

EDINBURGH BRANCH



# Capital

News from the BCS Edinburgh Branch. November 2008

We are moving ...

After a few years at the Royal Scots Club, the venue for BCS Edinburgh Branch meetings is changing. Starting with our November meeting, we are moving to the University of Edinburgh Informatics Forum building on Crichton Street, Edinburgh. The recently completed Informatics Forum houses the University's School of Informatics. Featuring state-of-the-art research facilities, it has been designed as a world-leading centre for informatics and computing science.

The time of our Branch meetings will stay the same – 6:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise advertised). Our branch meetings offer an excellent opportunity for networking with other IS professionals. Please come along from 6:00 pm for coffee and a chat before the start of the talk.

Full details of our programme, together with direction to the Informatics Forum can be found on our Branch web site at [www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/](http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/).



University of Edinburgh Informatics Forum.

## BCS-in-Scotland sponsors Young Software Engineer of the Year Award

BCS-in-Scotland is the grouping of the BCS Branches and Special Interest Groups in Scotland. This year we again sponsored the Young Software Engineer of the Year award (second place) at this year's Scotland IS Scotsoft Gala Dinner held on 9th October 2008. This year the BCS prize of £1000 went to Adam Wilson of the University of Aberdeen for his project "Case Based Reasoning in Intensive Care". The prize was presented by BCS Vice-President Professor Andrew McGettrick.

Adam used artificial intelligence to develop a solution that helps Intensive Care clinicians make faster more accurate decisions using a data base of prior case evidence. His C-BRIC solution was developed in Java and utilised real-world clinical data supplied by Glasgow Royal Infirmary (GRI). The fully customisable rule-sets allow clinicians to set their own abstraction details, making the system extremely flexible and the case base formation specific to a clinician's requirements

Adam incorporated an existing Artificial Intelligence Case Based Reasoning shell developed at Edinburgh University, to enable unknown new cases to be matched by searching through a rich data base of prior cases to find the closest matches cases with known outcomes.

He tested the resulting applications with clinicians at GRI, and confirmed the potential benefits of the system, providing a framework for future development, and the possibility of use in Intensive Care Units.

Additional background information can be found on our Branch web site at [www.edinburgh.bcs.org/news/yse2008.htm](http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/news/yse2008.htm).



Bill Milne (Chair of BCS-in-Scotland) congratulates Adam Wilson on his award.

## BCS Edinburgh Branch Student Prizes for 2008.

Each year the Edinburgh Branch awards a student prize at each of the three Universities in Edinburgh that offer honours degree courses in a computing subject. The prize is a cheque for £150, plus free membership of the BCS for a year. Each university may allocate the prize as it sees fit.

This year the prize winners are ...

University	Awarded for ...	Winner
University of Edinburgh	Third Year Computer Science; top performance in Professional Issues.	Hugh Cole Baker
Heriot-Watt University	M.Eng. in Software Engineering; best final year student.	Neil Jack
Napier University	B.Eng. in Software Engineering; best Honours Project module.	Lea Savage

## BCS Edinburgh Branch Visit to Bletchley Park

On a cold Saturday at the beginning of October, around 37 BCS Edinburgh Branch members and friends converged on Bletchley Park – the home of the war time code-breakers.

The staff at Bletchley Park made us very welcome and provided a most informative guided tour of the site and exhibits. The highlights were the working demonstrations of both the rebuilt Colossus and the rebuilt Bombe machine. Tony Sale was on hand to demonstrate Colossus and John Harper explained and demonstrated the Bombe.

There is an incredible amount to see on the site – one day is nowhere near long enough. There are not just the exhibitions relating to war time code breaking, but many other period exhibitions: a Churchill collection, 1940s cinema, diplomatic radio service, maritime display, vintage vehicles, aviation, Naval intelligence, ...

Newly opened this year is the National Museum of Computing housing computers from the rebuilt Colossus to more recent times. Somewhat disturbing for those of us who have been in the computing profession for many years is to see hardware that we used to use: DEC PDP-8 and PDP-11, ICL 2900, early pocket calculators from HP and Sinclair, early micros like the Sinclair ZX81, Commodore PET, BBC micro, Atari games consoles, ...

Our visit to Bletchley Park was a great success – I believe all enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to Ian Ritchie for organising this event.



Tony Sale demonstrates Colossus



John Harper starts up the rebuilt Bombe

There are more photos on the BCS Edinburgh Branch web site at ...  
[www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/past\\_events/2007-08/081004\\_photos.htm](http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/past_events/2007-08/081004_photos.htm) .

Mike Hurst, Chair, BCS Edinburgh Branch  
2<sup>nd</sup> November 2008