From the Editor

Welcome to the winter edition of The Tester. As we ‘go to press’ there are still some details to add to the winter conference agenda. Check these out on the SIG website over the coming month. Abstracts for the conference talks and workshop are available from page 4.

The winter conference takes place at our regular venue of the Barbican, City of London. Look out for an announcement about future venues at the conference.

Also have a read of the article in this edition from a first-time SIG speaker, and the benefits he got from speaking. Check out the SIG website for details of how to become a speaker yourself:
http://www.bcs.org/category/10880

And if you want to become a published author, contact me if you would like your own article presented here.

Phill Isles
The Tester Editor
phill.isles@bcs.org

Conference Booking Instructions

To register online, please use the link below, or scan the QR code with your smart device. Please note the BCS booking system accepts multiple and third party bookings.

https://events.bcs.org/book/890/

Join our Linked-In Group:
http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=3466623

Follow us @SIGiST
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30</td>
<td>Coffee &amp; Registration, Exhibition opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:25</td>
<td>Introduction and Welcome</td>
<td>Stuart Reid, SIGiST Chair</td>
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<td>09:30</td>
<td>Opening Keynote</td>
<td>Be a success testing in the financial service sector</td>
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<td>Al Lines</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Open Microphone and Networking session</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Tea / coffee break</td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>Don’t Leave Things to Chance</td>
<td>David Oxley, McAfee</td>
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<td>Morning Workshop*</td>
<td>Programming For Testers. It is Easy!</td>
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<td>Graham Thomas, Independent Consultant &amp; Phill Isles</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
<td>5-Star Wars – prevent your users from striking back!</td>
<td>Roy Nuriel, Perfecto Mobile</td>
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<td>12:15</td>
<td>One Application, but two very different approaches to Quality Assurance</td>
<td>Tina Knudsen, Capgemini Sogeti</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
<td>Opportunity to visit the Vendor Exhibition</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Book Review: More Agile Testing: Lisa Crispin, Janet Gregory</td>
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<td>14:10</td>
<td>Cross-platform accessibility fundamentals for testers</td>
<td>Jon Gibbins, Dig Inclusion</td>
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<td>Accessibility - Supporting organisations create accessible desktop websites and software to a pan-disability audience</td>
<td>Grant Broome, Dig Inclusion</td>
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<td>14:50</td>
<td>Panel Discussion Session TBC</td>
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<td>15:30</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>Closing Keynote</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>- Closing Remarks -</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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The SIGiST conferences have been held at the Barbican Centre, City of London, since September 2013. Full details of how to get to the Barbican can be found on their website: http://www.barbican.org.uk/visitor-information. The closest London Underground stations are Barbican, St Paul’s and Moorgate.

Pedestrians are advised to follow the yellow line routes to gain access to the Barbican Centre

Guildhall School of Music and Drama

The SIGiST conference will be located in Frobisher Auditorium 1, Frobisher Room 1 and the Conservatory Terrace, on the fourth floor of the Barbican. These will be clearly sign-posted on the day. From the Lakeside entrance, take a lift (just inside the doors) to the fourth floor.
Presentation Abstracts and Speaker Biographies

Al Lines
“Be a success testing in the financial service sector”

A retrospective on life, based from testing within the finance sector and what you need to be successful.

Examples of how the industry has and is changing and how this impacts us as testing professionals.

- Updating your skills/learning continually
- Be adaptable in your role
- What seems important as a tester may not be to the Business and vice versa

Al Lines has over 20 years’ experience in the finance sector, having gained expertise in different security types with each role. For over a decade he has focused on the QA and testing space, helping projects successfully deliver to production.

Wishing to give back to the community, he has been involved in the working group for the new ISO standard in testing (29119) over the last few years.

In his spare time, he studies the quality aspects of a range of alcoholic drinks.

Dave Oxley
“Don’t Leave Things to Chance”

Despite years of effort there is still a prevailing industry perception that you can add Quality to a product through System Testing. This drives the idea that testing equals quality. We’ll look at the entire engineering lifecycle to test the hypothesis that Testing can inject Quality. Changing the perception and implementation of how you test can reduce traditional testing time, so is there a valid excuse for not making the shift?

Why would you wait for the next release to increase the Quality & Security of the software you’re working on?

- Why does testing default to system testing in people’s minds?
- Is any method better than any other?
- Change can be done mid project without affecting scope and time.

Dave Oxley is currently the Quality & Security Champion for Network Security at McAfee, Part of Intel Security. Dave has spent the last 18 years running teams in development, support and testing. Since 2010 he’s been focused on driving improvements in customer satisfaction across a business unit spanning 14 time zones, which involves a lot of travel for someone who hates flying.
Roy Nuriel
“5-Star Wars – prevent your users from striking back!”

