

SAGE *Advice*

The Journal of The System Administrators Guild of Australia

ISSN: 1447-5049

Volume 15 Number 1

March 2009 Edition

This Issue

SAGE-AU In The Press

***SAGE-AU Critique of the Federal Government's
Proposed Internet Filtering Program***

SAGE-AU Calls for Technical Presentations

Meet Our Members

New Members

Regional Group Articles

SAGE-AU
The System Administrators Guild of Australia

<http://www.sage-au.org.au>

Contents

Information

General Information / Articles

SAGE-AU In The Press 3

SAGE-AU critique of the Federal Government's Proposed Internet Filtering Program..... 4

SAGE-AU Calls for Technical Presentations..... 6

Meet our Members 8

SAGE-AU welcomes our new members 11

Regional Group Articles..... 12

Letter from the Editor 13

AusCERT2009 IT Security Conference..... 13

Members Article for March..... 14

SAGE Advice is the official newsletter of the System Administrator's Guild of Australia. It is available in PDF format free of charge to members of SAGE-AU via download from the SAGE-AU website. Past copies are available online at: www.sage-au.org.au/newsletters_index.html

Editors
 Jess Wightman
editor@sage-au.org.au

Contact Details
 SAGE-AU Office
 375 Wickham Terrace
 Brisbane Qld 4000
 Tel: (07) 3842 2235
 Fax: (07) 3013 3420
 Email: office@sage-au.org.au

Website
<http://www.sage-au.org.au>

SAGE-AU Executive Committee

President
 Donna Ashelford
president@sage-au.org.au

Vice President
 Leslie Elliott
vice-president@sage-au.org.au

Secretary
 Jess Wightman
secretary@sage-au.org.au

Treasurer
 Jacinta Richardson
treasurer@sage-au.org.au

General Committee
 Iain Robertson
iain.robertson@member.sage-au.org.au

Robert Hudson
robert.hudson@member.sage-au.org.au

Andy Leyden
andy.leyden@member.sage-au.org.au

Associate Representative
 Pete Calvert
pete.calvert@member.sage-au.org.au

Broken or lost keyring?

Contact the SAGE-AU office:
office@sage-au.org.au
 who will arrange a replacement to be mailed to you and for your password to be reset to the new keyring number.

Advertising Rates

(all prices are GST inclusive)
Inclusions with SAGE Advice

Normal Rates

Full page, 170 x 250 mm	\$275
1/2 page, 170 x 120 mm	\$165
1/4 page, 170 x 55 mm	\$88
1/8 page, 80 x 55 mm	\$44

Bulk Rates

Ad space in four or more issues paid in advance attract a 20% discount.

SAGE-AU In The Press

SAGE-AU says abandon compulsory Internet filtering - it's a botch!

24th March 2009

Publication of the Federal Government's "black list" of pornographic and violent websites has fatally damaged its proposed compulsory Internet filtering regime, warns SAGE-AU, Australia's peak body for System Administrators.

SAGE-AU president Donna Ashelford said the black list's appearance on Wikileaks demonstrated the futility of the Government's proposed censorship regime and the need for fresh thinking. "Publication of that list has, in effect, given every 15-year-old in Australia a guide to porn online," she said.

"The Government's trial has both fatally damaged the cause of Internet filtering and, globally, damaged Australia's reputation because the Government appears to be - very ineffectively - trying to block legal sites from the Australian public. It appears that the release of the blacklist was not a leak, but rather a reverse-engineering of the software the government provided to home Internet users, which raises serious questions about the security of the list.

"Also, the secrecy of the blacklist itself creates a public hazard: If you release it to the public, it becomes a guide to the content you are trying to keep out; If it is neither released nor effectively vetted, it can be used inappropriately to block legitimate content."

SAGE-AU (the System Administrators Guild of Australia) is a not-for-profit professional organisation representing system administrators in Australia. System administrators are the technology experts who keep computers and networks running, including much of the Internet in this country.

Ms. Ashelford said the Federal Government needed to apply fresh thinking to its approach to addressing objectionable content online. "They need to step back, define what the problem is and then come up with a workable solution to that problem," she said.

"SAGE-AU continues to support the three-phase plan it released last November to provide for safety of children using the Internet." The SAGE-AU proposal comprises:

1. Encouraging "family-friendly" ISP services

SAGE-AU proposes that the Government should support and promote the Family Friendly ISP program, under which ISPs have offered 'clean feed' services to customers who desire them for several years. These family-friendly ISPs build their brands around their filtering services.

2. Improved parent education

The Government should invest in ongoing education to assist parents to ensure their children are not exposed to objectionable material.

3. More rigorous enforcement

SAGE-AU supports increased budgets for the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and the Australian Federal Police to identify and remove illegal content from Australian hosts.

Media assistance

Donna Ashelford on 0401 714 350 or email

Iain Robertson on 0407 757 622 or email

About SAGE-AU www.sage-au.org.au

[SAGE-AU] is a not-for-profit professional organisation representing system administrators in Australia. It promotes the development of the system administration profession via online communication forums, regional monthly meetings, regional symposiums and an annual national technical conference. SAGE-AU members work in all varieties of profit and not-for-profit industry, education, research and government. Roles range from junior administrators to chief information officers.

