

NIST Big Data Working Group Announcement

You are cordially invited to participate in the **NIST Big Data Working Group Kick-off meeting** to be held on **June 19, 2013, 1300 – 1400 EDT via teleconferencing**. The information you'll need for participating in the kick-off meeting can be found at the bottom of this message.

There is a broad agreement among commercial, academic, and government leaders about the remarkable potential of “Big Data” to spark innovation, fuel commerce, and drive progress. Big Data is the term used to describe the deluge of data in our networked, digitized, sensor-laden, information driven world. The availability of vast data resources carries the potential to answer questions previously out of reach. Questions like: How do we reliably detect a potential pandemic early enough to intervene? Can we predict new materials with advanced properties before these materials have ever been synthesized? How can we reverse the current advantage of the attacker over the defender in guarding against cybersecurity threats?

However there is also broad agreement on the ability of Big Data to overwhelm traditional approaches. The rate at which data volumes, speeds, and complexity are growing is outpacing scientific and technological advances in data analytics, management, transport, and more.

Despite the widespread agreement on the opportunities and current limitations of Big Data, a lack of consensus on some important, fundamental questions is confusing potential users and holding back progress. What are the attributes that define Big Data solutions? How is Big Data different from the traditional data environments and related applications that we have encountered thus far? What are the essential characteristics of Big Data environments? How do these environments integrate with currently deployed architectures? What are the central scientific, technological, and standardization challenges that need to be addressed to accelerate the deployment of robust Big Data solutions?

The NIST Big Data Working Group (NBD-WG) is being launched to address these questions. The Group is charged with developing over the coming months a consensus definition, taxonomy, reference architecture, and technology roadmap for Big Data that can be embraced by all sectors.

The NBD-WG is co-chaired by Chaitan Baru, Bob Marcus, and Wo Chang. Dr. Baru is Distinguished Scientist at the San Diego Supercomputer Center and Director of the Center for Large-scale Data Systems Research. Dr. Marcus is CTO of ET-Strategies and a leader in cloud and data standards efforts with experience in commercial, academic, and government settings. Wo Chang is Digital Data Advisor in the NIST Information Technology Laboratory and an experienced contributor to national and international standards efforts.

Participation in the NIST Big Data Working Group is open to everyone. We hope to bring together stakeholder communities across industry, academic, and government sectors representing all of those with interests in Big Data techniques, technologies, and applications. The group needs your input to meet its goals so please join us for the kick-off meeting and contribute your ideas and insights.

Meetings

The NIST Big Data Working Group will hold **weekly meetings on Wednesdays** (unless announce otherwise) by teleconference. The meeting time is 1300 -1500 EDT. The dial-in information is as follows:

Phone: **866-692-4541**, Participant Passcode: **312-484-475-560**

More information about web conference tools can be found at: <http://bigdatawg.nist.gov/virtualmeeting.php>.

Questions

More details about the NIST Big Data Working Group can be found at <http://bigdatawg.nist.gov>.

General questions to the NIST Big Data Working Group can be addressed to BigDataInfo@nist.gov.