The BCS IT Industry Awards were presented to the winning finalists at a gala dinner at London’s Grosvenor House Hotel on Thursday 6 December. The awards mark the key contribution made by the IT industry to economic prosperity, business efficiency and to our public services and are the most important event in the IT calendar. This special Computer Weekly report features the winners and medallists.

www.bcs.org/industryawards
Virtual training wins gong

The BT Flagship Award for Innovation is always a competitive category and this year was no exception. “Every year the quality of entries gets better and better. This is the award that everyone wants to get their hands on because innovation has become such a cornerstone of modern business,” said David Clarke, BCS chief executive.

This year’s short list consisted of the University of Edinburgh, HI Walford with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Multimap, Barclayscard Business, Lloyd’s Register, Ultraspeed, the Environment Agency, SMART, Picelon Technologies, SpinVox and University of Hull & Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Each faced a unique challenge that they sought to overcome through the innovative application of technology. However, there can only ever be one winner, and this year the judges decided that University of Hull & Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust deserved the trophy for its innovative use of IT in advancing the training of radiotherapists to meet rising demand and improving patient care.

As identified in May this year in a report by the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group to the government entitled “Radiotherapy: developing a world class service for England”, the UK radiotherapy sector faces a significant training challenge. Despite the role that radiotherapy plays in modern medicine and that its usage is set to rise 91% by 2016, current training programmes that its usage is set to rise 91% by 2016, current training programmes face a significant training challenge.

However, there can only ever be one winner, and this year the judges decided that University of Hull & Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust deserved the trophy for its innovative use of IT in advancing the training of radiotherapists to meet rising demand and improving patient care.

Each faced a unique challenge that they sought to overcome through the innovative application of technology. However, there can only ever be one winner, and this year the judges decided that University of Hull & Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust deserved the trophy for its innovative use of IT in advancing the training of radiotherapists to meet rising demand and improving patient care.

As identified in May this year in a report by the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group to the government entitled “Radiotherapy: developing a world class service for England”, the UK radiotherapy sector faces a significant training challenge. Despite the role that radiotherapy plays in modern medicine and that its usage is set to rise 91% by 2016, current training programmes face a significant training challenge.

Vert represents a cost effective training environment, as training on actual Linac is exceptionally expensive. Reducing training costs and increasing patient throughput will allows hospitals to treat more patients and meet government targets.

Vert: the system aims to increase clinical capacity for radiographers while reducing the pressure of training on service departments

Vert is a virtual training environment for radiotherapists that promises to significantly increase quality of training and patient care, won this year’s BT Flagship Award for Innovation.
BCS Awards

AN EVENING TO CELEBRATE

The winners of the BCS IT Industry Awards 2007 were announced at a gala dinner, hosted by BBC news presenter Kate Silverton, on 6 December at London’s Grosvenor House Hotel. The awards mark the key contribution made by the IT industry to economic prosperity, business efficiency and public services.

Spinvox: winner of the Web-based Technology and Entertainment and Media Awards

Innovation award: University of Hull & Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals Trust

Rachel Burnett: the BCS president kicks off the evening’s awards

Winners are grinners: all the winners of this year’s BCS IT Industry Awards celebrate their win

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS
All seven winners of this year’s Individual Excellence Awards demonstrated skills that set them apart from the crowd, and have all contributed to transforming their workplace.

BCS Awards

IT Trainer of the Year

Keen: the raw test of character to enter for one of the BCS’s training awards is to prove your professionalism to the very highest calibre, combined with evidence of how your performance impacts on their organisations, their customers and their colleagues.

“This year the competition was wide open and the judges faced some very difficult decisions in selecting these winners and medalists.”

There are seven awards within the Individual Excellence Section, and each award is open to entrants working in IT based in or operating primarily from companies located in the UK or Europe.

In judging each award, the panel was looking for professionalism and excellence in individual performance, and the contribution and impact the entrant has made within their organisation.

IT Leader of the Year

Al-Noor Ramji, CIO of BT Group, won the award for his outstanding contribution in overseeing BT’s five-year transformation project to become a world-class networked IT services company.