SAGE-AU In The Press

SAGE-AU Critique of the Federal Government’s Proposed Internet Filtering Program

Released: 25 March 2009

Donna Ashelford noted that in October 2008, SAGE-AU member Mark Newton had published a number of predictions about the future of the Government’s proposed Internet filtering regime. “SAGE-AU agreed with these predictions and noted that each of the points, standing alone, was enough to render government policy unworkable even if all the other points were invalid,” she said. “These predictions have now all been fulfilled.”

Prediction	Fulfilment
There is no serious problem to solve.	Both Harvard and ACMA (The Australian Communication and Media Authority) have released research that shows that the biggest problem with children online concerns bullying and identity theft. The Harvard group contended that online child abuse is a false threat promulgated in an atmosphere of moral panic. The ACMA research shows that parents rate TV as a bigger threat to their children than the Internet. Harvard: http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/pubrelease/istff/ ACMA: http://www.acma.gov.au/webwr/_assets/main/lib101058/media_and_society_report_2007.pdf
Even if there was, there’s no public support to solve it.	GetUp has gathered nearly 100,000 signatures and raised nearly \$50,000 in donations; evidence of significant public opposition to the plan. Polls by major media organisations have shown the policy to be unpopular with the public. So many people responded to Senator Conroy’s “Superblogger” column in AustralianIT on February 17 that they crashed the www.news.com.au comments system.
Even if there was support, this solution won’t work.	Not even the scheme’s supporters believe it will work. Experts in the field know it will not work. Minister Conroy has said in answers to Senator Ludlum’s questions that the Government has no plans to restrict circumvention.
Even if it could work, it’s too expensive.	Last month, news.com.au reported the “live trials” had been delayed for three months partly because DBCDE was having difficulty securing funding for the testing. Given the size of test ISPs, there was no need to purchase high-end equipment.
Even if it was affordable, it’ll be implemented very poorly.	There are already signs of poor implementation including blacklisting legal but controversial sites, serving link deletion notices on Whirlpool, numerous false positives in the black list including a dentist, breeding kennels and other innocuous sites.
Even if it were implemented perfectly, the blacklist would leak.	The list, in several dated versions, is now available on the Internet. The latest list has been considerably shortened. It appears that the lists were not “leaked” but reversed engineered from packages designed to run locally on home computers.
There’s no possibility that it won’t leak	There is no doubt that leaks will be repeated if the system becomes mandatory.

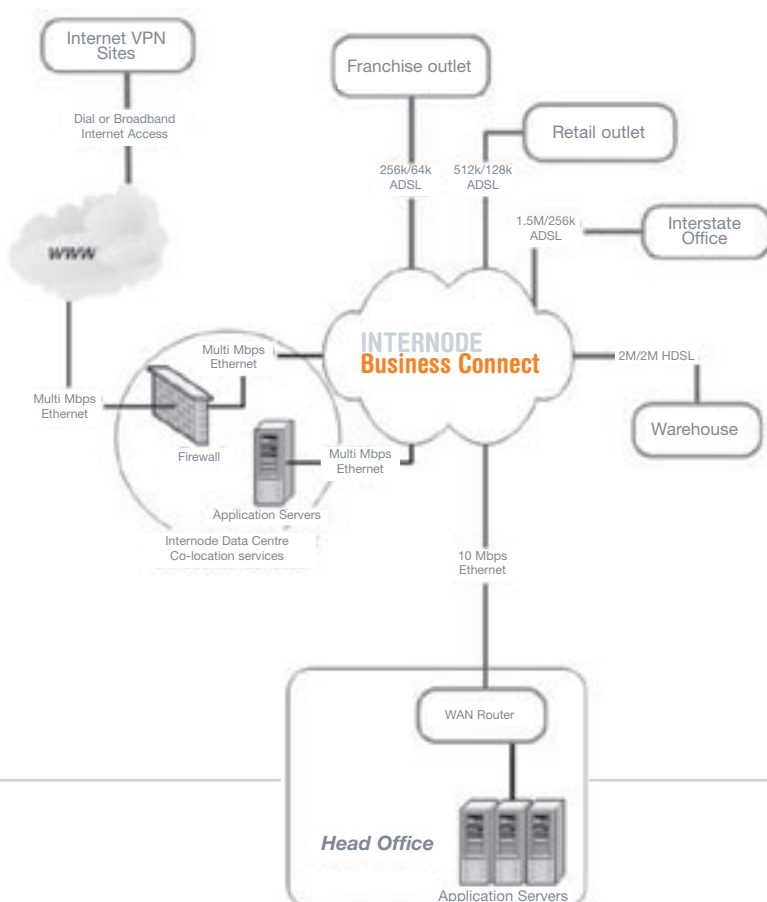
INTERNODE Business Connect

Internode Business Connect (IBC) is a flexible, reliable and secure wide area networking solution. IBC connects sites across Australia using a variety of access technologies and is the 21st Century alternative to traditional Frame Relay and ISDN wide area networks.

IBC is a 'private' IP network. Within such a network, traffic engineering is used to ensure optimal network performance – in terms of a very high data delivery ratio, a very low latency (or 'round trip transit delay'), and minimal latency variation (or 'jitter').

