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The KIT — Knowledge & Information Technology

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Data Residency RFI Published

The Object Management Group's Request for Information on Data Residency has been approved and published here.

If you deal in any capacity (cloud provider, cloud user, owner of data that may be hosted in another country than the one to which the data is related, etc.) please take the time to respond to the RFI in order to help shape the OMG's roadmap for the development of standards in this area.

For any questions, contact Claude Baudoin who led the RFI writing team.

Data Driven Production Conference

If you are in the Oil & Gas industry, you may not be able to travel anywhere this year, but if you are located in Houston, you may still be able to attend Upstream Intelligence's Data Driven Production Conference on June 7-8. The conference motto is "Do More with Less: Reduce Operating Costs and Increase Production by Making Data Driven Decisions."

The Industrial Internet Consortium is in discussions with Upstream Intelligence to mutually publicize each other's conferences. Claude Baudoin is likely to keynote a session on the applications of the Industrial Internet of Things to Oil & Gas.
Note that there is a discounted registration fee until February 19.

After the Cloud, the Fog

The expression "fog computing" has suddenly appeared in conferences and journals about the Internet of Things. What is it about?

First, the phrase is not really new, as it appeared in an article by Flavio Bonomi of Cisco in 2011. It was rarely mentioned in 2013, picked up by the Wall Street Journal in 2014 (and still barely noticed), and is finally getting noticed.

In a cloud architecture, the resources (computing, storage, applications) are somewhere in the network, but while they may be distributed or replicated, they are typically supplied from large, centralized server farms (owned by the likes of Amazon, Microsoft or Rackspace).

In fog computing, by contrast, the work is distributed to the "edge" of the network, that is, to the smaller and lower-capacity devices that contain sensors or interact with the users. The purpose of this architecture may be to pre-process data close to the source and only deliver a reduced amount of information. It can also be to allow more autonomous decisions based on peer-to-peer communication that will survive the unavailability of a central controlling node (in case of a cyberattack, for example). This marks a revival of the concept of *grid computing* that was briefly in favor ten years ago before the cloud eclipsed it. The reason for the revival, and the focus of the fog, is the proliferation of devices in the Internet of Things (IoT), and the ensuing risk of network congestion.

ARM, Cisco, Dell, Intel, Microsoft and Princeton University founded the OpenFog Consortium to "enable end-to-end IoT scenarios" through fog architectures.

IT & Knowledge Management

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Rollable Display

At the Consumer Electronic Show (CES) in Las Vegas ten days ago, LG Display demonstrated an 18" paper-think, flexible display that could be rolled up. It seems like the technology is still fragile, and the resolution isn't great, but this will lead to applications that only make sense on a foldable surface. These advances will secure the transition to flexible OLED (organic light-emitting diode) displays, and set the stage for a battle between LG and the other Korean giant in this area, Samsung.

Seen Recently...

"Data security isn't just IT's responsibility."

--Title of an article by Tamara Dull, of the SAS Institute,, published by ODBMS.org

"Of all the terrifying endpoints of technology, I worry more about nano-drones than A.I."

-- Naval Ravikant, CEO and founder of the startup investment crowdfunding platform AngelList, via Twitter (@naval)