Editorial Preface

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Welcome to the final edition for 2017. In this edition we have five papers, an invited opinion piece and the '*Last Word*'. In keeping with our practice of inviting colleagues to undertake the not inconsiderable task of editing an edition of IJSS, Dr Moufida Sadok, has taken on the task. Dr Sadok is currently a Lecturer in cyber-crime and cyber-security at the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth. Her main areas of research include socio-technical approaches to Information Systems Security and business systems analysis. Not surprisingly Moufida has chosen papers that deal with the importance of IT security and its impact upon us all. The papers are varied and highlight aspects of a world in which personal and nationally sensitive data can be exploited unless we take steps to protect it from those who wish to do us harm.

Although the papers tackle the importance of cyber security they are included in this edition because it is the human element that is the important consideration. The papers remind us that it not merely a technological problem, but one of which we *stakeholders* should all be aware. 'Systems' is a broad church and embraces a wide range of ideas, but all dimensions share the same belief in taking a holistic approach to understanding problems. Although in this edition the overriding theme is security, IT security, each paper raises the importance of taking the human element into account and highlights the point that such matters should not be driven by technology alone. Baskerville raises many valuable points in the *Last Word*. He reminds us that digital technology offers an exciting future [if used in the right way] but with it grows a new threat: a threat that we can loosely call cyber crime. This is a catchall phrase but one we all understand whether it be from a personal point of view, such as a bank fraud, through to cyber attacks at a national level from malevolent forces. It is a new world we are entering and need to take steps to protect our data, but at the same time we must also guard against knee-jerk reactions that result in loss of freedom. By raising such issues and adopting, what we refer to here as a Socio Technical approach, this edition adds to the portfolio of human affairs in which systems thinking can play an important part. The Socio-Technical approach was pioneered by Enid Mumford in the 1970's and is enjoying a renaissance as it is seen as relevant to our modern, digitally dominated, world.

I hope that you enjoy this edition.

Frank Stowell
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