

The SCSC and the Internet (actually the World Wide Web but...)



The screenshot displays the SCSC website interface. At the top left is the 'CSR Centre for Software Reliability' logo with navigation links: Home, About the CSR, Search, Related Links, CSR Personnel, Projects, Clubs, Events Calendar. Below this is the 'Safety-Critical Systems Club' header with sub-links: [SCSC] [ERMCI] [Members] [Newsletters] [Publications]. A 'What is the Club?' section describes the club's mission. A 'History' section mentions its founding in 1991. A 'What does the Club do?' section lists activities like running the annual symposium, organizing seminars, and publishing newsletters. A large red circular badge on the left side of the page reads '30th ANNIVERSARY YEAR'. On the right, a 'Welcome Brian.' message is visible above a large image of an airplane and a control tower. Below the image is a 'The SCSC is the UK's professional network for sharing knowledge about system safety.' statement. Further down, there are sections for 'Upcoming events:' (listing the February 8-10, 2022 symposium in Bristol) and 'Latest news:' (announcing the SSS'22 symposium).

The SCSC website has become an essential resource for members, not only in providing information about the club and upcoming events, but also in providing a wide range of other services such as access to publications, working group resources, multi-media material and has been critical in ensuring the club could weather the Covid-19 pandemic by facilitating streaming-based services. Brian Jepson, the SCSC webmaster, describes the history of the website from its humble beginnings and how it has evolved over the years.

The Safety-Critical Systems Club has a history that runs parallel to that of the World Wide Web (WWW). These days most people use Internet, which has been around since the early 1980s, interchangeably with the World Wide Web (WWW), designed by Tim Berners-Lee, that operates as a service using the internet. Most of what I'm talking about here is WWW but 'Internet' makes a snappier title. Both the WWW and the SCSC appeared to the world at the beginning of 1991, but it took a few more years before the Club started to use the web in earnest.

In today's world, the Club could not survive without a website. In the year from mid-2020 to mid-2021, the website, in conjunction with email, Zoom video conferencing, digital publishing on Amazon, and video streaming through YouTube, provided online seminars, a three-day symposium and allowed the working groups to continue their work.

The early days

From its inception in 1991 through to 1997 the Club had no presence on the web. The Centre for Software Reliability (CSR) at Newcastle University was running the Club with operations being conducted by telephone, post and email.

www.csr.newcastle.ac.uk

The screenshot here shows an early CSR web page from 1998.

At this time the website only provided basic information about the club, its objectives and what it does.

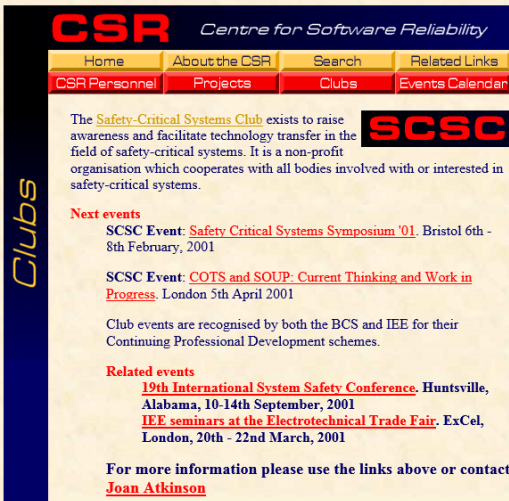
These pages were hand coded in HTML and were difficult to maintain. In later versions the technology adapted to include a database, CSS and server- and client-side scripting but remains focused on substance and accessibility over style.



www.safety-club.org.uk

In 1999, the www.safety-club.org.uk domain was registered to give the Club its own identity, though this was the existing information served by the Newcastle University using the CSR Clubs pages.

This screenshot shows an updated CSR page from 2001 accessed as www.safety-club.org.uk that focuses on the Club and includes the next Club and related events with linked pages containing details of each event. This style of web page remained in use through to February 2008.



By 2004 the Club was increasingly being known by its SCSC initials, and luckily, the www.scsc.org.uk domain was still available, so this was registered as an alternative to the full safety-club domain.

www.scsc.org.uk

It would be difficult today to get hold of a short domain name like this and when, in 2014, the abbreviated .UK domains were introduced we exercised our right to also acquire scsc.uk giving us a seven-character identity.

