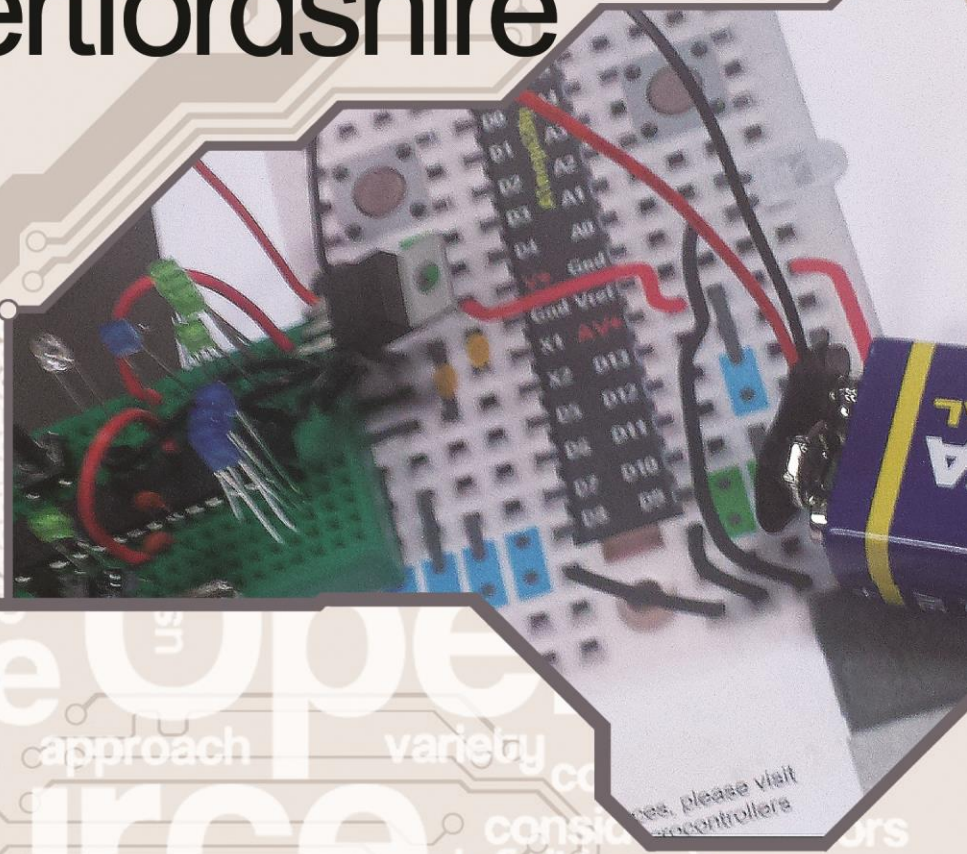


BCS Hertfordshire

The
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Events Programme 2015-2016

The BCS promotes wider social and economic progress through advancement of information technology science and practice

October

Ada Lovelace
Commemorative
Lecture: Social Robots
of the Present and the
Future
7.30pm

Professor Kerstin Dautenhahn, University of Hertfordshire
Tuesday, 13th October, University of Hertfordshire

The evening will start with a presentation describing the life and achievements of Ada Lovelace, focusing on her contribution to the development of the first computers. This will be followed by a lecture given by Professor Kerstin Dautenhahn explaining how social robotics has become increasingly important with robots being used in many application areas such as entertainment, therapy and assistive technology - where interaction with people is key to the success of the robot. Attitudes to robots can be shaped by dystopic views of the future as portrayed in movies and books. However, the talk will outline a more positive future where robots can be useful and have their roles in society, taking advantage of the strengths and abilities of both robots and humans.

November

Cybersecurity for
Critical Industrial
Systems
7.30pm

Nasser Abouzakhar, Senior Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire
Tuesday, 10th November, University of Hertfordshire

Most industries depend heavily on networks for their critical operations. The increase in online operations for various industries has led to an increase in different malicious activities. Cyber security threats such as power generation failures and control systems malfunctions require industry to keep their operational environments resilient against constantly evolving threats - maintaining the safety of workers, industrial assets and the communities they serve. Recent advances in the fields of industrial systems security such as penetration testing which counter these threats represent key factors in the growth of critical operations. The aim of this talk is to introduce the major risks to critical infrastructures and to highlight the importance of the penetration testing life cycle for critical industries.

December

Left Behind: how
digital exclusion is a
drain on the economy,
society and your
business
7.30pm

Jen Rodvold, Principal Consultant, Sopra Steria
Thursday, 10th December, County Suite, County Hall, Hertford

As IT changes everything we do, everywhere, some individuals, groups and organisations are not keeping up. Access to infrastructure, equipment, and networks are part of the challenge, but so are lack of skills, confidence and even interest in IT. With more and more of our economy, public services and social lives taking place online, what are the impacts of "digital exclusion"? Who's being left behind? What can we do about it, and whose responsibility is it to drive change? We will explore digital exclusion globally and in the UK and discuss why it should matter to us and what those of us working in IT can and perhaps should be doing about it.

January

Linux for Human
Beings
7.30pm

Peter Saffrey, Bioinformatics Scientist, Illumina
Thursday, 21st January, University of Hertfordshire

For nearly three decades, most users experience of personal computing has been driven by Microsoft Windows but to some that experience is starting to become more diffuse. Even before the rise of OS X, another group of operating systems based on the open-source Linux kernel ascendant in the server room as well as the embedded application space. However, Linux has still yet to make a significant impact on the desktop with some seeing it as the preserve of experts and that it is only free if your time costs nothing.

