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January 2021
McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

For the IT community, by the IT community.

McMaster IT News

Celebrating McMaster IT in 2021

2020 may have been a year of uncertainty and overwhelm, but it was also one of resilience and accomplishment for the McMaster IT community. In this article, McMaster AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray challenges us to acknowledge and celebrate our successes this year.

Read article

Connectivity 2021: 4th Annual McMaster IT Forum

This year's virtual forum is hosted by the Office of the AVP and CTO and celebrates the many contributions of the IT community at McMaster. Connectivity 2021 brings campus IT professionals, tech practitioners and business partners together as One IT Community. McMaster's AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray and keynote speaker Brian Keating will kick off the multi-day IT Forum on Feb. 16. Check out the event program and register today!

Don't miss this opportunity to learn, network and create a more inclusive tech community on campus! Click the button to register and access all event info, including the IT Forum MS Teams join link!

Event Details & Registration

IT Governance update: January

On January 21, 2021, the IT Executive committee met to review and discuss proposed IT initiatives. A number of initiatives were endorsed including:

- McMaster Web Strategy

- McMaster XR Inventory Consolidation Project
- Research Sites pilot

Further details and communications on these activities will be shared in the coming weeks.

IT Governance Committees move to Microsoft Teams

Starting with the January 2021 meetings, IT Governance has made the move from Confluence and MacDrive to Microsoft Teams, allowing for easier access to current and previous meeting materials. This move affirms the commitment to collaboration, transparency, inclusivity and alignment to the McMaster IT Strategic Plan. The Microsoft Teams channel will be the best place to look for the latest agenda and the materials for review. The IT Governance Teams group is open to all in the McMaster community. To join, search "IT Governance" in Teams.

Read article

McMaster Women in Tech January 2021 Changemaker: Hanna Haponenko

Hanna Haponenko
Product and operational lead and PhD student
McMaster Women in Tech
January 2021 Changemaker

McMaster Women in Tech project highlights and recognizes women tech changemakers within the McMaster community. Read how our latest Changemaker, Hanna Haponenko, is leveraging facial gesture recognition to develop assistive automobile technology, mentorship and 'delightful technology.'

During the IT Forum, past Changmakers will come together on February 19 at 10:00-11:00AM for a panel discussion moderated by Gayleen Gray and a special guest!

Read Hanna's profile

McMaster IT Strategic Plan Anniversary

This month we celebrate the two-year anniversary of the McMaster IT Strategy! There are many to thank for bringing this Plan to life, and we'll all continue to collaborate to deliver a technology experience that is more connected, seamless, and transformative. Tune in to the 2021 McMaster IT Forum to get the latest updates and see the festivities!

Virtual hallway chats with Gayleen kick off

Listen in! Virtual hallway chat with Gayleen Gray and Dianna Creamer

McMaster University's AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray launches 'Virtual Hallway Chats' -- a new series to learn and celebrate the connected, seamless and transformative work we are undertaking.

Virtual hallway chats aim to break the routine of our work from home lifestyle and simulate the casual conversations we miss; chats that would take place in the halls of the workplace and on coffee breaks as if we were still on campus.

The first episode features McMaster's own Dianna Creamer, Manager, Accounts Receivable. Check out the conversation as Dianna and Gayleen discuss various topics ranging from COVID-19 to football games.

If you are interested in chatting with Gayleen, please reach out to Tanya Reid at tanya.reid@mcmaster.ca.

Hallway chat

McMaster XR Discovery Survey

Calling McMaster innovators interested in Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR), together referred to as Extended Reality (XR)! XR technologies

Share your views on XR in education, research, outreach and anywhere else you feel the technology might be useful. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and will help both gauge interest in, and inventory the resources for, future XR research and development endeavours.

Complete the XR Survey

In addition to the survey, there will be an opportunity to participate in focus groups, and the team will complete peer scans to understand how other institutions are approaching XR strategies for research, development, education and outreach and enhancing student experience.

At the end of this project a report with recommendations on next steps will be delivered.

Please contact Josh Mitchell (mitchjp3@mcmaster.ca) if you have any questions about these activities.

Learn about the XR project here

Catch up on new Teams features and updates

Microsoft Teams has new features! Read this article how to enable Teams Public Preview, use the new built-in PowerPoint Presenter View and use Reactions.

Also check out our communities of practice where members can get quick access to support, training and shared learning, using MS365 and Zoom for teaching. Instructors and support staff can join Class Teams here. Teaching and Instructional Assistants can join a separate community of practice specific to them here.

More Microsoft 365 training sessions are available to staff, students and faculty members on apps like Outlook and Teams.

MS 365 sessions

Zoom training for staff, faculty and students

Zoom beginner and advanced training is available every week from January until the end of March for staff, students and faculty members. Beginner sessions are Tuesdays 1:30-2:30PM and advanced sessions are Thursdays 9:30-10:30AM. Please note that you have to register at least 24 hours before a session starts to ensure you receive the meeting link.

Zoom sessions

Items of Interest

Cybersecurity webinar and blog series launched: CANARIE

CANARIE launched a community blog and webinar series by thought leaders working in the Canadian research and education cybersecurity sector. The series will provide key cybersecurity information to colleagues across Canada's research and education communities.

Translate ▾

post, by Bob Gagne, is about [Confronting Cybersecurity Risk Together](#).

Webinars will be held on the last Thursday of the month at 1:00PM ET. The first speaker is Lindsay MacDonald presenting the Canadian Center for Cyber Security: Products and Services for the Academic Sector. The first webinar is January 28 at 1:00PM ET. [Register so you don't miss out!](#)

Full details

NREN Summit 2020

In December, AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray gave a presentation during the National Research and Education Network (NREN) Summit. In the presentation, Gayleen discusses different initiatives that help secure higher education and how CanSSOC helps reach those collaborative goals.

Watch video

CanSSOC: The Road to Actionable Intelligence

On January 13, CanSSOC held their The Road to Actionable Intelligence webinar. Responding to cyber security risks requires information that is comprehensive, reliable and in real time. [Watch the full webinar](#) to see how CanSSOC leverages threat intelligence and data sources across different services and tools to provide actionable intelligence to its member institutions.

See more events

Have a story you want to share with the IT Community? Email Peter McDonald at mcdonp1@mcmaster.ca to feature an article!

2020, McMaster IT

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