

KMDiary Volume 12: Issue #6—June 2011

The KMDiary is an electronic newsletter for sharing ideas and information of interest to the community of the Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI), a multidisciplinary unit of the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. Feel free to post widely, and please leave the KMDI signature for our recognition. Subscribe to the monthly KMDiary [here](#) and unsubscribe with the link at the end of this document. The current issue is available online as a [PDF file](#).

We rely on contributions from our members; please forward relevant activities and articles to the Editor, Aadila Dosani, at adosani@kmdi.utoronto.ca. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is Friday August 5, 2011. Thank you.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

[KMDI SENIOR RESEARCHER PAUL SALVINI JOINS CHRISTIE AS CTO](#)



KMDI Senior Researcher, **Paul Salvini** Joins Christie as New Chief Technology Officer (CTO). Christie®, a world leader in visual technology displays, today announced that Paul Salvini has joined the company in the role of Chief Technology Officer (CTO), reporting to Gerry Remers, President & COO, Christie Digital Systems Canada Inc.

Based in the company's Kitchener office, Dr. Salvini will guide the systems and software direction of Christie, both for current offerings and for new growth platforms, including exploration of new concepts and technologies designed to benefit Christie's extensive, global customer base.

“Paul's industry-focused, 20-year career experience to date, combined with his impressive academic credentials and extensive community involvement, have uniquely prepared him to contribute to the next phase of Christie's growth,” said Remers. “In particular, his experience with bringing to market total solutions comprised of application software, systems and services will serve us in good stead as we expand our business.”

Formerly CTO at Side Effects Software, Dr. Salvini has led award-winning teams of engineers and software developers in bringing to market advanced visualization, simulation and display

technologies. His work with 3D animation for major Hollywood film studios and his expertise in turning complex data sets into visualization solutions for defence and academic entities plays well to major Christie customer sets.

No stranger to the academic world, Dr. Salvini is President of the University of Waterloo Alumni Council and holds appointments as Adjunct Professor of Engineering and KMDI Senior Research Fellow at the University of Toronto. He serves on a number of boards relating to digital media research in the areas of graphics, information visualization, and 3D film innovation. Dr. Salvini moves into the position previously held by Bob Rushby, Christie's long-time CTO and VP of research and development and co-inventor of Christie® MicroTiles™, who retired in February 2011.

Congratulations Paul! We wish you nothing but the best in all of your future endeavors!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCLUHAN100 PRESENTS "UNDERGROUND TAROT" **(Monday July 18, 2011 – Sunday July 24, 2011)**



Sponsored by McLuhan100, Critical Art Ensemble's (CAE) *Underground Tarot* features 24 ten-second mini commercials called "Underground Tarot." Caught in the subway, passengers will be confronted with these clips, which blame everyone and no one at the same time. This is a careful strategy being used by CAE for showing in the potentially censorious environment of the TTC. A strategy they liken to the use of Sci-Fi in the 50s, or Andy Warhol's "death and disaster" series in the 60s, or a tarot deck, the icons of which mean everything and nothing. The design strategy is low budget, like locally made commercials –

made to fit into the advertising that already exists.

The project will screen once every 10 minutes all day around the inaugural McLuhan Legacy Network Festival, July 18–24, 2011. It will be seen across the City of Toronto on 300 screens located on 60 platforms throughout the subway system.

Keep your eyes open so you can be sure to be kept entertained on your TTC commute!

DESIGNMEETS ... MCLUHAN AND YOU

(Thursday July 21, 2011, 5:30pm – 7:00pm, Coach House, University of Toronto)

Mc Luhan100

As McLuhan foresaw, the expanding ubiquity of digital media is reshaping the very fabric of society. What matters are not the (so-often fetishized) technologies, digital and social media, patterns of communication, or effects of information on society. What matters are the

ways we respond. Probes: How will we fashion discourse, community, culture, authority & expertise? What will be the cartographies of learning, responsibility, and compassion in this digitally mediated landscape? What will happen to learning, to inquiry, to critical intellectual debate? Will it continue to be subserved by the university? What are the effects of technology on culture, on knowledge, on humanity? What, if any, implications does this have for the very idea of 'University' in the 21st Century?

Join DesignMeets for birthday cake, drinks and conversation at the Coach House, to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Marshall McLuhan in the very place where he held his legendary Monday night seminars. We'll be exploring the points of collision between the probes (listed above) and the design community.

[RSVP NOW!](#)

Submission Deadline: Friday July 29, 2011

[CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: THE IADIS CELDA 2011](#)

(Sunday November 6 – Wednesday November 8, 2011, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)



The IADIS
International
Conference on
Cognition and
Exploratory
Learning in Digital
Age (CELDA 2011)

aims to address the main issues concerned with evolving learning processes and supporting pedagogies and applications in the digital age.

