



BCS

THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY

Capital

News from BCS Edinburgh Branch, September 2002

The Programme for 2002/3

Edinburgh Branch Committee welcomes you to the Programme of events for the forthcoming session. Last year the series of monthly talks proved very popular, with good attendance and lively discussion at all the meetings. The new venue at York place found favour with audience and speakers, so we have booked it again for this year.

Pencil some of these events into your diary now and don't forget that non-members are equally welcome to attend, so please let your colleagues know of upcoming talks. Occasionally we provide wine and nibbles, see the Branch web site to find out when.

Young Professionals Group (YPG)

You do not have to join the YPG. All BCS members of whatever membership grade are automatically members of YPG provided their age does not exceed 35. The Group organises a range of activities and services for members, and details can be found on the web at www.bcs.org/ypg.

It is important that the YPG is represented on branch committees. The Edinburgh Branch representative has recently moved away from the area and the committee is seeking a replacement. If you are a YPG member and could spare a little time to liaise with the Group and attend Branch Committee meetings please contact the branch secretary Mike Hurst mhurst@bcs.org.uk.

BCS Developments

As part of the re-structuring of the Society, the old Branches Board has been replaced by a Branches Management Committee (BMC). We are fortunate that Iain Thompson of Edinburgh Branch Committee has been elected to BMC, so we have a direct voice there. A larger forum, Branches Congress, meets twice per year, generally in September and April, and is the interface between the Branches and the two key Committees, BMC and Member Services Board. Two Representatives of each Branch Committee attend Congress. Any BCS member is welcome to suggest an issue, or a discussion topic which they would like their Branch Reps to put forward to Congress. Edinburgh Branch Committee is always keen to hear your views, so do email us.

The BCS has recently launched a new e-mail List Server as part of the Society's Web Enablement Programme, **BCS Connect**. It is a facility available for use by BCS HQ, Branches, Specialist Groups, Forums, Boards and Committees to send email communications to members and other contacts.

For many years now the BCS Edinburgh Branch has been using a list BCS-EDIN kindly hosted by Heriot-Watt University. We used this e-mail list to publicise our Branch events and other items of relevant interest to the Branch membership. As part of the BCS Connect initiative the Edinburgh Branch is now moving its Branch e-mail list to the new BCS service.

The new Branch e-mail list will be a *broadcast* list where only the Branch Secretary (Mike Hurst) and Branch Membership Secretary (Peter Barker) are authorised to post to the list. We will be restricting posts to BCS Edinburgh Branch business and occasional other information we consider relevant to Branch members.

Other advantages of the BCS list server are that member e-mail addresses are automatically taken from BCS membership records, and not maintained separately. This simplifies maintenance and compliance with current data protection legislation.

By the time you read this you should have already received an e-mail welcoming you to the new e-mail list. If you have not, then it could be that your e-mail address in the BCS HQ membership database is incorrect. You can check and update this (along with your other membership details held by the BCS) via the BCS web site. For more information see <http://www.bcs.org/listserver/outhelp/> or drop an e-mail to Mike Hurst (edin-sec@bcs.org.uk).

Branch Courses

Continuing our series of Professional Current Awareness Courses we are offering:

- An introduction to XML on four Tuesday evenings beginning on 1st October.
- Software Testing on four Monday Evenings 6.30pm-8:30pm commencing 11th November 2002 (see over for details).

Branch web site www.edinburgh.bcs.org

THE BCS IS A REGISTERED CHARITY:NUMBER 292786