



The Royal Academy
of Engineering

Technology Visionaries lecture series

In conversation with Professor Nigel Shadbolt FREng

Professor Nigel Shadbolt FREng

Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University of Southampton

Wednesday 22 February 2012

6.00pm for 6.30pm

Venue:

The Royal Society

6-9 Carlton House Terrace

London SW1Y 5AG



Open Data: Powering the Information Age



Professor Nigel Shadbolt FREng

Data is the new raw material of the 21st century – a resource that gets more plentiful every day. Generated and disseminated by users of the Internet and World Wide Web, a data deluge is changing our world. Data drives transactions and decisions of every kind. Transport, retail, health, education, leisure, along with every aspect of our lives, depend on an evolving data ecosystem. The science and engineering of data is fundamental to the modern world.

The past two years have witnessed the emergence of a new strain of data – Open Government Data (OGD). Nation states, regional authorities and cities are all setting up OGD programmes. The reasons are numerous and compelling: transparency and accountability; the drive to improve public services and the creation of social and economic value are all seen as reasons to publish public sector information. The UK is a pioneer in this work, having put thousands of datasets online. These range from maps to spending data, crime to education data.

The UK has also pioneered new engineering and technological approaches to open data – this linked data capability is a next stage in the development of the Web.

This talk will examine the rapid emergence of open data and the technologies that support it. It will explore how government and business will benefit from open data. It will assess the future impact of open data on all of us.

Professor Nigel Shadbolt FREng

Nigel Shadbolt is Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Head of the Web and Internet Science Group at the University of Southampton's School of Electronics and Computer Science. With over 400 publications, he has researched topics ranging from cognitive psychology to computational neuroscience, Artificial Intelligence to the Semantic Web. He was one of the originators of the interdisciplinary field of Web Science.

In 2009 the Prime Minister appointed Professor Shadbolt and Sir Tim Berners-Lee OM KBE FREng FRS as Information Advisors to transform access to public sector information. In 2010, Professor Shadbolt joined the Public Sector Transparency Board and in 2011 he became Chair of the UK Government's midata programme and co-director of the Open Data Institute to be based in Shoreditch, London.

As founder and Chief Technology Officer of award-winning ID protection company Garlik Ltd, Professor Shadbolt was responsible for overseeing development of its Semantic Web based technology platform.

He is a Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering and the British Computer Society (President 2006 - 2007).

Professor Shadbolt will be in conversation with **Dr Roger Highfield**, who is Director of External Affairs for the National Museum of Science and Industry.

Dr Roger Highfield has been Editor of New Scientist and prior to that was science editor of The Daily Telegraph. He is an experienced journalist, broadcaster and author of several highly regarded science books.

Programme:

6.00pm Registration

6.30pm Welcome

6.35pm Address by Professor Nigel Shadbolt

7.05pm Facilitated discussion with Roger Highfield

7.35pm Reception

Technology Visionaries lecture series Wednesday 22 February 2012
Open Data: Powering the Information Age

Registration Form

Tickets

Please note you must reserve tickets for the lecture

I wish to reserve ticket(s) for the lecture

Title First name RAEng Fellow

Surname Honours

Position

Organisation

Address

Postcode

Telephone Email

I would like to bring a guest

Title First name

Surname Honours

Position

Organisation Email

Please note:

For planning purposes it would be appreciated if you would notify the Events team if you find you are unable to attend.

The Royal Academy of Engineering reserves the right to refuse entry if you have not registered in advance.

Please return to: Helen Berrington, Manager, Events,
The Royal Academy of Engineering, 3 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DG
Tel: +44 (0)20 7766 0631 Fax: +44 (0)20 7930 2054
Email: helen.berrington@raeng.org.uk / events@raeng.org.uk
VAT Registration Number: 503 4089 74 Registered Charity Number: 293074

The Royal Academy of Engineering

As the UK's national academy for engineering, we bring together the most successful and talented engineers from across the engineering sectors for a shared purpose: to advance and promote excellence in engineering. We provide analysis and policy support to promote the UK's role as a great place from which to do business. We take a lead on engineering education and we invest in the UK's world class research base to underpin innovation. We work to improve public awareness and understanding of engineering. We are a national academy with a global outlook and use our international partnerships to ensure that the UK benefits from international networks, expertise and investment.

The Academy's work programmes are driven by four strategic challenges, each of which provides a key contribution to a strong and vibrant engineering sector and to the health and wealth of society.

Drive faster and more balanced economic growth

The strategic challenge is to improve the capacity of UK entrepreneurs and enterprises to create innovative products and services, increase wealth and employment and rebalance the economy in favour of productive industry.

Lead the profession

The strategic challenge is to harness the collective expertise, energy and capacity of the engineering profession to enhance the UK's economic and social development.

Foster better education and skills

The strategic challenge is to create a system of engineering education and training that satisfies the aspirations of young people while delivering the high calibre engineers and technicians that businesses need.

Promote engineering at the heart of society

The strategic challenge is to improve public understanding of engineering, increase awareness of how engineering impacts on lives and increase public recognition for our most talented engineers.



The Royal Academy of Engineering promotes excellence in the science, art and practice of engineering.

Registered charity number 293074

The Royal Academy of Engineering
3 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DG

Tel: 020 7766 0600 Fax: 020 7930 1549
www.raeng.org.uk