For a list of forthcoming conference and one day events please contact:

The Conference Department
BCS
13 Mansfield Street
London W1M 0BP
(01) 637 0471
Wed 10th January
Safety Critical Systems
Dr Peter Simms, CITI Ltd.
One day there is a spectre of a major disaster attributed entirely to faulty software. The areas of such potential disasters will be presented along with requirements for safer software construction. This includes standards in design, training and testing. The ubiquitous chip implies that the scale of the problem can only escalate over time.

Wed 14th February
The Future of Cobol
Rod Grealish, Staffs Poly.
Rod Grealish, will discuss the 85 Cobol standard and indicate the direction in which future standardisation of Cobol is likely to move. He will discuss topics including intrinsic functions and facilities for multi-byte character sets. Rod, who is a principal lecturer at Staffordshire Polytechnic, is the convenor of the BSI Cobol panel.

Wed 14th March
OOPS
John Daniels, Rex Systems
This lecture and demonstration will give an overview of the concepts of Object Oriented Programming Systems. Included will be what is going on today in industry and will cover the development and design methods available. This will lead into a demonstration of prototype applications in Smalltalk. John is the owner of Rex systems which is a company specialising in object oriented methods.

March/April
Visit to Haberdashers’ Aske School
On show will be a small networked system from Research Machines. The visit will cover aspects of the school’s use of computing. Further details about the date and venue can be obtained from Garry McGrogan on 01 267 4323 extension 273.

Wed 11th April
CASE Tools in a Large Organisation
BP
This will be a presentation of the up-to-the-minute use by BP of CASE tools. BP are currently assimilating CASE tools into their Information Services. In this rapidly changing area, a large organisation such as BP can reveal practical experience of the use and exploitation of such tools.

Wed 9th May
The Freelance Market
Janet Knott, Contracts Division, BIS Applied Systems
The shortage of skilled personnel has focused attention on the freelance market. The image of the cowboy contractor has gone and now contractors are recognised for their true abilities. What are the opportunities for first-timers considering freelancing? Which skills are in demand? What are the problems and pitfalls for the unwary?

All you ever wanted to know about freelancing but were afraid to ask!

Wed 13th June
Bottom Line IT: Some Case Studies in Success
Steve Shirley, OBE FBCS
IT is not just a fad; it is genuinely a technique for increasing profits. The problem is that most managers simply use the computer like a fast calculator, with the help of some case studies, Steve Shirley uses her business experience in the F.I. Group to show how it has made organisations more effective.

Tue 26th June
Visit to Herts Constabulary HQ, Welwyn GC
The visit will include a presentation of the overview of how “police computing” differs from the industrial norm. There will be a tour of the operations room and a view of the use of the command and control system.

NEW VENUE! Except for visits, meetings will be held at the Bull premises in Hemel Hempstead. Unless otherwise stated all meetings start at 8.00 pm.

PRODUCT FORUM: The branch intends to organise a balanced series of microcomputer software demonstrations during the year. These will concentrate on items of a topical interest where a local demonstration would be a benefit to members.

VISITORS: Welcome at all meetings.

TRANSPORT: Disabled or other persons requiring transport please contact a committee member.

Commercial products may be involved in branch meetings. This does not imply any support, endorsement or promotion of these products other than acting as a source of material to interested members.

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