

Abe Usher

Chief Innovation Officer at HumanGeo Group

Washington D.C. Metro Area, VA, US

Chief Technology Officer at HumanGeo Group

Biography

Abe Usher is the Chief Technology Officer of the HumanGeo Group, a Big Data analysis company.

Previously, Usher was an engineer at Google where he worked on the integration of search and geospatial technologies such as Google Maps.

Usher has spoken before audiences at Harvard Business School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, General Electric, the Nielson Company, National Defense University, the Washington Convention Center, the Portland Convention Center, and Whitehall Place.

He has served as a keynote speaker on discussions related to Big Data analysis, location intelligence, and cyber security.

Usher's ideas have been featured in leading publications such as Wired Magazine, Business Week, Network World, CNet News, Trajectory Magazine, and the Geospatial Intelligence Forum.

Before working at HumanGeo or Google, Usher served as a cryptologist in the US Air Force and as an Infantry leader in the US Army. A graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, Usher lives in Virginia near Washington, DC.

Fun facts:

In 2005 Usher coined the term "pod slurping" to describe the emerging trend of using portable devices (e.g. iPods) to steal data from computer end-points like laptops.

In 2008 the Macquarie Dictionary (the Australian equivalent of Webster's Dictionary in America) selected pod slurping as the word of the year, and added it to the Macquarie Dictionary - the official record of Australian English language.

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC

Industry Expertise

Information Technology and Services, Information Services, Research, Social Media, IT Services/Consulting

Areas of Expertise

Hadoop, Social Network Analysis, Big Data, Data Science, Data Analysis

Affiliations

ISSA, American Mensa, ACM, usgif

Sample Talks

Big Data Meets the Federal Data Center

We all know there is more data than ever. But there's not just more of it, it is much less predictable in format, and it's also hitting data centers at great speed as bandwidth increases and access becomes more pervasive. This talk presented challenges, trends, directions, architectures, and solutions.

<http://www.slideshare.net/abeusher/bigdata-meets-the-federal-data-center>

HeatMaps are the Heat

This presentation discussed the rapidly emerging landscape of technologies and data related to location intelligence. As a capstone, it presented a method of using kernel density (heatmap) technology to understand trends that can be visualized in large scale geospatial data.

<http://www.slideshare.net/abeusher/heatmaps-are-the-heat>

Finding Technology Innovation in Unexpected Places: Lessons from Special Operations and Google

I presented an overview of applied technology innovation to a Seminar at Harvard Business School.

<http://www.hbs.edu/networkedbusiness/conferences-and-seminars/>

Understanding the Geospatial Context of Big Data

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I presented an overview of the changing landscape of location intelligence as it is related to Big Data technologies. More than two-dozen Fortune 500 companies were present for my briefing, as part of an event sponsored by the Marketing Science Institute.

<http://www.msi.org/publications/publication.cfm?pub=2071>

Big Data Technology and the Social Sciences

Ex-Google engineer Abe Usher presents a talk about Big Data technology and methods applicable to social science.

Participants will learn techniques that are used by Google engineers to collect, clean, analyze, and visualize Big Data.

Additionally Mr. Usher will provide URLs to sample data, open source applications, and code to those interested in applying these Big Data methods themselves. Some familiarity with basic statistics will be useful in understanding the talk, but no knowledge of coding or software development is required.

Come learn about what Big Data really means at this informative and humorous talk.

<http://www.slideshare.net/abeusher/big-data-and-the-social-sciences>

Event Appearances

Crowdsourcing Customer Insights Through Open Location Data
Location Symposium

Big Data Meets the Federal Data Center
Cloud Computing and Virtualization Expo

HeatMaps are the Heat
State of the Map Conference, PDX

Multi-Source Geospatial Data
2012 Government Data Summit

Finding Technology Innovation in Unexpected Places: Lessons from Special Operations and Google
Harvard Business School Quarterly Innovation Symposium

Understanding the Geospatial Context of Big Data
Marketing Science Institute Quarterly Innovation Conference

Big Social Data
Summer Semester Technology Webinar

Social Media Foundations
International Conference "Social Media: Risks and Opportunities"

Big Data Technology and the Social Sciences
Big Data Lecture

Education

George Mason University
MS Information Systems

West Point
BS German and Arabic

Cloudera
Cloudera Certified Hadoop Professional Cloud Computing

International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium
CISSP Information Security

Accomplishments

Certified Information System Security Professional

CISSP certification is a globally recognized standard of achievement that confirms an individual's knowledge in the field of information security. CISSPs are information assurance professionals who define the architecture, design, management and/or controls that assure the security of business environments. It was the first certification in the field of information security to meet the stringent requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17024.

Cloudera Certified Hadoop Professional

Individuals who achieve the Cloudera Certified Developer for Apache Hadoop certification have demonstrated their technical knowledge, skill and ability to write, maintain, and optimize Apache Hadoop development projects. - See more at: <http://university.cloudera.com/certification/CCDH.html#sthash.T6CZPd4k.dpuf>

Competent Toastmaster Certification (CTM)

I completed the Toastmaster 'competent communicator' certification, the international gold-standard for public speaking certification.

<http://www.toastmasters.org/members/memberexperience/educationalprogram/communicationtrack.aspx>

Testimonials

Rob Painter

Abe represents the best of Google Enterprise as he is committed to solving tough technical challenges and effectively evangelizing the art of the possible.

Abe's strengths that I have experienced lie in a deep and wide-ranging body of technical knowledge and expertise across not only Google Enterprise products but in particular his talent operating within the dark nooks and crannies of INFOSEC within tough, secure government settings as well a deep expertise in social networking and its application to operational support and analysis.

He is one of the few true technical "rock stars" I have been honored to work with and look forward to our tackling some tough, meaningful problems ahead -- I do not hesitate to give Abe a big thumbs up!

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