

The Artificial Intelligence SIG 'Demystifying speech recognition'

17th April 2018

Hosted by Amazon

The Artificial Intelligence SIG is championed by Laurent Brisedoux of **Amazon**, James Chapman of **Qualcomm**, Phil Claridge of **Mandrel Systems**, Gunter Haberkorn of **Magna International** and Peter Whale of **Vision Formers**

Venue address: Amazon Cambridge Development Centre, 1 Station Square, Cambridge, CB1 2GA

AGENDA

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| 17:30 | Registration |
| 18:00 | Introduction to Artificial Intelligence SIG, Bob Driver, CEO, CW (Cambridge Wireless) |
| 18:05 | Welcome from event host, Laurent Brisedoux, Software Development Manager, Amazon |
| 18:10 | Session chaired by Artificial Intelligence SIG Champion, Laurent Brisedoux
'Demystifying speech recognition'
Catherine Breslin, Manager, Machine Learning at Amazon Alexa
Voice is the future – we believe that voice will fundamentally improve the way people will interact with technology. It can make the complex simple - it's the most natural and convenient user interface. There are hard problems to solve with voice - we've spent years of invention on this. At Amazon we're fortunate to have the power of the AWS cloud and teams of incredibly talented speech scientists to help solve these very hard problems. This talk will discuss some of the machine learning technology that underpins Alexa's voice recognition capabilities, and how the technology is available to developers via the Alexa Skills Kit. |
| 19:10 | Wrap-up by Artificial Intelligence SIG Champion, Laurent Brisedoux |
| 19:15 | End of session followed by networking. Beer, pizza and soft drinks kindly provided by Amazon |
| 20:15 | Event closes |

Profile of organisers

Cambridge Wireless (CW) @[cambwireless](#)

CW is the leading international community for companies involved in the research, development and application of wireless and mobile, internet, semiconductor and software technologies. With over 400 members from major network operators and device manufacturers to innovative start-ups and universities, CW stimulates debate and collaboration, harnesses and shares knowledge, and helps to build connections between academia and industry. CW's 20 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide its members with a dynamic forum where they can network with their peers, track the latest technology trends and business developments and position their organisations in key market sectors. CW also organises major conferences and start-up competitions along with other high-quality industry networking events and dinners. With headquarters at the heart of Cambridge, UK, CW partners with other international industry clusters and organisations to extend its reach and remain at the forefront of global developments and business opportunities. www.cambridgewireless.co.uk

Profile of host and sponsor

Amazon

Amazon's innovative Cambridge, UK Development Center holds teams focused on three pioneering areas: Prime Air, Amazon Alexa, and Amazon Lab126 Devices. www.amazon.com

Profile of Artificial Intelligence SIG Champions

Laurent Brisedoux, Amazon

Laurent Brisedoux has been heading the Amazon R&D team in Cambridge, part of the Lab126 organisation, since its creation in 2014. His group is responsible for developing application, device and cloud software for Amazon's consumer electronic devices such as Kindle, Fire tablets, Fire TV, Dash, Echo and many more innovative products to come. Prior to that, Laurent was in charge of the development and productisation of imaging technologies at Broadcom, managing a group of 50 people across multiple locations worldwide. He joined the Broadcom Mobile Multimedia group in 2004 with the acquisition of Alphamosaic, one the Silicon Fen 'success stories'. Laurent is also a junior angel investor and working with several technology start-ups in the Cambridge area. www.amazon.com

James Chapman, Qualcomm

James is Qualcomm's VP responsible for its roadmap of Voice & Music products. Before joining Qualcomm as part of the acquisition of CSR, he was responsible for CSR's connectivity product line. Prior to CSR James has held senior software management roles at Broadcom; he was also the Head of Research for TTP Communications. James' 20 years in the high-tech industry started with a degree and PhD in theoretical Condensed Matter Physics from the University of Oxford. www.qualcomm.com

Phil Claridge, Mandrel Systems @MandrelSystems

Phil Claridge is a 'virtual CTO' for hire within Mandrel Systems covering end-to-end systems. Currently having fun and helping others with large-scale AI systems integration, country-wide large scale big-data processing, hands-on IoT technology (from sensor hardware design, through LoRa integration to back end systems), and advanced city information modelling. Supporting companies with M&A 'exit readiness', due-diligence and on advisory boards. Past roles include: CTO, Chief Architect, Labs Director, and Technical Evangelist for Geneva/Convergys (telco), Arieso/Viavi (geolocation), and Madge (networking). Phil's early career was in electronics, and still finds it irresistible to swap from Powerpoint to a soldering iron and a compiler to produce proof-of-concepts when required. www.mandrel.com

Gunter Haberkorn, Magna

Profile to follow. www.magna.com

Peter Whale, Peter Whale Consulting @Peter_Whale

Peter is founder of Vision Formers, a specialist consultancy that helps visionary technology businesses get product to market and turn their ideas into reality. Peter has a long track record of conceiving, developing and marketing successful technology-based solutions, deployed at scale, globally. Innovative products Peter has brought to market in digital, cloud, AI, consumer electronics and telecommunications have been used by countless millions of people on a daily basis globally, badged by the world's leading digital and technology brands. Peter is a board member of CW (Cambridge Wireless) and co-leads its Artificial Intelligence special interest group. www.visionformers.com

Profile of speakers

Catherine Breslin, Manager, Machine Learning at Amazon Alexa @catherinebuk

Catherine is a machine learning scientist specialising in speech and language technology with more than 13 years' experience in academic research and bringing machine learning to products. She leads a team of scientists in Cambridge working across automatic speech recognition (ASR) and natural language understanding (NLU) for Amazon Alexa. www.amazon.com