

The Insider

December 13, 2016



Seasons Greetings

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"With the intersection of cloud, IoT, and Big Data innovation, we have reached an inflection point in technology's ability to reshape our businesses, our lives and our environment. At InsightaaS, we hope in the coming year to witness the creation of more "technology for good," and will continue working to deliver a compelling view into this amazing evolution. Until then, we wish all of our readers the very best

for a wonderful holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year!"

-Mary Allen, Chief Content Officer



Share alike for machine learning

December 5, 2016 by Denise Deveau

What do Facebook, IBM, Microsoft, Google and Canada's NextAI program have in common? They are all investing heavily in the machine learning ecosystem. For its part, recently launched incubator NextAI is providing startups with access to technology platforms, expertise and seed financing for exciting new applications in robotics, gesture control, personalized medicine and even agricultural drones.

Though up to 500 startups in Canada are now working in this area, academic director of NextAI Graham Taylor stressed the "real shortage of talent that understands machine learning and AI." Find out how and why players like Google are sharing valuable code and research resources to support the startup community. [Read more](#)



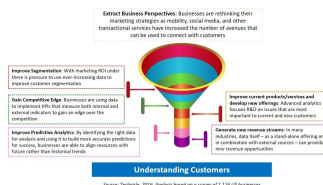
Kaushik Tharakkad, director, IT Consulting, CenturyLink Canada

Big Data-as-a-Service takes shape in Canada

November 30, 2016 by Mary Allen

CenturyLink is shifting gear, with new focus on the development of analytics/Big Data service offerings. "Most customers do not yet recognize the power of Big Data, but do realize that they have massive amounts of data and need to have efficient reporting mechanisms and good business intelligence in place," noted Kaushik Tharakkad, director, IT consulting for CenturyLink Canada.

To help customers push past traditional data warehousing models, CenturyLink Canada is leveraging the company's partnership with SAP, layering in-memory and analytics capability on top of core data services to provide "Agile Analytics." To understand the mechanics of this new service offering, [Read more](#)



The foundations of insight

November 29, 2016 by Michael O'Neil

Data science is the "sexiest job of the 21st century," (Harvard Business Review) but practitioners are only one link in the chain of data analysis that provides insight to executives.

According to Information Builders' Mitchell Ogilvie, in the face of increases in the "three Vs" of Big Data – variety (video, social, structured, unstructured); volume (from gigabytes to petabytes); and velocity (real time data feeds) – organizations must work to ensure that "erroneous data doesn't interfere with and propagate into our intelligence base."

What tool set's can IT deploy to maintain the integrity of company data? The answer lies in a 'less sexy' data science task – data cleansing – which serves as a critical foundation for Big Data insight. To learn more about how Information Builders iWay profiling, rules-based cleansing, remediation and master data management can help [Read more](#)



Building Cloud Value

A Best Practice Guide, 2016

Mary Allen, Michael O'Neil
contributing members of the Toronto Cloud Business Coalition

“Building Cloud Value” – a review

December 7, 2016 by Paul Kennedy

How can Canadian businesses harness the power of cloud computing in the 21st century? InsightaaS analysts Mary Allen and Michael O'Neil and the Toronto Cloud Business Coalition have a plan. Their new book, *Building Cloud Value: A Best Practice Guide, 2016* provides extensive advice on cloud deployment developed by harnessing the wisdom of the crowd – three dozen cloud experts from across Canada active in the TCBC.

In his review of the book, Paul Kennedy asks and answers a number of questions. Why do we need a set of Canadian best practices when the Internet and cloud are borderless technologies? What can TCBC research tell us about managing issues like Shadow IT? And what can crowd sourced wisdom help us to understand about the kind of leadership effective cloud deployment demands? [Read more](#)

About InsightaaS

The Insider is a bi-weekly e-newsletter that, like its parent website InsightaaS, is dedicated to exploring "the 'why' in enterprise technology."

Our enews offers unique and depth perspective on Analytics, Cloud, Data Centre, IT Management (including security), The Internet of Things, and Vitamin Y, a concise view of industry trends and events. If you are interested in staying current with our research, featured content and editorial coverage in these areas, click on any of the articles in this e-newsletter. If you are interested in a steady stream of thought leadership, click on the link below and we'll subscribe you!

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