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The 5th Annual Symposium on the Digital Person

The use of personal data is of enormous global concern. The Symposium on the Digital Person is an annual event organized by the HAT Community Foundation (HCF) and Dataswift as a unique cross-disciplinary environment for a robust discussion on the “state of the digital person”. This year’s event will also feature presentations on global projects and case studies on how the state of the digital person is being improved globally.

Participants include industry captains, policy makers, government representatives as well as thought leaders from the sciences, humanities and social sciences domains who come together for discussions relating to law, computer science, history, sociology, entrepreneurship, business, economics and the global society.

This year’s symposium’s theme is: **The Empowered Digital Person: Global Projects with Data Passports and Personal Data Servers**

Programme for the Day

9:00am **Welcome to the Symposium**
Presentation on the current state of the HAT ecosystem by Irene Ng, CEO
Dataswift

The Ecosystem Session: Showcasing Projects in our Ecosystem

- 9:30am** Travel & Tourism: Presentation by Wejugo.com CEO Mike Welling
([Pre-Symposium preview conversation](#))
- 10:00am** Finance: Presentation by IFC Senior Financial Specialist Ivan Mortimer-Schutts
(TBC) ([Pre-Symposium preview conversation](#))
- 10:30am** Health and Wellness: Presentation by SejutaKG CEO Gabriel Ng
([Pre-Symposium preview conversation](#))
- 11am-2.30pm** Lunch break
- 2.30pm** Dataswift Info Center with Irene Ng & Tyler Weir
- 3pm** Smart Cities & Citizen App: Presentation by Urban Systems CEO
([Pre-Symposium preview conversation](#))

The Digital Person Session: Academic Panel Discussion

- 3:30pm** **The state of the digital person: Presentations and discussion**
Moderated by Dr Jim Spohrer with presentations by panelists

Digital Identity & Trust: Cornerstones of the Digital Economy

[Jon Crowcroft](#), FRS, FREng

Marconi Professor of Communications Systems, Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge

Digital identity is a cornerstone of the digital economy and hence requires very strong level of trust between stakeholders - foundational identity is typically a national level affordance, and likely to be used only occasionally, to bootstrap a number of functional identity services which can then offer data minimisation when supporting the authentication of user's attributes (e.g. voter eligibility, age verification, access to banking, medical services, travel between countries and so on). Systems that allow users to enter the market with their personal data from their personal data store need assurances about the identity of those they trade with, and those others need assurance about ownership and so on. Systems are emerging that are distributed, federated and even decentralised for identity, using

similar architectures to the personal data stores themselves. There are interesting questions about how users will understand these systems, and whether governments will adopt these systems, or they will deploy and grow and flourish separately from national authorities.

The End of the Beginning: The Emergence of Next-Generation Digital Platforms

[Youngjin Yoo](#)

Elizabeth M. and William C. Treuhaft Professor in Entrepreneurship and Professor of Information Systems, Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University

The last twenty years has seen remarkable economic growth through the effective power of digital technology. With the combined market capitalization of \$10 billion and more, Apple, Amazon, Google and Meta (formerly known as Facebook) who built their business models around digital platforms would be the world's third-largest economy only behind the US and China, if they were a country. These platforms are all built on the combination of the layered modular architecture of Web 2.0, the generativity of open ecosystems, an unprecedented amount of digital trace data, and powerful analytics capabilities using a centralized data architecture. The proliferation of Web 2.0 platforms in the economy, however, led to serious social, technical and economic negative externalities due to (1) the fragmentation of the digital identity of individuals and (2) privacy and data ownership concerns. As new digital services and devices continue to develop, the users' appetite for hyper-personal digital services will likely continue to grow. While incumbent platform players are introducing a number of solutions to address these externalities, they are likely to fail unless they fundamentally re-architect the way we think about the relationship between a person and the increasingly-digitized world. In addition to the layers of hardware, network, service, and content that defined the layered modular architecture of Web 2.0 platforms, the digital identity and personal data layers will likely emerge as the key battleground in the next frontier. Decentralized, federated, and hybrid service models will be powered by new digital identity and personal data models. Unlike the current dominant layered modular architecture of Web 2.0 that is a provider-centric view of users, the emergent architecture of digital identity and personal data layers should focus on persons as social actors, honoring their rights and agency.

State of the Digital Person: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities

[Irene CL Ng](#)

Professor of Marketing and Service Systems, WMG, University of Warwick; CEO, Dataswift

A presentation on the current state of affairs for the Digital Person, providing a brief overview of the goal - that of equity, justice and freedoms accorded to the digital person. Towards that goal, Irene will summarise the various pathways towards the goal by diverse global communities and the way the physical and the digital are now part of a blended environment. Irene will present the size of the prize and the current players that aim to represent and control digital persons. Broadly, representation of the digital person is the battle for: (1) the “potential” of the digital person in data manifested through the need to collect and store data - from identity data to other attribute data through data architectures that are centralised, decentralised, distributed and the hybrids; (2) the “kinetic” value of data mobility signifying what the digital person can or should be able to do both physically and online safely, securely and smoothly manifested in the design patterns of data flows; and finally (3) the “Agency” of the digital person in terms of the support and assistance to the digital person provided by computation, processing, AI, machine learning. Irene will present the current state of the digital person, the progress in terms of funding, initiatives and communities from research to innovation to markets; the challenges faced by initiatives in different readiness levels and the opportunities for everyone to get involved.

4.30pm **Panel Q & A with participants**

5pm **Closing remarks**