There have been advances in both cognitive psychology and computing that have affected the educational arena. The convergence of these two disciplines is increasing at a fast pace and affecting academia and professional practice in many ways. Paradigms such as just-in-time learning, constructivism, student-centred learning and collaborative approaches have emerged and are being supported by technological advancements such as simulations, virtual reality and multi-agents systems. These developments have created both opportunities and areas of serious concerns.

This conference aims to cover both technological as well as pedagogical issues related to these developments. Main tracks have been identified. However innovative contributions that do not easily fit into these areas will also be considered as long as they are directly related to the overall theme of the conference – cognition and exploratory learning in the digital age.

Types of submissions

Full papers, Short papers and Reflection papers. All submissions will go through a double-blind refereeing process with at least two international experts.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to the following areas

- Acquisition of expertise
- Assessing progress of learning in complex domains
- Assessment of exploratory learning approaches
- Assessment of exploratory technologies
- Cognition in education
- Collaborative learning
- Educational psychology
- Exploratory technologies (such as simulations, VR, i-TV and so on)
- Just-in-time and Learning-on-Demand
- Learner Communities and Peer-Support
- Learning Communities & Web Service Technologies
- Pedagogical Issues Related with Learning Objects
- Learning Paradigms in Academia
- Learning Paradigms in Corporate Sector
- Life-long Learning
- Student-Centered Learning
- Technology and mental models
- Technology, learning and expertise
- Virtual University

For a list of Committee Members, [Click here!](#)

Submission Deadline: Friday August 12, 2011

[CALL FOR SUBMISSION: CASCON 2011 TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE](#)

(Monday November 7, 2011 – Thursday November 10, 2011)



CASCON 2011 is the 21st Annual International Conference hosted by the [Centre for Advanced Studies Research](#), IBM Canada Software Laboratory. This "Meeting of Minds" provides an exciting forum for exchanging ideas and experiences in the ever-expanding and critical fields of software engineering and computing. The CASCON 2011 program will include keynote presentations; technical papers; position papers; workshops; and a technology showcase. The technical papers program will feature experience reports and original research papers. The technology showcase will feature poster presentations and demonstrations on research in progress. As such, CASCON 2011 will be an excellent venue for presenting original work, exchanging new ideas, sharing results and experiences, and networking with over 1300 researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government.

Technology and Capability Themes

- Business Intelligence and Business Analytics
- Cloud Computing and Infrastructure
- Dynamic Business Process Management and Smart SOA
- Information Management Technologies
- Next Generation Systems

- Smart Interactions
- Software Development Platform and Tools
- Social Technologies

New this year, CAS Research is proud to introduce **Integrated Solutions:**

- Smarter Commerce
- Smarter Healthcare
- Software Delivery Platform

For details about these themes, please visit: the [IBM Canada CAS Research page](#).

Exhibits on emerging technologies not explicitly listed as a CAS Research technology theme are also strongly encouraged.

Evaluation Criteria

The Technology Showcase Committee will review each exhibit proposal and acceptance notices will be sent out by **Friday, August 19, 2011**. Acceptance will be based on an evaluation of the exhibit's potential for generating useful results, the timeliness and expected interest in the topic, and the organizers' ability and availability to present the exhibit during the Showcase.

Exhibits proposals can be submitted [HERE](#).

NOTE: if you haven't already registered for CASCON, you first need to do that [HERE](#).

[ROTMAN DESIGNWORKS INTENSIVE](#)

(Monday September 26 – Wednesday September 28, 2011)



Rotman DesignWorks and Rotman Executive Programs, both at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, have partnered to create a three-day, intensive business design program, based on the practice that integrates design and business methods into a framework for creating human and economic value.

Business Design is a disciplined methodology and a leading-edge way of thinking that takes the best principles and practices from the world of design, and applies them to business strategy. It is about the application of design principles and design thinking to difficult business problems with the goal to drive innovation. With the vision of the Dean Roger Martin and the leadership of Heather Fraser, Director of Rotman DesignWorks, the Rotman School has launched successful Business Design courses in the Rotman MBA program as well as specialized courses for executives and organizations. DesignWorks Singapore was successfully launched last year in partnership with Singapore Polytechnic to further promote the practice of Business Design as a platform for enterprise innovation and growth.

“The course addresses today's business challenge to manage the present while concurrently creating

a future of growth and sustained success,” says Heather Fraser, Director of Rotman DesignWorks. “Innovation is essential in creating future value and organizations need practical ways to ignite teams and frame a road map for future success.”