It was also becoming difficult to maintain the pages hosted by the University, so www.scsc.org.uk was kept separate and developed as a new website. This new site remained, linked to the CSR website, but it was able to rapidly expand to include more useful information such as back issues of this, the *Safety Systems*, Newsletter as visible below. This version of the website made use a database to store all the resources and scripts to dynamically generate pages as requested allowing much easier and quicker updating.

[Main Club website @ CSR](#) [Next event](#) [Event diary](#) [Past events](#) [Directories](#) [Club information](#)
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The Safety-Critical Systems Club

SAFETY SYSTEMS

[1991](#) [1992](#) [1993](#) [1994](#) [1995](#) [1996](#) [1997](#) [1998](#) [1999](#) [2000](#) [2001](#) [2002](#) [2003](#) [2004](#)

January 2005 Volume 14, Number 2

1. Editorial - Continuing with fundamentals
2. A View from the Store By Martyn Thomas
3. SITS and Software By Peter Bishop
4. Computer-based evacuation simulations for large public buildings in the aftermath of 9/11 By C. Johnson, J. Appleby, P. Cooper, A. Foss, S. Hailey and B. Jenks
5. Visualising operational and design complexity in aerospace safety critical systems By Neale L. Fulton
6. The second edition of the MISRA C Guidelines By Les Hatton

September 2004 Volume 14, Number 1

1. Editorial - Time to address fundamentals
2. Should software engineers be licensed? by John Knight
3. Defining the safety case concept by Tim Kelly
4. The Safety-critical Systems Symposium 2005
5. Combining evidence in risk analysis using Bayesian Networks By Norman Fenton and Martin Neil
6. Can software be perfect? By David Crocker
7. Data driven systems and their configuration By Peter Duggan

In February 2007 the CSR pages hosted at Newcastle were abandoned and both domains now delivered the new website which had developed to include more publications, a directory of tools useful in the development of safety-related systems and information about club membership. The screenshot below shows an early version of this new website. Note the logo as a flag on the red flagpole that has now become an SCSC style used on all pages and many handouts.



Safety-Critical Systems Club

- [About](#)
- [News](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Web site](#)

[Home](#) [Event Diary](#) [Tools Directory](#)

Latest news

Welcome to the new Safety-Critical Systems Club web site.

The 50th issue of *Safety Systems* which was posted to all current club members in January is a bumper double size edition. This special issue features articles by many leaders in the field of system safety, including Martyn Thomas, Trevor Kletz, Nancy Leveson and John McDermid - to name just four. Whilst they cover a number of topics, a pervasive thread is Professionalism. *Safety Systems* has always promoted Professionalism, and there could be no better way of marking this 50th issue than with a call by so many prominent figures for us to examine - and improve - our Professionalism.

To become a member of the club and get your copy of *Safety Systems* please contact [Joan Atkinson](#).

Next events

Date	Event	Title
May 12 th 2008	SCSC Seminar	Public Safety, Counter Terrorism and Mathematics of Proof
BCS office, London		
Held in conjunction with the BCS FACS group.		
June 5 th 2008	SCSC Seminar	User Experience of Tools for Safety-Critical Systems
Royal Lancaster Hotel, London		

V1c: 28-2-2008

Recent years

In 2014, the Club acquired the shorter www.scsc.uk domain and, to reflect the international appeal of the Club, also acquired www.thescsc.org. All the Club domains lead to the same content from the canonical www.scsc.uk website.

www.scsc.uk
www.thescsc.org

The website has now grown to include a comprehensive history of club events with over 1400 resources available to Club members including presentation materials from events, books, working group guidance documents, symposium papers and 69 issues of this, the club newsletter.

There are ten *working groups* supported by the club covering topics ranging from Autonomous Systems Safety through to Safety Culture and The Safety Futures Initiative. Each working group has its own web pages where ongoing work can be shared.

There is a *publications* area where members can download digital version of the symposium proceedings, newsletters and other documents such as the guidance produced by working groups. There is also a *community space* forum style area where thoughts and opinions can be shared.

In the *Catch up* area are details of many of the Club's past events. Most presentations at events are now recorded, and the videos of these are available for members, together with copies of the presentation slides and any other handouts. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, events between mid-2020 and mid-2021 have been online only, and, since October 2021, as hybrid events with both in-person and online participants.

Brian Jepson, SCSC Website editor, 2004 onward.

Brian has 38 years' experience in software and system safety in the defence sector but has now retired and spends his time supporting the SCSC and restoring a Land Rover 101.

Website snapshots © SCSC retrieved thanks to the WayBackMachine Internet Archive.