

KMDiary Volume 12: Issue #7/8—July/August 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 **Wednesday September 28, 2011**. Thank you.

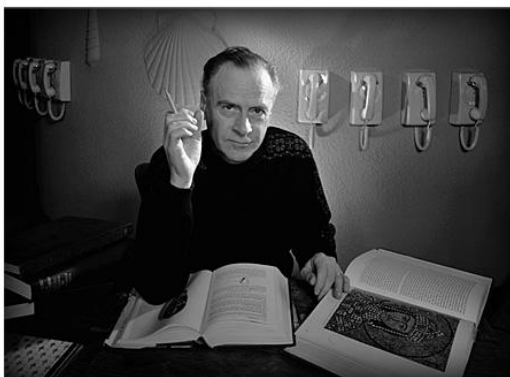
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

UOFT FACULTY OF INFORMATION MARKS MCLUHAN CENTENARY

Five decades later he would make his way into the North American psyche with his ideas about electronic media and the effects they would have on society and culture.

In this centenary year of McLuhan's birth, the world has already begun to celebrate his work and honour this extraordinary Canadian. Although much of the focus will be concerned with his theories on media -- and rightly so -- can we really have a complete picture of the man without considering the other elements that made up his life?



What was it like to grow-up in the orbit of Marshall McLuhan? Michael McLuhan, the youngest of McLuhan's children, remembers his father's ideas as the background of their lives. "We were brought up on this stuff," he said. "Every night at the dinner table he would mention his latest discoveries, astounding things every day, what a privilege, and Eric threw himself head first into the work with dad. That was my childhood."

As important as it is to reflect on McLuhan and his ideas, it is equally fitting to talk about the future and how his theories will shape and be shaped by the future.

This fall, the Faculty of Information plans to re-launch the Monday night seminars McLuhan was famous for and has begun to raise funds to renovate the Coach House - the original site of the seminars. They also plan to revitalize the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology by creating a master's program that focuses on culture and technology and the big questions posed by McLuhan.

"This year isn't just about celebrating what went before, what McLuhan did, his legacy," said Professor Seamus Ross, Dean of the Faculty of Information. "It's about building a platform for the continued development [of his ideas and the questions that he was asking us to ask about the world] in the decades to come."

When asked what he'd like people to know about his father, Michael McLuhan replied, "He was a great guy. I really think he was; he was inspirational."

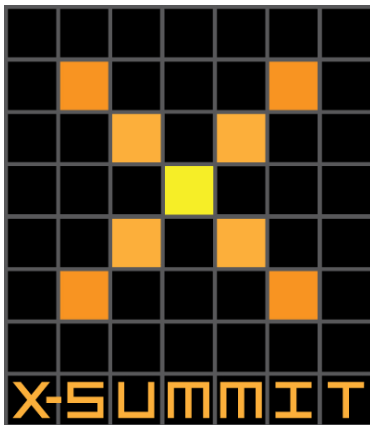
Source: University of Toronto Bulletin, 20 July 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submission Deadline: Friday September 9, 2011

[CALL FOR SPEAKERS: X SUMMIT](#)

(October 24 – 26, 2011, The Carlu, Toronto Ontario)



X-Summit is the evolution of IN: The Interactive Exchange, Interactive Ontario's highly successful, multiplatform conference which celebrated its fifth anniversary last fall. X-Summit is co-produced by the Computer Animation Studios of Ontario (CASO) with the Canadian Media Production Association (CMPA) as Lead Industry Partner.

This conference explores the future of cross-media content through active learning, hands-on workshops, round-table discussions, one-on-one meetings, dynamic panel discussions, cutting-edge demonstrations and networking opportunities.

We are looking for topics which cross several sectors and industries, and push the boundaries of how stories are told across multiple platforms. This conference will feature lectures, workshops, panel discussions, round table discussions & inspirational keynotes. X-Summit is taking proposals for presentations, panel discussions or other session ideas which will inform, inspire, spur collaboration and leave delegates with valuable new tools, connections and ideas!

Areas for consideration include: Mobile, Social Media, Games, Distribution, Production, New Platforms or Technologies, Creativity, Business, Research, Transmedia, Development, Interaction Design, Broadcast cross-overs, Augmented Reality -- if it crosses platforms, we want to hear from you!

SUBMIT NOW!

PAPER SUBMISSION FOR CHUSER 2011

(December 5 – 6, 2011; Penang, Malaysia)



Dear Researchers, Scientists, Engineers and Prospective Authors. It is our great pleasure to announce the 2011 IEEE Colloquium on Humanities, Science & Engineering Research (CHUSER 2011). The colloquium is organized to invite international delegates, to share their latest research findings besides getting to know Malaysia.