Preliminary registration for the program is available [HERE](#) and further information about Business Design at the Rotman School is online at [Rotman Businessdesign](#).

THE VIRTUAL WATER COOLER: AROUND THE COMMUNITY

[RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM ON THE DIGITAL ECONOMY](#)



On May 31, 2011, The National Research Council of Canada held an event entitled “Research Symposium on the Digital Economy” featuring Dr. Chad Gaffield, President of SSHRC that

has started a very engaging conversation within the Digital Media Community – Industry and Academic.

Event Abstract: Today almost every activity in society is implicated in some way in the digital economy. Individuals, communities, organizations and governments have the ability to connect virtually using digital technologies, to access relevant information and knowledge, and to use digital content effectively and appropriately. Broadband networks connect remote and rural communities and urban centres across the country and globally. Using these networks and technologies we are changing our approach to learning, work, business, service delivery, interaction, knowledge sharing, and the production and exchange of cultural goods.

This event will feature a keynote address on the digital economy by Chad Gaffield, President of SSHRC. Researchers from the social sciences and humanities community and the National Research Council will present new research that contributes understanding about how digital technologies are changing Canada and research building new technologies to support and enable these changes. Everyone is welcome.

Click [HERE](#) to view a video archive of the “Research on the Digital Economy” Colloquium.

UPDATES FROM INTENATIONALLY BOUND [NINA CZEGLÉDY!](#)



Nina Czeglédý was invited as a Keynote Speaker to the [InSEA 33 Word Congress](#) in Budapest. The International Society for Education through Art (InSEA) is a non-governmental organization of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

On June 29, 2011, Nina presented on “Data Visualization by Artists” to the 600 members from 61 countries at InSEA. She also

gave a talk on "Data Visualization in Art Education" at the same Congress.

Congratulations on all of your wonderful accomplishments Nina!

HONOURABLE MENTION FOR KMDI MEMBER BARRY WELLMAN!

The Park and Adams awards give a Honorable mention (2nd prize) from the American Sociological Association's Community and Urban Sociology section's "Jane Adams Best Paper Award" to **Diana Mok**, University of Western Ontario, **Barry Wellman**, University of Toronto, and **Juan Carrasco**, University of Concepción, 2010. "Does Distance Matter in the Age of the Internet?" Urban Studies 47(13): 2747-2783.

Congratulations on your tremendous success!

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO A TOP EMPLOYER FOR CANADIANS OVER 40



The 2011 list, produced by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers, recognizes those organizations whose policies and programs address the unique concerns of employees over 40.

"We're very pleased with this news," said Professor **Angela Hildyard**, vice-president (human resources and equity). "We know from our most recent employee survey that our faculty and staff are extremely proud to work here, and this external recognition further demonstrates our commitment to creating, and maintaining, a great workplace for all our employees."

Hildyard also noted that U of T has many long-serving employees - including almost 1,000 people who have spent more than 25 years here. "Our employees continue to make enormously valuable contributions to the University and to their areas of academic and professional interest right up until, and indeed sometimes past, their retirement dates. Ensuring that our programs and policies support employees at all stages of their lives and careers is an important component of our ability to retain excellent faculty and staff".

In the past year, U of T was also named one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2011, one of the 2011 Top GTA Employers, and in February, named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers.

Source: 7 June 2011, University of Toronto Bulletin

UTM STUDENT AMONG TOP 20 UNDER 20



When **Ben Kim** arrived in Canada from Korea in 2001, he barely spoke any English, but he didn't let that stop him. The young musician let his cello do the talking for him until he learned the language. Today, that love of music has earned him the honour of being one of Youth in Motion's Top 20 Under 20, an award celebrating youth who have demonstrated a significant level innovation, leadership and achievement.

"It's really amazing to be with such amazing individuals," said Kim. The youthful member of the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra believes music is for sharing with others and he regularly plays at seniors' homes and for children with special needs. "I give access to music to those who don't have it," he said.

Recently, he took these passions one step further, working with some friends he'd made at the renowned Shad Valley science-entrepreneurial camp to create 'Musicians Without Borders' Canada. He and his buddies each organized a 'Music Without Borders' chapter locally. They hosted fundraisers, benefit concerts and arts festivals across the country and raised \$10,000 to purchase a cargo van for the Ugandan village of Tekera, funds the community used to buy an ambulance. This year, he and his friends plan to continue their work at universities across the country, creating chapters of 'Musicians Without Borders' to raise funds for incubators at a neonatal intensive care unit in Peru.

Congratulations Ben! You are truly an inspiration to us all!

