



# The Script

## Bulletin

APRIL 2020

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## NEWS:

### *Updates on CRESTCon Australia and CRESTCon UK*



After monitoring the situation with COVID-19, CREST took the decision on 12th March to postpone both CRESTCon Australia, which was due to take place on 18th March in Canberra and CRESTCon in the UK, due to take place in London on 14th May. The new date for CRESTCon Australia is 9th November 2020 and CRESTCon in the UK will be on 13th January 2021.

CREST took this decision in order to protect attendees, speakers and CREST staff at CRESTCon. It was not long after that travel and other restrictions in both countries would have taken the decision out of our hands anyway but, ultimately, when examining all of the options available we also prioritised the wellbeing and safety of the CREST community.

The website [www.crestcon.org](http://www.crestcon.org) has been updated and there will be more information to follow soon.

Thank you to our sponsors and speakers for sticking by us and to the majority of the delegates who have confirmed their attendance.

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# NEWS:

Finally, a big thank you from us to the CREST community for being so understanding. The emails we had back were incredibly supportive and, when these difficult decisions had to be made and we were working hard to get things sorted out, to receive such great messages really helped. There are some lovely people in our industry.

Now stay safe everyone!



## **CRESTCon Singapore – save the date**

**CRESTCon Singapore is planned for 4th November 2020**

### **CREST Examination update**

CREST is doing everything it can to keep you updated. We have already held one webinar with CREST Assessors Simon Clow and Stuart Morgan that was very well attended and we intend to do these regularly. The website will be updated with news and we will email all candidates with updates. Below is the current position on the CREST Examination Centres and Pearson Vue Centre, as well as information on certification extensions. In addition, if you would like a copy of the slides from the update webinar, please email [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org)

### **United Kingdom**

In light of the most recent UK Government advice on the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, which includes avoiding social distancing and travel, CREST took the decision to temporarily close its Examination Centre in the UK from Wednesday 18th March 2020.

We are continuously reviewing the situation and will keep candidates updated on when we will be able to reopen the Centre. We will be working with candidates to minimise the impact that the temporary closure of the Centre has on them and will be in contact with anyone who is personally affected.

The health and wellbeing of all concerned had to be paramount when making this decision.

### **United States of America**

The CREST Examination Centre in New York has been closed due to Covid-19.

### **Australia**

The CREST Examination Centres in Melbourne and Sydney have been closed due to Covid-19.

### **Hong Kong and Singapore**

The Examination Centre in Singapore is currently closed. The Examination Centre in Hong Kong is currently open but this situation may change.

### **Pearson Vue Centres**

The majority of the Pearson Vue centres are closed. Those that are open are operating with reduced capacity to comply with social distancing requirements. This situation is always changing and you can find up to date information here:

<https://home.pearsonvue.com/coronavirus-update>

### **Certification extensions**

Any Certifications due to expire between 18th March 2020 and until 31st August 2020 will be extended by six months. This also aligns with the UK NCSC and Bank of England policy.

This extension covers all CREST examinations and includes those taken at Pearson Vue Centres. These may be either complete examinations valid for three years or written components of practical examinations that are only valid for one year.



## ***CREST helps build cyber security capacity in Africa and Asia to increase safe access to digital financial services for the poor***

CREST has received a grant of \$1.4 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help increase cyber security capacity in Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia. Robust growth, adoption and usage of digital financial services by the poor can help provide the means to participate in the formal financial sector, capture income generating opportunities and smooth consumption through savings and other financial products. The growing reliance on digital infrastructure and increasing sophistication of threat actors requires significant attention and investment in managing cyber risk.

The funding will support threat-intelligence led system penetration testing through a trusted provider ecosystem to improve cyber security resilience. CREST's mission is to help the local industry professionalise and mature. It will work proactively to raise standards, define measurement frameworks and build capability, capacity and consistency. It will also work with regulators in selected countries to promote a more cyber-secure and cyber-resilient digital infrastructure for banking and financial services by advising on local standards for testing critical infrastructures.

