



Skills Update

SFIA v 4 ready for launch

Consultation has just finished on the fourth version of SFIA meaning that the latest update will be ready for release at the annual SFIA conference in December (see below).

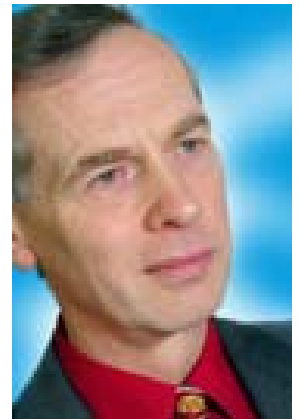
The new version of SFIA will include skills focused on management and business, reflecting the changing IT profession. There will also be alterations in the way some skills are categorized.

In a new development, it will be possible to take different views of the set of skills on the SFIA website.

“The framework will still have the six categories of

version 3,” explains SFIA Foundation operations manager Ron McLaren. “However, the new version will also be viewable on the SFIA website in other categories such as those of The Government IT Profession, and those of e-skills UK’s PROCOM model.”

There will be four new skills in the framework, including Business Modelling and Requirements Definition and Management. In addition several skill definitions have been improved in the light of users’ feedback.



All these changes have been the result of a six-month consultation period which ended in September. The final version of the framework can be seen after the conference launch on 4th December at www.sfia.org.uk/.

*BCS’ Malcolm Sillars:
project managing SFIA’s
4th release*

The SFIA Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation whose members are:



SFIA Annual Conference 4th December – Book now

The seventh annual SFIA Conference this year takes place on 4th December in London at the BERR (1 Victoria Street).

With 12 speakers in two tracks and 12 exhibitors, the conference looks like being the busiest ever.

One of the conference highlights will be the launch



of the new version of SFIA. SFIA v4 reflects the growing skill set of IT professionals. It also shows the ongoing commitment of the SFIA

community to the continued maintenance of the IT skills framework, now in its 9th year of use.

Tickets for the one-day event are £85 +VAT and include exhibition, lunch and refreshments.

For details and on-line booking, go to: www.sfia.org.uk/conference08



SFIA: to China with SISE

itSMF becomes fifth SFIA Foundation member

The IT Service Management Forum (itSMF) has become the fifth member of the SFIA Foundation, joining the BCS, e-skills UK, IMIS and the IET on the board entrusted with maintaining the skills standard.

The itSMF community supported OGC in the development of ITIL v3 (IT Infrastructure Library), the

globally-accepted benchmark of best practice in the management and provision of IT services. SFIA has increasingly reflected ITIL practices in its skills definitions.

“This framework gives recognition to the highly skilled people in our industry, the people who carry out the key functions

that support business and who make the successful delivery of business a reality,” said Keith Aldis, itSMF representative on the SFIA Foundation Board.

“We need to raise awareness. IT professionals need to be seen, heard and appreciated. We can do all this through properly structured training regimes that underpin the business”.

Government IT profession: all change, all growth

Consolidation and growth continues at the Government IT profession (GITP).

The new Director of the Government IT Profession took up her post in October. Lesley Hume was previously Atkins’ Group IS Director, in charge of a team of 300.

Ms Hume will be speaking at the GITP annual conference,

which takes place in Leeds on 30-31 October. For more information, go to:

www.cio.gov.uk/itprofession/

[STOP PRESS: fully booked.]

Also speaking at the event are representatives of Leeds City Council, where the Aspire system was adapted from software developed by the Northern Irish Civil Service.

Aspire enables local government departments to deploy SFIA, and is now in use by many boroughs and councils in England.

Funded by grants totalling £50,000 from IdEA and the Cabinet Office, the rollout of Aspire is being supported by services from Socitm:

www.socitm.gov.uk/

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Leather in Ireland: a focus on skills management

SFIA in Ireland

Ireland has a new SFIA accredited consultant: Peter Leather. Peter has substantial experience, having deployed SFIA at Norwich Union Life to 1,000 people over 4 years.

Peter specializes in skills and capability management in IT organisations. He can be contacted at peter.leather@exceptionalperformance.ie, or on +353 (0) 874 164 798.

SFIA Courses

The next ‘Understanding SFIA’ courses are:

Tuesday 11 November

Monday 8 December

Public courses run at 1 Castle Lane, Victoria, London.

For more information, and to book, visit:

www.sfia.org.uk/cgi-bin/wms.pl/680

Newly Accredited

The list of SFIA Foundation accredited consultants continues to grow. Those recently recognised include:

...Peter Leather

Julie Longmoor

Allison E. Hall

Renato Barišić (Croatia)

Mark Wheatley

Vicki Shillington

James McCurrach

For full contact details, visit : www.sfia.org.uk/cgi-bin/wms.pl/674

SFIA Conference 2008: Managing IT Skills



This December the seventh annual SFIA conference will be held in London.