In the judge’s view Ramji epitomises what is required of the modern CIO, leading not only the technology function, but also a substantial business unit through a period of transformational change.

The project has generated many benefits, including new IT efficiencies that have greatly reduced project cycle time, achieved savings of about £240m, reduced costs by nearly £155m, and increased productivity by 2% over the fiscal year. In terms of personnel, the initiative affects the whole of BT Group.

Medallists were Jan Cramb from CIG & MEA ACC and Ben Wishart from Whitbread.

Project Manager of the Year

Transforming a 140 year old balancing process for the Post Office has won Sue Harding the Project Manager of the Year Award.

Sue’s first appointment as a service manager, the programme was designed to simplify the Post Office’s branch and product accounting processes and systems, including the branch balancing process for cash, stock, receipts and payments.

Clarke said, “Although this was Sue’s first appointment as a programme manager, she successfully encouraged key senior stakeholders to adopt new approaches that provided radical business change affecting a wide range of people and systems.”

Medallists were Chris Dale from IBM United Kingdom and Kate Scott from Pride Solutions.

Service Manager of the Year

Hazel Hogfress, service delivery group leader for RM was named as the 2007 Service Manager of the Year Award.

In just two years, Hogfress has turned an over-stretched service management team into a qualified, focused and fully resourced team, meeting requirements and achieving extremely high levels of customer service satisfaction.

Clarke said, “We expect the very best from entrants and as such, we are looking for individuals who can demonstrate professionalism of the very highest calibre.”

Youth IT Practitioner of the Year

Clarke: “We expect the very best from entrants and as such, we are looking for individuals who can demonstrate professionalism of the very highest calibre.”

For his outstanding achievements to date, Travers Powell, technical architect at Vocallink, was named Young IT Practitioner of the Year, sponsored by Thomson.

“At only 30, Travers has already achieved a huge amount and made an impressive impact to his career to date,” said Craig Penfold, head of marketing at Thumb.

He impressed the judges with his professionalism, vision and innovation.

In his current position, Travers has been responsible for the successful implementation of a number of highly strategic IT initiatives that have moved the corporate IT function from a back-end support service to being critical to the future success and growth of the company.

Clarke said, “Travers has demonstrated that IT is central to business and not simply a function that happens behind the scenes. He has shown that he understands not only the nuts and bolts of IT architecture, but also how IT can drive business forward; a sign of a true IT professional.”

Travers has designed, built and managed a variety of diverse and complex infrastructure for a number of clients, from corporate clients and the UK government during his time as head of technical delivery and is recognised not only as a thought leader, but also as a deliverer of leading edge, best of breed infrastructure.

Medallists were Chris Dale from IBM United Kingdom and Kate Scott from Pride Solutions.

Analyst of the Year

Mark Orford’s presence in the water and telecomms industries has helped transform the way the council is able to work, and has proved to be an example of excellence that is being adopted for the delivery of all new complex business solutions across the council.

Clarke said, “Mark’s contribution to this modernisation programme has helped transform the way the council is able to work, and has proved to be an example of excellence that is being adopted for the delivery of all new complex business solutions across the council. A truly remarkable achievement, showing what can happen when local government hires the very best in IT practitioners.”

Medallists were Craig Beattie from RBS Insurance and Douglas Smith from Graham Technology.
With a new green IT category, the Project Excellence Awards recognise those IT projects that deliver substantial benefits and efficiencies to the end-user and to the enterprise.

It is the embodiment of mobility,” said Michael Gough, chief executive of the National Computing Centre and head of the judging panel for the category. SpinVox was a double winner at the awards, also walking away with the Entertainment and Media Project Award. It was the consumer benefit of needing just one piece of equipment to communicate across multiple communication and entertainment channels that clinched it for the company.

Medallists in the Mobile Technology Award were Ericsson in collaboration with Vodafone UK, and Lincolnshire Police. Medallists in the Entertainment and Media Award were Espir Digital and Omnimove.

This year has seen continued concern about information and data security. Winner of the Information Security and Data Management Award was Webscreen Systems, for its Webscreen Guarantee of Service Technology product.

