



**Thursday, 21 June 2012, 11am**  
**Mr John Howie, Doctor of Technology**

Laureation by Professor Bill Buchanan,  
Director of Centre for Distributed Computing, Networks, and Security

Chancellor, it is my privilege to present John Howie for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Technology.

Computer security is currently one of the key challenges within Computing - without it our digital economy will not have a solid foundation, and will face many new risks.

Over the years, John has become a world-leading expert and visionary in computer security. He has worked at the highest level in his field within Microsoft's Redwood headquarters, and now heads a world-leading security alliance on cloud-based systems.

As we move into an information age, we are all becoming increasingly dependent on the Internet in our social and business lives. A fundamental part of this change is the need for information infrastructures which are secure, robust and scaleable.

Like it or not, our lives are being transformed, and the increasing usage of mobile devices and Cloud Computing are changing the way that we socialise and do business. In a world which now has over 6 billion mobile phones, the demand for integration into the Internet increases by the day. But this dependence brings new risks, for which John has provided global leadership by creating more dynamic and secure infrastructures.

John graduated from Edinburgh Napier University in 1991 with an Honours Degree in Computing, and even at that stage showed his potential by receiving an IBM award for the best project.

Up to 2003, he was the President of Security Toolkit LLC which worked with clients on Digital Rights Management (DRM) and Digital Asset Management (DAM) systems. He also worked on digital watermarking solutions to protect intellectual property belonging to Hollywood movie studios.

After this John became the Director of the Security Community and Security Center of Excellence in Microsoft, where he was responsible for managing a world-wide virtual community, consisting of services professionals, pre-sales engineers, and Microsoft IT staff with a passion for information security.

This then led onto a Directorship of the Trustworthy Computing Group, with a responsibility for the roll out and adoption of Trustworthy Computing Group's Government Elite-targeted campaigns covering accessibility, critical infrastructure protection, environmental sustainability, online safety and privacy to subsidiaries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

He currently leads the Computer Security Alliance (CSA), and was recently the Senior Director for Online Services Security and Compliance with Global Foundation Services at Microsoft. His most recent role at Microsoft focused on identity management, threat and vulnerability management, incident response, and security architecture and advisory functions, with day-to-day responsibility for the security of the Microsoft Cloud Computing platforms and infrastructure.

His Directorship at Microsoft has also required providing expertise to develop campaign collateral, comment on draft legislation and review proposed statutory and regulatory positions.

But no matter what is required from John, he has always found time for his graduate school, whether to review modules, advise on programme developments, integrate with knowledge transfer, or for discussions on research collaboration. John has also helped in enabling contacts for new research proposals, one of which has now led to the creation of an innovative e-Health Platform, which uses cloud computing to create patient-centric and holistic health care infrastructures.

John continues to visit the university and lecture to students. He also continues to help Edinburgh Napier students, and encourage them for their future careers. This helps stimulate them, and see how visionary people such as John, an ex-Edinburgh Napier graduate, can lead the field. The material he presents also typically gives them a lead over other graduates.

John has also helped extensively in the creation of the Scottish Centre of Excellence in Security and Cybercrime, which now has support from a wide range of stakeholders in Scotland, including from the Scottish Government, and which will further protect our citizens from the risks faced within a digital world, while promoting innovation and enterprise around computer security.

He is leading the way with new and exciting changes within computing, such as in cloud computing and integrated security, and advises governments and organisations at the highest level.

Computer security is a major issue within businesses and, especially, for individuals. John has considerably contributed to society with enhanced security infrastructures which aim to protect users from the damage that malicious agents can cause. This fully supports the development of digital economies and will help support everyone around the world, no matter their background, status or economic situation, while protecting them from data lossage and fraud.

Chancellor, in recognition of his major contribution to the advancement of secure digital infrastructures and in aiding teaching and research activities within Scotland, I invite you to confer on Mr John Howie the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Technology.