

A year in the Life of the BCS Open Source SG: 2015

Cornelia Boldyreff, FBCS
Chair, OSSG

Aims of the BCS OSSG

The BCS Open Source Specialist Group aims to:

- Educate and inform members and wider audience of Open Source and its implications
- Provide a reliable, honest and independent view of Open Source
- Encourage debate and examination of Open Source practice
- Reduce professional uncertainty around the subject of Open Source
- Act as a centre of expertise for BCS use of Open Source

Events from AGM 2014 to April 2015

Open Source Chips and AGM – London 23/10/2014

Superoptimization and Supercomputing – RSA, 26/11/2014

Open Source in Business – Sheffield 22/01/2015

Exploring “Open” in Energy, Electricity from Woodchips, OpenTRV – London 19/02/2015

Augmented Reality for Walkers on Android – Southampton 17/03/2015

Low Power to the People – take back Bluetooth Low Energy control! – London 19/03/2015

Make a Shrimp for Easter – a practical embedded computing workshop for kids and their parents/guardians – London 01/05/2015

More Events to Date

Hackerspace/makerspace/fablab panel discussion – London 16/04/2015

Wiring the Internet of Things with Raspberry Pi & Node-RED – London 21/05/2015

Chips Pt.3 (BERI, Do we need separate Hardware Construction languages?

OpenTransputer) – London 18/06/2015 (View the Video of the Open Transputer talk at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUycREPyKcg>)

Supplementing teaching in schools by employing free to low-cost, and open educational resources – London 30/07/2015

Open for Business – Hebden Bridge 28/09/2015

<http://2015.wutheringbytes.com/days/openforbusiness/talks.html>

OSSG AGM – London 22/10/2015

Summary: At least, one meeting a month except for August and 5 not held at BCS HQ.

Future Events

- **Our next immediate events are as follows: “Make a Shrimp for Halloween” (29 October in Worcester), Memorial Event Remembering Ian Lynch (Joint event with OSC at BCS HQ Thursday 12 November 2015), and “Open Source Car Software” (BCS-OSSG event at BCS Dorset branch Thursday 19 November 2015).**
- **Also the Tony Kent Strix Annual Lecture: Understanding and Improving Search using Large-Scale Behavioural Data (The Geological Society, London, 6th Nov 2015)**
- **We are planning to hold an one day workshop on Open Source in Energy in the New Year.**
- **We are planning meetings for the 3rd Thursday of every month over the coming year except August.**
- **We are hoping to increase the number of events held outside of London.**
- **We are investigating more activities related to open source that we can run, possibly our own Open Source development projects or hackathons.**

Membership of the Group

- **There are currently 1754 BCS members that are affiliated to the Open Source Specialist Group.**
- **1663 OSSG members are subscribed to the osmem mailing list.**
- **10% scheme to encourage non-members attending meetings to join the BCS: Code OPENSOURCE**
- **Widening remit of OSSG to include “other opens” e.g. the Open Source Hardware with OSHUG, OERs with e-Learning SG,**
- **Linking up with OWASP: Open Web Application Security Project**

Report on the OSSG Web site: ossq.bcs.org

- **261 posts and 122 comments, starting from 2005. All content since 2005 has been kept to preserve the memory of what the OSSG has been doing**
- **Web site running on Wordpress, on Centos**
- **About 3 years ago we started using spam protection measures. Nearly 100% of comments and new user registrations are spam; during this time frame, Akismet has detected about 34,000 spam comments.**
- **Nearly 15,000 malicious login attempts**
- **The number of visits/visitors is increasing each year - even if by small numbers. 3717 visits/1839 visitors in 2013, 3875/1957 in 2014 and 4493/2413, up to now, in 2015.**
- **During 2015, most of the visits where from UK (2071), with a large number of visitors from US (1564). All these figures on visits/visitors should already exclude bots.**
- **The most popular post was "Wiring the Internet of Things with Raspberry Pi and Node-Red", <http://ossq.bcs.org/2015/04/23/wiring-the-internet-of-things-with-raspberry-pi-node-red-london-21052015/>**

Plans for the Future

- More meetings with Branches: Sheffield, Southampton, Cambridge, Bedford, ...
- More meetings with Specialist Groups: A re-run of the OS Career Taster Days is planned with BCSWomen, SPA, e-Learning,
- More OS in the Business Community, OWASP, Health Related OS and OS in Schools (shrimping aimed at teachers/lecturers)
- Retaining links with Open Source Hardware Users Group (OS-HUG)
- Raise public awareness through OS install/hackathon/appathon workshops in the regions with branches and/or universities
- The committee is always open to suggestions and willing to advise and help with organization of events in or outside London.

Thank you!

- The Secretary, Mike Trotman, and Treasurer, David Misell, have both played key roles in keeping the group's affairs running smoothly.
- Our Web Master, Dr Andres Baravalle, has kept our web site running smoothly.
- Our Event Organisers, Jeremy Bennett and Andrew Back from OSHUG have organised OSSG and joint OSSG/OSHUG meetings throughout the year. A special thank up to Andrew who has been filming our events in order to make them available to much wider audience on-line.
- Other committee members and groups members have also contributed to making this a successful year
- Finally we owe all of our guest speakers a huge vote of thanks for giving their time freely and we are grateful to those who have contributed by sponsoring some of our events this year.