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Knowledge & Information Technology

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In this Issue
· **Forum on Cloud Technologies**
· **OMG/IIC/DTC Long Beach Meetings in December**
· **Blockchain for Energy**
· **AI and Theatre**
· **Playing Catch-Up on AI Risks**

Our Consulting Services
IT Strategy and Roadmap
Enterprise Architecture
Business Process Modeling
Enterprise Software Selection
IT Innovation Briefings
IT Due Diligence for M&A
Cloud Computing Adoption
Enterprise Security Maturity
Knowledge Management
Communities of Practice
Taxonomy Development
Enterprise Social Media Adoption

A Virtual "Summit" on Cloud Technologies

Integration Developer News is organizing an online forum on Thursday, Oct. 21, starting at 10 am Pacific / 1 pm Eastern / 1700 UTC, covering a number of important issues related to the deployment, integration and security of cloud services. The event will last an hour and a half and will feature:

- "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About OAuth and OIDC" (Okta)
- "How to Simplify Rearchitecting Your Data Infrastructure with a Modern Cloud Data Integration" (Denodo)
- "Innovate with AI & ML - Achieving the Data Driven Enterprise with DataStax & Cassandra" (DataStax)
- "Building Modern Foundations for Cloud Innovation" (Software AG)
- "Applying Least Privilege in Kubernetes" (Teleport)
- "Building Apps With Time Series Data the Easy Way" (Influxdata)

Reminder: Issue 300 (November 16) will be the last one. The company will continue to provide consulting services to existing and selected new clients, and the KIT archive will remain online for the foreseeable future.

Just a few caveats: first, this is pretty much a "vendor fair." Remember that when the speakers are the sponsors, you need to be extra careful about separating the reality from the marketing pitch. Secondly, given the 90-minute duration, you should expect a series of fairly quick talks that will only scratch the surface (and hardly justify calling this a "summit"); but by registering, you can download the slide decks as well as white papers from four of the six presenting companies. And third, this conflicts with the "AI and Theatre" event announced later in this newsletter, which frankly sounds a lot more entertaining! So, if you are interested in both subjects, just a suggestion: register for this event to grab the materials, attend the other meeting for the first hour, then catch the end of this one.

December in Long Beach?

The next quarterly meetings of the Object Management Group (OMG), the Industry IoT Consortium (IIC), and the Digital Twin Consortium (DTC) will take place concurrently during the week of December 6, and this time we hope to meet in person in Long Beach. Calif., although people who cannot travel due to company or country policies will be able to attend remotely.

As a reminder, IIC and DTC are programs managed by OMG. This will be the first time the three groups meet in the same place at the same time, which will be a great opportunity for cross-pollination -- as well as a logistics and scheduling challenge! OMG members will meet Dec. 6-10, IIC and DTC members will meet Dec. 7-9. Here is just a sample of the subjects to be addressed during the week:
- standards for process, case, and decision management with a special focus on healthcare
- information management and exchange in government and civic organizations
- knowledge representations and reasoning
- systems modeling and model-based systems engineering
- architectures, connectivity and security for industrial IoT systems
- use cases of digital twins in energy, transportation, smart cities, manufacturing and more
- best practices for cloud customers.

While these quarterly meetings are organized for paying members of the consortia, there are limited openings for non-members to attend when invited by a chair of a task force or working group. This is especially useful to get a taste of what's going on if you are considering joining. Meetings include both invited presentations and work on deliverables (standards, papers, guides, etc.). For more information, see www.omg.org, www.iiconsortium.org, and www.digitaltwinconsortium.org. If you are interested in an invitation, please contact us. Please note that an NDA and a meeting fee will apply.

→ Blockchain for Energy

Our former colleague Alexandre Pépin, Senior Oil & Gas project manager at GE Power in Paris, puts out a regular compilation of news related to blockchain, with a focus on its use in the Oil & Gas business.

→ AI and Theatre

The EU National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) is offering a session of it AI Science Café series on the topic of "AI and Theatre" on Thursday, October 21 at 1800 BST (1700 UTC). The announcement says "we try to challenge the idea that live performance is a specifically human activity and explore different forms of human-AI interactions in the theatre." One of the speakers, Piotr Mirowski, is an ex-colleague who leads a double life as theatre actor and AI research scientist at DeepMind.

→ Playing Catch-Up on AI Safeguards

Associated press reported a few days ago that "top science advisers to President Joe Biden are calling for a new 'bill of rights' to guard against powerful new artificial intelligence technology." The concern about profiling, facial recognition, or social manipulation is not new -- in fact, the European Union's draft regulation addressing the same range of risks is already six months old (the reporters do mention the EU work), and the U.S. is visibly playing catch-up.

As has been the case in Europe, companies are forming alliances to resist regulation, claiming that they can assess and mitigate the risks themselves. In Europe, the push-back is being coordinated by Business Europe (and in particular its German member, the Federation of German Industries, or BDI), and in the U.S. it is organized by BSA, a Washington-based software trade group (i.e., a lobby) that includes Microsoft, IBM, Oracle and Salesforce. Rather than wade into political waters, we will let the readers decide for themselves whether the industries' position is sufficiently credible.

Seen Recently...

"Many of the problems in startups come from people making decisions they are not accountable for; and in academia, people making proclamations with no accountability."

-- Martin Casado, from Andreessen Horowitz) in this "LabtoStartup" podcast

(thanks to Antoine Wojdyla of Lawrence Berkeley Lab for the tweet)

"Pentagon Wants AI to Predict Events Before They Occur."

-- Stupid title of the month from IEEE Spectrum. What do they think "predict" means?