These parameters combine to provide the necessary 'Quality of Service' to meet the demanding requirements of internal business networks.

The Internode Business Connect private IP network has multiple levels of security, including physical POP security, strict authentication requirements and L2TP traffic separation. This security is fully managed by Internode staff.



Internode Business Connect solutions are tailored to meet the exact requirements of individual corporate customers. This includes:

- Flexible network topologies; ranging from a traditional virtual circuit 'Layer 2' approach through to a fully routed 'Layer 3' internetwork.
- A variety of high-speed access technologies; ranging from cost-effective DSL (Digital Subscribe Line) services, through to high performance Agile Ethernet services utilising optical fibre, radio and HDSL technologies. Critical business sites may use ISDN backup services for redundancy.
- Access to our world-class Internode Internet Data Centre; for connection to co-located equipment, managed servers, data storage systems or fire walled Internet.
- Equipment services including design, supply, configuration and maintenance of class-leading Cisco networking equipment.
- Optional ad-hoc 'secure roaming' access - for mobile staff, management and teleworkers – through our well-proven Virtual Private Dial Network service.
- Dynamic Class of Service for applications with differing network requirements (for example, voice and video over IP).

For more information call 1300 788 233 or visit our website:

www.internode.on.net/ibc



SAGE-AU Calls for Technical Presentations

17th Annual System Administrators' Conference (SAGE-AU 2009)

The System Administrators' Guild of Australia

10th - 14th August 2009

The Courtyard Marriott
Cnr Surfers Paradise Bvd and Hanlan St
Surfers Paradise

The SAGE-AU Annual Conference is the premier Systems Administration event in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference offers a premium educational forum for System Administrators of all platforms and levels of experience, and an excellent opportunity to meet, network and learn from acknowledged experts in the field.

This year's conference will start with three days of tutorials followed by the technical program. The technical program will run in two parallel streams covering a wide variety of system administration related talks.

Conference Dates and Location

Early Bird	Friday 17th July 2009
Tutorials	Monday 10th - Wednesday 12th August 2009
Technical Programme	Thursday 13th - Friday 14th August 2009

Submission Dates

Call for Presentations Issued	23rd February 2009
Proposals Due	30th March 2009
Provisional Notification Issued to Authors	27th April 2009
Draft Materials Due	1st June 2009
Confirmed Acceptance and Contracts Issued to Authors	15th June 2009
Final Materials Due	13th July 2009

We may not be able to provide you with your speaker benefits where draft materials have not been submitted.

To submit your paper or tutorial please visit our conference management site.

SAGE-AU 2009's theme

This year's theme is Internet Content Filtering. Talks need not relate to this theme, but it's certainly a topic of interest.

Wishlist

Our members have expressed interest in a number of potential talk topics. If you know someone (possibly yourself) who might be able to provide a talk on one of these topics please send them a link to this page. This page will be updated as further suggestions are made. See our 2009 conference wishlist page for more information.

Paper Proposals

SAGE-AU'2009 is hereby calling for papers and topics relevant to the profession of System Administration. Papers should have a technical or managerial System Administration orientation, and should not contain advertising. Possible talks topics include:

- Selling yourself/your team
- Successful negotiation
- Disasters recovered
- Security issues
- Tools, tricks and tips
- Standards

For some examples, you may find it valuable to look at both last year's technical programme and previous conferences. There is also a 2009 conference wishlist. We will accept the following types of presentation:

Lightning talks (5 minutes)

You don't need to submit a proposal for a lightning talk. These will be organised from sign-up sheets at the conference. Instructions will be given on the first day. Lightning talks are brief talks that focus on a single example, idea, project or technique. Lightning talks are not expected to cover all aspects of the subject. They're an excellent forum for first-time speakers.

Standard (30 minutes)

This is the preferred format. 20 minutes for talking and 5 minutes for questions (with 5 minutes spare for set-up and take-down). This is enough time to cover a few issues well and allows us to provide a good selection of talks throughout the day.

Extended (60 minutes)

Extended talks are ideal for experienced speakers who want to cover a large topic. 45 minutes for talking and 10 minutes for questions (with 5 minutes spare for set-up and take-down).

If you choose this longer time slot please include a justification in your proposal. We reserve the right to ask you to change a long talk proposal to be a standard length instead.

Submitting a Technical Paper for Consideration

If you wish to present a paper, please submit your proposal to our conference management site by the closing date (30th March).

Additional questions and inquiries should be directed to: papers@sage-au.org.au

Paper Submission

All presenters are required to submit presentation materials by the specified dates. Failure to do so may result in loss of your speaking slot and speaker benefits.

The final paper submission is expected to be a "camera ready" paper for inclusion in the conference proceedings. This final copy must be submitted in an approved format (see "Author Guidelines"). Authors should note that at least a one page paper is required - submissions consisting solely of presentation slides are insufficient.

Authors may submit their content in HTML or PDF.

Please ensure that your final submission has had its grammar and spelling corrected and that examples work. Your paper allows attendees who attended your talk a chance to refresh their memories about your presentation, and gives attendees who missed your talk a chance to learn from you anyway. Make sure your paper includes - at the very least - a brief introduction to your subject material and a list of further resources.

