BCS

THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY

British Computer Society Code of Practice

Code of Practice

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General Code of Practice

1. PURPOSE

A Code of Practice is a set of principles established to ensure that Information Systems (IS) Practitioners maintain recognised standards of competence in all aspects of IS practice. The Code of Conduct establishes the principles of behaviour in IS practice.

This General Code of Practice has been introduced to:

- Provide guidance to all Information Systems Practitioners regardless of their specialism.
- To allow for the provision of sector-specific Codes of Practice governing practice in specialist areas.

Employers, clients, members of the public or other professions should expect the same high standards of practice in Information Systems as are expected from members of other recognised professions. Professional Institutions set standards of technical capability which professional Practitioners must satisfy, and they prescribe standards of professional practice to which their members must conform or be held accountable for any lapse.

2. SCOPE

This General Code of Practice applies to all Professional Members of the British Computer Society (BCS) and to such specialist communities of Practitioners who choose to adopt a sector-specific Code.

3.RESPONSIBILITIES OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS PRACTITIONERS

Information Systems Practitioners shall seek to upgrade their professional knowledge and skill and shall maintain awareness of technological developments, procedures and standards which are relevant to their field, and shall encourage their subordinates to do likewise.

The Practitioner has a duty of professional care to abide by those BCS sector-specific Codes of Practice which have any bearing on the practitioner's current role.

Should the Practitioner discover any difficulty in applying a Code of Practice, he or she shall immediately bring it to the attention of the BCS Registrar.

Information Systems Practitioners who are BCS members adopting the General Code of Practice are also bound by the requirements of the BCS Code of Conduct. Others adopting this Code of Practice are also advised to adhere to the Code of Conduct.

4. AUTHORISATION

This General Code of Practice is approved by Council with the authority of Qualifications and Standards Board.

Sector-specific Codes to be adopted must be:

- Authorised by an appropriate specialist community, then
- Approved by Qualifications and Standards Board.

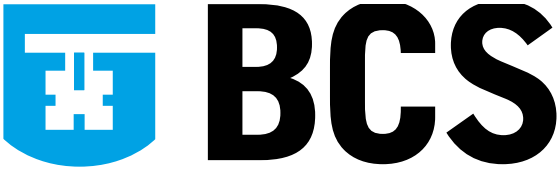
5. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CODES OF PRACTICE

All BCS-initiated Codes of Practice are maintained through Qualifications and Standards Board.

In the event that the BCS adopts Codes of Practice originating from other recognised bodies, these will be maintained by the originating bodies.

A complete register of Codes of Practice, both BCS-initiated and BCS-endorsed, is maintained by the Registrar at Headquarters and is also available on the BCS Website, www.bcs.org/codes

Guidance on how to produce sector-specific Codes of Practice is available separately from the BCS Registrar, 1 Sanford Street, Swindon, SN1 1HJ. Tel: +44 (0)1793 417417. Fax: +44 (0)1793 480270. Email: alewis@hq.bcs.org.uk



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