

EDINBURGH BRANCH



Capital

News from the BCS Edinburgh Branch. July 2008

Letter from the Branch Chairman

Dear Colleague,

It is mid summer, though you wouldn't think so from the weather. And, like the climate, there are a few changes at the Edinburgh Branch of the BCS ... though hopefully for the better.

Traditionally (for the past 40 years!) we have run 10 or 11 talks over a season from October through to May. This programme was usually fixed up to a year in advance and published on a BCS Edinburgh Branch Programme Card in September. For the coming year we are going to try out something new.

Our Programme for 2008/9

We are going to switch to a regular rolling series of talks throughout the year. BCS Edinburgh Branch meetings will now take place once a month – including the summer months. Our meetings will usually be on the second Wednesday of each month, though there will be some exceptions. In order to provide up-to-date and topical subjects for our talks we will only plan about three to four months in advance. As a result we will no longer publish an annual Programme Card in the autumn.

We will keep you informed of forth-coming events via our web site (edinburgh.bcs.org) and by regular e-mails, assuming you have registered an e-mail address with the BCS (see below).

Over the page is a summary of some of the events we have lined up for the summer and early autumn. Our branch meetings offer an excellent opportunity for networking with other IS professionals. Please come along from 6:10 pm for coffee and a chat before the start of the talk at 6:30 pm. All our meetings are open to both BCS members and non members. Except where stated otherwise, meetings are free of charge and no registration is required – just turn up and feel free to bring a colleague or two.

Meeting pod-casts

Sometimes you may not be able to make it to a talk that interests you. As an experiment we have been making audio “pod-casts” of some of our talks. These, together with the speaker’s presentation, are available on our Branch web site. Just go to the events page and click on the link to past events. We would welcome feedback on this facility. Is it useful? Is it usable?

Do we have your correct e-mail address?

If you are a BCS member, please take a few moments to check the details BCS holds on you via the main BCS web site. Go to www.bcs.org. Log in via the link at the top right, then click on Update Details. If you are not a BCS member and wish to be kept informed about BCS Edinburgh Branch events then you may join our low volume, moderated e-mail list via our Branch web site. Go to edinburgh.bcs.org/mailinglist.htm.

With best regards,

Mike Hurst

Chairman, BCS Edinburgh Branch

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BCS Edinburgh Branch Highlights for the Summer and Autumn

Full details can be found on our Branch web site at edinburgh.bcs.org/events. Here are just three of our forth-coming events ...

HECToR – The New UK National High Productivity Computing Service

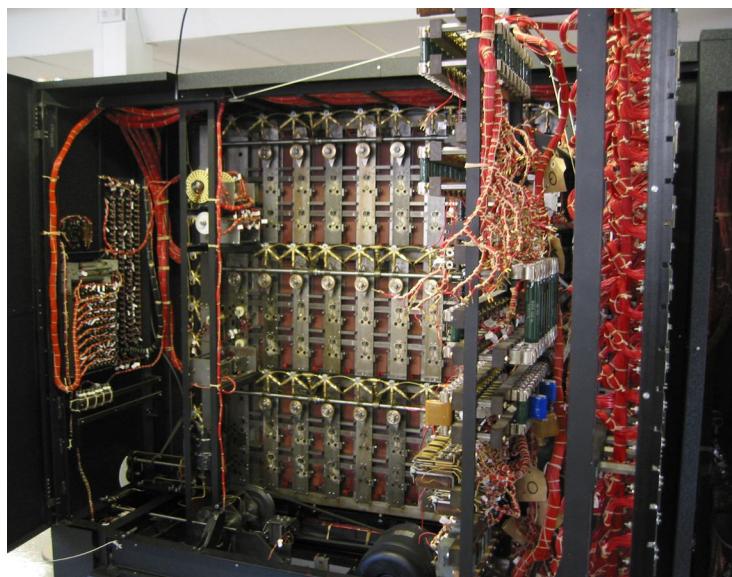
Thursday 3rd July 2008, 6:30 pm. The Royal Scots Club.

Did you know that Edinburgh is home to one of the leading European centres of expertise in advanced research and provision of supercomputer services? The EPCC (formerly the Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre) now hosts one of the largest supercomputers in the world – the 60 Teraflop Cray XT4 HECToR service. Come along and hear Dr Mark Parsons, EPCC Commercial Director, speak about HECToR.

BCS Edinburgh Branch Visit to Bletchley Park

The BCS Edinburgh Branch is delighted to offer a very special visit to Bletchley Park Codes Centre, Milton Keynes on Saturday 4th October.

Bletchley Park is best known as the centre of wartime code-breaking and is the birthplace of mechanised calculation. The Bombe machine replicated the sets of drums in German Enigma machines, usually finding that day's code by the early hours of the morning and opening up all German messages for the whole day. The Colossus was the world's first reprogrammable computer. A machine built to decode codes punched in paper tape, it used valve-based electronic switching to achieve its results.



The re-built Turing Bombe



German Naval Enigma machine

We hope to have working demonstrations of both the re-built Bombe and re-built Colossus machines, with John Harper and hopefully Tony Sale manning these two exhibits.

There will also be plenty of time to visit the National Computing Museum.

Full details are on our web site. Advance booking is mandatory and is via our web site.

The Three Ghosts of Microsoft Security

Wednesday 8th October 2008, 7:00 pm. The Royal Scots Club.

The BCS Edinburgh Branch and IET Scotland SE Local Network have got together to bring to Edinburgh **Stephen Lamb** of **Microsoft UK** to talk on Microsoft Security. This will be a popular talk, so booking is advised. Not enough room here for details, so go to edinburgh.bcs.org/events for synopsis and booking info.