The Proceedings of 2011 IEEE Colloquium on Humanities, Science & Engineering Research (CHUSER 2011) will be included in the IEEE Xplore database leading to SCOPUS listing and other IEEE indexing partners.

Authors are invited to submit full papers describing original research. Areas of interest includes, but are not limited to the following conference tracks:

- Applied Sciences and Technologies
- Banking, Finance and Economics
- Built Environment
- Engineering Sciences and Industry Applications
- Frontiers in Education
- Healthcare and Lifescience Applications
- Humanities and Quality Of Life
- Information Technology and Computer Applications
- Management, Business and Logistics
- Mathematics, Statistics and Applications
- Administrative Science
- Social Implications of Technology

Please click [HERE](#) for more information!

CALL FOR PARTICIPATON FOR OPEN ACCESS WEEK (OPEN UOFT)

(October 24 – 28, 2011, University of Toronto)



Open UofT is held in conjunction with [International Open Access Week](#).

Open UofT highlights open scholarship. These events include discussion forums, lectures, seminars, workshops, and symposia on topical and timely issues from every

discipline. The Tri-Campus Scholarly Communication Group invites everyone to participate either by organizing events, highlighting events already coinciding with the Week, or attending events.

Call for Participation

- Are you developing new mechanisms to share your scholarship with a broader community?
- Are you using or creating open datasets to further work within your discipline?
- Are you creating freely-accessible resources to further your research or teaching?

We invite U of T researchers, faculty, students, and staff to present papers, case studies, open source demonstrations, organize a panel discussion or conduct a workshop, on any topic related to open scholarship. Suggested topics include but are not limited to: Open Access, Open Data, Open Education, Open Textbooks, Open Content, New models of scholarship, Scholarly Communication, Open access mandates, Open Source, Open Journals/books, OA Advocacy.

Click [HERE](#) to submit!

Application Deadline: Monday September 19, 2011

GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA: RISING STARTS IN GLOBAL HEALTH



This program aims to tap into the creativity, knowledge and skills of emerging Canadian innovators to solve some of the most persistent health challenges in the developing world through scientific/technological, business, and social innovation. They are looking for innovative ideas to address complex real-world challenges that involve a scientific or technological

solution (new or existing) alone or in combination with social and/or business innovations.

APPLY NOW!

Paper Submission Deadline: Monday September 19, 2011

IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TECH ENHANCED EDUCATION (ICTEE) (January 3 – 5, 2012, Amrita University, Amritapuri, Kerala, India)

2011 conference theme: Educational Technology for Societal Benefit

The mission of ICTEE 2012 is to provide an international forum for discussion and dissemination of recent innovations in the use of technology in education at both higher education and K-12 levels.

The theme of this conference is Educational Technology for Societal Benefit. This theme reflects the technological development occurring in the region and indeed worldwide, and the role of innovation in the sustainable application of technology in education.

We will involve highly reputed faculty and researchers from outstanding American, Indian, European and Australian Universities in the paper review process and in conference presentations.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite the submission of original papers reporting high quality new academic or industry, innovative research in the area of Educational Technologies.

Click [HERE](#) for suggested topics for paper submissions!

We also invite proposals for workshops, tutorials and student poster sessions that bring together experts from industry and academia. Tutorials or Workshops can cover any aspect of Education using Technology research, education or practice that is relevant to the University and School community. Typically, these are hands-on sessions that may demonstrate or explain a new development in the field.

[SUBMIT NOW!](#)

Proposal Deadline: Friday September 30, 2011

[UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO TEACHING AND LEARNING SYMPOSIUM 2011](#)
(November 28 2011, University of Toronto)



This year's Teaching & Learning Symposium will focus on strategies and initiatives that aim to cultivate effective teaching and learning across the University of Toronto's divisions and campuses. The symposium will include a featured speaker, a panel discussion featuring the President and the 2011 President's Teaching Award recipients, interactive concurrent sessions, roundtable discussions, and poster and resource sharing sessions. Through concurrent sessions, posters and roundtable discussions the day will focus on the following four sub-themes:

1. Student acquisition of knowledge, skills and values
2. Enhancing relationships and fostering partnerships
3. Planning, instruction and assessment
4. Leadership to support teaching and learning

[SUMBIT NOW!](#)

Submission Deadline: Friday September 30, 2011

ONTARIO RESEARCH FUND: EXCELLENCE (ORF-RE) PROGRAM



research.