Source: 2 June 2011, University of Toronto Bulletin

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PHD STUDENT SPREADS LOVE FOR SCIENCE



Julie Mason (left), a PhD student in nutritional sciences, has been selected to receive the National coordinator Award from Let's Talk Science, the charitable science outreach organization that uses post-secondary student volunteers to engage children and youth and show them the joys of science.

"I really love science and think it's very exciting," said Mason. "It's important that everyone understands that science plays a major role in our lives. Working with Let's Talk Science allows me to do my part to improve the science literacy in the general public."

During her two years as a coordinator for the St. George campus, Mason has helped to triple the number of university students working as volunteers, making it possible to reach many more youth.

“For a graduate student, it’s a great way to take what you do day-to-day at the lab bench and make it meaningful to children and youth,” she said. “You can give back to the community and build connections with other graduate students at the university.”

Source: 6 June 2011, University of Toronto Bulletin

UOFT RESEARCHERS WIN \$32M TO TACKLE HEALTH CHALLENGES

The CHRP Program supports focused interdisciplinary collaborative research projects and is jointly funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC). It supports projects that will lead to health benefits for Canadians, more effective health services and health-related economic development.

Grants have been awarded to teams led by:



Timothy Chan (mechanical and industrial engineering) for “Adaptive and robust radiation therapy treatment planning for lung cancer.”

Warren Chan (biomaterials and biomedical engineering) for “Engineering low-cost nanotechnology based molecular diagnostics using paper.”

Andrew Jardine (mechanical and industrial engineering) for “Risk factors and optimization model for breast cancer screening.”

Maurice Ringuette (cell and systems biology) for “Development of SPARC mimetic peptides for targeting peritoneal metastasis of epithelial ovarian cancer.”

Molly Shoichet (biomaterials and biomedical engineering and chemical engineering and applied chemistry) for “Bioengineered cell delivery system.”

Thomas Waddell (surgery) for “Advanced tissue engineering strategies for generating replacement tracheal tissues.”

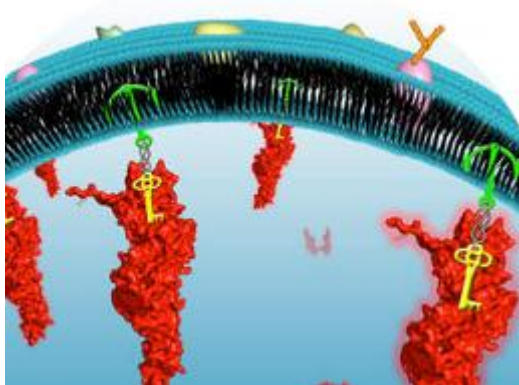
Andrei Yudin (chemistry) for “Specific and cell-permeable molecular probes of capital function.”

“The collaborative health research projects program supports interdisciplinary research that is focused on finding innovative solutions to challenges in health-related fields. Being at the forefront of discovery and innovation, there is no doubt that the impact of this research will be felt here in Canada and across the world,” said **Suzanne Fortier**, president of NSERC.

Congratulations on all your hard work!

Source: 9 June 2011, University of Toronto Bulletin

[MOLECULAR GLUE STICKS IT TO CANCER](#)



Imagine dropping dish soap into a sink full of greasy water. What happens? As soon as the soap hits the water, the grease recoils-and retreats to the edges of the sink. Now, what if the sink was a cancer cell, the globs of grease were cancer – promoting proteins and the dish soap was a potential drug? According to new research from the University of Toronto Mississauga, such a drug could force the proteins to the cell's membrane (a.k.a., the edge of the sink) and make the cancer cell more vulnerable to chemotherapy.

"This is a totally new approach to cancer therapy," says Professor **Patrick Gunning** of the Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences. "Everything prior to this has targeted functionally relevant binding sites. Our approach inhibits the mobility of cancer-promoting proteins within cells. Essentially, it's like molecularly targeted glue."

Gunning says that by sticking the target proteins to the cell membrane, the glue-like substance interferes with how they cause cancer cells to multiply out of control. "This is ready to move to preclinical studies, and this treatment could slow or stop the explosive growth of cancerous tumours. And for patients, this might reduce the need for really powerful chemotherapy, which can be very hard to tolerate."

Source: 22 June 2011, University of Toronto Bulletin

[UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ENGINEERS CRACK SOLOAR CHALLENGE!](#)



University of Toronto Engineers, led by Professor **Ted Sargent** (electrical and computer engineering), report the first efficient tandem solar cell based on colloidal quantum dots (CQD). "The U of T device is a stack of two light-absorbing layers – one tuned to capture the sun's visible rays, the other engineered to harvest the half of the sun's power that lies in the infrared," said lead coauthor **Dr. Xihua Wang**.

