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THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY
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 For more details of these events and speakers, or
 of any late changes, see <http://www.oxon.bcs.org/>

All are welcome to join for informal chat.
 After each meeting, some of the committee visit
 the Lamb and Flag public house (5 mins walk).

- ARE OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS.
- end at around 9.00pm
- usually available from 7.00pm
- begin at 7.30pm, with light refreshments
- Parks Road, Oxford
- take place, unless otherwise stated, at the Computing Laboratory, Wolfson Building,
- are held monthly from September to May

Meetings:

2005/06 Programme



OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Thursday 15 September 2005
 SMARTSOURCING

Robb Mann, Director of QVIP
 The IT industry has accumulated about 20 years of outsourcing experience, and most present-day organisations use outsourcing. This talk addresses today's need to be selective and how to assess outsource providers and their service levels.

Robb Mann is a specialist in the application of structured methods with a background in Operational Research and its application to metrics and benchmarking. He is a director of QVIP, specialising in driving improvements in IS assessment and IT project benchmarking (see www.q-vip.net).

Thursday 6 October 2005
 USING STATE TRANSITION TESTING

Peter Quantin, Qbit
 Finite state computer systems often have an infinite number of possible executable scenarios. State transition testing can help model a finite number of scenarios that will achieve a known level of test coverage appropriate for the considered risk.

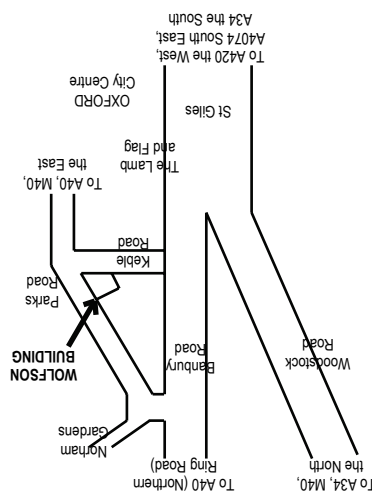
This presentation will demonstrate state transition testing and discuss three different levels of coverage that can be achieved.

Thursday 10 November 2005
 OPEN SOURCE: Turn On the LAMP

Alan Lenton, CTO of Interactive Broadcasting
 In the last ten years Open Source software has reached the mainstream of business computing. The success of Open Source has been built on the rock solid components of the Linux operating system, the Apache web server, the My SQL database, and a scripting language whose name starts with 'P' – Perl, PHP or Python, depending

Roadside pay-and-display car parking spaces are available near the Wolfson Building (Kebble Road, for example, at £1.50 per evening).

Car Parking



Location of the Wolfson Building

Geoff Stone, Adrian Walmsley,
 Sheila Lloyd Lyons, Simon Marsh, Brian Read,
 Cheryl Griffiths, Tim Lambertstock,
 Tony Cox (Treasurer), Stef Coetzee, Keith Diment,
 Robert Ward (Chair), Brian Day (Secretary)

Oxfordshire Branch Committee

really today? Will we see the Semantic Web in our lifetimes? And, most importantly, what are the technical and non-technical issues holding it back?

on your religion. These components are commonly known by the acronym LAMP.

This talk will look at the LAMP components and some of the strengths and weaknesses of Open Source software. It will also attempt to strip away some of the myths surrounding Open Source software – myths pushed both by fanatical supporters, and by equally fanatical opponents.

Thursday 1 December 2005
 BCS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH CHRISTMAS LECTURE 2005

COMPUTABILITY AND CRIME: How Information Security Affects Criminal Prosecutions

Prof. Neil Barrett BSc PhD CEng FBCS CITP
 As computers become implicitly involved in the execution, detection and prosecution of increasing numbers of cases, the issue of activity and responsibility becomes correspondingly more important. But ascribing responsibility for computer-recorded events is built on the foundation of information security – a poorly understood, poorly implemented aspect of our high-tech world.

This talk will explore the practical and theoretical limits of information security, and show that – at least in theory – a perfect solution is impossible and that we will therefore always be faced with 'judgement calls' in this crucial forensic arena.

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies at The Lamb & Flag follow.

Thursday 19 January 2006
 CURRENT ISSUES IN UK VOIP: An Introduction

Peter Gradwell, MD of Gradwell dot com Ltd
 Starting from when we lift the receiver, Peter will follow a phone call across the public telecons network and onto the internet, discussing the different types of VoIP available, the issues that

The enabling technologies have been around for some time – XML, RDF and OWL – together with the software to process and analyse this exciting new information. So why isn't the Semantic Web a

The Semantic Web is the natural next evolution- any step of the Web. We can create software that helps us work more efficiently and discover new patterns and relationships.

Dan Zambonini, CTO of Box UK
 THE SEMANTIC WEB: Too clever for its own good?
 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 25 May 2006
 this is a chance to look behind the scenes.

The average game takes between 70 and 120 man-years and several million pounds to make; games developer and publisher.

Simon Prytherch is Head of Internal Development for Empire Interactive, a leading computer games developer and publisher.

This year will see new variants of both the XBOX from Microsoft and the Sony Playstation. The games industry is worth \$20bn dollars globally and UK companies are a significant force, contributing £200m in 2004 to the UK balance of payments.

Simon Prytherch, Empire Interactive
 Present and Future
 COMPUTER GAMES DEVELOPMENT: Past,

the rise of British Computing.
 from this year's would be from valves to chips.
 We await the 2006 tour programme. Our favourite at their archive in West Kensington (1.5 hours).
 Afternoon: Science Museum's Ingenious Tours Babbage (1.5 to 2 hours).
 Finishing in the gallery which features Charles

surround implementing them, including phone number provision, call quality, firewalling VoIP, identifying the location of a VoIP subscriber and connecting a 999 call. Topics include:

- What is VoIP?
- What happens when you make a call?
- What sort of things are people doing with VoIP?
- Some problems faced by VoIP Providers.

Thursday 23 February 2006
 WEB INTELLIGENCE

Prof. Nigel Shadbolt, Southampton Univ., BCS VP Knowledge Services & Deputy President

The extraordinary human construct that is the World Wide Web is a truly Disruptive Technology. There are now hundreds of millions of users, billions of indexed web resources, it is used in every country on Earth and yet only a tiny percentage of users is trained in any way. This remarkable construct is both massively distributed and largely open.

With this amount of content and usage the integration of information across space and time leads to new opportunities. From on-line shopping to collaborative e-Science the web is changing how information is generated, deployed and used.

This lecture will examine the extent to which intelligent web services are evolving to cope with diverse sources of information on a global scale. It will examine the particular way in which Artificial Intelligence is being woven into the web.

Thursday 23 March 2006
 GUIDED TOUR OF SCIENCE MUSEUM, London

Travel by coach, with suitable pick-up points.
 Morning: A guided tour of the Science Museum given by Geoff Marshall, a London Registered Blue Badge Guide and a professional scientist.