The Ministry of Research & Innovation has just released information on Round 6 of the Ontario Research Fund-Research Excellence (ORF-RE) program. The ORF-RE program promotes research excellence of strategic value to Ontario by supporting new leading-edge, transformative, and internationally significant

While research proposals in all disciplines are eligible for ORF-RE Round 6, the Ministry particularly encourages collaborative projects across institutions and disciplines from the following focus areas:

- Bio-economy and clean technologies;
- Advanced health technologies;
- Digital media and information & communications technologies;
- Sustainable communities (multidisciplinary research including but not limited to the topics of ageing, energy, health, environmental sustainability, regional economic development and/or economic prosperity for all).

The Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence (ORF-RE) program promotes research excellence in Ontario by supporting transformative, internationally significant research of strategic value to the province. This program focuses on scientific excellence and strong commercialization and targets new, leading-edge research initiatives.

Click [HERE](#) for more information!

Submission Deadline: Friday September 30, 2011

THE EARLY RESEARCHER AWARDS (ERA) ROUND 8

Wednesday October 5, 2011: Information session

Monday November 7, 2011: Internal deadline for full applications



the best and brightest research talent.

The Ministry of Research and Innovation has announced the 2011 competition for Early Researcher Awards (ERA). This program helps promising, recently-appointed Ontario researchers build their research teams of undergraduates, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, research assistants, associates, and technicians. The goal of the program is to improve Ontario's ability to attract and retain

The Early Researcher Awards program will now include seven panels recognizing achievement in the categories of Arts and Humanities; Energy, Environment and Emerging Technologies; Information and Communication Technologies, Math and Physics; Life Sciences – Clinical; Life Sciences – Non-Clinical; Materials and Advanced Manufacturing; and Social Sciences. For Round 8, the Ministry of Research and Innovation has introduced a new, distinct “Arts and Humanities”

panel to recognize achievement in the study of arts and culture which are essential components of a creative, knowledge-based economy.

Eligible applicants are no more than 5 years from having started their independent academic research career, as of July 1, 2011 and no more than 10 years from having completed their first PhD, DVM, or Medical Doctor/Fellowship/Training as of July 1, 2011. To be competitive, researchers should be actively involved in conducting independent research that is supported by peer-reviewed funding.

Click [HERE](#) for more information!

THE VIRTUAL WATER COOLER: AROUND THE COMMUNITY

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CYBER BEHAVIOR INVITE BARRY WELLMAN!



KMDI's Professor Barry Wellman was invited and graciously accepted joining the Editorial Advisory Board of Encyclopedia of Cyber Behavior that is scheduled to publish by IGI Global in 2011.

“You are one of the most prominent scholars in the science of cyber behaviors, especially in the study of learning technologies, in the world. The field would significantly benefit from your wisdom, visions, and leadership.” – Z. Yan, Editor, Encyclopedia

of Cyber Behavior.

Congratulations on your worldwide success Barry!

UPDATES FROM INTENTIONALLY BOUND [NINA CZEGLEDY!](#)



On July 17, 2011, **Nina Czegledy** in collaboration with **Bettina Schuelke**, **Laszlo Kiss** and **Marton Andras Juhasz** exhibited “Aura/Aurora”, their interactive, real-time, audio-visual installation at the [artMUSE Festival](#) in Bocholt, Germany. artMUSE is a European media art project, aiming to join contemporary media art to industrial history. It establishes ties between the industrial and the digital revolution and sites of industrial heritage from the past to future. The participating cultural institutions are European sites of industrial heritage, of

local history, of contemporary and media art in Bocholt, Bitola, Budapest, Bremen, Delmenhorst, Gdansk, Ghent, Sofia, and Wroclaw.

The ["Messages to Marshall McLuhan"](#) exhibition curated by Nina Czegledy opened on August 2, 2011 at the Labor Gallery, in Budapest. May 2011, was dedicated to "Media Month" at the museum pedagogy workshops at the [Ludwig Museum](#), Budapest. The Messages to Marshall McLuhan

exhibition at LABOR Galley displays the creations by workshops participants aged 15-50, as a finale of the creative work.

Between August 23 – 28, 2011, as a partner in the EU supported international [Rural vs. Urban at the Border project](#), Nina Czegledy participated in the workshop interconnecting urban and rural experiences with the involvement of locals at Kravin, Czech Republic.

Congratulations on your success this month! We don't know how you do it!

KMDI'S STIAN HAKLEV PRESENTS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT ICETC 2011!