The team pioneered solar cells made using CQDs, nanoscale materials that can readily be tuned to respond to specific wavelengths of the visible and invisible spectrum. By capturing such a broad range of light waves – wider than normal solar cells – tandem CQD solar cells can in principle reach up to 42% efficiencies. The best single-junction solar cells are constrained to a maximum of 31% efficiency. In reality, solar cells that are on the roofs of houses and in consumer products have 14 to 18% efficiency. The work expands the Toronto team's world-leading 5.6 % efficient colloidal quantum dot solar cells.

Click [HERE](#) to watch Professor Ted Sargent describe the first efficient tandem solar cell based on colloidal quantum dots (CQD)!

Source: 27 June 2011, University of Toronto Bulletin

[UOFT GRAD STUDENT WINS AWARD FOR PAPER ON IMB INDUSTRY](#)



Tackling the stereotyped concept of 'mail-order brides' and international marriage broker agencies (IMB), **Alex Rowilson** has been awarded the 2011 Canadian Women's Studies Graduate Student Paper Award for his paper *Negotiated Nuptials: A Transnational Analysis of the International Marriage Broker Industry and the Russian 'Mail-Order Bride'*.

"I wanted to show the many shades of grey of the IMB industry instead of painting it in the stark colours of black and white that predominate depictions and explorations of the industry, both in the popular media and academic settings," says Rowilson.

In the paper, Rowilson explains that the stereotypes associated with 'mail-order brides' obscure the actual motivations people have for using IMBs. One is that they are often viewed as victims of abusive males, both in their birth countries and adopted countries. Rowilson conducted his research over about two months, drawing from newspaper reports, IMB websites, academic articles, law reviews and Erika Johnson's book *Dreaming of a Mail-Order Husband: Russian American Internet Romance*. He worked closely with Professor **Ashwini Tambe** in the class Transnational Gender Histories.

Congratulations Alex, on all your hard work!

Source: 21 June 2011, University of Toronto Bulletin

[THREE UOFT FACULTY AWARDED GRAND CHALLENGES PRIZES](#)



Three University of Toronto Faculty are among the first 19 recipients of the inaugural Canadian Rising Stars in Global Health initiative. The program is part of Grand Challenges Canada, a new global health organization funded by Canada's foreign aid budget. Its purpose is to fund research to address some of the most difficult global health issues. Canada is

the first country in the world to adopt a grand challenges approach to foreign aid.

Astrid Christoffersen-Deb (obstetrics and gynecology) for "mHealth for Maternal and Newborn Health: Clinical decision support for community health workers in Western Kenya".

Click [HERE](#) for a video summary on Astrid's work!

LaRon Nelson (Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing) for the "Kumasi & Accra Project to Prevent AIDS (KAPPA): A social network-based intervention to prevent HIV among men who have sex with men".

Click [HERE](#) for a video summary on LaRon's work!

David Sinton (mechanical and industrial engineering) for "Water and Power: Energy-efficient water purification developed for point-of-care and scaled for public health".

Click [HERE](#) for a video summary on David's work!

"These innovators are dedicated to bringing change to the world's poorest countries. They believe Canada has a leadership role in improving health conditions in the developing world. Collectively they are a source for pride for our country," said Dr. **Peter Singer**, chief executive officer for GCC, director of the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre and a professor in U of T's Faculty of Medicine.

Congratulations!!!

Source: 29 June 2011, University of Toronto Bulletin

OTHER NEWS

[MICROSOFT MAKES IT EASIER TO HACK THE KINECT](#)



Microsoft launched [Kinect for Windows](#), a software development kit that makes it easier for programmers to dream up new uses for its gesture-sensing hardware.

Kinect for Windows gives outside developers access to software that Microsoft uses to process Kinect data, and also interfaces smoothly with other Microsoft products, such as the Windows 7 and Windows 7 Phone operating systems. The device contains depth sensors, a camera, and an array of microphones. Hobbyists have used the Kinect to do everything from helping robots navigate to controlling unmanned flying drones with body movements.

"Today is a huge day for hackers and for Microsoft," says Philip Torrone, creative director at the open-source hardware company [Adafruit Industries](#) and co-founder of the [Open Kinect](#) project, which offered a \$3,000 bounty to the first person who developed software that gave other programmers access to the Kinect's functionality. "The hackers won the race to show how amazing 'unlocked' and freed hardware can be, and Microsoft won by ultimately embracing and celebrating

all the talented makers, hackers, and artists who have created with the hacked Kinect."

