



Information and Privacy
Commissioner/Ontario
Commissaire à l'information
et à la protection de la vie privée/Ontario



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Media Advisory

May 7, 2012

First Ever SmartData International Symposium May 14-16

Protect our privacy – Make the data ‘think’ for itself.

TORONTO – The [Identity, Privacy, and Security Institute \(IPSI\)](#) at the University of Toronto in association with the [Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, Canada](#) are proud to host the first **SmartData International Symposium: *Privacy meets Evolutionary Robotics: Protecting our Freedoms with Virtual Tools.***

Over 20 renowned experts from around the world, covering many different disciplines, will gather to advance the vision of SmartData and shape the future of the Internet to ensure the protection of privacy in today’s online world.

[SmartData Website](#)
[SmartData Brochure](#)

The Challenge – Big Data and Privacy

The amount of online data is increasing at an alarming rate. Over the course of 24 hours, we now generate the same amount of data as was captured from the beginning of recorded history up to the year 2003. More knowledge and data may lead to undeniable economic and social benefits, but privacy issues arise when it comes to our personal information and the linkage of our data. How can we have both Big Data and Big Privacy? By devising a smart way to protect our data, that allows the data to effectively ‘think’ for itself.

The Solution – “SmartData”

SmartData aims to provide a futuristic solution by creating Internet-based virtual agents, which will act as an individual's online proxy to securely store their personal information, and disclose it based upon an individual’s preferences and instructions.

The Benefit – Preserve our Privacy into the Future

The future of privacy may well depend on our ability to reclaim our personal control of our online information and identities. The goal of this symposium is to advance the SmartData vision, to shape the future of the Internet, ensuring individual liberty and freedom via privacy protection, in the midst of 21st century technology and Big Data.



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Who is speaking and what will be discussed?

Experts from all over the globe will gather to discuss SmartData in the context of a wide array of disciplines, including artificial intelligence, robotics, cognitive science, computer science, evolutionary biology, engineering, privacy and philosophy.

EVENT DETAILS

WHAT: IPSI SmartData International Symposium

Privacy meets Evolutionary Robotics: Protecting our Freedoms with Virtual Tools

The event has been made possible through a grant from [the University of Toronto's Connaught Fund](#), which invests between \$3-4 million annually in research and innovation, making it the largest of its kind in Canada. The SmartData Symposium was funded under its newest program in support of research to target unmet societal needs and cultivate collaborations with transformative impact.

WHO: Over 20 speakers including;

- [Bob Blainey](#), IBM Fellow, Hardware Acceleration Laboratory IBM Software Group;
- [Dr. Ann Cavoukian](#), Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, Canada;
- [Dr. Dario Floreano](#), (EPFL) École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Head of Laboratory of Intelligent Systems Lausanne, Switzerland;
- [Dr. Inman Harvey](#), Visiting Senior Research Fellow, University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K.;
- [Dr. Kirk Jordan](#), Emerging Solutions Executive, Computational Science Center at IBM Watson Research Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.;
- [Dr. Mark Kingwell](#), Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, Canada;
- [Dr. Peter Lewis](#), Associate Vice President, Research, University of Toronto, Canada;
- [Dr. David Naylor](#), President, University of Toronto, Canada
- [Dr. Enrique Pujals](#), Professor, Associacao Instituto Nacional de Matematica Pura e Aplicada, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
- [Dr. George Tomko](#), Expert-in-Residence, Identity, Privacy and Security Institute (IPSI), University of Toronto, Canada;
- [Dr. Denis Walsh](#), Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, Canada;
- [Dr. Michael Wheeler](#), Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Stirling, U.K.

[Full list of speakers](#)

WHERE: University of Toronto, Brennan Hall, Sam Sorbara Auditorium,
Room 200, 81 St. Mary Street, Toronto, Ont. M5S 1J4

WHEN: Over 20 daytime presentations/Q&A sessions
Monday, May 14 – Wednesday, May 16, 2012
[Symposium Schedule](#)



****Media is welcome to attend. Please contact the representatives below.**

About the IPC

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is appointed by and reports to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Canada, and is independent of the government of the day. The Commissioner's mandate includes overseeing the access and privacy provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as well as the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*, which applies to both public and private sector health information custodians. The Commissioner's mandate includes educating the public about access and privacy issues.

About the IPSI

The Identity, Privacy and Security Institute (IPSI) at the University of Toronto is dedicated to developing new approaches to security that maintain the privacy, freedom and safety of the individual and the broader community. Established in 2007, the Institute strives to facilitate linkages between the diverse body of researchers working in this area at University of Toronto and the national and international community.

About the University of Toronto

The University of Toronto has assembled one of the strongest research and teaching faculties in North America, presenting top students at all levels with an intellectual environment unmatched in breadth and depth on any other Canadian campus.

U of T faculty co-author more research articles than their colleagues at any university in the U.S. or Canada other than Harvard. As a measure of impact, U of T consistently ranks alongside the top five U.S. universities whose discoveries are most often cited by other researchers around the world. U of T faculty are also widely recognized for their teaching strengths and commitment to graduate supervision. Established in 1827, the University of Toronto today operates in downtown Toronto, Mississauga and Scarborough, as well as in nine renowned partner hospitals.

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IPC

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