

Dr Nick Pringle PhD, MBCS

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UK Passport, Full Driving Licence

Professional Profile

An enthusiastic and self-motivated professional with **extensive knowledge** of **technology, information assurance and cyber security, management, project management** and **research** underpinned by many years' experience in a **diverse set of business sectors**. A skilled system builder who specialises in taking the time to **listen** to and **understand** users' needs, **interpreting** them into solutions. Able to **explain** the implications of various solutions in a way such that senior management are able to make decisions and users are involved in the process. Able to **deliver a solution** to a business problem on time and within budget. Throughout his work history, he has maintained a very **hands-on** approach to problem solving often building the entire infrastructure himself. As a consultant, he takes **full responsibility** for the **successful delivery** and completion of projects to the **satisfaction of his clients**. In recent years, he has acknowledged the need for information security and responded with **research** at the very highest level.

Seeks

An opportunity to apply years of experience and knowledge in a situation where it can make a difference in how effectively IT is used as a tool to future the aims of the enterprise. Interested in implementing the latest developments in Information Assurance and Cyber Security.

Key Skills

Communications:	Eloquent, Presentation skills, Interpretation and explanation of technical features, understanding end user benefits from product features;
Problem Solving, Design and Development:	Deconstructing complex problems, multi-language programming and system building;
Organisational:	Project management, leadership, Prince2, Agile;
Digital Forensics:	Accessdata FTK, Guidance EnCase;
Information Assurance and security:	Understands several information assurance frameworks and knows how to implement them. ISO 27001, Cyber Essentials, IASME;
Management:	Planning, Budgeting, Cash Flow, Mentoring and training, Report Writing, Auditing, Security Implementation and Management, IT Business Continuity Planning, IT Disaster Recovery, ITIL service management;
Technical:	Windows XP, Windows 7, Windows 8.0, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Windows 2000, Windows 2003, Windows 2008R2, Active Directory, Linux, Redhat, Ubuntu, Centos, Fedora, iOS, Mac, Android, VMWare, Virtualisation, Cloud Services, Intel, ARM, SoC, Cisco, Check Point, SQL, MSSQL, MySQL, MS Office, Access, Word, Excel, Routing, Ethernet, CAT5, CAT6, WAN, LAN, TCP/IP, NetBui, HTTP, HTTPS, FTP, SFTP, SSH, SMB, POP3, IMAP, VOIP, VBasic, PHP, .NET, C, Dbase, Bash, scripting.

Education

PhD Information Security, 205 University of Glamorgan "Information Assurance in a Distributed Forensic Cluster"

MSc Information Security and Computer Crime 2004, University of Glamorgan

BSc Architecture, Huddersfield Polytechnic

Certifications and Professional Training

Microsoft - MCSE Systems Engineer, **MCSA** Windows Server Systems Administrator, **MCITP** Enterprise Support Technician Vista, **MCTS** Windows server Active Directory: Configuration, **MCTS** Windows Server Network Infrastructure: Configuration, **MCTS** Microsoft Windows Vista: Configuration, **MCDST** Microsoft Windows XP,

CCNA Cisco Certified Network Associate

ITILv3, **PRINCE2** Practitioner, **APMG Change Manager**,

ISO27001 Lead Auditor, **IASME Assessor**, **Cyber Essentials Assessor**,

CISSP exam due January 2016, **CEH** exam due April 2016

Research MSc 2003-4 and PhD 2011 and 2012-2015

PhD Oct 2012 – April 2015. “Information Assurance in a Distributed Forensic Cluster”.

Digital information has become a mainstream source of evidence in investigations of all kinds. As the quantity of data needing to be analysed during an investigation rises, so the processing time extends. This delay is becoming a significant problem in the prompt expedition of the legal processes; current systems just can't cope with terabytes of data. For more than a decade it has been suggested that distributed processing holds the only real hope in reducing the processing times but current distributed systems do not provide the processing and chain of custody assurance required by the legal process. This research analysed the assurance requirements when processing data for the legal process and implements this in a distributed system. The resulting prototype system, built on Ubuntu Linux with code in C and Bash and data stored in MySQL, is designed to be scalable up to many hundreds of host computers and even scale out to use private cloud system while still providing demonstrable information assurance. UK Patent Pending “Data Acquisition” No. 1407605.3 The project was supported by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the Welsh Government and the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships

PhD Oct 2011 – Sept 2012. During this first year, the preliminary research project focused on “Information Security Management in SMEs (ISO27001)”. This explored the need for information security in smaller businesses and possible implementation techniques. This involved a comparative study of many security frameworks from throughout the world. The intention was to develop a light touch version of ISO 27001 for small businesses. Regrettably, after 6 months, the commercial partner went into liquidation and after a full re-assessment, it was felt that there was little suitable research opportunity for a PhD dissertation in this area and so the project was terminated after the submission of an interim transfer report.

MSc 2003-4, The MSc in Information Security Management and Computer Crime included modules such as Windows Security, Linux Security, Network Security, Security Management, Cryptography, Digital Forensics, Law and Project Management. My main project was: “A prototype of a client/server forensic program using XML” that explored alternative advanced architectures for forensics software resulting in a prototype of a system implemented as a distributed web service.

