



Sarith Chandra BEng MSc (Eng) MSc Security+ CISSP MBCS

YPG Representative, BCS Northamptonshire Branch

Dear BCS Member,

The YPG is the largest membership group within the BCS dedicated to providing representation, services and a support network to BCS members typically aged 35 and under.

I am enthused to be joining the committee of BCS Northamptonshire Branch as the Young Professional Group representative. This is my first time as a committee member and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the needs of this particular group.

I started off as an Associate member of the BCS (AMBCS) during my student days and since then have progressed to the MBCS. I look forward to applying for the CITP status (Chartered IT Professional) shortly.

I gained my B.Eng. degree (Information Technology) with a Distinction result in India. After this I worked briefly in a Government Educational Institute as a Project assistant and Academic researcher.

Once my project completed, I applied to the University of Sheffield to do a post-graduate degree and was accepted to study a MSc. (Eng.) in Advanced Software Engineering. At this time I worked as a student software engineer at Genesys Solutions (now epiGenesys) which was an offshoot of the University of Sheffield and was awarded an IBM Eclipse grant which supported my dissertation. I presented my dissertation to MPs at the House of Commons (SET for Britain).

After graduation, I explored various opportunities to pursue a PhD. specialising in Extreme Programming by registering for a MPhil course until the realities of the 'real world' forced me to take on a full time job as a PHP Programmer at a very busy Design agency in Northampton. In this role I was involved in a range of activities from project pitching, designing, programming and providing technical support. I worked on lots of projects with a variety of clients, specialised in Search Engine Optimisation and achieved Google Adwords Marketing Professional status whilst there.

About this time I applied to the Royal Holloway, University of London for a place on their MSc in Information Security by Distance Learning to pursue my interest in IT Security & hacking. In keeping with this change in my career direction I completed the Lead Auditor course in ISO 27001:2005 and moved into a cross-domain role as a Technical Developer/Security Analyst with the then UK's largest independent Payment Service Provider. This role was a fantastic opportunity for me as I was responsible for the IT Security and PCI DSS compliance status of the company. Some of the responsibilities included internal auditing, security management, incident handling and staff training. I was also involved in assisting the development team in maintenance of E-Commerce Transaction processing and E-Mail Broadcasting systems. I also created the blueprint for an 'In-line Card Fraud Monitoring & Prevention System'.

Towards the second year of my MSc course, I passed the (ISC)2 Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification and shifted jobs to a more specialist role as an Application & Database Security specialist with a global infrastructure, finance and media company where I am currently employed. In this role I have remit over Application & Database security of the various applications & systems used in the Company. I am currently looking to specialise in Penetration testing, increasing my Security Audit experience and am being strongly supported by my Manager in this.

My hobbies include swimming, amateur digital photography, chess and PC/console gaming.

I take my Continuing Professional Education/Development quite seriously and I know that the YPG can offer excellent opportunities to those in the foundation years of their career. I urge you to join the YPG if you haven't yet, especially if you are a student. I am on LinkedIn and you can get in touch with me at csarith@bcs.org to share your ideas on promoting the group and leveraging this network to your benefit.

Best regards,

Sarith Chandra.