Releasing a 5-star app is expected but not easily achieved. Some 44% of mobile app bugs are found by the end user and 63% of testers admit that they’re unable to sufficiently test across the devices and OS versions required for full coverage. When mobile apps fail due to poor quality and performance, users strike back with bad app reviews!

End users rank UI, performance and functionality issues as the most frequently encountered problems. In order to build 5-star app, an organization must embed a robust continuous integration process that enables dev/test teams to accelerate their velocity without compromising app quality. Attendees will leave this session with an actionable plan for integrating enterprise quality tools and practices to win the 5-star war.

- Know your customers and learn what need to be tested
- Continuous Integration and Automation as key for success
- Scaling your mobile app quality using a continuous quality mobile cloud lab

Roy Nuriel is the Director of Product Management at Perfecto Mobile, responsible for overseeing the MobileCloud™ offering. Roy brings over 12 years of experience to Perfecto Mobile, specializing in Enterprise Software. Over the course of his career, his roles have spanned across engineering, product delivery and product management. He has spearheaded complex projects as an innovation lead, growing ideas into market leading solutions, and is an expert in software quality, application lifecycle management (ALM) and end-to-end IT Management.

Prior to joining Perfecto Mobile, Roy held a number of senior positions at HP Software and Mercury, and was responsible for HP Software, ALM, and automation products. In his last role he was responsible for building a new product line that addressed agile processes and other modern development practices.

Roy holds a B.Sc. in Computer Science from the Hebrew University in Israel.

Tina Knudsen
“One Application but two very different approaches to Quality Assurance.”

Based on a real life experience this talk will describe the journey from quality assurance of a project to quality assurance of the same code and functionality – but now as a product.

Management had taken the decision about growing the project into a product. This was done on a strategic level – without concerns about how this should be implemented at operational level. An innovation challenge was given. And it was accepted. Test management had to take the lead within several areas, a weight to carry but also an opportunity to gain influence. As a result of this many things had to be changed – including Quality Assurance and testing. We were forced to rethink an already working Quality Assurance process into a new form in order to ensure that it covered the need of a product focused process.

The Quality Assurance needed to be improved iteratively to correspond to the moving target. The challenge was to give the best possible Quality Assurance that matched the product you had at any given moment. And that was a very important lesson learned.

The presentation will be based on a practical example, describing how we used milestone decisions to innovate our Quality Assurance process to match the diversities we found when we started growing into the product world.
Tina Knudsen has been working with Quality Assurance for more than a decade. She holds an Academy Profession Degree Program in Computer Science and several certifications (e.g. in ISTQB and ITIL).

Test has been the red thread through all of her professional life. Already in high school she started with static testing – as a reviewer for misspelling on the local newspaper. She has also tried electrical testing of bare circuit boards and other similar things.

Lately she has been a tester and test manager in a health care application. Previously she has worked in varying different areas including, for example, Quality Assurance of metadata management and cost calculation for the fashion industries.

Tina Knudsen is a member of Danish IT and she is an active member in the Danish Experience Group Testing and Quality Assurance West.

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Pete George

“Review of ‘More Agile Testing’ by Lisa Crispin & Janet Gregory”


Pete George is an experienced test specialist and trainer working predominantly in Agile contexts. He is an accredited trainer for BCS, iSQI and Belbin and delivers training courses and coaching in the areas of Agile and software testing. He is a big fan of Crispin & Gregory’s approach of just passing on what they’ve learned, rather than advocating prescriptive ‘silver bullets’.

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Grant Broome

“Accessibility – Supporting organisations create accessible desktop websites & software to a pan-disability audience”

In a modern society, inclusive services are not merely a bonus, they are an expectation. Developers have both a moral and legal obligation to ensure that everyone regardless of ability are able to use their services.

In this talk, Grant Broome from DIG Inclusion will be providing some useful guidance on how to ensure that your products and services are accessible to the widest possible audience, and demonstrating how people who might be...
blind or who have severe motor impairments use technology to access digital services.

- Why Digital inclusion is important
- How people with disabilities access digital services
- What you can do to meet legal and moral obligations

Grant Broome is a web accessibility specialist with over a decade of experience consulting with agencies on how to make their online content accessible to people with disabilities. He has audited hundreds of websites and provides a variety of accessibility training courses. Grant has worked closely with a number of charities including the Shaw Trust, RNIB and Thalidomide Trust which has given him a very special insight into the specific needs of the individuals he has worked with.