Speaker Benefits

People presenting a technical paper (a 30 or 60 minute talk) will receive one full discount on the Technical Program (Thursday & Friday only). In the case of more than one author, only a single author will be afforded the discount. Only one discounted attendance is available per person. If a presenter is also presenting a tutorial, this discount is not applicable.

Note that you may lose both your speaker slot and benefits if you do not meet our due dates. If you find that you need more time, please contact the program coordinator to see if an extension is possible.

Practice

The Programme Committee will issue guidelines to assist authors in planning their papers and presentations. We strongly encourage those inexperienced in public speaking to trial their presentations at their local chapter's meetings.

Tutorial Proposals

SAGE-AU'2009 is hereby calling for tutorial presentations on topics relevant to the profession of System Administration.

- Suggested topics include:
- Management practices for System Administrators
- Disaster recovery and high availability
- Computer and network security
- High performance
- Networking
- Cross platform interoperability

For some examples, you may find it valuable to look at both last year's tutorials and previous conferences. There is also a 2009 conference wishlist.

Submitting a Tutorial Presentation for Consideration

Tutorial sessions will be either 3 hours or 6 hours duration.

People wishing to present tutorials should submit a 1000 word abstract of the material they wish to present, who their intended audience is, and an indication of whether they require a 3 hour or 6 hour time slot.

Tutorial presenters are required to submit a tutorial draft to allow the committee to provide feedback and assist with the editorial process.

Tutorials should be run in lecture format.

As SAGE-AU Conferences typically receive a large number proposals for Tutorials, authors of tutorial proposals are requested to mention whether they would be able to provide a condensed version of their material in the technical programme instead.

If you wish to present a tutorial, please submit your proposal to our conference management site by the closing date (30th March 2009).

Additional questions and inquiries should be directed to: papers@sage-au.org.au

Author Guidelines

The Programme Committee will issue guidelines to assist authors in planning their presentations. We strongly encourage those inexperienced in public speaking to trial their presentations at their local chapter's meetings.

Authors are asked to provide their material in either PDF or HTML.

Tutorial Remuneration

Tutorial presenters will receive an honorarium of AUD\$600 per 3 hour tutorial and AUD\$1200 per 6 hour tutorial.

An additional "bonus" payment of AUD\$75 per 3 hour tutorial and AUD\$150 per 6 hour tutorial will be paid to presenters who submit camera-ready originals of handout material on-time in accordance with the published schedule.

Tutorial Presenter Benefits

People presenting a tutorial will receive free registration for the Technical Program (Thursday & Friday only) and the conference dinner. In the case of more than one presenter, only a single author will be afforded the discount. Only one discounted attendance is available per person.

SAGE-AU will reimburse tutorial presenters reasonable costs of producing handout materials; materials submitted on-time will be printed by SAGE-AU on the presenter's behalf.

Meet our members

Most of the time, members join our ranks silently, and unless they are very active on the mailing lists, regularly attend regional group meetings or speak at our national conference the existing membership doesn't really get the opportunity to find out who they are and what they do. In this section we hope to introduce you to a snapshot of members - some joined a few days ago, some have been around for years!

Today we introduce Frank Crawford, Brad McGinn, Mark Pfeiffer, Carson Longhorn, Justin Cripps and Lee Murphy

Name: Frank Crawford
State: NSW
Member since: Umm, before it existed.

I'm one of the original 5 Founding Members, and unfortunately the only one still active (more or less) in SAGE-AU. Out of interest, my SAGE-AU ID was F0002, and only because I was allocating them (as the original secretary), and thought Hal Miller should get F0001.

What's your job title/description?

It varies, currently it is "Manager Technology and Infrastructure". The previous was "Manager Technology and e-Research Services", and 12 months before that was something else that I've already forgotten.

What is the job, effectively CTO plus senior techie, troubleshooter and lately pre-sales support and solutions architect. Basically, the guy who has been around forever and everyone from the CEO down to the new guy calls on when they need something and can't find anyone else.

What's your business name?

AC3 or originally Australian Centre for Advanced Computing and Communications.

What does your business do?

AC3 originally started out as the centre to manage supercomputers for a consortium of universities within NSW (there are similar groups in each state). Unfortunately, it was also necessary for it to make a profit, which supercomputers can never do. So it changed.

Today we provide hosting and co-location services within one of our datacentres, and provide managed services (primarily system, O/S and DB support) for selected organisations. These are primarily state government entities, although we do work with a number of SMEs as well.

What do you do in your work?

These days, meetings, meetings and more meetings. Basically I provide internal technical direction and leadership to all areas of the business. To provide this leadership I need to be aware of many of the plans being hatched by the sales people as well as what technical activities are going on. Unfortunately, this usually means I get to do high level plans, but then have to pass most of the fun work off to others to do.

How long have you been working in the System Administration field?

Ummm, I kind of fell into sysadmin when I started work in 1981, so that is 28 years (gee, that is a long, long time now).

Please tell us a story about one of your professional experiences.

