

Press Release

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Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute Advocates Aggressive Research Agenda to Prepare for the Software-Intensive Systems of the Future *SMART and SEI team to deliver insight into ultra-large-scale systems*

PITTSBURGH, PA, February 20, 2008—The Carnegie Mellon® Software Engineering Institute ([SEI](http://www.sei.cmu.edu)) and the Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow ([SMART](http://www.smartforum.org)) Organization will host an expert panel of researchers, industry, and government representatives at the [SMART Ultra-Large-Scale Systems Forum](http://www.smartforum.org) to highlight a research study the SEI led on ultra-large-scale (ULS) software-intensive systems. The SEI originally published its findings in a SEI 2006 report titled *Ultra-Large-Scale Systems: The Software Challenge of the Future* (www.sei.cmu.edu/uls/).

The forum will take place on Thursday, March 6, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Carnegie Mellon University Center Rangos I and II conference rooms.

The purpose of the forum is to bring together the authors of the report with senior-level executives in academia, government, and industry who are involved with the development or acquisition of large, complex, software-intensive systems to network, learn, and exchange information on how to address the challenges associated with ultra-large-scale systems.

[Linda Northrop](#), director of the SEI [Product Line Systems Program](#) and lead of the ultra-large-scale systems study stresses that an aggressive research agenda is needed now to prepare for the future and the SMART Conference Forum provides the opportunity to educate local, regional, and national representatives.

“Software is the least well understood and the most problematic element of our largest systems today,” Northrop said. “Government and industry need to be prepared to build the systems of the future that will be ultra-large scale in many dimensions. We cannot afford to wait or postpone this research.”

The forum will feature a keynote speech from Dr. Thomas Killion, chief scientist for the United States Army. Dr. Killion’s talk will focus on the ultra-large-scale issues the Army is facing now and in the future. Expert panel members throughout the day include representatives from IBM Research, the University of Virginia, Boeing, Virtua Health, Vanderbilt University, and the SEI. Patricia Hoffman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity, Delivery, and Energy Reliability in the U.S. Department of Energy will also participate in the morning session.

Bob Carullo, executive director of SMART says that this event is a very good example of why the SMART Congressional Caucus founded the SMART regional initiative. “Their intent was to

support the creation of an organizational infrastructure that would facilitate all components of the technical community addressing S&T issues of national and international significance,” said Carullo. “Specifically, this event will bring together S&T leaders from the Federal Executive Branch (DC HQs), Federal Labs and Field Agencies, Industry, Academia and S&T support organizations to address the national direction for Ultra-Large-Scale Systems. Following the technical sessions, there will be reception to network and informally de-brief our Federal, state and local elected officials.”

Registration is open for senior-level executives from government, industry and academia. Exhibit and sponsor opportunities of the SMART Forum on Ultra-Large-Scale Systems are also available. For more information on this opportunity and to register, visit the SMART ULSS website at www.smartulss.com

About Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute

The Software Engineering Institute (SEI) is a U.S. Department of Defense federally funded research and development center operated by Carnegie Mellon University. The SEI helps organizations make measured improvements in their software engineering capabilities by providing technical leadership to advance the practice of software engineering. For more information, visit the SEI Web site at <http://www.sei.cmu.edu>.

About SMART

The SMART initiative is the integration of regional Science & Technology activities for issues, events & projects among the SMART Congressional Caucus (41 Representatives & 8 Senators), Federal Executive Branch HQs, the four State governments (Executive & Legislative branches of DE, MD, NJ & PA) and the collective weight of the regional tech community facilitated by SMART, a temporary NFP company. SMART is a national model for addressing efficient regional solutions for national and international S&T issues.

The Federal and State efforts include creating the nation’s first legislated, interstate, regional S&T Authority that would replace the temporary SMART NFP Company. For more information, visit <http://www.smartstates.com>