

The SCSC is its Own Boss!



After almost thirty years, the club has changed its organisational arrangements and is now a legal entity in its own right.

The Safety-Critical Systems Club was initiated in May 1991, holding its first meeting in July and publishing its first newsletter in September of that year. It was sponsored by the then Department of Trade and Industry and the Science and Engineering Research Council and was supported by the British Computer Society and the Institution of Electrical Engineers, who have since become the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

The task of running the SCSC was given to the Centre for Software Reliability at Newcastle University led by Professor Tom Anderson, with the invaluable assistance of Joan Atkinson and Felix Redmill. In 2016 the club was transferred to the University of York with Professor Tim Kelly in charge, assisted by our business manager Alex King and with Dr Mike Parsons coordinating the events programme. In 2019, following his ordination in the Church of England, Tim Kelly left the University and became Assistant Curate of Beverley Minster, at which point, Mike Parsons took over the role of SCSC Leader.

After so many years operating within a University context, and with the impacts of the pandemic, the club needed to have more autonomy and control over its operation.

Introducing the Safety-Critical Systems Club C.I.C.

A C.I.C. is a Community Interest Company, a special type of limited company, which exists to benefit a community rather than private shareholders. A C.I.C. has:

- A community interest statement that defines the beneficiaries – the community it serves – (see box opposite) and how it plans to benefit that community
- An 'asset lock' – a legal promise stating that its assets will only be used to achieve the community benefit objectives
- A constitution and Articles of Association as a limited company
- Approval by the Regulator of Community Interest Companies to whom it has to report achievements every year

***“We will support
Safety
Practitioners
working across all
sectors and
organisations”.***

This means that, as a distinct legal entity, the SCSC now has more freedom to operate and can legitimately do things such as make agreements with other bodies, seek funding to support the objectives and own copyright on documents. Up to now, all of these things would have been done via the University.

Seven members of the club's Steering Group have volunteered to be Directors of the C.I.C. and have taken on the legal responsibility of running the company.

What does that mean to the club and its members?

There is no change planned in the way we do things, or the membership we serve.

Staying the same:

- The SCSC exists to support Safety Practitioners
- The programme of events will continue and develop. We expect to continue with a blended face-to-face and online format. We are looking forward to SSS'22 in Bristol – our special 30th Symposium
- The working groups will continue and are also expected to continue to make use of online meetings
- SCSC membership for individuals and corporate bodies is uninterrupted
- The people currently filling roles in the operation of the club will remain in place
- The Website, Newsletter, eJournal and Symposium continue as before
- The office at the Department of Computer Science at York remains the business address.

Some small changes (now and in the near future):

- Payments for membership or event bookings will now be to the SCSC rather than the University of York. Payment details will need to be updated on corporate payment systems. Alex King has the bank details.
- Quotes and invoices will now come from the SCSC rather than the University of York
- The Safety-Critical Systems Club C.I.C. is now responsible for the personal data it holds about club members. There is no change in how this data is used or stored and members' rights under GDPR are unaffected.
- The SCSC copyright will appear on some parts of documents (authors will always retain their copyright for their contributions).

Directors

Managing Director:

Mike Parsons

Directors:

Alex King

Brian Jepson

Dewi Daniels

Graham Jolliffe

Mark Nicholson

Paul Hampton



Formal Text

The following provides the formal text associated with the SCSC C.I.C.

"Safety-Critical Systems Club" and "SCSC" are trading names of Safety-Critical Systems Club C.I.C. Safety-Critical Systems Club C.I.C. is a Community Interest Company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 13084663.

The setup of the C.I.C required an official address to be nominated for the Registered Office for the purposes of receiving company related correspondence. A 3rd party mail service is therefore being used at a Winchester address. However, for all club related business correspondence, the following business address should be used:

Business Address

The business address and contact details for the club is now as follows:

Safety-Critical Systems Club
Department of Computer Science
University of York
Deramore Lane
Heslington
YORK
YO10 5GH

Email: office@SCSC.uk
Phone: +44 (0)1904 325402

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