Second year PhD student **Stian Haklev** (OISE, under **Dr. Jim Slotta**, KMDI member) was invited to give a key keynote address at the [International Conference on Educational Technology and Computer \(ICETEC 2011\)](#) at North-East Normal University in Changchun, China. The presentation was entitled, [“Open Courses and Informal Learning in a Web 2.0 World: A Research Agenda”](#).

Congratulations on your tremendous success!

[VTape Wins 2011 Premier's Awards Arts Organization Award!](#)



In 1983, Professors **Kim Tomczak** and **KMDI member Professor Lisa Steele** founded [VTape](#), a distribution and information resource centre specializing in media artwork. Now, nearly 20 years later, VTape has earned the 2011 Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

“We were simply thrilled to be nominated and shortlisted,” said Tomczak. “When they called out our name as the winner, it was a wonderful surprise.”

VTape was born as a not-for-profit organization that helped video art gain wider distribution and offered viewers some context about it. “We wanted to put together, organize and collect information about video art and artists and make it available to curators, educators and their channels,” said Steele.

Customers, including libraries, film festivals and educational institutions, can either rent videos or purchase them. VTape returns 75 per cent of the revenue it earns to the artists and uses the remainder for administration. “We are committed to artists' economic rights,” said Steele. “We have always had a really strong connection to post-secondary education and see VTape's relationship with students as being very important,” said Steele.

Congratulations Lisa & Kim!

For a complete list of 2011 Premier Award winners and finalists, click [HERE!](#)

Source: Council of Ontario Universities

KMDI MEMBER AVI HYMAN REPRESENTS UOFT AT OUCEL 2011!



[The Ontario Universities' Council on e-Learning \(OUCEL\)](#) is a working group that provides leadership regarding e-learning. Representatives on OUCEL are committed to e-learning that enhances student learning and engagement. OUCEL further encourages a scholarly approach towards e-learning in relation to teaching, research, and service – core values of Ontario Universities.

Congratulations Avi on this amazing opportunity!

ONTARIO INVESTS \$22.5 M IN GOLDRING CENTRE



The government announced that it will invest \$22.5 million in the \$58-million [Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport](#), a multi-storey complex that will be the first of its kind in Ontario.

“This investment by the Ontario government will enhance educational opportunities for hundreds of our students and improve the student experience for thousands more,” said U of T President David Naylor. “The Goldring Centre will also bring together scientists, graduate students, sports medicine specialists and trainees, athletes and coaches. As such, it will support our efforts to integrate research, education and practice, and help Canada ‘own the podium’ in the decades ahead.”

“High performance sport is an important part of the physical activity spectrum, and we need to understand that entire spectrum in order to reap benefits for all Canadians,” said Professor Ira Jacobs, dean of the Faculty of Physical Education & Health. “Understanding healthy high performance sport can provide a key reference point to more fully understand the impact of physical activity and inactivity for human physical, mental and emotional health. This centre will be a tremendously exciting resource which will contribute to the development of the next generation of sport role models who will inspire and encourage Ontarians to lead healthier lives.”

Source: University of Toronto Bulletin, 12 July 2011

MARBLEMEDIA & TED BRUNT NOMINATED FOR TWO GEMINIS

KMDI friends **Marblemedia** and **Ted Brunt** nominated for two Geminis!

Best Cross-Platform Project - Children's and Youth – Sponsored by the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund



[Skatoony Interactive](#)

Teletoon (Astral/Corus) (marblemedia)

Mark J. W. Bishop, Ted Brunt, Julie Dutrisac, Matthew Hornburg, Johnny Kalangis

Best Cross-Platform Project - Fiction



[DatingGuy.com](#)

Teletoon (Astral/Corus) (marblemedia)

Matthew Hornburg, Mark J. W. Bishop, Ted Brunt, Julie Dutrisac, Johnny Kalangis

Congratulations! We are all very proud of you!

For a list of all Gemini nominations, click [HERE!](#)

UPDATE FROM KMD CP & NETLAB PHD STUDENTS!



As part of their involvement in the GRAND project, KMDI Member **Barry Wellman**'s NetLab PhD students **Guang Ying Mo**, **Zack Hayat** and **Jennifer Kayahara**, [KMDI](#) and [NetLab](#) PhD student,

recently attended [The Summer Social Webshop](#) at the University of Maryland in College Park. It was a particularly exciting trip thanks to the combination of a very rare earthquake, and the threat of Hurricane Irene.

