

Membership/Research

Kamal Khan, October 2000

Current membership stands at approx 450, but will increase as members delayed joining until September as they get three months complimentary membership for 2001/2002. Also, there have been a number of transfers from at-large to London Chapter.

I have established that Rolling Meadows allows retired members or those who are temporarily out of the Audit and Control profession to retain membership at the student rate. This is useful both for the Chapter and for the member, as the Chapter can gain from their experience and the member can maintain contacts, which might prove useful to them. I am not sure about the CISA situation if someone wants to keep their certification, but cannot keep up with the CPE hours (David)?.

Sending reminders by email (I used Compuserve for this) before the April purge was quite successful. We got a large number of people (around 20) who had forgotten to renew, lost their renewal forms were unable to renew because of other commitments, or simply did not know how to. [NOTE: there is no guarantee that this will still be possible next year as Compuserve might block this as spamming which it isn't]. We might otherwise have 'lost' these members, so it was a worthwhile exercise, even though I kept getting replies several months after, saying "can I still rejoin?". We should try to make it as easy as possible for members to renew, maybe on-line?

Rolling Meadows is also planning to make available a contact list of those who had visited their website etc to Chapters who can confirm that they will use it within their national privacy/data protection regulations. We may wish to consider using this list when it is available (there should be no problem in our using it for a 'one-off' mailshot under the UK Data Protection Act, as I have confirmed).

Other web-related items that would be useful for members and potential members are the facility for registering for Chapter meetings or other events on-line. It would also be useful if a mechanism could be put in place for carrying out on-line surveys, such as the timing of Chapter meetings. ISACA.ORG will shortly be enabling on-line purchases for the Bookstore, so we should start looking at the feasibility of allowing this on our site in due time. We would be the first among the UK and maybe European chapters if we did so.

The other developments on the website that are useful to members are the discussion page, the list of external events/seminars and the articles from previous Datawatch issues (could we consider including relevant articles from other sources with permission?).

With regard to research, I could do an article for Datawatch on the current ISACF research projects if that might be of interest.