Source: 16 June 2011, MIT Technology Review

[ANDROID OR WINDOWS? NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE](#)



A startup called [BlueStacks](#) wants to end all your worrying about whether an app will run on a specific operating system. The software lets Android apps run on Windows, and lets Android apps run within the browser on Google's ChromeOS. It can run Windows on top of Android or vice versa. The company will make the software available for download, but it can also be built into apps, and will come preinstalled on some hardware. "We don't care about the operating system anymore," says BlueStacks CEO Rosen Sharma. "It's all about apps."

Ben Bjarin, director of consumer technology practice at the Silicon Valley consulting firm Creative Strategies, says BlueStacks will likely appeal to some consumers because it could help them "use the software [they] like, regardless of device." The product will appeal to developers, Bjarin says, because it helps them reach more people with an app. It also means that developers can build apps using the technologies common on mobile devices, and then easily get the same app running on a PC.

But Bjarin notes that BlueStacks goes further, "by leveraging some of the best parts of Windows and combining them with the good stuff from Android." It is possible for Android apps to use device drivers from Windows – meaning that an app could easily send a document to a printer. By marrying the two operating systems, Bjarin believes, BlueStacks could give users a better experience than they would get with either Windows or Android on their own.

Source: 9 June 2011, MIT Technology Review

[HOW DIVORCE LAWYERS USE SOCIAL NETWORKS](#)



Updates you've posted to Facebook and Twitter can present obvious problems when you're searching for a job or starting a new relationship. But a growing number of legal cases suggest this may be just the beginning – divorce lawyers are mining information on social networks to reveal cases of infidelity, hidden assets, and other "secret" aspects of a person's life.

Frank Rudewicz, principal and counsel for advisory services for Marcum LLP, says that information gleaned from blogs, social networks, and photo-sharing sites can provide crucial evidence for legal cases. A 2010 survey done by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers found that 81 percent of divorce attorneys had

increased their use of social media to gather evidence over the past five years. They named Facebook as their main source, followed by MySpace and Twitter.

Rudewicz says he has found hidden assets by searching for a subject's phone number on Craigslist, revealing, for example, posts in which the subject was trying to sell valuable antiques. Search engines designed specifically for Twitter or blogs can often yield valuable data as well, he adds. In terms of keeping information private, Rudewicz says, "The mob had it right—the only way they communicated was verbally, in the middle of the street."

Source: 1 July 2011, MIT Technology Review

COOL TOOLS

[TRACKING DOWN TWITTER'S BEST RUMOR SPREADERS](#)



Researchers at MIT's Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems are testing a search engine that identifies which posts on a given topic are likely to spread by studying the network of connections between users. The system, called Trumor, identifies people who are well-positioned to spread information, and uses this to weight the value of different posts on a given topic.

The team began by studying networks of retweets on Twitter. They grouped retweets by topic and looked at how they spread through the network. Once they had those networks, a clear pattern emerged, says Tauhid Zaman, a PhD candidate at MIT's Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems who was involved with the work. For each topic, they found "superstars"—highly connected individuals whose posts spread widely. The influence of these people was far greater than that of others within their network.

Once they found a method of identifying superstars, the researchers built an experimental search engine around the system. Trumor finds people with high rumor centrality scores for a given topic and weights their posts, yielding pieces of information that are most likely to spread. Users can select a topic they want to search and be directed to pieces of information that could prove popular. The system does identify popular accounts, such as that of Lady Gaga, but, Zaman adds, it also pulls up relative unknowns. He says Trumor is still in its early stages, but adds that tests suggest it does well at identifying timely, pertinent information.

Source: 8 June 2011, MIT Technology Review

[AN APP THAT LOOKS FOR SIGNS OF SICKNESS](#)



[Ginger.io](#), a startup spun out of the MIT Media Lab, aims to use data collected automatically from mobile phones to warn users and their physicians that they may be on the verge of a manic episode or a bout of debilitating illness. The company has developed a mobile-phone app called [DailyData](#) that analyzes information on the user's location and the frequency of calls and text messages to determine whether that person is having health problems.

"Changes in medication or mood are tied to communication and movement patterns," says Karan Singh, one of the company's founders. "When people fall into a cycle of depression, they tend to go into isolation and only call a couple of people." The DailyData app first creates a baseline model of a user's mobile-phone activity and then searches for deviations from that pattern. When the app detects behavioral changes, it will send out alerts, such as "You've been working harder on the weekends" or "You seem really stressed, is everything OK?"

Ginger.io plans to market its software to health-care providers, pharmaceutical companies, health insurers, large employers, and chronic-patient communities. "For a [health-care] provider or academic researchers, this might help them understand how people behave when they're symptomatic," says Anmol Madan, another of the company's cofounders. The company is working with Cincinnati Children's Hospital on a pilot study of patients with inflammatory bowel disorder and Crohn's disease, both painful intestinal conditions. Physicians will try to determine whether behavior changes prior to a flare-up.

