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Happy (?) New Year!

We wish our readers the best possible outcomes for 2021 in this imperfect and uncertain world of ours.

While there is much we don't control or cannot predict, here are some points that may not fully come to pass, but will at least probably dominate discussions on information technology and knowledge in 2021:

- Collaboration tools will continue to be vital (but we will still struggle to find the mute button).
- We will not return to working all the time from cubicles at a fixed location. This will encourage a new loosening of the relationship between employers and employees, therefore it will exacerbate information security and residency issues.
- Information governance may finally be seen as a fundamental need, not easily solved by just saying platitudes or naming a "Chief Data Officer," but requiring an

enterprise-level strategy and the engagement of the lines of business.
- Machine learning will prove its value in solving practical problems that impact our lives, especially in the medical and life science fields.
- The traceability of information will be seen as an important capability after the debacle of "fake news" in the last several years, but only if the media (traditional and social) embrace it.

→ MIT Media Lab Announces Next Director

The justly famous MIT Media Lab, a breeding ground of invention and innovation at the intersection of cyberphysical systems and social sciences, announced that it will get a new director in July 2021. She is Dava Newman, "visionary astronautics researcher, explorer, and expert on human adaptation to space" and the first woman leader of the 35-year old institution.

→ Three Cutter Consortium Webinars

The Cutter Consortium (which was acquired by Arthur D. Little a year ago) announced three webinars, all of which promise to be quite interesting, in early 2021:
- "Business Architecture: Answering the Call to Achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals" by Whynde Kuehn (January 27, noon Eastern US Standard Time). Whynde is one of the leaders of the Business Architecture Guild.
- "How Database Technologies Are Turning Data Analytics Rules Upside Down" by Vince Kellen (February 3, noon EST). Vince was the innovative CIO of University of Kentucky before taking the same position at University of California San Diego.
- '"Low-Code/No-Code-enabled Citizen Developers: Catalysts to Innovation" by Greg Smith and Michael Papadopoulos (February 10, noon EST).

→ Navigating Data Protection Regulations

In a recent KIT, we mentioned Paweł Mielniczek, an international legal consultant on intellectual property and data protection issues, as the source of our article on the fines levied against companies that violated data protection regulations. Another law firm worth looking at is Transatlantic Lawyer, run from New York City by our ex-colleague Stephan Grynwajc. With data protection laws being passed in Europe, Canada and several states of the US, Stephan's practice has adopted a strong "digital focus" across those geographies.

In a recent conversation, Stephan shared observations about the risks that some "data processors" (such as cloud or hosting service providers) run. *"They may close their eyes and sign contracts in order to close a sale with a large client, obligating themselves to things they don't really understand such as compliance with Article 28.3 of the EU's GDPR. It doesn't help that the various regulations (GDPR in Europe, PIPEDA in Canada, CCPA in California, etc.) are different. So if a data breach occurs, who do you report it to, and within what time frame?"*

Improving Cybersecurity Across the EU

The existing European Union Cybersecurity Directive (No. 2016/1148) is less than five years old, but as a sign of the speed at which the threats evolve and our awareness of them increases, a new proposal has already been written to replace it. One of the reasons behind the proposed changes is that the current directive is not being consistently applied to all vulnerable organizations (such as hospitals) across EU countries. Those member states are also squarely blamed for ineffective supervision and enforcement of the current rules, including a reluctance to impose fines for violations and a lack of information sharing among them. The authors conclude that "systemic and structural changes" were required and propose a new, more stringent text.

Seen Recently...

"The majority of organizations are now directly up against the forces of profound complexity, high scale, exponential change/choice, even chaos theory."

-- Dion Hinchcliffe, via Twitter

"In India, parents are being aggressively sold the idea that their children must start coding at 4 or 5 or be future failures."

-- Neelesh Misra, in a New York Times opinion piece entitled "Do Children Really Need to Learn to Code?"