Publications:

- 2014, Pringle, N., Burgess, M., “Information Assurance in a distributed forensic cluster”. DFRWS Europe 2014 and Digital investigation.
- 2009 Sutherland I, Davies G., Pringle. N., Blyth, A. J.C., “The Impact of Hard Disk Firmware Steganography on Computer Forensics”, The 2009 ADFSL Conference on Digital Forensics, Security and Law, May 20-22, 2009, Champlain College, Burlington, Vermont, USA
- 2008 Blyth A.J.C., Sutherland I., Pringle N., “Tools and Techniques for Steganography and Data Insertion onto Computer Hard-Drives”, 8th Annual Program Manager’s Anti-Tamper Workshop, Sponsored by US DoD Anti-Tamper Executive Agent SAF/AQL and Department of the Army, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL, USA.
- 2008 Pringle N., Sutherland I., “Is a Computational Grid a Suitable Platform for High Performance Digital Forensics?”, 8th European Conference on Information Warfare and Security, University of Plymouth, UK.

Employment - since 1984 – IT Consultant trading as Microtechnical.

Providing IT services for 200+ companies over 30 years.

Formed in 1984, Microtechnical was intended to provide expert technology support to SMEs that could not justify the salary of a full time member of staff who possessed the level of technical expertise that would be need to run optimal ICT. More than a company that just delivered PCs, Microtechnical became deeply involved with several hundred companies of all sizes. Dating back to the days when the idea of having a PC on every staff member’s desk was radical, Microtechnical has provided a service all the way through from problem analysis and specification, through installation and commissioning to on-going support with operations.

Being their virtual IT department by providing

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysing of user requirements • Designing solutions • Proposing solutions at Board level • Selecting and specifying equipment/software • Negotiating supply contracts • Installations including cabling • Maintenance • Support and training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application development:
Creating about 30 business application systems in DbaseII/DbaseIII, PHP, Visual Basic, VB.NET, C, VB, VB.Net, MSSQL, MySQL, PostgreSQL, PHP |
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Serving, but not limited to, a diverse range of clients represented by.

Atlantic Waste Management	Cynon Valley DSO (Local Government)	Power House Group (Energy Broker)
Audio Excellence (high end audio)	Disability Advice Project (NGO)	Red Kite (Entertainment)
Bass Plc (Brewing)	Encrypta Systems (Security)	Richards Grey (Company Services)
Beckhill Engineering (engineering)	Fairwater Veterinary Surgery	Safeguard Security (Security)
BS Signs (Shop fitting)	Gio's Restaurant	Severn Legal Services (Legal Billing)
Burles Windows (UPVC Windows)	Goytre Car Company	Siterite Group (Engineering)
Cardiff Demolition	Gwent Contract Hire (Financial Serv's)	Smile Dental Penarth
Carpets International (Manufacturing)	Hayes Engineering	Snow White Laundries
Chandler KBS (Quality Surveying)	HDW Architects	Stephen Lucey & Co (Accountants)
Cowlin Construction (Building)	HTV (ITV) (Television)	Teamworks (Design artwork)
Crown Buckley Brewers (Brewery)	Merlin Theatre	Tema Engineering
Curtins Consultancy (Civil Eng'ing)	Modplan (UPVC Windows)	The Bureau (Financial Services)
Cwmbran Ford (Car Sales)	Neal Skip Hire	Westward Electrical Service

Most significant single contract during this period:**James Hull & Associates, Corporate Dental (1999-2011)**

JHA were a corporate scale dental company with over 900 staff in 80 centres throughout the UK, 110 Servers (2000/2003/2008/Linux ubuntu), 850 workstations (Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, iMac). Active Directory, Wide Area Networking, Samba, Rsync. Exact practice management software, MS Office.

Role – as IT Manager

- Overseeing a staff of five in-house and five external consultants, covering whole of UK supporting 80 dental practices. 20% management, 80% hands on dealing with end-users;
- Leading the team in hands-on problem diagnosis and problem solving;
- Advising staff at all levels, including boardroom, about technology and the issues of governance within medical records. This included Data Protection and NHS Information Governance;
- Selection and purchase of, usually, Dell equipment;
- Maintenance of digital x-ray equipment such as Gendex;
- Hands-on management of the company email and web servers;
- Understanding end-user requirements, interpreting this into goals, planning and achieving those goals;
- Selecting and mentoring junior staff from induction through to front line helpdesk operatives;
- Small Project Management – typically £50,000 on each project;
- Implementation of purchased systems and development of new internal systems.

Key Projects and Achievements

- Assimilation of 60 new practices, with diverse technology histories, into the corporate IT infrastructure;
- Created a Linux based On-line storage facility with 20TB storage for nightly backups of 75 remote networks. In house development saved the company £168,000 per year;
- Created a HQ mirror of the remote branches system allowing management reporting to take place in a sandbox safe environment away from the real data. A Cloud before the Cloud!
- Created an SQL data mining environment for ad-hoc enquires across a database of 300k clients and 5 million patient appointments.
- Implemented 110 Linux servers rather than Windows 2003. Saving the company £250k over 3 years.

Prior to the creation of Microtechnical

1982-1984	Adamson Pringle Partnership, Cardiff Small Business dedicated to supplying PCs to SMEs. Technical Partner.
1980-1982	Sigma Systems, Cardiff. Joined the first PC retailer in Wales as support technician during the period of Commodore 8032, Sirius PCs, IBM PCs. Sigma Systems was one of the first ten IBM PC dealerships in the UK. Technical support installing the first wave of adoption in businesses with 1 st Generation PCs.
1979-1980	Metrotec, Great Portland Street, London establishing the first PC retail sales outlet aimed at business users. PC and Video games sales and support.

References:

Mr Peter Mitchell, now - Lifelong Training, Bristol, was - Finance Director of James Hull and Associates 2008-2011
Mr Steve Lockyer, now - TES Aviation Group, was - Financial Controller of James Hull and Associates, 2000-2008.