GRAND is a Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) project, created by the federal government of Canada with the mandate to foster nation-wide and multidisciplinary research collaboration as well as partnerships across the public and private sectors. Mo and Zack are involved in NAVEL, one of GRAND sub-projects aiming at examining the relationships among the academics and practitioners involved in GRAND. Jennifer is in Dynamic Infrastructure (DINS), a sub-project which studies the interplay between ICT use and human behaviour.

The four-day interdisciplinary Webshop was organized by leading researchers for graduate students at US and Canadian universities studying social-networking tools and social media. The forty student-participants came from a variety of disciplines, including computer science, iSchool, sociology, communications, political science, anthropology, and psychology. Guest speakers included representatives from various U.S. universities, corporations such as Google, and private research institutes such as Pew. Over the course of the workshop, they attended presentations, engaged in research and community-building activities, shared research plans, learned about new relevant software, and met with U.S. Federal policymakers.

Among the take-aways from Webshop were a greater appreciation for the more subtle forms that digital inequality can take, an analysis of how to encourage commitment in online communities, and a better understanding of different ways to model socio-technical motivations for creating, maintaining, dissolving, social networks. They also received hands-on training on how to use NodeXL.

Way to webshop Jennifer, Guang and Mo!

[SEVENTY UOFT RESEARCHERS EARN MORE THAN \\$24.9 MILLION!](#)



Seventy U of T researchers earned more than \$24.9 million in funding from the Province of Ontario to support projects that will improve the lives of people around the world and create jobs at home in Ontario.

The largest awards made to U of T fell under the Research Excellence Program, which supports transformative, internationally-significant research of strategic value to the province.

Eighteen researchers were recognized with the Early Researcher Award, which helps promising newly-appointed researchers build their teams. Forty-seven researchers won funds under the Research Infrastructure (RI) Program, which works to provide Ontario's research institutions and their researchers with competitive, state-of-the-art infrastructure and helps them leverage awards from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, a federal research infrastructure funding body.

For a list of U of T's ERA winners, click [HERE](#).

For a list of U of T's RI winners, click [HERE](#).

“We’re proud of the exceptional work that our Toronto researchers do,” said **Glen Murray**, Ontario’s Minister of Research and Innovation. “Their contributions are making the world a better place, starting right here with new ideas and jobs, which fuel job creation and economic growth and our government is proud to support them.”

Peter Lewis, U of T’s associate vice-president (research) said, “The winners of these awards are a diverse group who are tackling some of today’s most pressing questions. I extend my congratulations to them. I am also grateful to the province for this investment. In addition to supporting research today, it will help ensure future health and prosperity for all Ontarians.”

Source: University of Toronto Bulletin, 27 July 2011

VANIER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO 28 UOFT DOCTORAL STUDENTS!



Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the winners August 3. The scholars were chosen from 26 universities. Vanier scholars receive \$50,000 annually for up to three years, and each is selected based on his or her demonstrated leadership skills and high standard of scholarly achievement in the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, engineering or health sciences.

“Canada’s prosperity is fundamentally linked to science and technology and highly skilled individuals whose talents bring innovative ideas to life,” said Harper.

Congratulations!!!

Source: University of Toronto Bulletin, 3 August 2011

UOFT SUMMER PROGRAM ENGAGES BLACK YOUTH IN ENGINEERING!



A unique partnership between the U of T Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering is providing new opportunities for black youth to experience engineering.

ENGage is a week-long day camp for students in Grades Seven and Eight that provides participants with hands-on activities demonstrating engineering

principles and practices. The students have the chance to explore sustainable energy sources such as solar and wind power, build hydraulic arms and even dissect a perch.

The program is part of an effort to address the underrepresentation of students from African and

Caribbean backgrounds in engineering programs. "It's very important that we not only show what engineering actually is - because it's not very well understood by young people - but also provide role models who are doing it," explained industrial engineering student **Dimpho Radebe**, one of the program's co-ordinators and an instructor. She has helped to develop the program with fellow student **Oti Agbeyegbe**.

The program is a true student initiative. It was conceived by **Mikhail Burke**, a materials science and engineering student, and mechanical engineering graduate **Ayokanmi Falade** in 2009-10 when they were president and vice-president, respectively, of the university's NSBE chapter.

Dawn Britton, associate director of the engineering student outreach office, heralds the partnership between NSBE and U of T Engineering. "Exciting youth about science and inspiring them to consider engineering as both a future career and area of study is important work. I am so pleased that our student chapter of NSBE has spent their summer doing this important work. These young leaders are helping to shape the next generation of engineers," Britton said.