Well, many of the bits can be found in past conference proceedings, or various other journals. But for those who want something different, one of my earliest jobs (all those 28 years ago) consisted of writing a boot program for an LSI 11/34 that had to be less than 32 16bit words, and then

proceeding to wire-wrap a boot board with these instructions, i.e. real machine instructions, that you could touch.

More recently, the lead architect and implementer of the largest system research system in Australia at the time (2003). It consisted of 185 x Dell PowerEdge 1750 systems as a Beowulf Cluster and the first system in Australia that could sustain more than 1TFLOPS (i.e. 109 Floating Point Operations per second). It was measured at 1.098TFLOPS and sat at around 47 on the top 500, however, within six months, it was a 107, and within 2 years had dropped out of the list altogether.

How did you first hear about SAGE-AU?

Would you believe at an executive meeting of AUUG. Greg Rose was discussing the plan to form SAGE in the US and we discussed the proposal by Hal Miller to form a similar group within Australia. I leaped at the idea, and the rest is history.

What have you gained from SAGE-AU in that time?

Lots of things. I've managed to pickup a lot of ideas from such people as Hal, Greg and Geoff Halprin. I've also managed to meet many interesting people both from Australia and overseas.

I've also had a chance to hone my presentation skills at various conferences and other meetings (particularly in the early years).

I've learnt how organisations work and to manage them, what the roles and responsibilities of the board are. Much of this has spun off to help with management responsibilities within my work. And, in general, I've had a good time at all sort of functions, online lists and other meetings.

Does your business support your SAGE-AU membership?

And again, hmmm, no it doesn't do that directly, although it usually pays for conferences, etc, and in general supports the activities. However, I'm in the position where I should be providing such support, maybe I should be doing more

Do you work in a team or on your own? How big is your team?

In a team, always in a team, I don't really like to work alone. ac3 has about 30 admins or other technical support people, usually in groups of 3 or 4.

What do you do for fun?

Mainly enjoy my family. But also, I still like playing with my computer systems at home. I pity my kids when they move out, suddenly they will have to understand all the technical details, or else not have access to all high-tech items they do now.

I also am involved in a few local community organisations and the local hockey club.

As a parting comment, I'm really pleased watching a group I helped to form continuing and changing. My only regret is that the growth has stagnated a bit, but SAGE-AU is still active and getting more recognition than ever before.

Meet our members

Name: Brad McGinn
State: Queensland
Member since: 4 years, I think
What's your job title/description?
 Network Architect
What's your business name? Thiess Pty Ltd
What does your business do?
 Construction, Mining, Civil Engineering.
What do you do in your work?
 Manage, maintain and support the network.
How long have you been working in the Network Administration field?
 8 years.
Please tell us a story about one of your professional experiences.
 Whilst putting a new rack together for a Data Centre one time, I screwed a screw through a live cable and shorted

out the whole feed from the UPS. I almost killed myself and potentially others. Moral of the story: Don't run power cables through structural channels of racks.

How did you first hear about SAGE-AU?

Through Thiess

What have you gained from SAGE-AU in that time?

Interesting reading and consequent understanding of the applications layers.

Does your business support your SAGE-AU membership?

Yes

Do you work in a team or on your own? How big is your team?

I'm in a team of 11.

What do you do for fun?

Golf, indoor cricket, poker machines, dining out.

Name: Mark Pfeiffer
State: NSW
Member since: About 5 years - i think
What's your job title/description?
 Sysadmin, NMS adminstrator
What's your business name?
 MLP Consulting working in Gen-I (owned by AAPT, TCNZ) - So telco I guess.
What does your business do? ICT.
What do you do in your work?
 Write too much Perl.
How long have you been working in the System Administration field? 27 years.
Please tell us a story about one of your professional experiences.
 Writing the Local Number Portability program for AAPT's EWSD exchange over 10 years ago. And it is still running!
How did you first hear about SAGE-AU?
 Via Glenn Satchell.
What have you gained from SAGE-AU in that time?
 Friends and lots of answers to very obscure questions.
Does your business support your SAGE-AU membership?
 Not really - but we are trying to get it.
Do you work in a team or on your own? How big is your team? Team of 2.
What do you do for fun?
 I do 'unpopular' stuff like go to Church and chase my kids around.

Name: Carson Longhorn
State: South Australia
Member since: 2 months or so
What's your job title/description?
 Unix engineer
What's your business name?
 Hostworks
What does your business do?
 Service provider (Outsourcing of Mission critical applications and support).
What do you do in your work?
 Administering and configuring Unix systems and environments.
How long have you been working in the System Administration field?
 4 years.
How did you first hear about SAGE-AU?
 A few friends at Hostworks are members.
What have you gained from SAGE-AU in that time?
 A great set of mailing lists, member services, and the ability to meet up with people of a similiar mind.
Does your business support your SAGE-AU membership?
 I'm not even sure they're aware.
Do you work in a team or on your own? How big is your team?
 In a team of 7.

Meet our members

Name: Justin Cripps
State: Queensland
Member since: January 2009

What's your job title/description?

Officially I am a Technical Officer.

What's your business name?

Toowoomba Education Centre

What does your business do?

