British Computing Society (BCS) Page 1

Central & North London Branches (CeNLB)

Innovation Hub Initiative Community Newsletter

September 2022

What is BCS CeNLB?

As part of the BCS, the UK's professional body for computing, the Central and North London branches are a vibrant and diverse community of volunteers from a wide range of professional backgrounds.

The BCS CeNLB committees meet on a regular basis to plan events and discuss progress regarding ongoing initiatives, A list of our upcoming events can be found **here**. Some of our ongoing community intitiatives include the BCS NLB **Seniors**, **Eco** and **Innovation Hub** programmes. More information can be found by following this **link**.

BCS CeNLB Innovation Hub Initiative

The BCS CeNLB Innovation Hub initiative aims to build a community of London-based Innovation Hubs, enabling our member hubs to network, share ideas, collaborate, and invite creative discussion about cutting-edge innovation in technology.

Our community is growing fast...
We are proud of our continuously growing community, which brings together the following Innovation Hubs, across a number areas of expertise in all things innovation.

In this newsletter, we are pleased to showcase a few **new** community connections, **IDEALondon** and **Digital Catapult.**

SPOTLIGHT: IDEALondon

IDEALondon is a workspace and innovation centre in the heart of Shoreditch — home to some of the most ambitious and flourishing new businesses in London's tech city.

A partnership of UCL's Centre for Digital Innovation (and AWS) launched in April, along with Capital Enterprise, IDEALondon is here to give startups the space and support they need to grow — whether it's access to funding, access to London's best talent, expert advice from our partners, or just the space to get to work — all at an affordable rate and without asking for equity in return.

We've been home to more than 70 startups that have created over 3,000 jobs and raised more than £340 million funding between them.

A couple involve **Twig** who just raised £25.7 million in Jan and **Motilent** who raised £1.2 million in May through the NIHR.

We also put on several big events, our biggest being UCL's EdTechX mini summit back in June. London's best and brightest in the education technology space came together in our Hub to share and grow.

On top of everything else, our growth has been exponential following the pandemic and we can't wait to continue supporting the future of innovation!

Barry Baxter
Innovation Hub Manager
@ IDEALondon
barry@capitalenterprise.org

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For SPOTLIGHTS on:
Digital Catapult and our recent ***Metaverse* event**
Catch up here...
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0D1hLf0WIQ

What's Next?

We are looking forward to growing our community further and invite anyone who is interested to get in touch at one of the below email addresses:

paul@nebel.io
katemarshall@ibm.com

Furthermore, following the success of our ***Metaverse*** event (see next page), we will be hosting our next discussion event on PropTech (property technology) in October**.**

More details to follow!

SPOTLIGHT:
Digital Catapult

Digital Catapult, the UK authority on advanced digital technology, has recently added **Quantum Computing** to its existing technology portfolio of 5G, IoT, OpenRAN, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Distributed Systems including Blockchain, and Immersive (virtual and augmented reality).

Quantum computers promise to revolutionise the world of computing by solving problems that are intractable at present. Possible early use cases include optimisation, simulation of physical systems and machine learning.

If you asked yourself, ***what is Quantum Computing?***

Quantum Computing is a new generation of information processing that allows us to take advantage of the fundamental principles of Quantum Mechanics, such as **superposition** and **entanglement**. With the development of this technology, we open a door to a new way to approach problems we previously thought impossible to solve.

The **Digital Catapult quantum team** is running a series of webinars on quantum computing with leading quantum companies including IBM, ORCA Computing, Riverlane, D-Wave and Microsoft. These webinars aim to highlight the business benefits of quantum computing and help businesses start their quantum journey. Digital Catapult is also developing a user-led technology access programme for a quantum data centre of the future.

Please **get in touch** if you would like to express an interest in our **quantum webinars** or the **quantum data centre of the future technology access programme**.

Digital Catapult's work includes a range of exciting, industry-defining programmes:

- SONIC (SmartRAN Open Network Interoperability Centre) Labs is a two year programme from Digital Catapult and Ofcom, funded by DCMS, to allow new solution providers to enter the telecoms supply chain in the UK.
- The Made Smarter Innovation Digital Supply Chain Hub will allow organisations and research bodies to trial and test the use of digital technologies in the supply chain.
- The Digital Security by Design program secures next generation devices and critical infrastructure through a Technology Access Programme giving participating organisations an opportunity to investigate early-stage software and prototype hardware encryption technology.

Please **get in touch** with Digital Catapult to discuss any aspect of our work.

Daniel Goldsmith
Quantum Computing Technologist @ *Digital Catapult*
daniel.goldsmith@digicatapult.org.uk

SPOTLIGHT:

The Meta-what? Let's talk about the Metaverse
30th March 2022

In March this year, we hosted a virtual panel discussion on the topic of the Metaverse, particularly focussing on:

- *What is the difference between web 2.0 and web 3.0?*
- *What will web 3.0 mean to me as an individual and as a business? What changes can I expect to see and why are they important?*
- *What does web 3.0 imply for the training needs of the workforce to ensure they are 'metaverse' enabled?*
- *What does web 3.0 imply for digital inclusivity?*
- *What's driving the move from web 2.0 - web 3.0? What will push generation Z to adopt this technology?*
- *Given that Meta (otherwise known as Facebook) recently had to introduce a 'personal boundary' into its 'Horizon' VR product to prevent harassment in VR, how should web 3.0 address existing challenges relating to online harm? How might UK government policy address or affect this in future?*
- *The elephant in the VR chatroom is energy usage by blockchain. Is there a problem with basing the next version of the web on what is arguably a very environmentally unfriendly technology?*

The event was very popular, with an interactive audience challenging our experts' approach to the Metaverse, and discussing how to make the Metaverse environment as inclusive, eco-friendly and safe as possible.

Catch up on the event recording by clicking here.