An introduction to the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists

- A history and overview of the Livery Movement
- The Information Technologists’ Company
- The Journeyman Scheme
- My Journey: experiences from two Journeymen
London Livery Companies

Historical and Contemporary Importance
The Livery Company tradition stretches back hundreds of years. Some of the older Livery Companies include the Mercers (1394), the Merchant Taylors (1327) and the Grocers (1428).

Newer arrivals include the Insurers (1979), the Marketors (1977) and, of course, the Information Technologists (1992).

Dick Whittington was a real person. A dealer in wool, silks and velvet, he was three times Master of the Mercers and four times Mayor of London.
The Origins of Livery Companies

Livery Companies began when people involved in the same craft or trade started making informal arrangements amongst themselves to regulate competition, maintain standards and protect each other in times of sickness or hardship.

The Companies also helped to preserve knowledge and skills for future generations.
What Does ‘Livery’ Mean?

The term ‘Livery' refers to the distinctive badges or clothes worn by Company members.

Ceremonial dress is still worn on official occasions.
Over the years, Livery Companies developed formal structures. Each Company was led by an elected Master and had its own headquarters or Livery hall. Royal Charters gave them control over their own craft and the right to acquire property.

The earliest record of a Charter is in 1155 to the Weavers.

Companies usually had four types of member:
- **Apprentices** – the usual entry to a trade or craft was through a seven-year apprenticeship
- **Journeymen** – craftsmen who had served their apprenticeship
- **Freemen** – craftsmen granted the Freedom of the City of London
- **Liverymen** – Freemen with their own businesses were admitted as full members of the Company
Order of Precedence

The order of precedence of Livery Companies was decided by the Lord Mayor in 1515 following years of dispute between the Companies.

There are 12 Great Companies – the “Great 12”. In the Middle Ages the dispute about who was number six and who was number seven in order for the procession gave rise to the English proverb of “being at sixes and sevens” meaning everything being confused.

This was later resolved by the two Companies taking it in turns to be sixth or seventh in the Lord Mayor’s procession: Merchant Taylors are sixth in odd-numbered years, the Skinners in even-numbered years.
The Great Twelve

1. Mercers
2. Grocers
3. Drapers
4. Fishmongers
5. Goldsmiths
6. Merchant Taylors (or 7)
7. Skinners (or 6)
8. Haberdashers
9. Salters
10. Ironmongers
11. Vintners
12. Clothworkers
Livery Companies Today

The Livery tradition – with its emphasis on shared values, high standards, innovation and integrity – remains as relevant today as ever. The Companies’ survival has been achieved by doing what they have always done: fostering their trade in a wide context, serving the community and embracing modern skills and professions.

Over the centuries the roles of many of the Companies have changed – in many cases they are now charitable organisations supporting a number of specific causes. Most Companies have three areas of operations: the fellowship and social activities; the business through which the Company generates an income; and its charitable endeavours which are based in education and training, care of elderly members and support and care of their industry.

All Livery Companies have close links with the City of London Corporation. Liverymen have the honour of participating in the election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs.
Social and Ceremonial
The Principles of Livery Companies

- Support for our industry
- Education
- Charity
- Fellowship
The Journeyman Scheme

Fulfils the traditional career stage between an Apprenticeship and Freedom (to trade). Modern equivalent: a qualified young professional but not yet a leading practitioner.

Journeyman are members of the Company and are welcome to attend Company events, including formal and informal breakfasts, lunches and dinners, drinks evenings and social and sporting activities (golf, skiing, shooting, sailing...)

There are therefore many opportunities to network with the Company’s membership of over 750 ICT professionals, many of whom are senior in their fields. Journeymen may also participate in Panels, committees and charitable endeavours.
The Journey

• Potential Journeymen may select a Journey Mentor from volunteer members of the Company.
• The Journey Mentor will provide guidance and advice and may provide the Journeyman with support and assistance, e.g. in establishing contacts or information in how to achieve an objective such as starting a business.
• Often a bond of trust is established and the Journeyman may ask the Journey Mentor to liaise with the Journeyman’s line manager as appropriate, for example to discuss the Journeyman’s professional progress.
• Typically a Journey lasts three years. Journey Mentors and Journeymen must meet at least twice a year though usually they meet more regularly.
• The Journeyman initiates and maintains a Journey Plan and completes a six-monthly log that is signed off by the Journey Mentor and line manager as appropriate.
• On completion of the Journey, the Journeyman may be elevated to Freedom of the Company and Freedom of the City of London.
The Pinkerton Award

Named for John Pinkerton, the brains behind “LEO” (Lyons Electronic Office, the world’s first business computer built in 1951). John was one of the original Court members of the Company.

Journeymen are eligible to enter for the Award each year.

The winner of the Award will receive funding to support them through an education programme or project which contributes to their development as a leading ICT practitioner.

The competition involves the submission of a short paper on one of three topics set by the Journeyman Committee and weighting is given to the Journeyman’s proposed choice for self improvement, e.g. a recent winner wrote a paper on the propagation of open source software and spent his winnings on a language course: Chinese for business.
My Journey: Experiences of the Journeyman Scheme

📚 Carl, Project Manager

Carl currently works as a project management consultant in central London. To date Carl has worked on several IT transformation projects including multi-billion pound company integration programmes in central government. Carl interests are in project management tools and methods, collaboration tools and image analysis.

孳 Serge, Lecturer

Serge has a broad experience in IT, having taught IT-related disciplines in Higher Education for over 10 years and undertaking a range of assignments in software development, IT project management, and consulting capacity over the time. Serge has recently obtained MBA and is currently undertaking a fellowship in technology consulting in the City.
My Journey: 
Experiences of the Journeyman Scheme

Journey - the beginning
- Why come to the Livery?
  Career advancement, citizenship responsibility, fun
- Are there any pre-requisites?
  Maturity, willingness to contribute, eagerness to learn
- How do you choose your mentor?

Journey - walking the walk
- Establishing the work mode and sticking to it
  Plan - timeline / outcomes and deliverables, meeting your mentor
- Communication is important
- Knowledge accumulation as you go
- Logs, personal notes

Journey - the end of the line
- What of it all?
  Working towards pre-planned results
- The lessons learnt
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