Graham Thomas & Phill Isles

“Programming for Testers - It is easy!”
[Workshop]

We hear a lot these days about how testers should learn to code, become more technical, and have more development orientated skills. Unless you came into software testing as a ‘burnt out’ developer, it is unlikely that you have coding skills, or a deep understanding of the technical ins and outs of your current systems landscape. What can you do about it? Programming is hard! How can you learn to code and still master your current workload, which keeps on relentlessly increasing.

This workshop will show you how easy it actually is, as a tester, to learn how to program. The hard part is always how to start. We will show you 3 simple steps and get you up and running with Python. You will write the simplest “Hello World”

program. However, we will not stop there. We will then show you the ‘next step’, and get you to write more complex programs.

This sounds great, “But when I am back in the office sitting in front of the screen doing this on my own suddenly it will get much harder.” To combat that we will arm you with some of the most useful on-line information available. Someone, somewhere on the planet, has already found the answer to your problem, and most likely created a YouTube video showing you the answer!

And there is more. As a Tester you know that just writing code is not enough. It has to be shown to work. So not only will we write some code, we will ‘Test’ it as well. To make this even more enjoyable, together we will write programs to control a simple USB Robotic Arm, connected to a Raspberry Pi computer, on which we will run and ‘Test’ our code. We Testers can have fun too!

This session is targeted at Testers, although Developers are also welcome. To participate, you must bring a laptop that you can: download to, install software on, and edit the path variable. (If you can’t download and install software, i.e. your machine is a secure build, you will still be able to write code in text files that may be transferred to another machine for compilation and running.)

Equipment:

**Bring a laptop.**

Graham Thomas currently works in two key areas of software testing; program test management and testing change & transformation. His current focus is on helping testers and the organisations he works with in transitioning to more agile ways of working.

Graham has extensive experience in IT across a number of industry sectors including; Finance (Banking, Treasury & Insurance), Utilities and Retail. This has been gained in software house, consultancy and end user environments.
He has specialised in software testing since the early 1990’s.

**Phil Isles** currently works as a Test Manager for a UK bank. He has worked in the field of software testing since 2000, mainly in the finance arena, but also has test experience in media.

Phil’s software testing interests are in process improvement (by whatever means), and also in Tester education. He is a volunteer for the BCS and the UKTB for the ISTQB range of qualifications.

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Of people who responded to a SIGiST survey:

More than three quarters would recommend others to attend the conference, with value coming from:

- Good presentations and content
- Meeting people and networking
- Workshops

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New SIGiST White Paper Scheme Launched

We have set up a new area on the BCS website of a searchable repository for white papers and articles on testing and we are looking for contributors. That means you!

Do you have an existing paper you would like to repurpose and make more widely available through the SIGiST website?
- Then please send us the paper with three keywords for searching.

Would you like to write a new paper?
- Please send us the title and abstract together with the three keywords (or phrases)
- We will review the proposal and guide you through the authoring process
- For those who are thinking of speaking at SIGiST then this might be a good way to prepare a talk and get some useful feedback

If you have been thinking of writing or publicising an existing paper then this is the ideal opportunity. Please email your existing paper (with keywords) or your proposal to the SIGiST Programme Secretary Mike Bartley.

Past articles from The Tester will slowly be added to the repository as well.

Follow this link to the repository: [http://www.bcs.org/category/18128](http://www.bcs.org/category/18128)
Software Conferences: Why Should I Speak?

David Orr, Sopra

I wanted to let you know about an interesting experience I had recently at the SIGiST Autumn conference. If you have never been to such an event, now is the time! I’ll try and detail some of the reasons for attending.

Attending such software conferences provides a great opportunity to delve deeper into unknown territory or to scratch beneath the surface of current trends, take DevOps or Shift Left for example. You never know, you may be amazed by the variety of talks on offer from presenters with varied experience levels and there are usually some interesting personal stories which we can all relate to!

To get involved all you need to do is turn up and then listen, share, communicate and network. Be prepared to keep an open mind and don’t be afraid to ask questions or engage in friendly debate. Prior to attending such an event, my own thoughts on this, were, ‘What’s the point in going to these events?’ Aren’t they only for experts?’ These questions were duly answered when I finally succumbed and signed up to attend, my eyes were well and truly opened to what a worthwhile experience it can be, you’ll leave with new ideas, contacts and enhanced knowledge.

I’ve worked in places where I felt the environment was isolated and enclosed, by this I mean I was too focused and concentrated on doing things by using only the methods followed on the project. I suppose what I am saying is, start thinking outside the box, take that step into the unknown, why standstill when you can move forward. I did just this and when I started exploring online blogs, websites and finally going to conferences, I realised there was so much more out there to learn.