Source: 21 June 2011, MIT Technology Review

[PLANT A NEW LANGUAGE IN YOUR MIND WITH...MEMRISE!](#)



A world memory champion and a neuroscientist have joined forces to create a language-learning website called [Memrise](#), which combines mnemonic tricks with a game to help users learn quickly and efficiently. Its carefully paced learning structure and competitive points system, the app's developers believe, make their site more effective than other language-learning tools. "Learning should always be emotional; you should always be delighted and proud of what you've learned," says Memrise cofounder and memory champion Ed Cooke.

The Memrise learning method is based on three principles. The first, Cooke says, is one of the most important aspects of memory training: vivid encoding. The second principle of Memrise's approach is to remind users systematically. Using an algorithm developed by neuroscientist and cofounder Greg Detre, the app is designed so "plants," or

words, wilt when not tended to. The final Memrise principle is adaptive testing, which means that questions vary in difficulty according to the user's performance.

"No other app uses more than one or two of these memory principles," says Cooke, referring to the three principles behind Memrise. Most rely solely on "non-choreographed" testing, he says, and fail to encourage users to recall newly acquired words. "It seems to work relatively well for teaching vocabulary," says Luis von Ahn, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University and co-creator of a game-based language-learning website called [Duolingo](#). "But that's only a small part of learning a language."

Source: 23 June 2011, MIT Technology Review

[A TABLET THAT WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE DESKTOP](#)



The latest entrant in the increasingly crowded tablet computing field, Cisco's Cius, is bulkier than the iPad, and has a smaller screen, but it packs a number of tricks all of its own, designed to woo business users.

A Cius tablet makes a user's desk number mobile, enabling people to make and receive voice and video calls anywhere, if their company has a Cisco phone system. The tablet features HD-quality cameras in front and in back and can be used with a Bluetooth

headset for more private calling. The tablet can also be used as a desktop videoconferencing device when docked on a special desktop phone, and can smoothly switch between a Wi-Fi and cellular network connection. That dock can also be plugged into a monitor keyboard and mouse to act like a desktop computer. "It can replace my desktop operating system," says Tom Puorro, senior director for Cisco's collaboration technologies.

The Cius runs Google's Android mobile operating system, which is used on a rapidly growing number of smart phones and tablets as well. A person can use the tablet's own OS or Windows even via a virtual desktop that runs in the cloud. The tablet's powerful 1.6GHz Intel Atom processor allows desktop-like performance when hooked up to a keyboard, mouse and monitor. Although the Cius may not seem competitive with Apple's iPad 2 to consumers, to businesses concerned about their security it likely has distinct advantages.. "With Android, Cisco could go in at a low level and change how the device is managed so a company can manage everything for the user."

Source: 29 June 2011, MIT Technology Review

PUBLICATIONS

[MINISTER PARADIS AND MINISTER OF STATE GOODYEAR WELCOME STATE OF THE NATION REPORT BY SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COUNCIL](#)



Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Industry, and the **Honourable Gary Goodyear**, Minister of State (Science and Technology), today received *Imagination to Innovation: Building Canadian Paths to Prosperity*, the second State of the Nation report from the Science, Technology and Innovation Council (STIC). The report charts Canada's innovation performance and provides benchmarks to measure innovation on an international scale.

"Innovation is a complex economic process and a key driver of productivity and competitiveness," said Minister

Paradis. "Our government wants to sustain the sources of future growth and help Canadians secure high-wage jobs in the knowledge economy. In benchmarking Canada's innovation performance, this report points to where we need to focus our attention. I would like to thank council members for their hard work."

Imagination to Innovation puts a focus on business innovation and the ways in which different participants in the innovation system work in partnership. The report looks at product, process and organizational innovation, as well as investments in information and communications technologies.

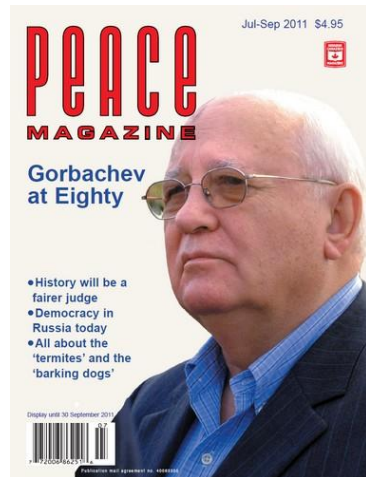


"Making sure that Canadians have every opportunity to get their ideas from the labs to the marketplace is critical for Canada's future economic growth," said Minister of State Goodyear. "This report, along with the report of the Research and Development Review Expert Panel, will provide our government with important advice as we continue to implement the science and technology strategy and seek ways of maximizing the results of private sector innovation."