We offer Cert III, IV and Diploma courses in Business, Education Support and Community Services. We also hire out rooms to local community groups which sometimes includes the laptops and access to our wireless network for them. We also have a Print department and full Printery as we also print and sell curriculum materials.

What do you do in your work?

I look after level 1 and 2 desktop support, our server and general wired/wireless network, purchasing new machines (Just finished spending \$25k which is way more than I've ever had to spend in relation to a business. I had some sleepless nights and long days before I completed that order!)

How long have you been working in the Network Administration field?

6 months.

Please tell us a story about one of your professional experiences.

Hah I can't think of anything that isn't just the usual silly staff doing things they just don't understand.

How did you first hear about SAGE-AU?

A sysadmin for a WA Uni first told me about them a few years ago.

What have you gained from SAGE-AU in that time?

The mailing list has been of immense help. I don't think I would be able to live without it!

Does your business support your SAGE-AU membership?

My employer doesn't know about it. I am sure they probably would support it, but no one else here has any real knowledge of computers. i.e. I knew they wouldn't understand so I didn't bother!

Do you work in a team or on your own? How big is your team?

On my own.

What do you do for fun?

I'm a nerd. I play WoW, love Lord of the Rings, Star Wars and Star Trek. I'll play both graphical and text based games - all of them.

Name: Lee Murphy
State: Victoria
Member since: 3 Months ago

What's your job title/description?

Server Support Specialist

What's your business name?

IBM Global Services

What does your business do?

Deploy and Support Customer IT Infrastructure

What do you do in your work?

Administer Windows 2000 and 2003 based servers for multiple corporate clients.

How long have you been working in the System Administration field?

2 1/2 years

Please tell us a story about one of your professional experiences.

A number of customers are currently undergoing transformations which involve quite a large number of servers coming online. This is a fascinating time

because it involves becoming familiar with new systems, applications, etc. and delivering end to end.

How did you first hear about SAGE-AU?

Heard about it around 12 months ago.

What have you gained from SAGE-AU in that time?

Technical tips from the mailing lists, a feeling of support from the executive in areas of industry concern (particularly, the SAGE-AU concerns raised regarding the filter).

Does your business support your SAGE-AU membership?

Haven't discussed it with my manager or team.

Do you work in a team or on your own? How big is your team?

Part of a small team.

What do you do for fun?

Browse the Internet (whirlpool fanatic), listen to my iPod, play computer games - a bit of a home body really.

SAGE-AU welcomes our new members

SAGE-AU extends a warm welcome to our newest members. These include:

Queensland

- Matthew Duffy from PPI Corporation Pty Ltd
- Peter Ward from Wardy IT Solutions
- Anthony Towns from Erisian Consulting
- Justin Cripps from Toowoomba Education Centre

Victoria

- Wade Roberts
- David Tomic from Catholic Regional College - North Keilor
- Tony Lindt from tony.lindt@gmail.com
- John Barratt from RedBubble Pty Ltd
- Damien Mannix from Victorian E Research Strategic Initiative
- Michael McCormack from Global Speech Networks
- Lee Murphy from IBM Global Services

South Australia

- Adam Nelson from Internode
- Andrew van der Wolff from IT Security Consultant
- Carson Longhorn from Hostworks

New South Wales

- Kerrie Rankins from Goal Professional Services
- Solomon Matthews from The University of Sydney
- Craig Reeson from Nasdaq OMX
- James Hamilton from Macquarie University
- Haw Loeung from TPG Internet
- Gavin Carr from Open Fusion
- Neil Johnson from AMR
- Peter Hardy from iTouch Australia
- Daniel McIndoe from dmacca Trading & Consulting

Western Australia

- Joel Marold from Department for Planning & Infrastructure
- Patrick Ko

Canberra

- Dustin Page from Australian Sports Commission

Tasmania

- Alex Smith from Total Eyecare Optometrists
- Shannon Coyle from Technology Services Group
- Marcus Brown

The System Administrator's Guild of Australia thanks our generous sponsors:

Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsor:



Regional Group Article: Tasmania

Thursday, March 9 2009, saw the Tas Chapter of SAGE-AU revive itself with a lunchtime meeting in the "back meeting room" at the New Sydney hotel in Hobart's City centre. 15 members enjoyed getting together, catching up and meeting new faces.

Adam Laslett, a recent fly-in from SA, (literally - ask Adam for details of his current unique lifestyle) was elected President since it was all his fault. Nick Grundy was elected Secretary and Alan Gough meetings and general admin co-ordinator.

Interest having been a bit light-on over the last 12 months or so, it was decided to hold lunchtime meetings bi-monthly at the New Sydney or another venue to be advised. (Alan volunteered for the onerous task of checking out other likely City venues/watering holes.)

The next meeting is scheduled for :
12:30pm Thursday, 7 May 2009, at the New Sydney at this stage.
Julius Roberts will deliver a presentation on ZFS.

Presenters & topics for the following 2 meetings are :

July Nick Grundy Storage, iSCSI, NFS & SANS
September John Allan MySQL

There is also some interest in setting up a tutorial on dtrace - Any experts in SAGE-AU ranks who may be interested in a trip to Tassie?

It's great to see a bunch of new faces prepared to run the Tas SAGE-AU Chapter, lets hope the enthusiasm can be maintained and the Tas Summer IT Conference can be revived after it's brief hiatus.

