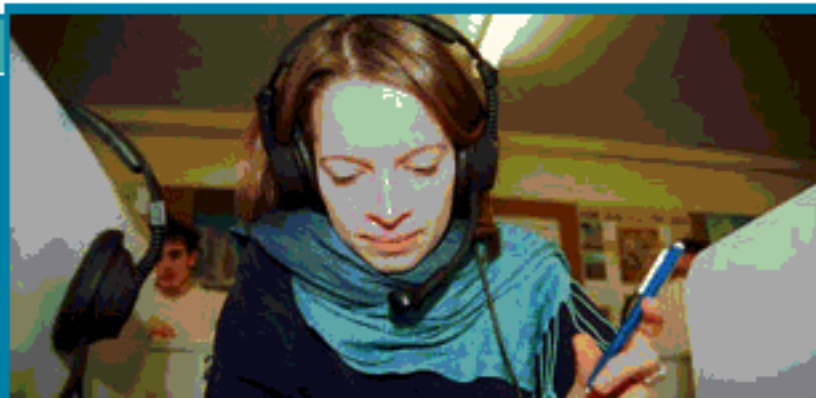


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## Napier graduate wins Software Engineer of the Year award

16 September 2004

**A Napier computing student has scooped a ScotlandIS Young Software Engineer of the Year Award for his research into hidden internet communications.**

David Llamas (37), a BSc (Hons) in Software Technology graduate from Barcelona, was recently presented with the £1,000 second prize at the Scotsoft event in Edinburgh.

David's project - Covert Channels Analysis and Data Hiding in the TCP/IP protocol suite - has demonstrated that terrorists and criminals can breach security measures and send messages hidden within seemingly innocent data communications that cannot be detected by the UK's intelligence agencies.

David's research is a major step forward in creating a system which could detect these hidden messages which would be a huge boon to the global fight against terrorism.

His project has led to two further research applications by Napier and work with the Police Information Technology Office which is responsible for developing systems which enhance the detection of crime in the UK.

Dr Bill Buchanan, reader at Napier's School of Computing, who nominated David for the prize, said: "We are extremely proud of David's achievement and this is a prestigious award for everyone involved. David's research has sparked huge interest and could lead to a system being developed which could detect covert terrorist and criminal activity.

"The School of Computing at Napier has some of the most advanced networking equipment and software development facilities, and has had research published in many respected conferences and journals. It has also recently won several national awards for excellence, and David is a fine example of the quality of our students and research."

David Llamas, Young Software Engineer of the Year award winner, said: "I am delighted to have won this award. Internet security and the hiding of information is an important area of research which is not just of interest to intelligence agencies and the police, but also to organisations affected by industrial espionage."

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