This initiative will build on the work done by CREST in the UK with the Bank of England and in other countries such as United States, Canada, Singapore and Malaysia, where it has developed frameworks and certifications to deliver bespoke, threat intelligence-led cyber security tests that replicate behaviours of real attackers.

The funding from the Gates Foundation will also be used to build the capacity of the private sector to deliver security services in accordance with globally accepted standards and processes in the eight designated countries noted above through training and accreditations.

The funding runs over two years with an initial research and market analysis phase to identify the current cyber security maturity in each market. The grant will help establish five or more CREST accredited member companies in each of the designated countries and deliver 100 fully funded CREST exams and 200 with 50% funding by the end of the funding period.

"Every country across the world is under increasing threats from cybercrime. This project will help

build stronger cyber security capacity in eight fast-developing countries," said Ian Glover, President of CREST. "The grant is recognition of the work CREST has already done in the UK and other countries such as Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and North America. It will support a dedicated research capability within CREST and help to build a robust model that can also be applied to other regions."

## ***CREST in South Africa with the Department for International Trade***

CREST was involved in a 3-day joint trade mission to Johannesburg, South Africa from 4th – 6th March with the UK's Department of International Trade (DIT). Ten UK-based CREST SME member companies were also offered the opportunity for funded travel to the event. Days 1 and 3 were run by DIT, with opportunities for CREST member companies to present and promote themselves to delegates from South Africa, predominately in the Financial Services sector. CREST ran a conference on day 2, 5th March in Johannesburg and focused on intelligence-led penetration testing and incident response.

The programme of events also included a reception at the Trade Commissioner's Residence and the CREST members were also invited to attend.





## **CREST report highlights challenges for cyber security pros with physical disabilities**

**Report makes recommendations to attract more physically disabled people into the industry to help fill skills gap.**

A report published by CREST highlights the issues faced by physically disabled people wanting to work in cyber security. The report also highlights what the industry needs to do to attract more physically disabled people in order to help fill the acute shortage of skills.

Globally, more than one billion people are living with a form of physical disability, which is one in seven of the population. 80% of these will acquire the disability between the ages of 18 and 64, meaning they are most likely to be in work or at a working age when it happens. They are also 50% more likely to be unemployed.

The CREST study found that many cyber security professionals with disabilities still faced obvious obstacles such as outdated office environments, which may not have lifts or those that are provided are not big enough for wheelchairs. Hygiene facilities can also be difficult to access and there is a lack of specialist equipment for specific needs such as Braille keyboards

or speech recognition software, as well as visual alarms or even server halls located on ground floors with chairs for people with mobility issues.

“People with disabilities are often very used to working with and adapting to technology,” said Ian Glover, President of CREST. “This may mean that they have the essential technical capabilities required for working in the cyber security industry. It may also mean that they are more comfortable working remotely and adapting their working practices; skills that are essential in the cyber security industry.”

“While there is a legacy perception that adapting the work environment for people with disabilities is challenging and costly, this is changing as more companies are realising the advantages of harnessing talent from a more diverse pool. Remote working environments remove many of the physical limitations and allow the industry to advance disability inclusion; vital in an industry where demand for skills outstrips supply.”

The report was borne out of research conducted among its members and an open Access to Cyber Day. The report is one of a set of collaboratively produced diversity-related publications produced by CREST. Others in the set include: Stress & Burnout; Gender Balance, and Neurodiversity.

To download the full report, go to: <https://www.crest-approved.org/knowledge-sharing/research-reports-position-papers/index.html>



# NEWS:

## Member Networking Drinks in Manchester



There was a great turn out for the second Member Networking Drinks in Manchester. Thank you to CREST Chair Mark Turner, Matt Summers from the CREST Executive and Samantha Alexander, CREST's Principal Accreditor for coming along to speak to people. There was a great atmosphere and it was really good to see more people attending what is a great opportunity, not just to speak to CREST in an informal setting, but to network with other members of the CREST community and, of course, relax and enjoy yourself!



