Summit 2012
Putting Canada's Researchers First
Toward a National Digital Infrastructure
in support of research, education and innovation in Canada
June 13-14, 2012
University of Saskatchewan

What is Summit 2012?

Summit 2012 is a working meeting of key stakeholders from institutions, government, granting agencies, the research community and organizations responsible to provide or support key components of Canada's digital infrastructure in support of research, education and innovation.

What is the objective of Summit 2012?

Summit 2012 will support the continuing dialogue among the stakeholders however the focus will be on identifying the actions required to show measurable progress (by Summit 2013 and beyond) toward the shared vision of a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable digital infrastructure and supporting ecosystem for Canada's researchers.

Who will be there?

Representatives from stakeholder organizations and communities of interest including:

- Industry Canada, the granting councils (SSHRC, NSERC, CFI, Genome Canada & CIHR), provincial funding bodies and institutions *(i.e. funders)*
- Researchers representing the various types of research including big science, multidisciplinary and non-traditional users of computational research *(i.e. users)*
- CANARIE and the ORAN's, Compute Canada Calcul and the HPC Consortia, University CIO's as represented by the Steering Committee *(i.e. infrastructure)*
- Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) and the Research Data Strategy Working Group *(i.e. data),* and;
- Individuals from within Canada and from other jurisdictions with specific expertise in digital infrastructure.

Why invitation only?

As a working meeting it is expected that the participating organizations will reflect the needs and perspectives of their various communities in the discussions at Summit 2012. The Steering Committee also recognizes the need to engage the broader community and is investigating appropriate mechanisms to inform and engage the community both prior to and following Summit 2012.

How were the participants selected?

The invitation list was developed by the Steering Committee to reflect the diversity of the issues, engage the various stakeholder organizations involved in the funding and provision of digital infrastructure and ensure the needs of the community were represented. Twenty five (25) universities, as represented by the Vice Presidents Research, were selected based on the total research revenue as defined Re$earch Infosource (http://www.researchinfosource.com/top50.shtml). Individual researchers were selected to represent the various types of research.

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Are there specific outcomes or deliverable identified for Summit 2012?
Yes. It is important that the participants at Summit 2012 be prepared to work toward the following outcomes:
- An agreed to set of guiding principles and key characteristics for Canada's digital infrastructure for research, education and innovation *(i.e. the vision)*
- A list of activities, including timelines and owners, to ensure we can show measurable progress toward the vision by Summit 2013 *(i.e. the action plan)*
- Agreement by the participants to the required action plan *(i.e. a commitment to act).*

Haven't we already addressed these issues?
Canada has made major strides in providing key pieces of the ecosystem. Significant investments have been made to support connectivity within Canada and beyond (i.e. through CANARIE and the ORAN's), in providing high performance computing facilities (i.e. through Compute Canada and the seven HPC sites) and more recently progress has been made toward addressing the issues associated with "research data life cycle management" (i.e. through the Research Data Summit 2011 and CARL's National Data Infrastructure Initiative).

It is expected that work will continue in all of these areas (i.e. discussions and activities at the CANARIE Users Forum, Compute Canada's strategic plan and supporting action items, action on the recommendations from the Research Data Summit and CARL's continuing discussion toward a national data infrastructure) *however to-date these efforts remain largely uncoordinated.*

As a result Canada *does not have a national strategy* or the *enabling action plan* required to ensure the availability of a comprehensive, sustainable and integrated digital infrastructure to support research, education or innovation, the needs of the research community *continue to strain available resources* to the breaking point, Canada's ability to *fully exploit* current and future investments *is limited*, and the ability of Canadian researchers to *participate and/or compete* internationally is compromised.

Doesn't CANARIE or Compute Canada have the mandate or responsibility to do this?
CANARIE and Compute Canada (and all of the various stakeholders including CARL, the Research Data Strategy Working group, the various funding agencies, individual institutions etc.) have a mandate to ensure the availability of their specific component of the infrastructure. And as noted above all are investing time and effort to ensure they meet the needs of the community. However there is no one organization with the responsibility or mandate to ensure the availability of a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable digital infrastructure for Canada's researchers.

How is this different than the Research Data Summit held in September of 2011?
The focus of the Research Data Summit was on the research "data" as a component of an overall digital infrastructure in support of research, education and innovation. The outcome of this initiative, along with the work of CARL toward a Canadian National Data infrastructure will form the basis and foundation for any discussions relating to research data lifecycle management at Summit 2012.

What is expected from the participants?
Participants will be asked to engage fully in the discussions at Summit 2012, support the shared vision and commit to the actions required to show measurable progress toward that vision by Summit 2013.

Where will Summit 2012 be held?
Summit 2012 will be held at the University of Saskatchewan, at the close of CANHEIT 2012, Canada's national conference for IT professionals in higher education.   The meeting schedule will include an opening reception, dinner and guest speaker on Wednesday, June 13, followed by a day of working sessions on Thursday, June 14.

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Who is leading this initiative?

Hosted by CUCCIO, the association of Canada's higher education IT Leaders, the SUMMIT 2012 Steering Committee Members include:

- Jay Black (CIO, Simon Fraser University),
- Rick Bunt (CIO, University of Saskatchewan),
- Bob Cook (CIO, University of Toronto) ,
- Bob Gagne (CIO, York University),
- Jonathan Schaeffer (CIO, University of Alberta),
- Bo Wandschneider (CIO, Queen's University), and
- Lori MacMullen (CUCCIO).

More Information

For more information on Summit 2012, please contact Lori MacMullen, Executive Director, CUCCIO.

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