Dear Members

Since our last Newsletter last September we have had our Annual General Meeting (22nd October) resulting in some new Committee members who join our existing committee. I would like to thank all the pre-AGM committee members for volunteering to stay on the committee, and thank our new committee members volunteering. We now have a total of 13 members (including officers) – listed below – who bring a range of experience and expertise. The Minutes of the AGM are on our web page: and Don Gotterbarn’s presentation “The ICT Professional: Why good people do bad things and what to do about it/them” is on YouTube.

This group has an interest in promoting professionalism and in raising awareness of ethical issues relating to the development and deployment of ICT, this Newsletter highlights some recent topics and links to material that I hope you find interesting.

Penny Duquenoy
Chair

Topics from our LinkedIn Group:
“How Internet of Things will help us care for an ageing society”
“Ethical challenges of the Internet of Things”
Consultation on the linking and use of biological and health
“It’s time for Data Scientists to prioritize Privacy & Ethics above all else!”
“The Ethics of Encryption: Who Guards Your Privacy?”

Conferences Ethics and relevant topics:

Computers, Privacy and Data Protection conference¹
Themes: privacy re state surveillance²; Cloud; Smart metering/grid; Social Networks; Accountability and more. (January 2014)
Some videos of presentations, and some presentation slides at:
www.cpdpconferences.org/Programme.html
Two conferences co-located this year are
CEPE 2014 and ETHICOMP 2014
For topics and themes follow the links to each at:
http://cepe2014.org/
IFIP (TC9) Human Choice and Computers International Conference, 30 July - 1st August 2014
http://www.hcc11.net/

ICT SG Committee Members
2013-14
Penny Duquenoy (Chair)
Denise Oram (Secretary and Treasurer)
Ian Fish (Membership Secretary)
Caspar Bowden
Dan Bowen
Peter Buchanan
Bernd Carsten Stahl
Jennifer Dean
Don Gotterbarn
Marina Jirotka
Aygen Kurt-Dickson
Ian Thornton-Bryar
Anna Vartapetiance

¹ See also reference to the conference book in books/articles section at the end of this Newsletter.
² See references to this under professionalism on the following page, and to the Report delivered by our Committee member Casper Bowden to the European Parliament in September 2013 (end of this Newsletter).
Professional Societies

CEPIS
The Council of European Professional Informatics Societies held a Professional Ethics Micro-Conference in March 2014 in Brussels. This Micro-Conference examined some key aspects of ethics from the perspective of the Professional Institution, with a view to guiding future actions. The question of equipping ICT professionals with the right tools to address ethical considerations was centre-stage in these discussions.

Presentations
- The Conscience of Computing Professionals: a Code of Ethics, Don Gotterbarn (US) Chair, ACM Committee on Professional Ethics
- Ethics in University Curricula, Norberto Patrignani (Italy) Italian Computer Society
- Ethical Implications of ICT for Professional Bodies, Penny Duquenoy (UK) BCS, Chartered Institute for IT, Chair ICT Ethics SG.

The presentations were recorded, and the slides are also available from the link at the CEPIS web page (http://cepis.org/index.jsp)

You may feel like contributing to the CEPIS poll:
“Does Europe’s ICT profession need a single foundational body of knowledge (BOK)?”

IFIP (International Federation of Information Processing)

In response to the revelations by Snowden on PRISM, IFIP took the step of releasing a statement on “intentional weakening of security and trust mechanisms in ICT and the Internet by government agencies and other major actors” (October 2013). The opening paragraph states:

“The reports about security weaknesses in ICT and the Internet and the subsequent discussions about trust mechanisms and trusted parties have motivated IFIP to issue a statement on the topic. IFIP with its diverse international structure of around 50 member societies is not the body that issues statements on current issues lightheartedly, but the seriousness of the issue led to a clear statement, unanimously accepted by its General Assembly. IFIP realizes that such a statement can only be the beginning of work on the issues and will seek cooperation between its technical bodies and its member societies to do this work, wherever possible also with other interested parties.”

Available from www.ifip.org (or link directly here.)

Academics also felt strongly, producing a declaration that ‘called upon nation states to take action … States must effectively protect everyone’s fundamental rights and freedoms, and particularly everyone’s privacy.’

For the full version and list of signatories see: http://academicsagainstsurveillance.net/

Conference - HCC11 Human Choice and Computers (http://www.hcc11.net/)

3 The Declaration is an initiative of Prof. Nico van Eijk, Prof. Beate Roessler, Frederik Zuiderveen Borgesius & Manon Oostveen (University of Amsterdam).
Forthcoming Events


How do we innovate responsibly in a digital world?
This will be a public forum for discussing the topic of Responsible Innovation in ICT in the UK and will be a significant activity designed to foster debate between major media outlets, NGOs, policymakers, funding councils, academics, and members of the public.

We will be discussing the topic of Responsible Innovation in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the UK. The event aims to foster discussion and debate between NGOs, policymakers, funding councils, academics, major media outlets and members of the public. Sir Nigel Shadbolt will open the event with a keynote address.

