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The KIT — Knowledge & Information Technology
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Laissez les bons temps rouler... tr�s vite!

Supercomputing 2010 (SC'10) took place in New Orleans Nov. 13-19. A team from Georgia Tech, NYU and Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) won the ACM Gordon Bell Prize for an application simulating 260 million red blood cells flowing in plasma, extracting 700 teraflops out of the ORNL supercomputer's 224,000 cores.

Meanwhile, the cavernous exhibit floor was full of booths of all sizes (IBM, nvidia, Microsoft were some of the largest), and the student teams in the cluster competition advertised: "Will compute for Mtn Dew." For a quirky (and a bit shaky, though not from too many mint juleps) two-minute trip to SC'10, jazz background included, see this YouTube video made in collaboration with ATEJI, the "parallel programming in Java made simple" people.

Cutter to Offer 3 In-House Workshops by Claude Baudoin

The Cutter Consortium just added to its catalog three short (1- or 2-day) in-house workshops taught by Claude Baudoin:

- Creating Your Enterprise Architecture Roadmap
- Knowledge Management: A Strategic Condition of Success
- Enterprise Security Maturity Assessment

Reader Feedback

The summary of the Cutter Summit 2010 in The Kit #36, and in particular the case study discussion about IT cost vs. value, elicited this impassioned reaction from Rick Warren of RTI:

"Am I the only one who's getting tired of the placement of all things information- and information-processing related in the silo of 'IT' separate from an organization's core business? In an age where every administrative assistant 'works with computers' all day long, haven't we reached the point where we should be viewing IT as a cross-cutting concern embedded within every team and job function, and not as something run out of a separate office by a bunch of nerds whom the rest of the company doesn't understand? Maybe I'm misinterpreting or exaggerating the split between IT and business because I admittedly work for a small software firm and not a megalithic 'traditional' business. Or maybe I'm right, and it's a generational thing. Top executives are typically people in their fifties who cut their teeth in business before these new-fangled 'computers' were relevant to most people. To folks coming up today, the applicability and benefits of leveraging IT in every field at every time is so obvious that it's difficult to even communicate effectively with someone who doesn't see things that way."

→ Cloud vs. Record Management

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently published an FAQ and a more complete Bulletin about the challenges posed by cloud computing with respect to records management. The bulletin:

- starts with definitions of the cloud and its deployment models
- presents cases of cloud usage by US government agencies
- lists record management challenges posed by the cloud
- proposes guidelines for standards and policies to manage records stored in a cloud
- proposes draft language, which could be adapted for private companies, to set in a contract with a cloud provider its obligations with respect to records.

(Spotted by Vince Polley of KnowConnect)

→ Seen Recently...

"We're on Facebook in order to lie to our closest friends, and on Twitter in order to say the truth to perfect strangers."
        - Yves Lande, via Twitter (@LANDEYves, in French only)
    ("On est sur Facebook pour mentir � ses amis les plus proches. Et sur Twitter pour dire la v�rit� � de parfaits inconnus.")