As with last year's successful event, the conference will include both plenary sessions and ten speakers ranged over two concurrent streams focused on management and implementation.

Alongside the conference will be an exhibition of specialist SFIA suppliers including consultancies, software providers and training companies.

One of the highlights of the conference will be the launch of SFIA v4, the latest version in the framework's nine year history.

Malcolm Sillars of the SFIA Foundation will close the conference with an overview of the new version that keeps SFIA abreast of current practice in important areas such as information management and architecture.

Opening the conference is Karen Price, CEO of e-Skills UK, who launched SFIA in the same Conference Centre in June 2001.

Conference speakers include representatives from public and private sectors, as well as service providers and agencies. Enterprises users of SFIA represented at the conference include Shell, BG Group, and the National Grid.

Plenary sessions		
10:00	Introduction to the conference <i>Don Taylor, SFIA Council</i>	The SFIA Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of BERR in providing the venue for this conference.
10:10	Keynote address <i>Karen Price, CEO e-Skills UK</i>	
10:30	Transforming resource management <i>Andrew Gay, CIO Ministry of Justice</i>	
Management stream		Implementation stream
11:40	A view of best practice in talent management <i>Jo Alexander-Jones, Organisation Development Manager, BG Group and Alistair Russell, CIO-Connect</i>	Managing competency through enterprise architecture <i>Dr Jon Holt, Brass Bullet Ltd</i>
12:10	More, better, faster <i>Steve Watkins, Environment Agency and Phil Rice, PA Consulting Group</i>	The Aspire programme for Local Government <i>Local Government speaker</i>
LUNCH		
1:40	Using SFIA for remuneration planning <i>Paul Mackenzie, Hampshire Constabulary</i>	Skillpool – a large scale approach to competency development <i>Malcolm Wells, Global Skillpool Manager (Infrastructure) Shell International</i>
2:10	The skills grid <i>Gillian Perry, National Grid</i>	SFIAplus version 4 – the journey and the lessons <i>Roy Shepherd, BCS</i>
Plenary sessions		
3:00	IT Effectiveness – raising the standard <i>Dr Tom Fuller, Deloitte</i>	
3:30	SFIA version 4 – why, how and what <i>Malcolm Sillars (BCS)</i>	
4:00	Close	

Public sector representation comes from the Ministry of Justice, the Environment Agency and Hampshire Constabulary.

Meanwhile, a number of consultancies and service providers will give their perspective on SFIA. These include CIO-Connect, PA Consulting, Brass Bullet, the British Computer Society and Deloitte.

For anyone involved with, or contemplating using, SFIA, this is the annual opportunity to learn more, to network with industry colleagues from

all sectors, and to see in one place a range of suppliers offering services around the framework.

The conference takes place on 4th December at the BERR Conference Centre (formerly the DTI) at 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET.

Tickets for the one-day event are £85 +VAT, and include a conference pack, a buffet lunch and all refreshments.

To register online, and for more information, visit: www.sfia.org.uk/conference08

IT Professionalism goes global

In 2006, the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) invited the BCS to lead a Task Force to promote professionalism worldwide.

That Task Force now includes representatives from a wide range of computer and informatics societies the world over, and IFIP itself. Over the past 20 months, with the support of industry, it has laid the foundations of a major global initiative –

the International Professional Practice Partnership (IP3).

At last September's World Computer Congress, BCS past President Charles Hughes was able to cite a long list of achievements including the publication of the new IP3 'Gold Standard' certification International IT Professional (IITP), the accreditation of the ACS (the Australian Computer Society), and Gartner's recent prediction that IITP

will have 'global uptake'. (Gartner review G00160506)

SFIA has been adopted by IP3 as the reference base for skills and competence for IITP. This has produced significant international interest in the framework.

To learn about IP3, contact: ip3admin@ipthree.org



*SFIA Foundation
Operations Manager
Ron McLaren*

The last word on itSMF and SFIA

SFIA has two essential features.

The first is that it really does define the underlying IT skills. There is scarcely one skill in there that did not exist when I joined the computer industry (as we called it then) in 1966. That is a good indication that SFIA addresses professional skills, rather than techknowledge – if you'll forgive the expression!

The second is that SFIA stays relevant, being updated at regular intervals, to reflect – not dictate – current practice. It fits in with the way you want to work.

This might explain why SFIA is seen as a useful resource in over 100 countries, and is used by thousands of organisations.

The worldwide acceptance of SFIA makes it highly appropriate that we welcome itSMF as a member of The SFIA Foundation. They have already trodden the international trail with great success. ITIL gives world beating advice on how to manage your IT services, and SFIA gives the best insight into the skills needed. This really is bedrock stuff.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference.



Skills Update is the newsletter of the SFIA Foundation, published twice a year. To be added to the mailing list, please mail the publisher.

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www.sfia.org.uk