All of this led me to ask questions of myself. What if I were to speak at an event? I started thinking about and discussing this with some colleagues who had presented before. So what were my concerns about speaking as a novice?

1. I don’t like public speaking
2. I don’t have the required knowledge for presenting
3. Nobody will want to listen to my talk
4. I don’t know how to go about applying for a talk
5. What’s the point in sharing?
6. Only so called experts should speak at these sessions
7. I’ll be too nervous, what if I come unstuck in front of the audience
8. There will be too many people listening

These are only some of the thoughts I had and am sure you may have similar fears or concerns. Let me answer some these for you below following the same number sequence as above:
1. Do you really hate public speaking? When was the last time you gave a structured and well prepared talk? If you take the time to prepare and build up to the conference by performing dry runs with your team or even family members, this will help make you more comfortable and confident.

2. You may not be the most experienced person at the get together but you have had your own experiences so just share them, talk about things like the challenges you’ve faced and discuss real examples outlining what went well, what went wrong and the lessons you’ve learned. People like to hear personal stories that they can empathise with, as well as more expert driven ones.

3. This is why there is a submission process which enables the committee to establish the suitability of your talk. Make your submission and see what feedback you get. This will enable you to progress your talk and it’s an ideal starting point as you can learn from both negative and positive feedback.

4. Search for some conferences online, ask colleagues about them and once you have a few in mind, simply go to the websites to find out more about the submission and review process and don’t be afraid to phone or email the committee members. I had an unsuccessful submission for this year’s EuroSTAR, however, the feedback came with this link: http://gerrardconsulting.com/?q=node/640 which gives some nice tips. Also, if you know someone who has experience presenting, ask them for some advice.

5. By sharing your thoughts and ideas, it lets you evolve and learn new things. Use it as chance to engage with fellow attendees. If nobody shared then we would all be worse off.

6. Experts had to start somewhere too; most of these conferences like to host a good range of speakers and the fact that you might be considered a novice is taken into account by everyone in attendance. People will look to encourage you and support you on the day.

7. If you prepare, you will be fine and everyone gets nervous, don’t be worried by this as it helps to keep you focused and alert.

8. You don’t need to start by presenting the opening keynote at the EuroSTAR, look for a smaller conference like SIGiST to start with and aim for EuroSTAR.

These are just some of the barriers that I put up when posed with the dilemma, ‘To present or not to present?’ Initially, my thinking was “no way”, however, after some positive discussions I decided to give it a go on Thursday, September, 4th 2014, at the SIGiST conference. This was a great challenge for me being a novice but through hard work, lots of preparation (I’m sure my Dad and my team at Scottish Government are more pleased than I am, that it’s over) and the great support of my family and colleagues, I managed to produce a twenty minute presentation based on my experiences.

I only really addressed the concerns above, after reflecting on the whole process, from preparing my submission to giving the talk. In the spirit of sharing, I thought it was best to let you know. I hope you’ll take the time to attend a conference or present soon. Explore new avenues, you can meet new friends and there is usually a good pub in close proximity for some post event beers!
David Orr is a Senior Test Analyst at Sopra, currently working with clients in the Public sector. He graduated from the University of Stirling in 2008 with a BA Honours in Business and Economics and resides in Dunblane, central Scotland.

David attended the EuroSTAR Testing Conference 2013 in Gothenburg and loved the experience, he found it thought provoking and challenging and it inspired him to present at conferences.

Away from work, David is a highly active individual who enjoys taking part in sports such as football, golf, badminton and tennis. He is a very outgoing individual who likes to engage with friends and colleagues and enjoys meeting new people.

Write an article

We are always on the lookout for new content, so if you have a testing story you would like to share, a test technique you would like to evangelise or testing research you would like to publish, then The Tester is the place to do it. Simply email the Editor on phill.isles@bcs.org

Are you looking for a Mentor?

Don’t forget that you can use our linked in page to advertise for a mentor or, if you are happy to be a mentor, why not put your details up. http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=3466623
The annual EuroSTAR Software Testing Conference is Europe’s leading software testing conference & exhibition and this year takes place in Dublin, Ireland from 24-27 November 2014.

Since 1993, the EuroSTAR Conference has been recognised as the premier software testing event on the European testing calendar and continues to provide an unrivalled learning and networking opportunity for software testing professionals.

The four day event centres on an exceptional conference programme featuring intensive full-day and half-day tutorials; active workshops; over 40 track sessions and thought-leading keynote presentations from some of the world’s leading software testers.

Recognised international software testing experts will present their ideas on a wide range of topics including: Agile Testing; Test Strategy; Big Data; Mobile Testing; Security Testing; Test Automation; Test Design and Test Management.