Source: University of Toronto Bulletin, 18 August 2011

[UOFT RACING TEAM OFF TO SOLAR CHALLENGE IN AUSTRALIA!](#)



Members of U of T's famed **Blue Sky Solar Racing Team** are dusting off their racing gear and once again readying themselves to hit the road for another round of competitions. The team unveiled their newly finished solar-powered car called *Azure* to fans and Faculty on August 7.

The car, which is the most recent of six generations of solar racing cars, is designed, built and raced by students. It weighs 200 kilograms and is expected to clock an impressive 80 kilometers per hour, with a top speed of 140 kilometers per hour.

On October 16, two dozen members of the team will compete against some of the world's best universities and colleges in a five-day racing challenge. "Creating something like this especially from scratch is difficult, but not impossible," said **Josh Switnicki**, the team's managing director, who over the years has spent between 10 to 60 hours each week working on the vehicle. "We've encountered problems, but being in a group like this makes overcoming these challenges easier and helped us grow."

GO UOFT GO! MAKE US PROUD!

Source: University of Toronto Bulletin, 10 August 2011

OTHER NEWS

[WHEN SOCIAL MEDIA MINING GETS IT WRONG](#)



A complex picture of your personal life can now be pieced together using a variety of public data sources, and increasingly sophisticated data-mining techniques. But just how accurate is that picture? Alessandro Acquisti, an associate professor of Information Technology and Public Policy at the Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University, warns that the biggest problem could be the inaccuracy of this and other data-mining techniques.

Acquisti's research demonstrated the pitfalls of placing too much relevance on social networking data. His team took photos of volunteers and used an off-the-shelf face recognizer called [PittPatt](#) (recently acquired by Google) to find each volunteer's Facebook profile – which often revealed that person's real name and much more personal information. In their experiment, the team was able to match about one-third of subjects to the correct profiles. From there, they made other predictions. Seventy-five percent of the time, they correctly predicted subjects' interests. They correctly predicted the first five digits of volunteers' social security numbers about 16 percent of the time given two tries. (Accuracy increased with more attempts.)

This means that two-thirds of the time, they did not identify people correctly. And those who were correctly identified were still incorrectly matched 25 percent of the time to particular personal interests, and more than 80 percent of the time to the wrong social security number. "The defining question of our time," Acquisti says, "is how do we, as a society, deal with big data?"

Source: MIT Technology Review, 9 August 2011

[RESEARCHERS HACK MOBILE DATA COMMUNICATIONS](#)



Researchers from a Berlin-based research consultancy, [Security Research Labs](#), break the encryption that protects information sent over the General Packet Radio Service (GPRS), a standard commonly used to send data to and from mobile devices, and from other devices such as smart meters. This breach makes it possible to listen in on data communications such as e-mail, instant messages, and Web browsing on smart phones, as well as updates from automated industrial systems.

“Phones might be the most familiar devices affected by the research”, says Karsten Nohl, founder of Security Research Labs. Nohl's group found a number of problems with GPRS. First, he says, lax authentication rules could allow an attacker to set up a fake cellular base

station and eavesdrop on information transmitted by users passing by. In some countries, they found that GPRS communications weren't encrypted at all. When they were encrypted, Nohl adds, the ciphers were often weak and could be either broken or decoded with relatively short keys that were easy to guess.

The group generated an optimized set of codes that an attacker could quickly use to find the key protecting a given communication. The attack the researchers designed against GPRS costs about 10 euros for radio equipment, Nohl says.

Source: MIT Technology Review, 10 August 2011

WHY RIOTERS WON'T BE PROTECTED BY THE BBM SYSTEM.



Those involved in the recent rioting and looting in Britain are unlikely to have their identities protected by the BlackBerry Messenger service (BBM), contrary to reports that such data is "untraceable." Media reports have suggested that part of the rioters' and looters' attraction to BBM is its relative security compared to social media or text messaging. However, the widespread use of BBM by teenagers and young adults, including those involved in the violence, is more likely explained by its speed, convenience, and low cost.

Police can require RIM to hand over data under section 49 of the U.K.'s Regulatory of Investigatory Powers Act, allowing them to analyze the flow of messages and track down the specific BlackBerry handsets from which the inflammatory messages originated. Since individuals need a service plan to use BBM, the police can then trace users' identities via their network provider.

So BlackBerry's refusal to answer specific questions, which has led to reports suggesting that messages cannot be traced and that techno-savvy teenagers had outwitted the police by using BBM, is more likely evidence that the company is cooperating.

Source: MIT Technology Review, 10 August 2011

A FINE FAREWELL



Apple released this letter from Steven P. Jobs as he announced that he was stepping down from the post of chief executive.