Installed at the network gateway, Webscreen is based on the behaviour of the IP traffic. The system ensures network availability for priority users and business critical activity when resources come under pressure from distributed denial of service attacks or unusually high network traffic levels.

Webscreen is developed around a unique core of expert algorithms, said Gough, who was born out of an international news agency’s problems maintaining the availability of its web services for subscribers during breaking news events.

The algorithm assigns a value to every IP address entering a network. This value is based on a range of behavioural criteria and is used to filter out low priority traffic when network resources find themselves up against it.

The technology has proven to be highly effective, and any business that has deployed a web-based network infrastructure or does a significant percentage of its business online stands to benefit.

Medallists were Drivesentry and McKesson UK.

Microsoft and Armadillo Systems won the Web-based Technology Project Award, sponsored by the Web Technology Group (WTG) for its “Turning the Pages 2.0” project developed for the British Library.

The British Library houses some of the world’s most important and priceless books, which are stored under subdued lighting with only two pages visible at any one time. Usually the only people who are able to interact with the books are curators of the library. Given that the collection belongs to the nation, the library wanted to make the collection more accessible.

“Turning the Pages 2.0” brings the collection to life in 3D, enabling the public to read anything from ancient religious books through to originals of classics. The project also allows the public and academics to get involved by collaborating, adding notes and engaging in discussions about book content.

Medallists were Joko and Janko Telecommunication Corporation, and Deutsche Bank.

Technology also has a large role to play in contributing to social development and enriching the lives of people. The Social Contribution Award books to recognise an organisation that has developed a technology that will have a positive impact on society.

This year’s winner was the Danish National Centre for Visual Impairment for Children and Youth for its RoboBraille development.

RoboBraille is an e-mail based service capable of translating documents into either synthetic speech or contracted Braille. The service requires no registration and is freely available to all non-commercial users.

“RoboBraille really stood out from the crowd. In recent years companies have looked to develop information channels that are more accessible to the visually impaired, but this technology will take that to the next level and open up a window of opportunities that, without this technology, would have remained firmly shut,” said Gough.

RoboBraille makes it possible for the visually impaired, disabled and poor readers to obtain information in an accessible format.

The service is based on a two-tier architecture – a server layer and an agent layer. The server layer includes a mail server for receiving incoming requests and a web server for delivering audio content. The agent layer consists of a range of identically configured desktop computers running the RoboBraille software package on Microsoft Windows XP.

Medallists were Crisp Thinking and University of the West of England, and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Over the past few months the environment has dominated the press agenda. With Gartner estimating that IT accounts for about 4% of global carbon emissions, technology clearly has a role to play in helping companies achieve their green objectives.

Numerous firms have come to us looking to communicate how technology can help companies with their environmental initiative. “Going green has opened up a whole new sector for the tech industry,” said Stephen Waddington, managing director at award sponsor Rainier PR.

While this is the case, the BCS introduced a new category in the Project Excellence Awards – the Best Use of Green Technology. “We felt it was important to acknowledge the role that IT has to play in helping companies make a difference to the environment,” said David Clarke, BCS chief executive officer.

With this in mind, the BCS introduced a new category in the Project Excellence Awards – the Best Use of Green Technology. “We felt it was important to acknowledge the role that IT has to play in helping companies make a difference to the environment,” said David Clarke, BCS chief executive officer.

The winner of this category was BT for its 21st Century Data Centre project. BT implemented the project to change the way it builds and maintains datacentres, with the aim of reducing its carbon footprint by 60% before 2010.

In order to meet the forecasted growth across all lines of business for computers, storage and networking hosting over the next two years, BT began the project by assessing its legacy datacentres.

Further to studying the energy output from these datacentres, BT made two notable changes moving from AC to DC power, thereby reducing energy consumption by 30%, and moving from refrigerated cooling to fresh-air cooling, reducing the refrigeration energy by an average of 80%.

In the first half of 2007 the project saved £5m in electricity costs, and BT is on track to reach its emission goals, having reduced its carbon footprint by 60% in the past 10 years.