## Future Networking Drinks

Clearly, future Networking Drinks or other events have been suspended for the time being. We are looking at ways where we can use Zoom, Teams or Discord to have some social 'meetups' online with members and would love to hear your innovative ideas for these. As soon as we can, rest assured the Networking Drinks events will be back up and running and to that end we are taking your suggestions for locations. Send them through to [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org)

## CREST Webinars

CREST will be running more webinars for our members. We have already started this process and would like to thank everyone who came to the Exam Update Webinar with the Assessors, and also the Member Accreditation Update with Ian Glover and Samantha Alexander on Friday, 3rd April. An 'Ask the Assessor' session is also running on 20th April and this is something we hope to make a regular feature. Send in your ideas for anything you would like to see included to: [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org)

## Your Webinars

We would also like to run webinars with our Member companies. The content must be educational and not marketing in nature, and must focus on technical information security. These can be run with a live audience and then made available on demand as well, or similarly pre-recorded and made available on demand – the choice is yours.

If you would like to discuss any ideas you have for a webinar, please contact: [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org) or call Allie on 07940 452710


## CREST Member Research

We would like to help CREST Member research get the recognition it deserves. Please send us information on your new tools, techniques and research and in the short term we can share this on social media. Where possible we can also offer to cover it in Script Bulletin and arrange a webinar with you.

In the long term we are also looking at ways to engage with a CREST Member research community. Please contact [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org)



## Recent New Members

Organisation	
	<p><b>Cognisys Group Ltd</b> Cognisys Group are an expert cyber security penetration testing company. We focus on protecting businesses from cyber attack, by providing a suite of penetration testing services for internal and external networks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application Testing</li> <li>• Infrastructure Testing</li> <li>• SmartScan Vulnerability Assessments</li> <li>• Red Teaming</li> <li>• Server and Network Build Reviews</li> <li>• Mobile and Wireless Testing</li> <li>• Cyber Security Reviews</li> <li>• Dark Web Monitoring</li> <li>• Social Engineering</li> <li>• Cyber Essentials Plus</li> <li>• ISO 27001 Gap Analysis and Risk Assessments</li> <li>• Cloud Security Assessments</li> </ul> <p>We work closely with our clients to improve their security posture, reduce risk and help find their weaknesses before attackers can.</p> <p>Our CREST accredited individuals hold some of the highest qualifications and awards available, along with many years' experience working with the best and brightest companies in the UK.</p> <p>Cognisys delivers actionable information and value for money, using the best available tools, including our own, innovative SmartScan testing-as-a-service platform.</p>
	<p><b>ZX Security Ltd</b> ZX Security are a specialist IT Security Consultancy that works with your business to identify and assess the security posture of your systems and people. ZX Security have extensive experience in testing the security of, and finding vulnerabilities in organisations internal networks, physical access and external environments. ZX also specialise in security design reviews.</p>
	<p><b>Mazars LLP</b> Mazars is an internationally integrated partnership, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory, tax and legal services. Operating in 91 countries and territories around the world, we draw on the expertise of 40,400 professionals - 24,400 in the Mazars integrated partnership and 16,000 via the Mazars North America Alliance – to assist clients of all sizes at every stage in their development.</p> <p>Mazars helps businesses assess their cyber risk and develop and strengthen their cyber security and resilience.</p>
	<p><b>Intaforensics Ltd</b> Providing expertise, software and services for over 10 years, IntaForensics are one of the leading digital forensics and cyber security consultancies in the UK. Operating across the UK and beyond, certified to ISO/IEC 27001:2013 and ISO 9001:2015 and accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2017, The Forensic Science Regulators Codes of Practice and Conduct and approved by the PCI Security Standards Council (QSA &amp; PFI), our team will be able to assist with all Digital Forensic investigations, PCI/DSS QSA, Payment Card Breach PCI/DSS PFI, Cyber Security consultancy, Incident Response and Managed Security SIEM/SOC services.</p>

# NEWS:

## Recent New Members



### **Vigilant Asia (M) Sdn. Bhd**

Vigilant Asia (M) Sdn. Bhd is a security consulting firm that specializes in full suite of cyber security solutions including operating a Security Operations Center 24 x 365 and end to end security advisory services based on industry best practices. The company is part of Efficient E-Solutions Berhad which is listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange. Our core competencies and skills include all technical aspects of computer system security, application security, software development and software programming security, security awareness, risk management services, penetration testing and vulnerability analysis of interconnected systems/networks.



