Creating Technology for a Successful Future: A Prologue

Dr. Fran Berman
Vice President for Research
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Creating a Successful Future: Science, Engineering, and Technology Matter

What is the potential impact of Global Warming?

How will natural disasters effect urban centers?

Can we accurately predict market outcomes?

What plants work best for biofuels?

What therapies can be used to cure or control cancer?

“Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been before.”

President Barack Obama

“Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been before.”

President Barack Obama
Foundation for a Better World

Computers for the Third World
Mary Lou Jepsen, founding CTO, One Laptop Per Child

Robots for dangerous situations
Helen Greiner, co-founder, iRobot

Mobility for amputees
Van Phillips, inventor of the C-leg

Mobile technologies for increasing information available on population health
Joel Selanikio and Rose Donna co-founders, DataDyne

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New and Expanded Opportunities  
Now to Make an Impact

• Greater focus on Science, Engineering, Technology, Education in all branches of Govt.
  – Increased Opportunity for science and technology community to guide national-scale solutions for societal problems

• Increased engagement of OSTP in Administration priorities

• President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) tasked with addressing most pressing national priorities (health, energy, climate, manufacturing, etc.)

OSTP S&T Budget Priorities:

• Build on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and focus on S&T strategies that can be used to drive economic recovery

• Focus on science and technology to address sustainable energy, health-focused biomedical research, critical and cyber-infrastructure, and advanced capabilities in space

• Improve STEM education
21st Century Solutions
Driven by 21st Century Tools

New materials
Nanodiamond drug delivery device

Mobile devices

Sensors

Scientific Instruments

Computers, Networks, Data
From Challenge to Solution: Earthquake Impact Prediction

What is the impact of a Large-Scale Earthquake on the Southern San Andreas Fault?

Computer model used to predict seismic activity, parameterized by Southern California sensor data

High performance computer and large-scale data storage needed to run high-resolution model

Scientific visualizations of seismic predictions require additional computation

New Building codes
Better disaster response
Targeted retrofitting

Some images courtesy of Amit Chourasia
Tomorrow’s discoveries require even more capability, functionality, capacity.

Cyber-Bio-physical systems

Social networks, Mass communication

Boundaries between domains are blurring, bringing new opportunities for innovation, agility, and synergy.

Data → Information → Knowledge

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Are We There Yet?

- Hopes are high that we will meet our ambitious and critical goals and technical aspirations

- What is required to be successful?

- Why do our efforts oftentimes fall short?
Creating a Strong Foundation for Future Success

1. Creating a strong foundation for science, engineering, and technology *efforts* in the Information Age

2. Creating a strong foundation for future science, engineering, and technology *leadership*
The Information Age

“The Information Age [is] characterized by the ability of individuals to transfer information freely, and to have instant access to knowledge that would have been difficult or impossible to find previously.”

Wikipedia

• At the heart of successful efforts in the Information Age is digital information itself, and the ability to access and preserve that information as needed.

• Focus: Digital information and the environment needed to support its availability, preservation and use.

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The Digital World 1

• The 2008 Cyber-election
  – Fundraising via website
  – YouTube videos of the candidates and conventions
  – Blogs as vehicles for discussing issues
  – On-line organizing

• Digital data from historic 2008 cyber-election is valuable for decades+ to come
The Digital World 2

• **Science: The First Billion Years After the Big Bang**
  
  – 400 TB of data produced from ENZO astrophysics simulations
  
  – Data will be mined and analyzed, of great value for **several years** after computation

• Simulation results illustrate growth of stars, galaxies, and galaxy clusters, dark matter, etc. after the Big Bang

• Large-scale simulations “refreshed” as resources become available

Images courtesy of Mike Norman
The Digital World 3

- Family Photographs

Some images courtesy of the Library of Congress
How Much Digital Data is There?

U.S. Library of Congress manages **295+ terabytes** of digital data, 230+ of which are “born digital”

<table>
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<th>Kilo</th>
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<td>Zetta</td>
<td>10^21</td>
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SDSC Tape Archives = **36+ petabytes capacity**

Google Earth = **71+ terabytes**

50,000 Protein Data Bank Structures = **35 terabytes**

Stored data from ENZO cosmological simulations = **500 terabytes**

By 2023, the amount of digital data will exceed **Avogadro’s number**. (6.02 X 10^23 = number of atoms in 12 grams of carbon)

1 novel = **1 megabyte**

Graph Source: “The Diverse and Exploding Digital Universe” IDC Whitepaper, March 2008

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Running Out of Room

• We may be generating unimaginable amounts of data, **but we can’t save it all.**

• **2007 was the “crossover year”** where the amount of digital information became greater than the amount of available storage

• Importance of digital data and the need to make choices mandates a **more thoughtful approach to data stewardship** in the Information Age

The Data Life Cycle

Create
Data creation / capture / gathering from
• laboratory experiments,
• fieldwork,
• surveys,
• devices,
• media,
• simulation output, ...

Edit
• Organize
• Annotate
• Clean
• Filter, ....

Use / Reuse
• Analyze,
• Mine,
• Model,
• Derive additional data,
• Visualize
• Input to instruments / computers / devices, ....

