

# networknews **sicl** The network is everything

## SICL Top Gear Event 2007

The SICL Event 2007 was held at Elvington Circuit, near York, on June 21 2007. Customers had a great day out and enjoyed presentations on the latest technologies from Asigra, Cisco, HDS, Ipswitch, Questmark, Riverbed and Star Technology.



Attendees were also given the opportunity to enjoy the thrills of a fast slalom course in exotic vehicles which included Aerial Atoms, Nobles and Porsches.

The main event was the Stars in a Reasonably Priced Car experience, based on the popular BBC Top Gear feature. Guest were given tuition and instruction by professional drivers, Martyn Bell of the BMW Racing Team and Andy Curtis of Aston Martin among them.

Prize-giving and commentary for the event were given by Top Gear's James May.

### Congratulations go to the winners:

- 1st Place – Mike Lindley of YAA
- 2nd Place – Martin Firth of Tricon
- 3rd Place – Alistair Bell of Gekko

Congratulations also go to Quiz-Card Winner Darren Stone of West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue.



We'd like to thank everyone who helped to make the event such a success including Javelin Trackdays, Amanda Lennon at Be Partners, Alan Hayward at H2A, Peter Ellis at Azure Charitable Enterprises, Alistair Bell at Gekko, James May and finally Yorkshire Air Ambulance, our chosen charity.

We're very much looking forward to repeating the experience in 2008!

## One Million Green Fingers

SICL's Shirley Firth and Mark Clayton joined other volunteers from Yorkshire Water this September at Upperthong Junior & Infant School in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, for two days of hard gardening.

They were taking part in a new initiative called One Million Green Fingers, launched in September to coincide with the Government's Year of Food and Farming in Education.

Over the next three years, volunteers are aiming to join children at 350 schools to achieve a grand total of 1,000,000 green fingers at work!

The campaign is designed to educate children in an engaging way on a range of topical issues relevant to business and everyday life, including:

- Sustainability
- The environment
- Healthy eating
- Where food comes from
- Climate change
- Water conservation
- Good citizenship



James Martin (Celebrity Chef), Dave Nussey (YW Telecoms Manager), Shirley Firth (SICL Financial Director) and Mark Clayton (SICL Technical Manager).

Projects at the Holmfirth event, opened by James Martin of BBC TV's Saturday Kitchen, will include clearing woodland, creating heather and Victorian gardens and building raised vegetable beds.



## Yorkshire Air Ambulance

Yorkshire Air Ambulance is both a long-standing SICL client and our chosen charity.

SICL initially designed and installed YAA's IT systems, which form a critical part of the operation, and support their systems on an ongoing basis. That includes the provision of a Helpdesk and IT staff on-site, reducing typical IT costs to the charity.

In previous years, SICL provided support on an 'at-cost' basis, but in 2006, it was decided all services would be provided as a donation, without charge.

SICL and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance team are delighted to announce this deepening of the relationship between our two organisations. If you wish to donate to YAA please go to [www.yaa.org.uk](http://www.yaa.org.uk)



call 0113 238 9900 or find out more at [www.sicl.co.uk](http://www.sicl.co.uk)

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# network news



THE NEWSLETTER OF SICL AUTUMN 2007

# Securing the enterprise

Vulnerability Assessment

Randomstorm™

The Event 2007

The SICL Top Gear event reviewed

# Are you secure?

## Triple threat SICL'S three-tiered defence

As working practices become increasingly flexible, new scams and more complex operational threat methods place an ever heavier burden on businesses. Web threats, email threats and cybercrime are all on the increase – it's even possible to hire a hacker on the internet.

With that in mind, SICL recommend this three-tiered security approach for all business networks.



### Tier 1: Provider

Provides a guarantee that email viruses and spam are stopped before they hit the business network, saving bandwidth and time.



### Tier 2: Gateway

Provides protection against intruders on the network enabling businesses to stop users accessing inappropriate material.



### Tier 3: Desktop

Provides protection against viruses on servers and PCs and stops network users from installing viruses at desktop levels.

### Security Policy Controls

BIOS Control Lock-outs which disable by default and enable/control by exception.

