

The IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology presents...

**CHAOS, HOPE, PRIVACY AND THE
RIGHTS OF THE
INDIVIDUAL IN AN
ONLINE WORLD**

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Wednesday 25 November 2009 at 6:00pm
ICT Theatre 1, The University of Melbourne
(Ground Floor, 111 Barry Street, Carlton South)
Public welcome — no entry charge



"Online identity theft"

"Online banking usage grows 174%"

"Staff member sacked because of online comments about fellow employees / employer";

"Internet brings events in Iran to life"

"Government implements online web filter trial"

"Wiring a world for global good"

"Location based services available on your iPhone"

"Samoa tsunami devastation captured on Twitter"

Demon or promise for the future? Vehicle for chaos or the power to fuel global change? Whilst it may not be immediately obvious, all of the headlines shown above, good and bad, have a common thread and raise a common set of questions. Questions which are immediate and relevant to shaping Australian (and Global) society in the future. The internet has rewritten the rules on so many aspects of modern social life, and has raised so many new questions that we are struggling to understand and to deal with. What is the right of the individual in an online world? What protections should we expect? How much of the responsibility rests with Government? How much is the responsibility of the individual? How much privacy are we prepared to give up in order to enjoy the convenience of knowing where the nearest Thai restaurant is located? Do parents have the right to track the lives of their children through social websites and mobile service tracking? On the inverse side of the same coin, so many developments seem to proffer hope for the future.

This presentation is intended to highlight some of the social impacts, both positive and negative, of our online interactions and to discuss some of the questions that need to be debated openly in Australian society as we incorporate online life into our daily existence. Privacy appears to be disappearing and the rights of the individual seem to be increasingly diluted as Governments grapple with the need to ensure peace, security and safety of the public; and corporations battle for your information to assist in the sale of goods and services. At the same time the internet proffers the opportunity to actually share ideas in the context of enhanced understanding of beliefs and world views.

There are no easy answers to many of these questions, but they nevertheless need to be asked. The SSIT needs to actively contribute to the debate. The presentation will draw on case notes and other sources to discuss a range of considerations. Few answers will be presented, but a foundation for further debate will be established.

About the speaker

Mr. Slade Beard is the Director of EcoThought Pty Ltd, a company established to apply systems and human factors based analysis to complex problems in security, defence and sustainability. He has worked closely with a number of Australian Government agencies on the development of methods and frameworks to integrate human factors into the design of systems operating in high intensity decision making environments such as operations centres and disaster zones. In addition he has worked closely with several US Government agencies on the integration of human factors and human behavioural analysis in the design of civil / military disaster response systems. He has previously worked for 10 years in the development of military command support systems. Mr. Beard is also a PhD candidate at UNSW @ ADFA. He is currently working closely with an Australian Government law enforcement agency on the development of an Enterprise wide architecture and capability development framework.

ABOUT IEEE-SSIT

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