Publish
• Disseminate
• Create portals / data collections / databases
• Associate with literature, ....

Preserve / Destroy
• Store / preserve
• Store / replicate / preserve,
• Store / ignore,
• Destroy ....

Information adapted from Chris Rusbridge and Liz Lyon,
Coordinated Information Technologies Needed to Support the Data Life Cycle

Data Access
- Database selection and schema design
- Portal creation and collection publication
- Data mining
- Storage services
- Preservation services
- Domain-specific tools
  - Biology Workbench
  - Montage (astronomy mosaicking)
  - Kepler (Workflow management)
- Data visualization, etc.

Data Use
- Simulation
- Data visualization
- File systems, Database systems, Collection Management Data Integration, etc.

Data Management
- Modeling
- Analysis
- Visualization

Data Storage
- Sensornets
- Computers

SDSC Integrated Data Cyberinfrastructure

Services
- Create
- Edit
- Use / Reuse
- Publish
- Preserve / Destroy

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Good Data Cyberinfrastructure

Must be Reliable and Easy to Use

Key Characteristics:

• Usability
• Scalability
• Interoperability
• Reliability
• Capability
• Predictability
• Accessibility
• Sustainability
• Cost-Effectiveness

Reliability:
How to minimize the risk of data loss or damage?

Accessibility:
Will the information be there when you need it?

Entity at risk | What can go wrong | Frequency
--- | --- | ---
File | Corrupted media, disk failure | 1 year
Tape | + Simultaneous failure of 2 copies | 5 years
System | + Systemic errors in vendor SW, or Malicious user, or Operator error that deletes multiple copies | 15 years
Archive | Natural disaster, obsolescence of standards | 50 - 100 years
Access to Data Tomorrow Requires Preservation of Data Today

• Key Questions:

1) What should we save? – *value, policy, regulation*

2) How should we save it? – *technology, best practice*

3) Who should pay for it? -- *economics*
What Should We Save?

Data we* want to keep over the long-term:

– We = “Society”
  • Official and historically valuable data (Census information, presidential emails, Shoah Collection, etc.)

– We = Research Community
  • Protein Data Bank, National Virtual Observatory, etc.

– We = Me
  • My medical record, my Quicken data, digital photos of my daughter’s graduation, etc.
Business Regulation
Requiring Data Preservation

Sarbanes-Oxley (Public Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002)

• Applies to all U.S. public company boards, management, and public accounting firms

• Includes electronic records (correspondence, work papers, memoranda, etc.) that are created, sent, or received in connection with an audit or a review

  – Section 103: “Board must require registered public accounting firms to “prepare, and maintain for a period of not less than 7 years, audit work papers, and other information related to any audit report, in sufficient detail to support the conclusions reached in that report.”

  – Section 802: “any accountant who conducts an audit of an issuer of securities to which section 10(a) of the SEC …applies, shall maintain all audit or review work papers for a period of 5 years from the end of the fiscal period in which the audit or review was concluded.”

1. “Don’t forget that email and instant messaging are business records …

4. Don't assume that the retention requirement ...is ...7 years. There are a lot of variables depending on the industry, type of organization and type of information. … most lawyers that understand information retention agree that business records need to be kept indefinitely.

10. Don’t assume that just because you have access to archived information that you’re going to be able to restore it within a reasonable amount of time…”

Kevin Beaver, “Thirteen Data Retention Mistakes to Avoid”

http://searchdatamanagement.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid91_qci1186910,00.html
Health Regulation
Requiring Data Preservation

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)

- Applies to health information created or maintained by health care providers “who engage in certain electronic transactions, health plans, and health care clearinghouses” [www.hipaa.org]
- Title II: Requires HHS to create rules and standards for the use and dissemination of health care information
- Healthcare providers must retain healthcare records for a period of not less than 6 years.
Increasing Policy and Regulation Affecting Research Community

- OMB requires that **federally funded research data**, supporting documentation, scientific notebooks, financial records, etc. be maintained **by the grantee for 3+ years**

- University libraries, federal agencies, institutional repositories **not currently prepared** to address the economic, technological, legal and social issues associated with widespread compliance of data retention policies

### Crime and Punishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulations</th>
<th>Retention Requirement</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIPAA</td>
<td>Retain patient data for 6 years</td>
<td>$250K fine and up to 10 years in prison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarbanes-Oxley</td>
<td>Auditors must retain relevant data for at least 7 years</td>
<td>Fines to $5M and 20 years in prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gramm-Leach-Baily</td>
<td>Ensure confidentiality of customer financial information</td>
<td>Up to $500K and 10 years in prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEC 17a</td>
<td>Broker data retention for 3-6 years. Some require longer retention</td>
<td>Variable based on violation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMB Circular A-110 / CFR Part 215 (applies to federally funded research data)</td>
<td>“a three year period is the minimum amount of time that research data should be kept by the grantee”</td>
<td>Penalty structure unclear, likely fines?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table information partly based on “Data Retention – More Value, Less Filling”, John Murphy, http://www.tdan.com/view-articles/5222
How Should We Save It?

