

The British Computer Society

Open Source Specialist Group – Constitution

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THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY

THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY BCS Open Source SPECIALIST GROUP

CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The name shall be the BCS Open Source Specialist Group of the British Computer Society.

2. INTERPRETATION

In this constitution, except where otherwise required:

"Group" shall mean BCS Open Source Specialist Group.

"BCS" shall mean British Computer Society.

"Member" or "Members" shall mean a person or persons qualified under article 4 of this constitution.

"Committee" shall mean that body of members elected, appointed or co-opted under article 5 of this constitution.

"Officer" or "Officers" shall mean the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and such other appointments which the Group may make under article 5 of this constitution.

"Professional Member" or "Professional Members" shall mean a person or persons holding membership of the BCS in one of the following grades: Fellow (FBCS) or Member (MBCS)

"Chartered Member" or "Chartered Members" shall mean a person or persons holding membership of the BCS in one of the following grades: Fellow (FBCS CITP) or Member (MBCS CITP) and entitled to use the designation "Chartered Information Technology Professional."

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Group are:

- Provide reliable, honest, independent view on Open Source
- Continually monitor development of the Open Source paradigm
- Reduce professional uncertainty around the subject of Open Source
- Act as a centre of expertise for BCS use
- Encourage serious debate & examination of Open Source
- Educate and inform members & wider audience of Open Source news
- Bridging the digital divide by the promotion of OS solutions
- Recognition, support of Open Source projects and individuals
- Add to members professional knowledge & career development

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Qualifications

Persons eligible for membership of the Group shall be any member of the BCS and others interested in the objectives and activities of the Group.

4.2 Admission

All applicants holding BCS membership at any level shall be admitted without charge/at a reduced annual subscription rate to be determined by the Group. Other applicants shall be admitted to membership after payment of the annual subscription in accordance with article 7.4.

4.3 Resignation

Any member of the Group may resign by giving notice in writing at any time but shall not be entitled to a refund of any subscription paid.

4.4 BCS Membership

It shall be incumbent upon the Committee to encourage all members of the Group to apply for membership of the BCS.

4.5 President

The Committee may nominate a distinguished member to be President. The nomination shall be approved by members at the AGM when the nominee will be elected for a term of 3 years. The President shall be ex-officio a member of the Committee.

5. COMMITTEE

5.1 Committee Members

The business activities of the Group shall be controlled by the Committee which at minimum shall consist of the following:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Web Master
- External Relations

Other Officer posts as may be required and other members who shall be elected at each AGM.

It shall be expected that the Committee members shall be members of the BCS.

The Chairman and Treasurer shall normally be professional or chartered members of the BCS, although, exceptionally, this requirement may be waived with the approval of the Vice President (Member Services).

The Chairman shall be responsible to the BCS for the finance, policy and activities of the Group.

5.2 Eligibility of Officers for Re-Election

No Officer may normally hold an office for more than a maximum of two consecutive terms each of 3 consecutive years.

5.3 Nominations

The name of any member accepting nomination for election or re-election as an Officer or as a Committee member should be submitted in writing to the Group Secretary 10 clear days prior to the date of the AGM by 2 members of the Group and with the written consent of the nominee.

5.4 Election of the Committee

5.4.1 If there is more than one nomination for any of the Officer positions, an election will be held at the AGM.

5.4.2 If the nominations number the same or less than the remaining vacancies for the Committee members, all shall be deemed to be duly elected.

5.4.3 In the event of there being more nominations than vacancies, the elections shall be by ballot. Each member present may vote for up to as many candidates as there are vacancies to be filled and no more.

5.5 Resignation from the Committee

In the event of any elected officer resigning, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy.

5.6 Co-option to the Committee

The Committee may co-opt to their number up to a maximum of 4 members serving at any one time. Co-opted members shall have the same voting rights as other members of the Committee.

5.7 Committee Meetings

The Committee shall meet at such times and in such places as the Committee may determine and in so far as is practicable they shall meet at least 4 times per year.