“The quality of entrants in this category was outstanding. BT won because it was able to show consistency and sustainability in its green activities,” said Gough.

Medallists were IBM UK and Motorola, MTCA, GSMA.

Last but not least in the Project Excellence Awards was the Business-to-Business Project Award, sponsored by IBM. The winner of this category was the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (Vosa) for its MOT Computerisation project.

That has deployed a web-based network hosting over the next two years, BT began the project by assessing its legacy datacentres.

Further to studying the energy output from these datacentres, BT made two notable changes moving from AC to DC power, thereby reducing energy consumption by 30%, and moving from refrigerated cooling to fresh-air cooling, reducing the refrigeration energy by an average of 80%.

In the first half of 2007 the project saved £5m in electricity costs, and BT is on track to reach its emission goals, having reduced its carbon footprint by 60% in the past 10 years.

“The quality of entrants in this category was outstanding. BT won because it was able to show consistency and sustainability in its green activities,” said Gough.

Medallists were IBM UK and Motorola, MTCA, GSMA.

Last but not least in the Project Excellence Awards was the Business-to-Business Project Award, sponsored by IBM. The winner of this category was the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (Vosa) for its MOT Computerisation project.
WOMEN IN IT

This year’s winner and medallists were recognised for their consistent efforts to attract women into the industry and for their initiatives to retain them.

THE NEED FOR DIVERSITY

According to Wendy Hall, chair of the BCS Women’s Forum, this year’s awards have been a triumph for women in IT. “Ten out of the 21 individual excellence award winners and medallists are women. Added to this is the inspirational way that the winner and medallists of the Women in IT Organisational Excellence Award have adopted policies to encourage diversity in their workplaces,” she said.

The winner of this year’s Women in IT Award, sponsored by GCS Recruitment, was Google; medallists were Whitbread and Accenture.

Grahame Winman, GCS Recruitment business development manager and sponsor judge, said, “I believe that the quality of this year’s entries is an indication that more organisations are focusing on diversity in the workplace. The message about encouraging more women into IT is beginning to penetrate with employers, as well as girls who are considering their career options and women who wish to return to work after a career break.”

Google’s attitude to diversity and the range of programmes it employs to encourage women in IT impressed the judges. Its diversity programme aims to reach out to the community to encourage girls and under-represented minorities to pursue studies in maths, science and engineering.

The range of programmes implemented by Google for its female employees is impressive, including Google Women Engineers, a priority programme that focuses on attracting female engineers. As a result, the percentage of female engineers (as a percentage of all female engineers) in senior positions in their EMEA organisation is higher than the equivalent male percentage.

Hall said, “Google’s work with outside organisations, such as Women in Technology, to develop ways of attracting women returning to the industry is refreshing. As a profession, we need to not only increase the number of women entering the profession, but also capitalise on the expertise of those who have taken a career break by supporting their return to work.”

Google also encourages its employees to achieve a good work-life balance through a flexible policy that considers all requests for part-time or flexible working, which the company believes allows it to attract and retain strong performers.

Winman said, “Google is an outstanding winner of this category. Its attitude is enabling it to attract and retain highly educated and skilled employees. It is actively driving the messages about working in IT out into the community through scholarships, prizes and a school programme.”

Both Whitbread and Accenture also employ a variety of policies to encourage and support a good work-life balance, including flexible and part-time working arrangements. Other initiatives include support for parental leave, career breaks, time off to care for a dependant, leave to support the adoption of a child, maternity programmes and a working parents database that allows parents to network.

Whitbread, the oldest company in the FTSE 100, gained its medallist award for its commitment to recruiting and retaining the best person for the job, regardless of gender, giving everyone the chance to reach his or her full potential.

The company said that it has spent many years building a culture in which women can and do succeed, as evidenced by Whitbread being one of only 13 FTSE 100 companies with a woman on its main board.

Hall said, “Statistically, women make up less than 20% of the IT workforce, however, Whitbread’s IT team has an impressive number of women, accounting for 38% of the team. And more significantly, women account for 30% (12 of 40) of the management and leadership roles in Whitbread IT.”