“To the Apple Board of Directors and the Apple Community:

I have always said if there ever came a day when I could no longer meet my duties and expectations as Apple's C.E.O., I would be the first to let you know. Unfortunately, that day has come. I hereby

resign as C.E.O. of Apple. I would like to serve, if the Board sees fit, as Chairman of the Board, director and Apple employee.

As far as my successor goes, I strongly recommend that we execute our succession plan and name Tim Cook as C.E.O. of Apple. I believe Apple's brightest and most innovative days are ahead of it. And I look forward to watching and contributing to its success in a new role.

I have made some of the best friends of my life at Apple, and I thank you all for the many years of being able to work alongside you.

Steve"

Source: The New York Times, 24 August 2011

[RIM TO START A MUSIC-SHARING SERVICE](#)



Research In Motion announced a new music sharing system based on its BlackBerry Messenger instant messaging system. The company hopes that the popularity of BlackBerry Messenger will enable BlackBerry Messenger Music to distinguish itself in a marketplace that is overwhelmingly dominated by Apple's iTunes.

Research in Motion says that the new service will allow users to choose from a library of about 10 million songs. But because it is intended to be a social networking service as well as a source of music, BlackBerry Messenger Music places some unusual constraints on how its users will be able to make their selections.

"We want it to be an experience which is focused on entrusted relationships," said Alistair Mitchell, the vice president for the BlackBerry Messenger platform and integrated services at Research in Motion, which is based in Waterloo, Ontario. The music service will be introduced later this year in 15 countries and will be priced at \$5 a month in the United States.

Source: The New York Times, 25 August 2011

COOL TOOLS

[1st FULLY SYNTHETIC ORGAN TRANSPLANT SAVES CANCER PATIENT](#)



Surgeons in Sweden have successfully transplanted a fully synthetic, tissue-engineered organ – a trachea – into a man with late-stage tracheal cancer. The synthetic trachea was created entirely in the lab, using a scaffold built out of a porous polymer, and tissue grown from the patient's own stem cells inside a bioreactor designed to protect the organ and promote cell growth.

The transplant is a significant moment for regenerative medicine, says Arnold Kriegstein, director of the Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research at University of California, San Francisco. "Finding ways for stem cells to be used to engineer replacement parts, is exactly what regenerative medicine promises", Kriegstein says.

Artificial organs would be superior to ordinary donor organs in several ways. They can be made to order more quickly than a donor organ can often be found; being grown from a patient's own cells, they also do not require dangerous immunosuppressant drugs to prevent rejection.

Source: MIT Technology Review, 8 July 2011

[MOZILLA WANTS A BROWSER TO CONTROL YOUR PHONE](#)



The makers of the Firefox browser are trying to create a mobile browser powerful enough to run your smart phone. If it succeeds, the [Boot 2 Gecko](#) project will move many of the functions now carried out by mobile operating systems – Android, Apple's iOS, WebOS, MeeGo, and others – into the browser itself. Basic phone functions like the dialer would be recoded in JavaScript so they could run in the browser. In time, almost all of the functions of a conventional operating system could run in the browser, in code cached on the phone and updated from the Web when necessary.

Boot 2 Gecko also differs from most mobile platforms in that it is not designed to give any one company an advantage. "That's an important difference between what we're doing and proprietary mobile stacks today," says Mike Shaver, Boot 2 Gecko Developer. "We don't want a competitive advantage for Mozilla, we want a competitive advantage for the Web."

Truly open Web technologies in this mold would have another advantage over native ones – endless customizability. Don't like your phone dialer? Just download a different one. However, it's easy to see how some makers of mobile devices wouldn't like that.

Source: MIT Technology Review, 15 August 2011

STICK-ON ELECTRONIC TATTOO



John A. Rogers, a professor of materials science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign alongside researchers in his department, have developed a stretchable, ultrathin electronic that clings to skin like a temporary tattoo and can measure electrical activity from the body. These electronic tattoos could allow doctors to diagnose and monitor conditions like heart arrhythmia or sleep disorders noninvasively.

To demonstrate the device's potential as a human-computer interface, Rogers mounted one of the tattoos on a person's throat and used measurements of the electrical activity in the throat muscles to control a computer game. The signal from the device contained enough information for software to distinguish among the spoken words "left," "right," "up," and "down" to control a cursor on the screen. The device included sensors for temperature, strain, and electric signals from the body. It also housed LEDs to provide visual feedback; photodetectors to measure light exposure; and tiny radio transmitters and receivers.

Ultimately, Rogers says, "we want to have a much more intimate integration" with the body, beyond simply mounting something very closely to the skin. He hopes that his devices will eventually be able to use chemical information from the skin in addition to electrical information.