Technology: Increasing activity around data storage and preservation technologies, programs, and services

• Academic sector:
  - Chronopolis (preservation grid); IRODS (rule-based distributed data management), Fedora (digital object repository system), D-Space (digital asset management), LOCKSS (peer-to-peer digital preservation infrastructure), etc.

• Private sector: Amazon, MS, Google, Apple, Flickr, Sun, etc.

• Public Agencies/Institutions: Library of Congress, NARA, NSF, NIH, DOE, Museums, Libraries, universities, state governments, etc.

However, there is no technology magic bullet ...

Preserving digital data 100+ years will involve

• Tens-hundreds of new generations of technologies
• Thousands+ of new data standards and formats
• Millions+ of new valued collections
• Billions+ of potential users with as yet unknown information needs and workflows
A Sample View of the Library of Congress Stewardship Network for Humanities and Sciences

Librarians’ Perspective: People, Planning, Protections
Critical Focus for the Preservation Environment

Figure courtesy of Martha Anderson, Library of Congress
Research and Education User’s Perspective: Key Questions Focus on Outcomes rather than Technology

How do I make sure that my data will be there when I want it?

How should I display my data?

What are the trends and what is the noise in my data?

How can I combine my data with my colleague’s data?

How should I organize my data?

My data is confidential; how do I make sure that it is seen/used only by the right people?

How can I make my data accessible to my collaborators?

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Current Best Practices in Digital Preservation

- **Replication** – make multiple copies and store some off-site
- **Heterogeneity** – more bio-diverse solutions tolerate greater error
- Associate **metadata** with data to aid access, management, search
- **Plan ahead** for smooth transition of data to new generations of media
- Align necessary level of “**trust**” with **reliability, infrastructure**
- Include **data costs** as part of the IT bill
- Pay attention to **security**
- Know the appropriate **regulations, policies, and penalties** that pertain to your data

Why are 3 copies used as best practice?

- Approach comes from Lamport, Shostak, and Pease’s solution to the **Byzantine General’s Problem**
  - Method for agreement on a battle plan for a group of Byzantine generals communicating only by messenger
  - Analogous to reliable computer systems with malfunctioning components
- **Solution**: When generals can send unforgeable signed messages to one another, the minimum number required for agreement is 3.
Who Should Pay?
The “Free Rider” Non-Solution

• Inadequate/unrealistic approach: “Let X do it”
where X is:
  – The Government
  – The Libraries
  – The Archivists
  – Google, Yahoo, Microsoft, etc.
  – Data users
  – Data owners
  – Data creators, etc.

Creative partnerships needed to provide preservation solutions for digital data in the public interest, overseen by trusted stewards, with

• Feasible costs for users
• Sustainable costs for infrastructure
• Appropriate access
• Very low risk for data loss, etc.
Multiple Economic Models Possible to Support Sustainable Digital Access and Preservation

Key requirements for Sustainable Digital Preservation

- **Recognition** of the benefits of preservation from decision makers
- **Systemic incentives** to implement preservation efforts ("carrots and sticks")
- **Ongoing funding** for preservation resources
- **Appropriate organization and governance** of preservation activities.

Requirements courtesy of Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access
Setting the Stage for Cost-Effective Sustainability: Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access

Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access

- Focus of investigations:
  - General **cost framework**: key cost categories of digital preservation
  - Set of **economic models** which provide alternative ways of addressing sustainable digital preservation
    - Pros, cons, costs, trade-offs of each
    - List real world conditions for which each model is best suited.
  - **Actionable recommendations**: “If your digital preservation context is X, you should consider using model Y for sustainable digital access and preservation.”

Download of BRTF reports on Task Force website: btrf.sdsc.edu

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Tomorrow’s Leaders

Most of the tomorrow’s leaders in science, technology, commerce, politics, art, etc. leaders of tomorrow’s are students today

• 20 years ago or less ...
  • President Barak Obama graduated from Law School
  • Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri graduated from College
  • Teach for America Founder Wendy Kopp was working on her Senior Thesis
  • Journalist Roxana Saberi was in Junior High School
  • Facebook Creator Mark Zuckerberg was in kindergarten
Our Responsibility: Prepare today’s students for a world of unprecedented complexity

• There’s no “answer key” in real life
• Today’s students need experience with
  – Challenging problems
  – Modern instruments and up-to-date technologies
  – Failure
  – International cultures
  – The “business”, “political”, “policy” and other attributes of real-world professional life

Our educational institutions must prepare students for the “outside” world they will encounter when they graduate

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We Have the Power to Lay the Foundation for the Next Generation’s Success

• Power of asking the question
  – “How many women and under-represented minorities PIs and co-Pis are associated with your Center?”

• Power of creating explicit goals and metrics of success
  • “I’d like to see more students doing research involving RPI’s unique instruments and assets.”

• Power of recognition and encouragement
  • Recognize success publicly, nominate our outstanding students and colleagues for awards, prizes, recognitions, etc.

• Power of policy, resource allocation, and prioritization
  • Use the resources under your control strategically and to help drive a more successful future
We Can Lay the Foundation for Future Success
Thank You