

The Mailshot

Monthly communication of ISACA London Chapter

FROM THE PRESIDENT

January is nearly half way through and I have a confession to make. I have forgotten to renew my ISACA Membership! It's always the same, the invoice arrives late November, early December, I look at it and think, "must pay that promptly this year", but I need to calculate my CPE hours and there seems to be loads of time before it's due. The next thing I know, Christmas and year end activities have overtaken me and the last thing on my mind is my ISACA subscription! So, here I am again, searching for my form and wishing that I could learn to tackle things as they arise instead of putting them off. Still, I've remembered before my reminder arrives, so I'm going to settle down in a quiet corner this weekend with my diary and a hot cup of coffee, calculate those hours and put it behind me again. Whilst I'm there, I might as well complete my tax return for April 2001!

It seems a very long time since the last Members' meeting on 13 December. Ian Henderson, from Haymarket Management Services Ltd. gave us an excellent presentation on e-Fraud. I was left amazed by the capabilities of the forensic specialists and, together with many others in the room, frustrated by how easily and cheaply damaging software can be obtained by potential fraudsters and how expensive and difficult it is to buy software to detect fraud attempts. Such is life!

On 24 January, Angus Wright from KPMG will be talking to us about e-system commissioning. This is a subject that will be close to my heart

in 2002, as we have a major systems implementation underway at the moment and a bit of advice now on what we should be thinking about as we prepare for go-live will be quite timely. As usual, the formal presentation will be followed up by refreshments and a chance to network until 7.00 p.m., when the meeting will be closed.

Whilst I am thinking about events, the Events Committee (Charles Mansour, Gideon Pretorius and Nick Fellows) are currently turning their thoughts to presentation topics for next season. Should you have any ideas, or even better, be willing to give a presentation yourself, then do contact them soon. Don't forget, you can claim CPE points for giving the presentation and also for your preparation time, which is a very lucrative and worthwhile source of points. Another good source of CPE points is writing an article for DataWatch. We are always looking for articles and the bank is rather low at the moment, so do contact the Publications Committee (Annabel Lane, John Hunter and Bill Hawkins) if you have any ideas. I'm off to find my invoice now, before my membership is terminated!

January Membership Meeting

**Thursday 24 January 2002
Commencing 5.00 pm**

**"E-systems Commissioning"
Angus Wright, KPMG
ABN Amro, 250 Bishopsgate**

Testing has always been an integral control in the development of IT systems and auditors, both internal and external, have long been involved in this area. Although this usually consisted of the review of test plans and results, more and more, auditors are being asked to get more involved.

Testing should be viewed as an assurance practice. It requires a systematic approach composed of a hierarchy of activities and tasks whose purpose is to ensure that the final software is a quality product that meets the design criteria and requirements established for the product.

Based upon the premise that testing is an assurance practice, the individuals responsible for performing the testing function must work under the assumption that "nobody's perfect". It is a safe bet to assume that some requirements have not been fully satisfied and that defective software exists in the product. Their mission is to identify these deficiencies through rigorous testing.

In an increasingly advisory role, auditors are expected to provide input to the planning, preparation and execution of testing. Evaluation and sign off of testing scripts and results are also often required, whether as part of the a formal audit or in an advisory capacity. Bridging the gap between "telling how" and "showing how" requires the auditor to have up to date knowledge of testing methodologies and practical know how to assist in the implementation of these methodologies.

Angus Wright is a member of the Information Risk Management team at KPMG Financial Services division

with responsibility for Testing Services. Angus has significant testing experience, ranging from defining and documenting testing methodologies and strategies, to test management and co-ordination. Over the last year, he has been developing KPMG's Testing Services methodology and services. His clients include Morgan Stanley, MCI Global, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse Group, HSBC and Sakura.

LONDON CHAPTER EVENTS 2002

Included with this month's Mailshot are details of forthcoming events.

CISA Review Workshop

After the success of last year's weekend workshop, we are planning to run another one at the KPMG Training Centre, Wokefield Park, Nr. Reading. This year, John Mitchell has volunteered to run the workshops. Further details are available in the attached flyer.

One-day Workshops

To reflect the results of the questionnaire sent out last year, we are planning a week of one-day workshops in April. Topics covered will be:

- ◆ E-Business - Security, Control and Audit
- ◆ Internet Security & Firewalls
- ◆ Information Security & BS7799
- ◆ Change Management
- ◆ IT Governance

Further details and registration details are available in the attached flyer.

Speakers:

John Mitchell, PhD, CEng, MBA, FBICS, MBCS, CISA, FIIA, MIIA, QiCA, CFE

LHS Business Control

John Mitchell is an international authority on the control of computer systems and has presented papers on the subject at many international conferences. Within the UK, he runs the only regular seminars on the problems associated with the development and provision of computer systems and the detection and prosecution of computer criminals. He is a Chartered Engineer, a Certified Fraud Examiner, a Certified Information Systems Auditor, a Fellow of the Institute of Internal Auditors (UK) and a Fellow of the British Computer Society where he is a past member of its governing Council. He is currently the editor of one journal dealing with IT control issues and is on the editorial panel of another. He has been featured in a major British computing publication as the IT Detective. He has nearly 30 years practical system control experience and an international reputation for advising organisations on their I.S. control strategy and associated methodologies. This is coupled with a strong academic background, which includes research, extensive publications and teaching at the post-graduate level.

His doctorate in risk analysis techniques for audit planning was awarded by City University, London, England. His MBA in financial control was awarded, with distinction, by Middlesex University, England.

Peter Wood, First Base Technologies

Peter founded First Base in May 1989 as a vendor-independent consultancy. First Base Technologies now provides information security consultancy and audit services to clients such as Aon Group, B&Q, Bradford & Bingley, LloydsTSB, the Natural History Museum, Skipton Building Society, Tesco and United News & Media.

Peter has hands-on technical

involvement in the firm on a daily basis, working in areas as diverse as network security reviews, firewall penetration testing and policy and procedures.

He also leads regular technical seminars on firewalls, ethical hacking techniques, Microsoft NT and Internet security both for First Base and Sophos.

Peter is a popular speaker at many international conferences, including COSAC, EuroCACS (ISACA), BCS-IRMA and BCS-ISSG. His topics include Casebook of an Ethical Hacker, Intrusion Detection and Implementing BS7799.

Peter is a member of many prestigious organisations, including the British Computer Society, the Parliamentary Information Technology Committee, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Information Systems Audit and Control Association and the Association of Computing Machinery. He is also a BCS Registered Security Consultant, a Microsoft Certified Product Specialist and a member of Mensa.

Derek Oliver, Ravenswood Consultants

Derek J. Oliver, CISA, CFE, FBICS, FIAP is a former President of the London Chapter and member of the ISACA Certification Board. He is currently a member of the CISA Test Enhancement Committee and Information Audit & Security Director of Ravenswood Consultants Limited. He has presented conference papers and training courses on various aspects of information security and BS7799 from Oslo to Cape Town and Amsterdam to Hong Kong.