Accenture, a founding member of the Women Leaders Initiative, implemented the “Great Place to Work for Women” programme in 1999 to attract and promote more women into the organisation and decrease female attrition. It has since extended the programme with additional offerings such as the Global Women’s Initiative, which encourages networking, mentoring and skills development.

“The company takes its role and responsibility to its employees very seriously. This is the second year running that they have been placed as a medallist in this award and their ongoing work in this field is a testament to their commitment,” said Hall.

Winman added, “These kinds of policies really do benefit employers as well as employees. They help to attract, and more importantly retain, staff and are key to encouraging more women to enter or return to a career in IT.”

Google: employs a range of programmes to encourage women into the industry

NCC Best Practice

Guide when you register for FREE

To find out more about how NCC Membership can be your virtual IT management team, log on to: www.ncc.co.uk/virtualteam

To Relieve the tension and get the results you need with NCC

Consider us your virtual IT management team, there on hand when you need us and more cost effective than you think.

**Planning... resourcing... service delivery... budgeting... performance improvement... managing change... technology selection... programme management... security... business value... convergence... green IT... skills... recruitment...**

Is your IT decision making getting stretched?

Planning... resourcing... service delivery... budgeting... performance improvement... managing change... technology selection... programme management... security... business value... convergence... green IT... skills... recruitment...
Choosing a winner in the Organisational Excellence Awards category has been a challenge for the judges for the past few years, said John Higgins, director general of IT and chair of the judging panel for the section. "We were faced with quantifiable evidence of the impact IT departments have had on their businesses. But, to our surprise, we were backed by credible measures, effective relationships and innovation," he said. "IT is central to a business these days, no matter what sector, and these awards showcase IT at its very best."

The Public Sector Award for Organisational Excellence was won by the Organisation Services, Leeds City Council, and the Berry of clearly quantifiable improvement of Parity Solutions, said, "This is the pinnacle of an era of experiments with cutting-edge technology in schools, a telephone contact centre open 24 hours a day, cleaner streets, an award-winning website, and a promise to modernise the way services and generating efficiencies.

"This is the beginning of an era of imagination and re-engineering, of the use of technology combined with a commitment to service improvement. It is about putting the customer at the centre of what we do. This has all been achieved by the development of its pledge to modernise the way it works, improving efficiency and putting the customer at the centre of all our activities."

In 2007 the council set up a joint venture with the IT service provider TCS, Connect, which allowed it to unlock vital investment in new technology expertise and find better ways of working.

The venture, through innovative use of technology combined with imaginative re-engineering, has resulted in a major transformation in the performance of the council. Investment in new technology means that residents are benefiting from the council's initiatives, including: one-stop customer service centres, telephone contact centre open 24 hours a day, five days a week, leaner services, an award-winning website, and a new approach to lending in the public sector.

In this award the judges were looking for the contributions made to the organisation by the IT department, and the benefits the organisation had gained from these contributions.

In the category of Financial Sector Organisation of the Year 2007, the judges awarded the prize to Deloitte MCS, winner of the IT Consultancy Organisation of the Year Award. The team has won the award for its delivery of an IT service improvement programme to overcome issues following rapid expansion, a silo mentality and the poor perception of the business.

The aim of the programme was to improve the service and technology used by the business by removing cost recovery projects of a short space of time. The team implemented a service desk and provided daily and monthly reports selected by the business. In addition, it fostered greater integration with the business and reduced procurement lead times from 4-6 weeks to 2-3 days.

David Roddy, head of the council, said, "It is great to see IT excellence in construction and manufacturing recognised in those prestigious awards, and we are delighted to be involved." The medal for this category was awarded to The Berkeley Group.

"In this award the judges were looking for the contributions made to the organisation by the IT department, and the benefits the organisation had gained from these contributions.

The project was achieved using leading-edge online authentication techniques, sophisticated credit-risk analytics, fully electronic micro-payment, innovative online contract signing and leveraged outsourcing of "best-in-class" IT capabilities.

Higgins, said, "in essence, Zopa is a truly useful social application brought about through technology. It has real social impact, bringing a new approach to lending in the emerging social lending market."