Source: MIT Technology Review, 11 August 2011

PUBLICATIONS

AMAZON SEES A GOOD READ IN THE CLOUD



On Thursday August 11, 2011, Amazon launched [Kindle Cloud Reader](#), a Web browser-based version of its popular e-reading platform.

The cloud-based app could extend Amazon's reach farther still. In a statement released at launch, Amazon noted that the Kindle Cloud Reader supports its philosophy of "Buy Once, Read Everywhere." The Kindle device and related apps all sync with one another via the cloud, so that a user can access her full library—with bookmarks, notes, and highlights intact—from any device.

"The Kindle Cloud Reader is a game changer, from my perspective," says Kassia Krozser, owner of Booksquare, a site that tracks the publishing industry. "What really excites me about this platform is that it is browser-based; it uses the technology that people are using all day long. No special software is needed, no dedicated devices."

Source: MIT Technology Review, 12 August 2011

WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

[ITECH SUMMIT](#)

(September 20, 2011, Calgary, AB; September 22, 2011, Vancouver, BC)



iTech Infrastructure Technology Summit is Canada's largest IT conference & exhibition series offering high level IT professionals and decision-makers a broader realm of IT solutions-based products and services that encompass the overall Data Centre and IT infrastructure. Catering to the IT community of end-users, system integrators and value added resellers; iTech features and showcases

industry leading cost effective solutions through leading-edge product & service displays, networking and educational content that further enhance industry knowledge. iTech is committed to helping IT professionals leverage technology and maximize IT business operations.

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[OUTSOURCING STRATEGY AND SCOPING](#)

(September 20 – 21, 2011, Toronto, Ontario)



The Centre for Outsourcing Research and Education (CORE) presents a two-day program providing an examination of how organizations develop their outsourcing strategies in relation to

corporate strategy and how they scope and design individual outsourcing transactions.

For more information on the program or to learn the process of obtaining the Accredited Outsourcing Practitioner™ designation please call 416.366.2673 or click [HERE](#) to send an email.

CONFERENCES

[IBC2011](#)

(September 8 – 13, 2011, RAI Amsterdam)



IBC is the leading global tradeshow for professionals engaged in the creation, management and delivery of broadcasting media and entertainment. The event's unparalleled exhibition and agenda setting conference encompass the very latest developments in broadcasting, mobile TV, IPTV, digital signage and R&D making it essential for everyone's understanding of the industry and its future.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

[OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FESTIVAL](#)

(September 21 – 25, 2011, Ottawa, Ontario)



The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF) is the largest event of its kind in North America, a major film event attracting attendees from around the world. Film buffs, art lovers and cartoon fans won't want to miss this year's great line up of screenings taking place at ByTowne Cinema, National Gallery of Canada, Empire Theatres Rideau Centre and Arts Court Theatre.

The Television Animation Conference is North America's only event that lets you pitch, network and keep up with industry trends, while giving you access to the most creative, original and innovative animation out there. This animation business forum is designed for professionals in content creation, development, production, distribution and marketing. TAC brings together key players in North America and international markets and provides a forum for active networking, practical information exchange, and trade in a comfortable and intimate environment.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

[BANFF VENTURE FORUM 2011](#)

(October 6 – 7, 2011, Banff, Alberta, Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel)



The 2011 Banff Venture Forum will bring together the best and the brightest minds from both the entrepreneurial and venture capital fields, the Forum provides a platform for the marriage of ideas, innovation and investment.

The Forum is currently in its 13th year and is Canada's premier technology company financing event showcasing 40 of the hottest hi-tech companies from across North America within three streams Energy and Cleantech, Life Sciences Technology and Information Technology. Banff Venture Forum offers delegates unparalleled insight into key issues within the industry, provides a premium networking opportunity and gives companies a chance to learn from world-class professionals in the investment community.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

CYBERA SUMMIT 2011

(October 6 – 7, 2011, Banff, Alberta, The Banff Centre)



The two-day program will explore the evolution of cloud and open data applications, and how those developments are driving technological and cultural change in business and academia. Registration includes two days of sessions, keynote talks, networking opportunities and a Thursday evening reception at The Banff Centre.

Attendees and speakers will explore how open, shared and cloud technologies are helping to connect people and resources like never before.

REGISTER NOW!

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED CONFERENCES

STRATEGIC INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS: HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA AND TRADITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

DIGIFEST2011

October 26 – 30, 2011, Toronto ON.

11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HYBRID INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS (HIS'11)

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