How Can Disinformation Be Defeated?

On Monday, 19 May, the BCS hosted a hybrid event at its London offices and online, tackling one of the most urgent challenges of our time: disinformation. Titled “*How Can Disinformation Be Defeated?*”, the evening brought together cybersecurity experts, technologists, and international voices to explore the scale of the problem and potential solutions.

The event opened with remarks from Dalim Basu MBE and Steve Sands CITP FBCS MCIIIS, who framed disinformation as a threat not only to truth but to democracy, public health, and national security. Referencing Mark Twain’s famous quote — “A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes” — Sands emphasized the speed and reach of falsehoods in the digital age.

Mike Lloyd FBCS, founder of learn-tech.io, challenged the audience to consider whether disinformation can actually be defeated. While acknowledging the scale of the problem, he urged optimism and action, noting that technologists are problem-solvers by nature. Lloyd highlighted the need for a multidisciplinary approach and introduced the idea of building a Europe-wide open-source intelligence network to counter disinformation, inspired by Ukraine’s resilience and innovation in this space.

Helen Oluyemi, Security Lead at Pollinate, explored how AI is accelerating the disinformation crisis. She warned of the ease with which generative AI can create convincing fake content and emphasised the emotional, rather than rational, nature of disinformation’s appeal. Her call to move from reactive to proactive strategies resonated strongly with attendees.

Chris Lewis, Head of Solutions at Synectics Solutions, provided a financial forensics perspective, linking disinformation to fraud, synthetic identities, and organised crime. He highlighted the staggering scale of cyber-enabled fraud — £59 billion lost annually in the UK public sector alone — and the urgent need for cross-border data sharing and intelligence collaboration.

A standout moment came from special guests from the International Cybersecurity University of Ukraine. They shared harrowing insights into how disinformation, cyberattacks, and kinetic warfare came sequentially and were coordinated in the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Their presentation detailed the evolution of cyberwarfare, the targeting of critical infrastructure, and Ukraine's use of malware-sharing platforms like MISP, designed to crowdsource and verify disinformation threats in real time.

The event concluded with a call to action: to move beyond discussion and begin solving real-world disinformation problems in a strategic and co-ordinated way. Plans are underway for a multidisciplinary workshop at the BCS, bringing together technologists, ethical hackers, journalists, psychologists, and social scientists.

**Call to Action:** Our next step is to start solving real disinformation problems at an interactive and multidisciplinary workshop at the BCS. We are aiming to work with technologists, ethical hackers, journalists, psychologists, social scientists and people from other disciplines to address what is becoming the defining problem of our times. Please contact [info@learn-tech.io](mailto:info@learn-tech.io) if this is something that interests you.