

## **Experts discuss new ways to fight cybercrime**

International Experts met today at the University of Wolverhampton's School of Computing and IT to discuss new ways of tackling the growing problem of Cybercrime.

Wolverhampton and Walsall were recently cited as some of the UK's hotspots for on-line fraud. The recent personal data breach by Sandwell Council highlights that there is still a lack of awareness in protecting personal data.

The event was co-hosted with the UK Academy of Information Systems and the National e-Crime Prevention Centre. The current problems were outlined by David Wall – Professor of Criminal Justice and Information Technology at Leeds University. Particular issues related to child-abuse on-line were presented by Catherine Dawson of The University of the Fraser Valley, Canada.

The conference went on to examine proposals to address the problems from the perspective of the IT industry, legislation, law enforcement and government led partnerships.

Proposed changes to European Data Protection Laws to meet today's IT environment were presented by Professor Russ Davis who is working with the European Committee for Standardisation with the European Union in Brussels. The recently published cybercrime strategy for law enforcement was presented by Ken Rabey from the National e-Crime Prevention Centre based at the University of Wolverhampton. He commented "while the proposed National Fraud Reporting Centre and Police Central e-Crime Unit are welcome tools in the fight against cybercrime, an investment of £7.4 million over 3 years is not enough to address the problem. More needs to be invested to raise individual and company awareness of how to protect themselves on the Internet"

Cliff Evans the UK, Head of Security and Privacy at Microsoft Ltd gave a welcome perspective on what the major IT suppliers are doing to reduce security problems with operating systems and software.

Microsoft will also be launching free anti-virus software "Microsoft Security Essentials" for download soon.



Pictured from Left to Right Ann Latham (Associate Dean of School of Computing and UKAIS board member), Cliff Evans (Microsoft Ltd), Russ Davis (European Commission), Catherine Dawson (University of Fraser Valley, Canada), Ken Rabey (National e-Crime Prevention Centre).