## Who are we?

As part of the BCS, the UK's professional body for computing, the Central and North London branches are a vibrant and diverse community of volunteers from a wide range of professional backgrounds.

## What do we do?

The committees meet on a regular bases to plan events and discuss progress regarding ongoing initiatives, A list of our upcoming events can be found here. Some of our ongoing community intitiatives include the BCS NLB **Seniors**, **Eco** and **Innovation Hub** programmes. More information can be found by following this link.

## BCS CeNLB Innovation Hub Initiative

**AIM:** To build a community of London-based Innovation Hubs with the common platform being hosted by BCS CeNLB. This would enable Innovation Hubs to network with other London-based like-minded colleagues and peers via the platform, without the pressure of investment interest. This community would be driven by technical and scientific interest alone, and would act as a space to share ideas and inspire further innovation.

**OUR MEMBERS:**
In this issue, we offer a spotlight column on three of our exciting Innovation Hub community members:

- *The London Office of Technology and Innovation*
- *CyLon*
- *London Tech Advocates*

In these spotlight columns, you can find out more about recent activity and achievements from our Innovation Hub community members.

### SPOTLIGHT: CyLon

**CyLon's mission is to find and grow the security technologies of the future.** We aim to be the best possible partner for talented, ambitious cyber entrepreneurs and practitioners from around the world. We do this through three core activities: **CyLon Scale, CyLon Spark, and CyLon Go**, through which we support the startups and entrepreneurs building the secure foundations of our digital economy. Since launching in 2015 we have worked with hundreds of these innovators, supporting 100+ companies now valued at > £1bn, including Tessian, Immersive Labs and Ripjar, and 200+ entrepreneurs from 35+ different countries.

Through **CyLon Scale**, *we invest in the most promising early-stage global cyber security startups*. We launched this arm of the business in late 2020, and have since backed six fantastic cyber security startups building exciting security technologies. These range from Cado Security, the first and only cloud-native digital forensics platform for enterprises, to Worldr, who are building a new private, secure and compliant team communications technology. *If you know a pre-seed or seed stage cyber security startup who would benefit from the support and advice we are able to provide as investors, we would love to hear from them!* They can find more details on our website **here**.

Alongside these activities, we also operate **CyLon Spark** innovation programmes. *These are designed to help individuals take their first steps on their cyber innovation journey, helping the cyber-curious to road-test their ideas, meet potential co-founders and collaborators, and offer them a platform from which to launch a business or identify a new career path in security*. We have run these programmes in six countries so far, with several others in the pipeline. We typically operate these in partnership with a local government, operating under a specific brand in each country.

This year, we are pleased to be running **Cyber Runway: Launch** in partnership with *DCMS, Plexal, CSIT and Deloitte,* alongside a 'Grow' and 'Scale' programme run by our partners for more mature UK cyber companies. You can find more details and apply **here**. We will also be running a number of other Spark programmes this year outside the UK, and look forward to announcing details soon!

Finally, earlier this year we were pleased to launch **CyLon Go**, a CSR initiative which *aims to increase the number of people from underrepresented backgrounds entering the cyber workforce*. We support individuals from diverse communities who want to pursue a career within cyber security by offering grants towards the costs of training and a range of other support. Since launching we have offered more than 20+ grants, and hope to scale up our activities here over the months ahead. More details are available **here**.

**Nick Morris**
*CyLon CEO*
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### Events

We are looking forward to meeting our members and inviting more members to join us at our first community event, coming soon! Please get in touch if you are interested at the below **email:** *kate.marshall@ibm.com*.

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## SPOTLIGHT:
## The London Office of Technology and Innovation

The **London Office of Technology and Innovation** (LOTI) **helps boroughs work together, bringing the best of digital, data and innovation to improve public services for Londoners. LOTI was established in July 2019 in recognition of the fact that collaboration is vital for enabling boroughs to succeed in these areas**. Yet we know collaboration is hard. Without dedicated time, support and resources, it tends to be ad hoc, temporary and dependent on individual relationships. LOTI exists to make it deliberate, sustained and systematic. Our mission is to make successful collaboration as frictionless as possible for our members, currently consisting of 19 boroughs, the Greater London Authority and London Councils, an organisation that represents all London boroughs.

Our work falls into three themes. The first is **Developing Capabilities.** Under this heading, we've *helped recruit 100 digital apprentices; established three peer support networks for borough data professionals; run an intensive data science bootcamp with the Office for National Statistics; and helped boroughs understand how they can improve their procurement processes to get better value from the technologies they use.* Over the next year, we'll be looking at how boroughs can make the most of hybrid working, and boost cyber security together.

Our second theme is **Service Innovation**. *Much of this work concerns making better use of data.* We've spent considerable time developing common foundations to make data sharing easier, developing a common methodology for data projects, standardising information governance tools and approaches, and encouraging all boroughs to use the London DataStore as their data sharing platform of choice.

This year, we'll be helping boroughs embed data ethics into their everyday practices while running a series of projects to show how data can improve service delivery.

Another strand of this theme is **digital inclusion**. As a result of the pandemic, virtually every aspect of life is now expected to be conducted online, from work to socialising, and from education to shopping. Those who are not online are more disadvantaged than ever. With new funding from the GLA, LOTI will be working to address key factors that lead to digital exclusion. To date, *we've used data to map digital exclusion across the capital and crowdsourced more than 100 examples of London-based digital inclusion initiatives*. More details can be found on our Digital Inclusion Innovation Programme page.

The final theme is **Smarter London**. Fulfilling the full potential of smart city tools and approaches depends on collaboration. Without some coordination, there's a risk that each borough implements a completely different approach, creating new data silos and preventing the creation of insights and services that can work across boundaries to benefit all Londoners. To that end, we'll shortly be publishing a guide to designing smart city projects. We'll also be supporting more practical projects, like our work to standardise the way data about electric vehicle charging points is shared across London.

One of the most common expressions you'll hear across the LOTI community is **"Collaboration is really hard, but it's also worth it."** *We look forward to taking part in the BCS NLB Innovation Hub to learn and share with others who also see the incredible potential of using collaboration to make things better. For more information about LOTI, visit our website or follow us on Twitter.*

**Eddie Copeland**
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## SPOTLIGHT:
## London Tech Advocates

**Russ Shaw CBE is the founder of Tech London Advocates and Global Tech Advocates**. Russ created TLA in 2013 to create **a campaigning body for the tech private sector as London's tech city was starting to explode**. Now, this has become *a movement of more than 10,000 tech leaders across the UK volunteering their time to champion the UK as a global tech hub and campaign to address challenges facing tech companies in the UK*.

Over the last eight years, TLA and GTA have delivered major campaigns around diversity and inclusion, visas for international tech talent, access to funding, broadband and infrastructure and **Tech for Net Zero**. Russ advises Government, corporations and startups on a diverse range of issues relating to tech startups and scaleups and tech ecosystems around the world. Most recently **TLA campaigned for tech to be put at the forefront of the Mayor of London's policies, for minority representation in tech leadership to better reflect the UK population and for tech to play a greater role in reducing carbon emissions in the lead up to this year's COP26 summit**.

After Brexit, Russ committed to connecting UK tech to leading tech ecosystems around the world. He has established 20 Global Tech Advocates networks in tech hubs such as Singapore, Tokyo, Shanghai, the Bay Area, Bogotá and multiple destinations in Europe to increase collaboration with the UK. **GTA is now a global movement that spans 20,000 tech leaders and all five continents around the world.**

**Russ Shaw CBE**
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