Alan Gough
Chapter Admin

Western Australia

Just a reminder for all Western Australian SAGE members!

Members in Western Australia currently meet in Perth.

Day & Time - Social gathering from 6:00pm with the meeting starting at 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.
Venue - The Moon and Sixpence Pub, 300 Murray Street, Perth

The next 3 months worth of meetings will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday April 7th
Tuesday May 5th
Tuesday June 2nd

Andrew Shugg
Regional Co-ordinator

Victoria

The Victorian Chapter of SAGE-AU meets 11 times a year on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Ground Floor Tutorial Room of the Baillieu Library of Melbourne University at 7pm for a speaker led discussion followed by pizza in Lygon St

On the 29th of May 2009 we will be running our Mini Conf with a wide range of speakers from both vendors and experts in systems administration.

Bob Fulton - President

Letter from the Editor - Your Editor needs you

Hi all - my name's Jess Wightman, I'm a member of the National Executive, and for those of you that don't know, I'm the current Editor of the monthly SAGE-AU Advice newsletter. It's been on hiatus for a few months, but now it's coming back! And that means I need some content...

I'm currently looking for some of our lovely members (that means you!) to write me a few articles - on anything SAGE related. A conference/function you've been to, a decent reference book you've read, a great business you've dealt with, an interesting website full of useful information - when I say anything, I mean anything.

While we get our new members to fill these out, I thought it would be nice to get some existing members to fill them out. If you've got a spare 5 minutes to fill one out, please send an email to editor@sage-au.org.au and I'll email one through.

This newsletter is put out for you guys, it's a service to you, so it's really up to you as to what goes in it. I'm completely open to ideas and would like to hear any opinions on what we should be including.

That's all from me - if you've got any other ideas of interesting stuff you want to see in the newsletter, please let me know!

Jess Wightman
Editor of SAGE-AU Advice
editor@sage-au.org.au

AusCERT2009 IT Security Conference, theme "The Security Evolution"

Join us at AusCERT 2009, the Asia Pacific Information Technology Security Conference - an international conference focusing on IT security: for CFOs, CIOs, CTOs and technical staff from government agencies, universities and industry.

This will be the eighth AusCERT conference and will take place from Sunday 17th - Wednesday 20th May 2009, followed by two days of tutorials at the RACV Royal Pines Resort, Ross Street, Ashmore, Gold Coast, Queensland.

Members of SAGE-AU will receive a special discount equal to the four+ level. The code 09SAGE-AU should be included on the registration form for SAGE-AU members to receive this discount.

Member Article for March

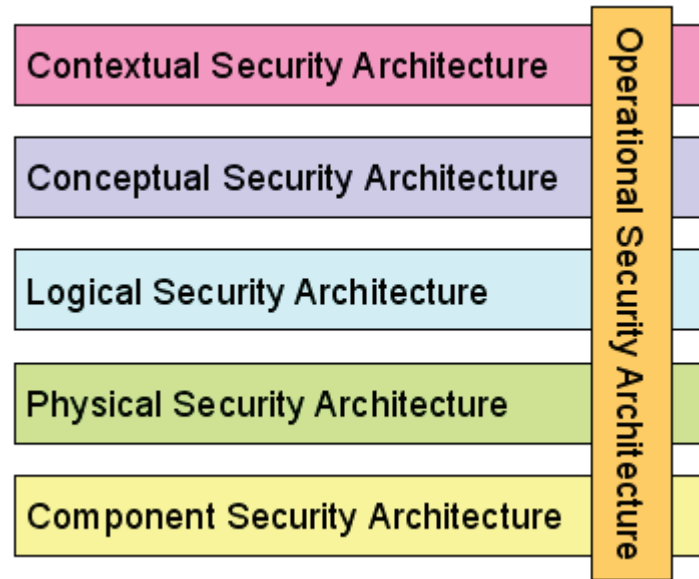
This month's article, an overview of Sherwood Applied Business Security Architecture (SABSA), has been written by William Shipway

SABSA

Sherwood Applied Business Security Architecture (SABSA) is an open architecture framework for security services. SABSA ensures that security services are designed, delivered and supported as an integral part of business and IT management infrastructure.

Overview

SABSA is a six-layer model covering the entire IT lifecycle.



SABSA is a non-commercial open-use methodology. It is supported by commercial education and certification processes administered by the SABSA Institute.

It may be implemented with ITIL to support security functions in larger enterprises, but it also very useful on its own.

History

SABSA started in 1995 as a method for delivering Enterprise Security Architecture and Service Management, developed by John Sherwood, Andrew Clark, and David Lynas. They now direct the organisation that governs SABSA's development and use.

SABSA has a similar structure to the Zachman Framework for enterprise architecture, and has been updated to align some concepts and terms with Zachman.

Elements of the Model - the SABSA Matrix

Each architecture layer represents the view of a different player in the process of specifying, designing, constructing and using security services.