STIC was appointed by the government in 2007. It is composed of 18 highly accomplished individuals from the research, education, business and government communities from across Canada. The council's mandate is to provide the Minister of Industry with evidence-based policy advice on science, technology and innovation issues.

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of *Imagination to Innovation*.

[EGYPT: THE FIRST INTERNET REVOLT?](#)



KMDI Member and Netlab Director Professor Barry Wellman collaborated with undergraduate student **Xiaolin Zhuo** and just-graduated student **Justine Yu** an article assessing the role of information and communication tech in the recent Egyptian revolt.

The article developed as a spinoff from Justine Yu and Xiaolin Zhuo's work on the Egypt revolt subsection of the Networked book Lee Rainie and Professor Wellman have just drafted.

The article was further stimulated by Zeynep Tufekci and others smart blogging and tweeting about the revolt, Mike Schwartz's smart Peace magazine article, and negative reactions to the overstatements yea/nay about the role of the internet and mobile phones in the revolt.

It just appeared in the new July 2011 issue of Peace Magazine. Click [HERE](#) to view the article!

Professor Wellman would also like to thank Justine Yu for her fine work on the initial draft, and Xiaolin Zhuo for heroic work on getting the article done – and done nicely.

Congratulations & thank you Barry, Justine & Xiaolin for this thought provoking article!

WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

[STRATEGIC INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS: HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA AND TRADITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS](#)

(Monday September 12, 2011 – Thursday September 15, 2011, Toronto, ON)



Attend this training to discover actionable tools and breakthrough strategies to help you leverage the power of social media and traditional communications to forge stronger employee engagement, drive bottom-line results, and prove your worth.

You'll learn practical advice from Scotiabank, Siemens Corporation, Health Canada, Omni Hotels & Resorts, Salesforce.com, Future Electronics, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Telecine Multimedia, Johns Hopkins Medicine, City of Kitchener, Ontario, Towers Watson, Edelman Change and Employee Engagement, PollStream, Prescient Digital Media, Douglas Communications Inc., Scala, Avanade Inc., Affect and Second City Communications.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

CONFERENCES

[EDINBURGH INTERACTIVE 2011](#)

(Thursday August 11 – Friday August 12, 2011, Edinburgh, UK)



Edinburgh Interactive brings a mix of business, education and fun through a focused industry conference, a selection of free public screenings of new games and technology plus public sessions and information on how to get involved in interactive entertainment.

Targeted at high level business professionals, the Edinburgh Interactive Conference brings together the crème de la crème of the interactive

entertainment industry, to discuss the current trends, opinions, and future of one of the fastest growing sectors of the creative economy.

Edinburgh Interactive offers public screenings of new games and technology, with the added extra of having access to sessions given from industry professionals, and information on education and careers in interactive entertainment.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

[THE GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE EUROPE \(GDC EUROPE\)](#)

(Monday August 15, 2011 – Friday August 19, 2011)



The Game Developers Conference Europe™ (GDC Europe) is the largest professionals-only game industry event in Europe. The GDC Europe will be held in conjunction with gamescom, the leading European consumer show, creating a full week of activity and opportunity for the games industry.

This confluence of industry professionals allows GDC Europe to address the development community at a central location in the heart of Europe, and command the critical mass of the European games sector. GDC Europe is the essential platform for learning, inspiration and networking for the creators of computer, console, handheld, mobile, social, and online games in Europe.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

[GROW 2011](#)

(Wednesday August 17, 2011 – Friday August 19, 2011, Vancouver, BC)



It doesn't matter if your business is on or offline, the next-gen entrepreneur knows where their customers are and how to engage them. Today's entrepreneurs are creating new opportunities, disrupting

age-old markets, leveraging technology on their path to being tomorrow's leaders.

The GROW Conference is bringing the best minds of Silicon Valley and Canada together to share lessons learned and inspire action. Be part of this entrepreneurial revolution as individuals and businesses from across Canada work together and with international talent to drive innovation into the future.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity! **[REGISTER NOW!](#)**

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED CONFERENCES

[CASUAL CONNECT SEATTLE](#)

(July 19 – 21, 2011, Seattle)

[DIGIFEST2011](#)

October 26 – 30, 2011, Toronto ON.

[11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HYBRID INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS \(HIS'11\)](#)

(December 5 – 8, 2011, Melaka, Malaysia)