NCOIC Update to Members – October 2017

Please share these updates with others who would benefit from NCOIC membership

Advances in Healthcare Technology Set for Nov. 14

The NCOIC Technical Council and Healthcare Integrated Project Team are planning a workshop on Tuesday, November 14 from 9 a.m. to noon (ET). Presenters will discuss the latest information on the use of blockchain and hyper-convergence infrastructure for healthcare systems. The use of blockchain technology for applications outside of virtual currencies is being explored by a number of companies in areas such as supply chain and financial records, smart contracts, healthcare records, online voting, etc. Members and guests are encouraged to participate in the free workshop to learn about the potential healthcare application and determine areas where the NCOIC can help. The workshop will be held in Sterling, Virginia, and virtual participation is also offered. Speaker and registration information are posted on the NCOIC website.

NATO Interoperability Verification Kickoff Meeting Held

NCOIC members met in Virginia last month and others participated online from the U.S. and Europe to learn about the consortium's Interoperability Verification Initiative with NATO Allied Command Transformation. The project is designed to improve the acquisition of technical products and services for Federated Mission Networking (FMN), a capability to support secure collaboration and information exchange in multi-national operations. Here are some of the key points that were discussed by leaders from NATO and NCOIC:

- Size and diversity of NATO represents an immense market for IT vendors around the world
- Verifying interoperability for a mission network after purchase doesn't work
- NATO and FMN affiliates will be able to obtain interoperable products and services in less time, at a lower cost and with less risk
- 3 IV process steps: NATO sets operational requirements and users (communities of interest); NCOIC develops attributes for each community of interest; then NCOIC provides guidance and assess interoperability risk of product/services
- IV is open and voluntary – it is not a pass/fail; NCOIC will work with you if your product doesn't score well in terms of interoperability
- NATO project is the beginning; IV can be used across multiple-user domains, including military, disaster response, healthcare and Internet of Things
- NCOIC streamlined its Membership Structure so more companies can participate in IV and have greater impact on NCOIC vision
- IV long-term outcome: expand marketplace for NCOIC members

NATO Leader Joins Advisory Council

Kevin Scheid, General Manager of the NATO Communications and Information Agency, is the newest member of the NCOIC Advisory Council. He succeeds the previous NCI Agency general manager, MGen. (ret) Koen Gijsbers, who retired on July 1.

NCI Agency is responsible for operating and defending NATO's networks as well as delivering advanced technology to support NATO missions, including air, missile and cyber defense. Prior to becoming GM of the agency, Kevin Scheid was a senior executive at the Department of Defense, where he served in a number of positions within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, including Deputy Comptroller and Chief Management Officer. From 2009 to 2013, he also served as the Deputy General Manager, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Acquisition of the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency (NC3A). Previously he served in the US Intelligence Community supporting the Director of Central Intelligence with budget and programmatic analysis of the Community's funding and resources. He began his professional career at the White House Office of Management and Budget where he oversaw the programs of the Department of Commerce, the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense.

"NCOIC was fortunate to have Gen. Gijsbers as an advisor and we thank him for his many contributions through the years to our vision for global interoperability. He helped us establish supportive and ongoing relationships with NATO agencies," said Tip Slater, NCOIC Chief Financial Officer. "Now, with Kevin Scheid joining our Advisory Council, we look forward to building on these productive collaborations. Kevin's experience in both national and international arenas will give our members valuable perspectives and insights that they can use to realize their own goals."

New Team Formed to Address Cognitive Computing and Machine Learning
The Technical Council hosted a telcon recently to initiate a new NCOIC working group that will address cognitive computing and machine learning. Member Marc Fiammante gave an overview of the scope and topic area for the working group as well as discussed potential use cases and the way NCOIC can assist in interoperability for the cognitive domains. Examples include sharing neural network layer definitions for object recognition and reuse of annotated documents for machine training; disaster response and command and control systems are among the potential applications. All interested NCOIC members are invited to participate in the new working group. Working group meetings will be initially held as a part of the weekly Technical Team telcons held each Wednesday at 10 a.m. (ET). Contact Marc Fiammante at marc.fiammante@fr.ibm.com or Raj Mukherji at raj@mukherjiconsulting.com for more information.

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