GPO (Group Policy Object) giving centralised control of peripherals.

Scan on insertion on trusted media.

QoS (Quality of Service) for 1% bandwidth confinement of 'unknown' traffic.

NAC (Network Access Control – part of 802.1x) giving port-level security and host-checking of hardware before authentication.



## Communication protection

SICL recommend MessageLabs™ a company providing a range of managed services to protect, control, encrypt and archive electronic communications. MessageLabs™ is listed as a leader in the Gartner Magic Quadrant and many other analyst reports, and has more than 15,000 clients, ranging from small businesses to the Fortune 500, located in over 80 countries. They are widely recognised as a market leader in the messaging and web security market.

### Top-line results include:

- Spam 71.0% in July (a decrease of 1.40% since June).
- Viruses One in 72.4 emails in July contained malware (an increase 0.59% since June).
- Phishing One in 111.8 emails comprised a phishing attack (a rise of 0.09% since June).

MessageLabs™ claim that they will "will protect your organisation from Internet threats such as viruses, spam, spyware and other inappropriate content more effectively than any other vendor in the world."

They support this claim with a consistent track record of stopping threats long before the competition and through the industry's strongest Service Level Agreements (SLAs) which include an unrivalled 100% guarantee against known and unknown email viruses.



## Reduce risk with RandomStorm™

xStorm, from protective security management company RandomStorm, is a subscription-based service which can best be described as a basic external electronic vulnerability assessment service. It runs from multiple servers in New York and London, with Tokyo to follow.



The vulnerability database is updated daily as new vulnerabilities are discovered and the system produces a report containing detailed action steps to mitigate the risk associated

with them. This enables customers to prevent any network or server downtime proactively by taking action before any vulnerabilities are exploited by external hackers.

The service provides companies with permanent testing of their network perimeter and gives them access to security reporting via their browser.

xStorm is available to customers on a price per IP address basis and all customers must provide a signed waiver form.

iStorm is a network appliance which monitors internal electronic security. It can be installed by an SICL network security specialist.

## SICL awarded Investor in People

SICL were presented with the coveted 'Investor in People' award on the 11th October 2007.

Developed in 1990 by a partnership of leading businesses and national organisations, the Standard helps organisations to improve performance and realise objectives through the management and development of their people. Since it was developed, the Standard has been reviewed every three years to ensure that it remains relevant, accessible and attractive to all.

The award recognises the importance that SICL places on development and training of staff, which in turn benefits clients who deal with knowledgeable and capable professional IT experts.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



## New face for a new role

We are delighted to announce that Andrew Mason has joined SICL in the new role of Consultant Director. Following a distinguished career at Energis, Andrew was the founder and Managing Director of Boxing Orange, a Cisco Advanced Security Specialist.

His in-depth knowledge of electronic security persuaded Cisco to commission him to write seven of their books with more to follow. He brings with him the following technical accreditations:

- CCIE #7144 (Cisco Certified Internetworking Expert).
- CCSP (Cisco Security Professional).
- CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional).
- CCNP (Cisco Certified Network Professional).
- CCDP (Cisco Certified Design Professional).
- CCSA (Checkpoint Certified Security Expert).
- CCSE (Checkpoint Certified Security Administrator).
- CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker).
- MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer).
- A+, Network+ and Security+.
- CNE (Certified Novelli Engineer).
- RSA, ASE and NSA.

Please contact us on 0113 238 9900 to book a consultation.

## Gary Williams



We are pleased to announce that Gary Williams has recently joined SICL to spearhead growth in southern England.

Gary has over 20 years experience in the IT sector, and has worked for a number of global organisations such as BT, Seagrams, Credit Suisse, and MCI Worldcom.

Technically qualified to CCDA level, Gary has designed, implemented and managed many complex wide area networks.

More recently, Gary has developed substantial capability with Wan Optimisation technologies, notably with the Riverbed Steelhead product. Major organisations such as BP Paribas, Barclays, Skanska, Nomura, and the LSE have seen significant performance improvements as a result of Gary's expertise and advice.

We welcome Gary and Andrew to SICL!