There will also be a panel discussion of the topic: ‘How do we innovate responsibly in a digital world?’
Speakers include:
Daniel Stauffacher (ICT4Peace)
Derek MacAulay (Horizon Institute, University of Nottingham)
John Hand (EPSRC)
Anthony House (Google)

Additionally, we will be hosting an event led by our artist-in-residence, Barbara Gorayska, who has produced a series of paintings inspired by the topic of responsible innovation.

Details of the Event
Date: 19 June 2014
Time: 1-6pm – Refreshments will be provided
Venue: Science Museum, In Future Gallery, London

Please register for this event using the following link: https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/events/?chosenEvent=80
Registration closes on 10 June. Places are limited so please do book your spot as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

The FRRIICT Project is funded by the EPSRC
The overall aim of the project:
• develop an in-depth understanding of ICT researchers’ ethical issues and dilemmas in conducting ICT research;
• provide of a set of recommendations and good practice to be adopted by EPSRC and the community;
• create a self sustaining ‘ICT Observatory’ serving as a community portal and providing access to all outputs of the project.
http://responsible-innovation.org.uk/frriict/
Research vacancies with an ‘ethics’ flavour available:

(i) Ethically Informed Design for Addressing Legal and Privacy Issues in Criminal Intelligence Analysis
Middlesex University, London, UK

The successful candidate will carry out their research with a team of international collaborators in context of an EC funded FP7 project, based in the Interaction Design Centre, School of Science and Technology.

The analysis of large data sets by law enforcement agencies that use sophisticated technologies requires a development process which is sensitive to the ethical standards expected by the agencies and society. The key question to be faced is how to develop technologies that take account of principles founded on ethical values, and formulated on the rights and freedoms of individuals (such as privacy) while at the same time maintaining law and order for a just society?

A number of user-centred methods for requirements gathering, including most recently Value Sensitive Design, have been put forward by researchers but few tackle the practicalities of their application in development. This research project will investigate methods that can be used to embed ethics, privacy as well as legal requirements, into the development process to provide users with an ethically-informed system.

INFORMAL INQUIRIES: Professor B.L. William Wong, w.wong@mdx.ac.uk

(ii) Senior Research Fellow: Ethics of Robotics
De Montfort University, Faculty of Technology, School of Computer Science and Informatics
Full Time, Temporary Fixed Term Contract until 30 September 2018
Grade G: £35,597 - £45,053 per annum

This Senior Research Fellow post is funded by the European DREAM project, an exciting interdisciplinary, large-scale project, involving 7 European partners which will develop the next-generation robots that mediate between therapists and children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in autism therapy. In this Robot-Enhanced Therapy (RET), the robots will be able to interact with the child autonomously for limited periods under the supervision of a therapist (“supervised autonomy”).

The use of robots in therapeutic contexts raises several ethical issues, such questions concerning autonomy and trust. The “Ethics” work package will address these ethical issues by making sure that all relevant known ethical constraints and existing laws are implemented in the design process, by examining specific new ethical questions raised by the child-robot interaction, and by investigating if and how we can build in ethical constraints into the meta-cognition level of the robot. Through close collaboration between the technical and ethical researchers and the ASD practitioners, the project will integrate technology with ethics and clinical therapy practices.

For any questions or further information contact Prof. Mark Coeckelbergh at mark.coeckelbergh@dmu.ac.uk or +44 116 257 7487 or, alternatively, the CCSR’s director, Prof. Bernd Carsten Stahl at bstahl@dmu.ac.uk or +44 116 207 8252. Closing Date: 31 May 2014
https://jobs.dmu.ac.uk/webrecruitment/Default.asp?Section=Vacancy&VacID=8384
Reading


(Papers from the Computers, Privacy and Data Protection conference (2014), Brussels, Belgium.)


Summary of themes from the overview: developments in data protection in different parts of the world; how to forget/right to be forgotten; surveillance, control/steering of individuals/groups (data mining, profiling, convergence); changing nature of privacy concerns.

NatCen - Social Research that works for society “Research using Social Media: Users’ Views”
Authors: Kelsey Beninger, Alexandra Fry, Natalie Jago, Hayley Lepps, Laura Nass and Hannah Silvester. Published online: 20/02/2014.

Extract from the Executive summary:
There is a lot of debate amongst academics and researchers about the opportunities and challenges of online and social media research. Social media websites offer rich, naturally-occurring data and researchers are using such websites to support their work, such as scraping data from online discussions, mining data from archives, recruiting participants, and interviewing online. Like all research, online and social media research is wrought with ethical dilemmas.

http://www.natcen.ac.uk/media/282288/p0639-research-using-social-media-report-final-190214.pdf


The US surveillance programmes and their impact on EU citizens’ fundamental rights
September 2013

Abstract
In light of the recent PRISM-related revelations, this briefing note analyses the impact of US surveillance programmes on European citizens’ rights. The note explores the scope of surveillance that can be carried out under the US FISA Amendments Act 2008, and related practices of the US authorities which have very strong implications for EU data sovereignty and the protection of European citizens’ rights.

Authors: Mr. Caspar Bowden (Independent Privacy Researcher)
Introduction by Prof. Didier Bigo