### **Risk Crew Ltd**

Risk Crew is an elite group of product-independent, information governance, risk, and compliance management professionals. We're the forerunners in the design and delivery of effective business information and communication technology risk and security solutions. We understand business risk and compliance and so we also excel in the creation of operative controls and processes to cost-effectively comply with legislation, regulation and best commercial practices such as the Payment Card Industry (PCI), Data Security Standards (DSS), the UK Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) and ISO/IEC 27001.



### **SecQuest Information Security Ltd**

SecQuest are a team of information security professionals, most of whom have been working in the industry since the 90's. We provide penetration testing services to simulate opportunist or structured cyber-attacks against organisations. Our service activities include teaming with your technology and risk teams to identify vulnerabilities within your infrastructure, networks, systems and mobile/web applications. We also perform covert Red-Team projects which can be structured to exploit weaknesses and assess the effectiveness of monitoring technologies and processes. SecQuest was founded by ex-IBM X-Force penetration testers with the knowledge of niche technologies such as iSeries/AS400, AIX and Lotus Domino. We also have deep technical knowledge of telephony, VSAT and SCADA systems.





# Event Diary

## EVENT Diary:

As we are sure you will all appreciate, the events section has been difficult to put together for this issue. Due to COVID-19, CREST not only had to postpone its CRESTCon events in Australia and the UK, the event that was being planned for the USA now also needs to be rescheduled. Many of the exhibitions we were attending also have been postponed or cancelled.

Here is the diary as it stands at the moment; however, this is subject to change. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation with regards to any CREST events should they need to be cancelled or postponed.

Month	Event & Location	Type	Date
April	Ask the Assessors	Webinar	20 April
April	About CREST accreditation (for potential members)	Webinar	21 April
April	Stress & Burnout – Advice	Webinar	22 April
April	STAR Focus Group	Online meeting	22 April
April	Penetration Testing Focus Group	Online meeting	28 April
April	An update from CTIPs (CREST Threat Intelligence Professionals)	Online meeting	29 April
April	CTI Exams	Webinar	April TBD
June	Training Providers	Online meeting	June TBD
June	CREST AGM	Online meeting	10 June
July	Access to Cyber Security Day	CREST Event	8 July
September	44CON	Partner Event	9-11 Sept
November	CRESTCon Asia	AiSP/CREST Event	4 Nov
November	CRESTCon Australia	CREST Event	9 Nov
November	CREST Fellowship Awards	CREST Event	12 Nov







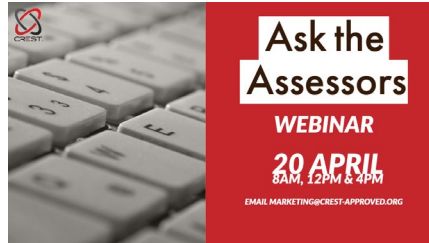
# Event Diary

## CREST Events:

Details and how to book

### Ask the Assessors

20 April, Webinar, 8am, 12pm and 4pm BST



These 'Ask the Assessors' webinar sessions will give you the opportunity to put your questions on CREST Examinations to experienced CREST assessors Stuart Criddle, Simon Clow and Ian Lovering. There are two ways you can put your questions to the assessors. You can email them in advance to [allie.andrews@crest-approved.org](mailto:allie.andrews@crest-approved.org) or you can ask them on the day via the question panel in the webinar.

To register to attend, please email [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org)

### Learn about CREST accreditation

21 April, Webinar, 8am and 4pm BST



A webinar designed for companies that are interested in becoming CREST Members delivered by CREST's Principal Accreditor, Samantha Alexander. To register to attend, please email [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org)

### Penetration Testing Focus Group

Online meeting, 28 April, 10am – 12pm BST



The next meeting of the Penetration Testing Focus Group will take place over the 'GotoWebinar' platform. Members, please contact [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org) for a link to register.

