

Information Science and Technology Seminar Series



Frank Stein, IBM Watson
Director, Analytics Solution Center
Office of the CTO

"Watson: IBM's Latest Grand Challenge"

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
3:00 - 4:00 PM
TA-3, Bldg. 215, Physics Auditorium

Abstract: Watson not only represents a disruptive milestone in the science of deep analytics, but has also created broad-scale awareness of the applicability of these new tools in an expansive range of innovative applications. The first test was the game show Jeopardy!, but the real challenge will be applying the underlying information-management and analytics technology to meaningful problem solving across different industries. In this talk Frank Stein, from IBM's CTO Organization, will give an overview of the challenges facing an open-domain automatic question-answering system, specifically in the context of Jeopardy! The high-level architecture of Watson will be described, including how its performance has evolved over the last four years and why IBM was interested in this task. The March 14th talk is open to all personnel, and is designed to provide background for next day's meetings with LANL personnel interested in applying this and related technology to their respective disciplines. We hope to identify areas for high potential collaboration on research and development of this new generation of decision-support capability.

Biography: Frank Stein is the Director of IBM's Analytics Solutions Center (ASC) in Washington, D.C. In this role, Frank works closely with government, industry, and the academic community on the application of analytics to mission and business problems. Over the last year and half, he has worked with customers on their needs related to the Watson DeepQA project. Frank has spent most of his career in R&D, with the last twelve years in IBM's customer-facing units including Software Services, the Federal Innovation Solution Center and the Federal SOA Institute, both of which he helped to create and then direct. Frank has published papers on a wide range of topics including risk analytics, satellite encryption, Innovation, Interactive TV, and SOA. He holds patents on pen-based computing, video-on-demand, and multimedia technology, and was the 1st recipient of the "IBM Nick Donofrio Award for Innovation." He has degrees from Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, and George Washington University.