So what are the strengths and weaknesses of Linux and in the areas where it does dominate, what are the reasons for this? Is it accessible to the "ordinary" user on the desktop? And when you buy a desktop or laptop, should you consider a Linux machine? What will you gain and what will you lose by doing so?

February

Turning Data into Things: Where we are with 3D printing and what is coming next?
7.30pm

Nicolai Marquardt, Lecturer in Physical Computing, UCL
Thursday, 11th February, University of Hertfordshire

3D printing changes the way we can create and manufacture individually customised physical objects. Digital fabrication techniques for turning digital data into physical things points towards a future where products, household items, furniture, toys and also specialised medical implants or prosthetics can be printed by everyone. In this talk, Nicolai Marquardt will guide you through the current state-of-the-art digital fabrication techniques, describe the hardware and tools for creating 3D-printable data, show many examples of 3D printing in action and discuss future challenges and opportunities.

March

Computer fundamental kit: Talk and Build
7.30pm

Stephan Barnard, Product development specialist, Noble Touch
Thursday, 17th March, University of Hertfordshire

Attendees will be given (to keep) a computer fundamentals kit. In this event we look deep under the hood of the digital computer and learn how electronic parts work and how they are arranged in simple circuits to make units capable of performing logic. The kit contains various electronic components such as transistors, diodes, resistors, switches, LEDs, and a prototyping breadboard. With these parts you get the opportunity to make functional digital logic circuits. The talk aims to not only give a hands-on insight into computer fundamentals but also act as an introduction to building electronic projects.

April

Civic Engagement with the Internet of Things
7.30pm

Sarah Gallacher, Senior Research Associate, UCL
Thursday, 14th April, University of Hertfordshire

The IoT, in its different guises, already affects many aspects of our lives. From quantified 'self-devices' like Fitbits through to connected city infrastructure and smart grids. A common thread in many initiatives is the gathering of sensed data to understand more about some 'system' and make changes for the better. So, what if these systems were communities of people? Each with their own needs, goals and viewpoints. In this talk Sarah will present some of her recent work that shows how the IoT can support civic engagement by reaching beyond the typical community champions and giving a voice to all.

May

Seduced by the Matrix
7.30pm

Mike Barwise, Information Consultant, Integrated InfoSec
Thursday, 12th May, Sopra Steria

Despite vast numbers of standards, methodologies and tools, risk assessment remains a black art. Using these tools, convincing results are often obtained without clear understanding of their basis in first principles. Sadly, evidence shows that a high proportion of such results, although convincing, are wrong. The speaker will examine some of the most popular approaches to risk assessment and identify the reasons they fail to deliver as assumed.

June

Visit to Renewable Energy Systems
6.30pm

BCS Hertfordshire Visit
Thursday, 16th June, Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, WD4 8LR

RES is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies providing global services and expertise, to develop, engineer, construct and operate projects that contribute a low carbon, sustainable future. Building its first wind farm in Cornwall in 1992, RES transformed the former Oualtine Egg Farm into the world's first entirely renewable energy self-sufficient commercial headquarters. The zero emissions development generates 100% of its energy through renewable means on-site. It includes a natural borehole cooling system and a 50m wind turbine visible from the M25. The visit will cover renewable energy, sustainability and sustainable building techniques all as developed on-site. Strong shoes are recommended.

September

AGM & Rothamsted Research Visit
6.30pm

BCS Hertfordshire Visit & AGM
Tuesday, 20th September, West Common, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2JQ

Our AGM is followed by a guided tour of Rothamsted Research (est. 1843), an independent scientific research institute with the longest running agricultural research centre in the world. Professor Chris Rawlings - Head of Computational & Systems Biology Department will cover topics on Experimental Statistics and Computing followed by a tour of the facilities. This would be followed by a discussion and an opportunity to network with refreshments.

BCS Hertfordshire Committee



The committee of the BCS Hertfordshire branch is made up from a diverse range of volunteers with experience in the IT and Communications sectors. The committee represents the interests of BCS members located in Hertfordshire as well as parts of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire.

If you have any feedback, comments or would like to get involved with the committee, please contact us using the information below or make yourself known to any of the BCS committee members at one of our events.

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FBCS CITP

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MBCS

Secretary

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Feedback: If you have any feedback, questions, suggestions, ideas or comments; or you would like to get involved with BCS Herts, please contact any committee member or visit:

www.herts.bcs.org

With thanks to

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How to Book

To register your place at any of our events please visit www.herts.bcs.org/. All events are free to both members and non-members unless otherwise stated.

If you require any further information, would like to discuss facilities or special requirements or require transport assistance while visiting a BCS Hertfordshire event please contact herts_sec@bcs.org.uk with your query.

Venues

How to get there: www.herts.bcs.org/findus/

Sopra Steria

Address: Sopra Steria, Three Cherry Trees Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7AH
By Road: Near M1 Junction 8, M25 Junction 21 | **By Rail:** Hemel Hempstead via Euston

University of Hertfordshire

Address: Lindop Building, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, AL10 9AB
By Road: Near A1(M) Junction 4 | **By Rail:** Hatfield via Kings Cross



Note: All meetings qualify as Continuing Professional Development. Any product, venue, activity or opinion expressed at a BCS Hertfordshire event does not imply any support, endorsement, or promotion of such products or views by the BCS.