

# The KIT — Knowledge & Information Technology

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## In This Issue

[Process and Information  
Integration in O&G](#)

[Ethics in Computing](#)

[Latency vs. Bandwidth](#)

[MIT's Big Data Online  
Course](#)

[Seen Recently](#)

 CB photo

## [Consulting Services](#)

- IT Strategy
- Enterprise Architecture Roadmap
- Business Process Modeling & Analysis
- Enterprise Software Selection
- IT Innovation Briefings
- IT Due Diligence
- Executive IT Seminars
- Cloud Computing
- Security Maturity
- Software Process
- Knowledge Strategy
- Technical Communities
- Knowledge Capture
- Taxonomy development
- Enterprise Social Media

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## → Process and Information Integration in the Oil & Gas Industry

The Object Management Group (OMG), Energistics and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) -- with the help of c&b IT & Knowledge Management as a facilitator and coordinator -- are bringing together players in the Upstream O&G industry to better understand how the efficiency and safety of their business processes can be improved through enhanced modeling. We aim to establish a roadmap for the adoption of existing standards, suggest development of new industry standards that will result in such business process improvements, and encourage collaboration with the Standards Leadership Council (SLC), a consortium that coordinates the efforts of several O&G standards organizations, for the benefit of the global upstream industry.

The initial phase of this effort will consist of two workshops:

- the first one in Houston, Texas, February 25-26
- the second one in Utrecht, Netherlands, March 30-31, immediately preceding and collocated with SPE's Intelligent Energy 2014 conference.

Readers interested in this effort should immediately [contact us](#) to obtain more information and secure an invitation to one of these meetings.

## → Reminder: Ethics in Computing Webinar

The ACM is hosting an online talk on January 23 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern US time, entitled "Computing Professionalism: Do Good and Avoid Evil... and Why It Is Complicated to Do That in Computing." The speaker will be Don Gotterbarn, Director of the Software Engineering Ethics Research Institute. [Register here](#).

## → Latency/Bandwidth Error Confusion... Again

In a January 8 [article in Campus Technology](#) about TARDIS, a new high-performance computing cluster to be shared by Georgia Tech and Emory University, both in Atlanta, the writer says that "the two sites share a 10 gigabit-per-second connection, making latency negligible." We've seen this error so often over the last 20 years that it's not funny anymore.

If I hand-carry a one-terabyte disk drive down the hallway to your office, and it takes me 100 seconds, I've achieved an 80 Gb/s connection, but the latency is still 100 sec. If an earth station beams a signal to the Mars rover, regardless of the bandwidth, the latency is several minutes due to the finite speed of light.

High latency is a "killer" for transmission protocols, such as TCP, that depend on receiving acknowledgement that a packet has been successfully delivered. Low bandwidth hurts if large data sets need to be exchanged, but it's basically a different problem. Billy Hoffman explains it well for non-experts in [this blog post](#), and summarizes the issue with this wonderful double entendre: "the size of your pipe doesn't guarantee a satisfying user experience." Okay, so this confusion is still funny after all.

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## → MIT Online Course on Big Data

As part of its "Online X" offering of professional online courses, MIT will offer "[Tackling the Challenges of Big Data](#)" from March 4 to April 1. The course, a collaboration between MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) and its School of Engineering, includes 20 hours of video and costs \$495. Students who pass the course assessments will get a professional education certificate from MIT.

## → Seen Recently...

*"Much of traditional PM seems to be about fear of the unknown. But the unknown doesn't reveal itself just because you throw milestones at it."*

-- Ed Seidewitz, "enterprise and software architect, scaled agilist, UML geek" via Twitter ([@seidewitz](#))