In this award the judges were looking for the contributions made to the organisation by the IT department, and the benefits the organisation had gained from these contributions.

The project has been achieved using leading-edge online authentication techniques, sophisticated credit-risk analytics, fully electronic micro-payment, innovative online contract signing and leveraged outsourcing of "best-in-class" IT capabilities.

Higgins, said, "In essence, Zopa is a truly useful social application brought about through technology. It has real social impact, bringing a new approach to lending in the emerging social lending market."

The project has been achieved using leading-edge online authentication techniques, sophisticated credit-risk analytics, fully electronic micro-payment, innovative online contract signing and leveraged outsourcing of "best-in-class" IT capabilities.

Higgins, said, "In essence, Zopa is a truly useful social application brought about through technology. It has real social impact, bringing a new approach to lending in the emerging social lending market."

The project has been achieved using leading-edge online authentication techniques, sophisticated credit-risk analytics, fully electronic micro-payment, innovative online contract signing and leveraged outsourcing of "best-in-class" IT capabilities.

The project has been achieved using leading-edge online authentication techniques, sophisticated credit-risk analytics, fully electronic micro-payment, innovative online contract signing and leveraged outsourcing of "best-in-class" IT capabilities.

The project has been achieved using leading-edge online authentication techniques, sophisticated credit-risk analytics, fully electronic micro-payment, innovative online contract signing and leveraged outsourcing of "best-in-class" IT capabilities.

The project has been achieved using leading-edge online authentication techniques, sophisticated credit-risk analytics, fully electronic micro-payment, innovative online contract signing and leveraged outsourcing of "best-in-class" IT capabilities.
The BCS awards for 2007 marked the society’s 50th anniversary, and were supported by industry bodies that have had a decisive impact on technology.

CELEBRATING TECHNOLOGY

The BCS IT Industry Awards this year formed the culmination of a year of celebration as the BCS reached 50. The BCS, a registered charity, has over the past 50 years grown phenomenally, and is now recognised as the leading body for those working in IT and the qualifying body for Chartered IT Professionals ( CITP).

The awards have been an integral part of the BCS in one form or another for the past 33 years, and although the format may have changed, the aim to promote professionalism and reward excellence throughout the IT industry has been constant.

This year the awards have gained support from many quarters, including the two leading industry bodies Intellect and the National Computing Centre. The awards have also had support from the headline sponsor NEC, which has recently showcased its abilities as the technology partner at the O2.

The BCS awards for 2007 also saw new categories introduced that reflect some of the most important issues for IT in the present and in the future.

Over the past 50 years computing technology has moved forward in unimaginable leaps and bounds. Year-on-year innovation has seen the computer move from the code-breaking labs of the 1940s, to being a ubiquitous part of modern society.

The year 1972 saw the Pioneer 10 spacecraft launched using an Intel 4004-based computer, and the foundations of modern computing were complete when in 1975 Bill Gates and Paul Allen founded Microsoft.

The computer became a household name when IBM introduced the personal computer in 1981. A year later, Time Magazine named the computer as Man of the Year, proving that computers had gone mainstream, and in 1989 Tim Berners-Lee invented the world wide web.

In sponsoring this year’s awards, NEC has brought its own 100-year history in IT to the awards. The company is a provider of IT, network communications and display systems, and has been an instrumental force in computing innovation over the past 100 years.

NEC has helped drive the IT industry forward with numerous technology milestones, including:

- 1899 – First desktop telephone.
- 1974 – First automated fingerprint identification system.
- 1982 – Personal computer (the PC9801).
- 2001 – The world’s fastest computer, earth simulator and a mobile terminal for the world’s first 3G network.
- 2007 – Next generation computer virtualisation and Europe’s first digital switchover.

If you have a project or team that deserves the recognition that winning one of the BCS IT Industry Awards brings, register now to receive information about the 2008 awards.

➔ www.bcs.org/awards08

Looking for a challenge?

Flora London Marathon
13th April 2008
Cycle London to Paris
26th - 29th June 2008

0870 420 4301 www.LCDisability.org