If you are a Penetration Testing member company and have not received the notes from the last Penetration Focus Group meeting, please contact [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org) to request a copy.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the meetings already, and for all of the feedback received.

### Stress & Burnout – Advice

Webinar, 22 April 12:30pm – 1:30pm BST



Author of the Stress and Burnout in Cyber Security report, David Slade, will present on the findings of the report with a particular focus on remote working. He will then be on hand to answer your questions and provide advice.



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# Event Diary

## CREST Events:

### **An update from CTIPs (CREST Threat Intelligence Professionals)**

Webinar, 29 April 4pm - 4.45pm BST

In this webinar members of the CTIPs (CREST Threat Intelligence Professionals) committee will talk about what CTIPs is, and provide an update on the work the group is currently engaged in. This will be followed by a Q&A session. A CREST TI assessor will be on the webinar, so this is a good opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the CREST TI exams.

To register for this email: [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org)

### **CREST GB AGM**

10th June, 14:30 Online (GotoWebinar)

The AGM will be held online and details of how to register have been sent to all eligible members. If you have not received them then please get in touch.

### **CREST Access to Cyber Security Day 2020**

8th July 2020, IBM Client Centre, London

A day of workshops and networking focused on ensuring careers in cyber security are made accessible to everyone. There will be a number of workshops that will all aim to educate and offer constructive advice and guidance for both employees and employers. Topics will include stress and burnout; neurodiversity; gender balance and physical disability.

### **CRESTCon Australia 2020**

9th November 2020, 18 National Circuit, Hotel Realm, Canberra ACT 2600

The inaugural CRESTCon Australia is an important date in the industry calendar, attracting an impressive line-up of speakers and industry professionals. Leveraging off 10 years of success in the



# Event Diary

## CREST Events:

UK, CRESTCon Australia will welcome delegates from the security industry in a wide range of positions from CISOs and senior managers through to senior penetration testers, threat intelligence analysts and new entrants to the industry. A busy exhibition room and a dedicated student demo area will provide the opportunity for students to showcase their work and network with sponsors in a special event. Don't miss out on this industry event. More information or book your tickets: [www.crestcon.org.au](http://www.crestcon.org.au)

### CREST Fellowship Ceremony and Dinner

12th November 2020,  
The Tanner Warehouse,  
50 Bermondsey St,  
London SE1 3UD



Announcing the CREST Fellowship ceremony and dinner date for 2020. Keep watching for the tickets to go on sale. If you have any questions, please email us at [marketing@crest-approved.org](mailto:marketing@crest-approved.org)

### CRESTCon UK 2021

13th January 2021,  
Royal College of Physicians,  
11 Saint Andrews Place,  
Regent's Park,  
London NW1 4LE



Now celebrating its 10th year, CRESTCon UK is an important date in the industry calendar, attracting an impressive line-up of speakers. 2019's event welcomed over 450 delegates from the security industry in a wide range of positions from CISOs and senior managers, through to senior penetration testers, threat intelligence analysts and brand-new entrants to the industry. Along with three conference streams, the event includes two busy exhibition rooms and a dedicated student demo area that provides the opportunity for students to showcase their work. There is also a special networking event for sponsors, students and ex-military personnel that are looking to retrain into cyber careers. All delegates are also invited to attend an after-event party. Separate tickets are available to purchase for this in bulk so sponsors or delegates are able to invite additional guests to network with during the evening. More information or book your tickets: [www.crestcon.org.uk](http://www.crestcon.org.uk)





# Industry Events

## Partner events:

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### **44CON London**

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*09-11th Sep 2020  
ILEC Conference Centre,  
London*

CREST will be supporting 44CON once again at their event in September 2020. Designed to provide something for business and technical Information Security professionals, the event brings

the best in international security training + speaking (as well as the best of local talent) to the UK at a reasonable cost. At 44CON, you have great access to speakers, who are all willing to spend time and talk about their work. This is where interesting partnerships can occur. To register and for more information: <https://44con.com/>