The conference also features a vibrant Expo where companies showcase the latest tool and service innovations in software testing. This year the Expo is set to include the biggest ever Test Lab – a live testing environment where attendees can learn and demonstrate their software testing knowledge.

The EuroSTAR Conference presents IT companies with an excellent opportunity to learn from the very best the global software testing industry has to offer as well as the chance to network and discuss with over 1000 like-minded professionals from across Europe and around the globe.

For details on the 2014 EuroSTAR Conference programme and to learn more please visit:  
http://bit.ly/1hBacUM

For details of the fees to attend EuroSTAR, please visit:  
http://www.eurostarconferences.com/attend-eurostar-conferences/pricing
Following on from the success of the earlier conferences, TVS will be hosting the third Intelligent Testing Conference in Bristol in November. This half day conference will once more put the focus on how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of software testing. So if you are interested in learning about new ways to improve your software testing, want to share your testing challenges and leave with new ideas or are keen to network with fellow professionals, then join us for what will be another stimulating, entertaining and rewarding event.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** A New Model for Testing - Paul Gerrard, Gerrard Consulting

Paul is a distinguished software test expert, author of several testing books, host of the UK Test Management Forum and also Chair of the Eurostar 2014 Software Testing Conference in Dublin. Paul will propose a “New Model For Testing” and identify the capabilities and skills that all testers need to acquire, practice and excel in to be successful.

**Service Virtualisation and its Benefit to Testing** - Andrew Thompson, Parasoft

Service Virtualisation is a relatively new ‘buzzword’ that is gaining visibility and Andrew will discuss the real benefits that Service Virtualisation can bring to testing and why companies should investigate its use. Andrew is one of Parasoft’s senior solution architects and has helped companies such as Lloyds Bank, Screwfix, P&O Ferries, Lockheed Martin and Fidelity to successfully implement Service Virtualisation.

**Application Security Testing – Where are we now?** - Declan O’Riordan, TVS

What is getting better and what is getting worse? Is the balance with network security and penetration testing working and what part is the project team playing in application security? Declan is the Head of Security Testing at TVS and has helped organisations such as the Commonwealth Games, the European Commission, European Medicines Agency, Argos Retail Group, Aviva Insurance, and several blue-chip retail banks implement their test strategies.

**ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS**

- **Automated Software Defect Prediction Using Machine Learning**
  Dr Leandro L. Minku, Research Fellow, University of Birmingham

- **The SEI Personal Software Process: Improve Yourself!**
  Dr Roderick Chapman, Director, Protean Code Ltd

Registration and refreshments starts at 12:30 and time is available throughout the afternoon to network with your fellow professionals.

For the full agenda and to register for this FREE half day conference, visit: [http://www.testandverification.com/intelligent-testing/](http://www.testandverification.com/intelligent-testing/)
Event Listings

If you would like your event listed here, please contact the Editor on phil.isles@bcs.org

November

**Agile Testing Days 2014**
10 - 13 November 2014
Potsdam / Berlin, Germany
(Almost fully booked!)

**Intelligent Testing**
18 November 2014
Bristol, UK
[See details on page above](#)

**EuroSTAR**
24 – 27 November 2014
Dublin, Ireland
[http://www.eurostarconferences.com/](http://www.eurostarconferences.com/)

March 2015

**SIGiST**
4 March 2015
London, UK

May

**STAREAST**
3 - 8 May 2015
Orlando, US

**Belgium Testing Days**
18 - 21 May 2015
Brussels, Belgium

June

**SIGiST**
4 March 2015
London, UK
Did you get your Personal Development Plan email with suggested potential CPD activities?

The BCS Personal Development Plan (PDP) uptake is going well, with over 1,000 users already actively recording their CPD Development Goals, Activities and preferences. It’s not just about recording details though, as there is a Resources section that shows live feeds of potential CPD activities, and a tailored email is sent every 2 months with details of the latest videos, articles, blogs, books and research in your specified field of interest. If you haven’t registered yet, you can see the content from the latest PDP bulletin for topics relating to solution development and implementation here [http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/50854](http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/50854) or by going to the CPD Portal at: [http://www.bcs.org/pdp/](http://www.bcs.org/pdp/) and selecting the “Give me ideas” link.

The BCS Personal Development Plan is free to use; BCS members can use their Member Secure Area login and password to access it at [https://pdp.bcs.org/](https://pdp.bcs.org/), and non-members can use most of the facilities (using the same link) and registering to create their own user name and password. You can use it on a PC / laptop or compatible tablet PC or smartphone.