



British Computer Society
Software Practice Advancement
Specialist Group



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25 April 2004

Dear Salutation

BCS OOPS has become BCS SPA

Thank you very much for registering as a member of this exciting new group. Please make a note of your membership number: **NNNNNNNN**

You may be asked to quote this number to qualify for member discounts when booking a place at the annual SPA conference, the Spring lecture series and other events.

What to do next

To fully participate in the specialist group's activities, please sign up for electronic services. There are several of these, provided by the BCS itself and on the SPA web site. They are not fully integrated with each other (yet), so please accept our apologies if you need to enter your details more than once. Details are overleaf.

Annual General Meeting

The first BCS SPA AGM is coming up on Wednesday 2nd June 2004. If you can make it, please come along to elect the new committee and enjoy a talk by Romilly Cocking on *Evaluating XPath Expressions using Jaxen*. If you cannot come in person, you are welcome to e-mail questions and proposals to secretary@bcs-spa.org.

It has taken three years to transform a specialist group whose zest had largely evaporated into a vibrant forum for advancing the practice of software in its widest sense, where we all can learn from each other. Where do you want to take this group next? Those with time or ideas to contribute, please put yourselves forward for election to the committee or for specific offices. Don't allow things to drift again by letting existing officers grow weary.

Yours sincerely,

(Membership Secretary)

BCS Connect

If you have not yet done so, please register with the BCS Connect Online Services to:

- Access or contribute to the discussion groups in the secure area
- View documents stored in the secure area for comment or information
- Update/check your contact details held on our central database to enable the BCS to contact you by post and e-mail. The 'preferred email address' option will be used for Specialist Group e-mailings via the BCS List Server (currently we mainly use our own mail server, see below).

If you have already registered through the BCS members' route, you will not need to register again. Otherwise, to register, please

1. Visit the BCS home page at www.bcs.org
2. Register for online services – BCS Connect – through the BCS members' route (even if you are not a BCS member) by following the instructions on the web page. You will need to use the following information:
 - If you are a BCS member, please use your BCS membership number and date of birth.
 - If you are not a BCS member, please use this reference number and the date of birth (This date may be a random date which we have provided for registration purposes only as we do not hold nor need to hold your correct date of birth.)

Should you require further assistance, please contact the BCS Customer Support Team on 01793 417545 or email bcscconnect@hq.bcs.org.uk.

Data Protection Act

The British Computer Society will hold your personal data on its computer database and process it in accordance with the Act. This information may be accessed, reviewed and used by the Society for administrative purposes. All of these purposes have been notified to the Information Commissioner. If you are based outside the European Economic Area (the "EEA"), information about you may be transferred outside the EEA in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

BCS SPA Mailing Lists

If you wish to be notified by e-mail of upcoming specialist group events, please sign up to the mailing list **bcs-oops-announce** (we have not yet worked out how to rename this without losing existing information ☺). This mailing list and several others are accessible through the page <http://bcs-spa.org/maillinglists.html>.

BCS SPA Wiki

Wiki systems are fundamentally editable web pages. It's a fun and useful way of communicating asynchronously over the web. The BCS SPA operates the TWiki system, which is simple to learn and use. It provides a transparent way for you to publish and exchange your ideas with others over the web. To start exploring, click the **Wiki** link on <http://bcs-spa.org/>. Click the **TWiki** link at the top of any Wiki page to read a tutorial.

Some pages in the Wiki are reserved for viewing by SG members only, and you will be taken to a TWiki sign-up page if you try to view these without a valid user name and password. You will also be requested to register with TWiki before you can edit pages – this is simply to provide traceability of updates. Sorry, the BCS SPA membership application form is not yet linked to the TWiki system.