

THE SFIA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES VERSION 4 OF SFIA

The SFIA Foundation announces the release of version 4 of the Skills Framework for the Information Age. Delegates at the The SFIA Foundation's eighth annual Skills Management conference on 4 December at the BERR Conference Centre in London will hear the details of this latest version of SFIA. It will be available on the SFIA web site on the same day.

SFIA provides descriptions of professional IT skills at seven levels of responsibility. It has become a worldwide phenomenon since its launch at the DTI Conference Centre seven years ago. SFIA is in use by organisations throughout all sectors of industry and Government in the UK, and has been issued to organisations in over 100 other countries.

SFIA has been translated into Chinese and Japanese. A Spanish version suitable for distribution in South America is in preparation. SFIA has been adopted by IP3 as the reference base for skills and competence in its 'Gold Standard' certification – "International IT Professional" (IITP).

Ron McLaren, Operations Manager of the SFIA Foundation, said: "SFIA's success is largely a result of its inherent quality and focus: it defines the fundamental professional skills that underlie professional capability in IT, and avoids wallowing in technological detail."

Version 4 of the framework is a further evolution that avoids introducing unwanted upheaval for existing users of SFIA, but adds useful coverage in areas such as information management and enterprise architecture. McLaren said: "Our update exercises are based on open consultation. SFIA was produced by the IT industry, and the IT industry continues to help to keep SFIA relevant; for example, we had good input from itSMF on the terminology of service management skills. This is the kind of thing that keeps SFIA relevant."

Information for editors

The SFIA Foundation

The SFIA Foundation exists to own and maintain the Skills Framework for the Information Age. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation consisting of five members.:

- BCS (British Computer Society)
- e-Skills UK (The Sector Skills Council for IT and Telecoms in the UK)
- The IET (The Institution of Engineering & Technology)
- IMIS (The Institute for the Management of Information Systems)
- itSMF (The IT Service Management Forum)

End-user licence to use SFIA is available free of charge. It is supported by Accredited Partners and Accredited Consultants, whose details can be found on the SFIA web site.

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