5.8 Quorum

3 Committee members, including at least one Officer, shall constitute a quorum.

5.9 Voting

At any Committee meeting each member of the Committee present, save the Chairman, shall be entitled to one vote but, in the event of equality, the Chairman will use his/her casting vote.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

6.1 The AGM of the Group shall be held each year as soon as possible after the last day of April, at the direction of the Committee, for transacting the following business:

- a. To receive the Annual Report of the Chairman
- b. To receive and approve the Annual Accounts.
- c. To elect the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year.
- d. To consider any other business relevant to the AGM.

6.2 Notice of General Meetings

6.2.1 The notice shall be conveyed in writing to every member of the Group.

6.2.2 The notice shall be issued at least 14 clear days before the date of the meeting and shall indicate the business to be transacted.

6.2.3 In the case of the AGM the notice shall include a request for nominations of Officers and Committee members.

6.2.4 The accidental omission to give notice of any meeting or non-receipt of such notice by any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate any resolution passed.

6.3 Chairman

At all General Meetings and meetings of the Committee the Chairman of the Group shall be Chairman or, if absent the Vice Chairman will preside.

6.4 Voting

At any General Meeting each member shall be entitled to one vote. Voting at any meeting shall be determined by a show of hands unless a ballot be demanded by at least one third of the members present.

6.5 Quorum

At any General Meeting of the Group, 3 members shall constitute a quorum.

6.6 Absence of Quorum

At the discretion of the Chairman, any meeting may proceed with its business, but all resolutions passed must be confirmed at the first subsequent, quorate General Meeting.

6.7 Extraordinary General Meetings

Extraordinary General Meetings of the Group shall be convened by the Secretary by direction of the Committee or on the request of Open Source members.

7. FINANCES

7.1 The Treasurer shall keep proper Records of Account and shall present the accounts completed up to the last day of April each year to the AGM next following the end of the financial year to which the accounts relate.

7.2 The financial year of the Group shall commence on the first day of May each year.

7.3 The funds of the Group shall be under the control of the Committee.

7.4 The annual subscription shall be such amounts as the Committee may from time to time decide.

7.5 The annual subscription shall normally become due on admission and subsequently on each anniversary of the date of admission. Alternatively, all subscriptions may be collected on a single date.

7.6 All membership fees and any surplus arising from the activities of the Group shall be managed in accordance with the financial guidelines agreed by the BCS.

8. RECORDS

8.1 A correct record of the proceedings of all Committee and General Meetings of the Group shall be kept by the Secretary.

8.2 The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept a correct record of members of the Group in accordance with any relevant legislation.

9. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

9.1 Public announcements concerning the Group shall be ordinarily made only by or with the consent of the Chairman or External Relations officer. In the absence of either the Chairman or External Relations officer then extraordinary announcements may be made by an officer nominated by quorum.

10. ETHICS

10.1 Elected officers of the Open Source Specialist Group are required to disclose interests (including employments, directorships; shareholdings or other activity) they have which might influence their judgment, impartiality or which could be perceived to do so.

10.2 A register of elected officers' interests will be provided and maintained for public review on Open Source Specialist Group web site.

11. LOCAL MEETINGS

Local meetings of the Group may only be held with the consent of the Committee and the organiser shall notify local BCS branches and other relevant specialist groups.

12. BCS

The Group shall be subject to the BCS Charter, Byelaws, Members' Regulations and Trustee Board Regulations.

13. BCS SPECIALIST GROUPS ASSEMBLY & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13.1 The Group shall appoint two of its number, who shall hold professional or chartered membership of the BCS, to attend meetings of the BCS Specialist Groups Assembly as the Group's representatives.

13.2 The Group shall be required to submit an annual report to the BCS Specialist Groups' Executive Committee describing the Group's activities, a financial statement and budget projections.

14. WINDING UP

If upon winding up or dissolution of the Group, there remain, after the satisfaction of all its liabilities, any assets, they shall be vested in the BCS.

15. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution may be altered at any time by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a General Meeting.

