British Computer Society – South West Branch
Annual General Meeting

27th September 2010
University of Plymouth, Plymouth

Chairman's Report

The period since our last AGM in May 2009 has seen some significant activity from the South West Branch. The total membership in the region now stands at 1,205, with members spread across Cornwall and Devon, and some extending into Somerset and Dorset.

During the last year the Branch has organised seven events:

- "Towards Online Safety 3.0", Ken Corish, Education Advisor at Plymouth City Council (October 2009)
- "Why IT is paramount to the safety of Air Traffic Control", Trevor Arnold, NATS (November 2009)
- "Social Media, Community Building and the Law", James Barisic MBCS, Solicitor (January 2010)
- "Digital Forensics for the Corporation", Dr John Haggerty, Lecturer in Information Systems Security, University of Salford (February 2010)
- "Mobile Phone Security: Key Challenges for 2010 and Beyond", Alan Goode, Goode Intelligence (March 2010)
- "FLYSAFE Initiatives for the Integration of Meteorological Data", Andrew Mirza, Met Office (April 2010)
- "Agile software testing - A practical view of testing in a large scale agile development environment", Jon Tilt and Richard Coppen, IBM (May 2010)

We would like to offer our thanks to all of the presenters for the time and support that they have given to the Branch. In many cases, the slides from the talks are available for download from our website, alongside streaming video in some cases in order to give access to members who were unable to attend in person.

The Branch website continues to present a variety of information that we hope will be of interest to regional members and the wider IT community. As a standing reminder to members, we are always happy to receive submissions for inclusion and so please feel free to send us items that you would like to share across the Branch and beyond.

As another of our ongoing activities, the Branch has continued to sponsor degree prizes for students studying at universities in the region, as well as to support events targeting young people. This years degree prizes for best performing students on computing programmes were awarded to Sarah Collins from BSc IT Management for Business at the University of Exeter, and Matthew Lord from BSc (Hons) Computer Systems & Networks at the University of Plymouth. Meanwhile, in terms of events,

we have supported the *Postgraduate Conference for Computing: Applications and Theory* at the University of Exeter, and the *Information Security and Privacy Workshop* for regional schools at the University of Plymouth.

In addition to representing the BCS locally, our Branch representation also extends to committees run by BCS HQ. Specifically, two of our committee members, Kevin Chamberlain and Alastair Revell were recently selected to serve on the Best Practice Committee of the BCS Membership Board (with Kevin having previously been elected to Council as a Branches rep from the now defunct Branches Management Committee in September 2009, to serve from April 2010 until September 2013).

As always, our Branch activity would not be possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of those that volunteered to support us. Our local Committee continues to include representation from local academic institutions, commercial business and public sector organisations, and I would like thank all of them for the time and effort they have given to support the Society in the region. We look forward to continued success in the year ahead.

Prof. Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP
September 2010