- Contextual Security: Business View
- Conceptual Security: Architect's View
- Logical Security: Designer's View
- Physical Security: Builder's View
- Component Security: Tradesman's View
- Operational Security: Facilities Manager's View

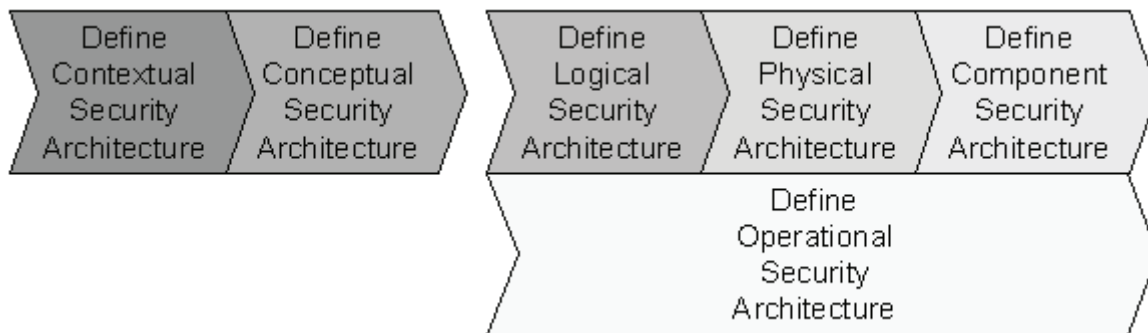
The following SABSA matrix summarises the necessary components for each layer of an enterprise security architecture:

	Assets (What)	Motivation (Why)	Process (How)	People (Who)	Location (Where)	Time (When)
Contextual	The Business	Business Risk Model	Business Process Model	Business Organization and Relationships	Business Geography	Business Time Dependencies
Conceptual	Business Attributes Profile	Control Objectives	Security Strategies and Architectural Layering	Security Entity Model and Trust Framework	Security Domain Model	Security-Related Lifetimes and Deadlines
Logical	Business Information Model	Security Policies	Security Services	Entity Schema and Privilege Profiles	Security Domain Definitions and Associations	Security Processing Cycle
Physical	Business Data Model	Security Rules, Practices and Procedures	Security Mechanisms	Users, Applications and the User Interface	Platform and Network Infrastructure	Control Structure Execution
Component	Detailed Data Structures	Security Standards	Security Products and Tools	Identities, Functions, Actions and ACLs	Processes, Nodes, Addresses and Protocols	Security Step Timing and Sequencing
Operational	Assurance of Operational Continuity	Operational Risk Management	Security Service Management and Support	Application and User Management and Support	Security of Sites, Networks and Platforms	Security Operations Schedule

Getting Started with SABSA

The aim of a security architecture is to provide modular, reusable technical infrastructure, effective operational and management processes, and to meet business requirements for the security of your systems.

If you use the SABSA model for developing your security architecture, you will follow a process something like this:



Your first step should be to learn as much as possible about SABSA as it relates to the work you will be doing. Start with the SABSA web site introductory material. You can buy and read the book and/or attend a course leading to certification.

You may want to become an associate member of the SABSA Institute so you can access member material and obtain discounts.

As with many approaches to security, the process begins with understanding business assets, business processes, and business risk management. The six questions (What Why How Who Where When) are a good way of thinking about the information and decisions needed to form the basis of your contextual security architecture.

References

- [SABSA home](#)
- [Wikipedia: SABSA](#)
- [Open Security Architecture \(OSA\)](#)



Diamond Support for VMware



Your Trusted IT Partner!

- Do you want a trusted partner that not only knows the technology that runs your business but also how your business relies on that technology?
- Need a partner to support and mentor your team?
- Need access to a pool of resources with knowledge of your environment for overflow, project and backfill?
- Concerned about how your environment stays at its originally configured best practice, high performance level to ensure your business continues to operate optimally?

TAS Diamond support provides you with the launching platform to establish a trusted partner relationship with TAS. Diamond support extends the current vendor relationships you have in place and goes a step further by providing:

1. A formal complete health check of your VMware infrastructure with a full report – once per year.
2. An interim health check, six months later which identifies issues, risks etc
3. Access to fully trained VMware consultants, who know and understand your VMware environment and provide local support to help you keep your business running:
 - a) Ability to call TAS for support during business hours.
 - b) Ability to call TAS for support after hours
4. Notification, via email of all patches which have become available
5. Notification, via email of all new releases, minor/major which have become available
6. TAS monthly newsletter detailing, tips, techniques and general industry info
7. 10% discount on all additional services you purchase from TAS excluding already discounted prepaid bundles
8. TAS VMware certified engineer on site 1 day a month

Diamond Support Options

- On-site, or remote access, systems administration out-tasking
- VMware residency program
- Update training on new releases and features
- ITIL consulting for virtualisation infrastructure
- VMware Mentoring
- Extra monthly onsite days
- Architectural, strategy and design services
- Backfill services for when your staff are on annual leave or away for training
- SAN, DataCore, PlateSpin, SQL Server, Sybase and Oracle Diamond support uplifts

To find out more about Diamond support contact TAS on the numbers below or visit our website at www.techarchsolutions.com

NSW 02 99848133

VIC 03 96539625

WA 08 92782521

SA 08 81135398

QLD 07 33030220

**www.techarchsolutions.com
sales@techarchsolutions.com**