

The GeekHouse UnPanel

"From Bleak House to Geek House: The Lawyer as CTO"

This symposium, on April 4th at Brooklyn Law School, concludes with a [panel discussion on the role of Lawyer as CTO](http://www.brooklaw.edu/newsandevents/events/2014/04-04-2014.aspx) (<http://www.brooklaw.edu/newsandevents/events/2014/04-04-2014.aspx>). This page exists to expedite and support panel preparation. Check out feedback to date (with some form/republish lag) at: [dazzagreenwood.com/blog/](http://dazzagreenwood.com/blog/lawyer-as-cto) (<http://dazzagreenwood.com/blog/lawyer-as-cto>) [lawyer-as-cto](http://dazzagreenwood.com/blog/lawyer-as-cto) (<http://dazzagreenwood.com/blog/lawyer-as-cto>) and share your questions, ideas or other comments for the Lawyer as CTO panel on the form at the bottom of this page.

Relevant Panel Focus: "...current and former White House Deputy Chief Technology Officers and lawyer/technologists explore the role of the lawyer in emerging ventures and tech policy formation" and **Relevant Conference Focus:** "...new issues facing the legal system, changes in law and legal practice that are needed and are underway, and how the future of law and legal practice might look. In addition to the presentations and talks, this program will also include demonstrations of forward-looking legal products and services exemplifying the new face of law practice..."

Moderator

- [Dazza Greenwood](http://dazzagreenwood.com/) (<http://dazzagreenwood.com/>), Computational Legal Science Group at the MIT Media Lab; Founder, CIVICS.com

Panelists

- [Andrew McLaughlin](http://andrew.mclaughlin/about-me/) (<http://andrew.mclaughlin/about-me/>), Partner, Betaworks; CEO, Digg and Instapaper; Former White House Deputy CTO
- [Beth Noveck](http://thegovlab.org/about/team/beth-simone-noveck/) (<http://thegovlab.org/about/team/beth-simone-noveck/>), Director, The Governance Lab, and Jacob K. Javits Visiting Professor, NYU; Former White House Deputy CTO
- Michael Robak, Associate Library Director and Director of Technologies, University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law
- Steven Berrent, Managing Director, WilmerHale eDiscoverySolutions; Director of Information Technology, Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign

Format: GeekHouse UnPanel

Panelists have spoken and the moderator has heard: "No presentations! Do innovate format!" And so...this will be an "UnPanel" discussion. What is an "UnPanel" you ask? Generally, following the "Unconference" format, the term "UnPanel" is intended to convey an informal and self-organizing process that generates or selects panel topics organically at the start of the session. The term is delightfully undefined and therefore capable of customization to the context. Here is the currently planned approach:

- Method: Each panelist in turn suggests 2-3 topics which I type on my laptop projected for all to see. While moderator is writing the topic titles, each panelist says a few words on what each topics is about providing context. Once everybody has contributed, the moderator goes through each topic one at a time asking panelists to raise a hand with 1-5 fingers for their rating of each topic.
- Outcome: This process results with identification of the top few topics for panel discussion. Prioritization of topic order would be based on rating. By using a spreadsheet to note the topic ideas and note the overall ratings, it is possible to sort on the rating column and instantly announce (and display from the Moderator laptop) the top program topics. Cross-reference as relevant to lower ranked topics Inevitably happens throughout the session.
- Just Add Webform: More innovative options and powerful capabilities are possible by using a simple webform and rating tool rather than having the moderator topics and getting a show of hands, and (upping the stakes from there) allowing panelists and/or registered participants to join the fun by generating and rating topic ideas in the days before Friday.

Background Resources:

Fundamentally, the scope and focus of a lawyer is law and legal matters while that of a CTO is technology and technical matters. There is a recognized role for lawyers with respect to [adding value to enterprises in the knowledge economy](http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1046&context=iplr) (<http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1046&context=iplr>). A recent Fordham Law Review article on [Discrete Roles of General Counsel](http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4120&context=flr) (<http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4120&context=flr>) highlights the following functional roles in an enterprise context:

- Functional Role 1: "Lawyer as Legal Adviser to Corporation and Its Constituents"

- Functional Role 2: "Lawyer as Corporate Officer and Member of Senior Management Team"
- Functional Role 3: "Lawyer as Administrator of the Internal Legal Department"
- Functional Role 4: "Lawyer as Agent of the Corporation in Dealings with Third Parties"

The Princeton CS course "[Innovating Across Technology, Business, & Markets](http://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spr11/cos448/web/schedule.html) (<http://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spr11/cos448/web/schedule.html>)" features great resources on the CTO role and context, including links to seminal papers on [organizational power of the CTO](http://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spr11/cos448/web/docs/week1_reading2.pdf) (http://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spr11/cos448/web/docs/week1_reading2.pdf) and on nature of the [CTO organizational role](http://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spr11/cos448/web/docs/week2_reading1.pdf) (http://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spr11/cos448/web/docs/week2_reading1.pdf), covering:

- Functional Role 1: CTO as "Infrastructure Manager"
- Functional Role 2: CTO as "Big Thinker"
- Functional Role 3: CTO as "Technology Visionary and Operations Manager"
- Functional Role 4: CTO as "External-facing Technologist"

Interact and Contribute

GeekHouse UnPanel

Ideas/Questions

Share ideas, questions or other comments for the "Lawyer as CTO" panel session.

* Required

Use Creative Commons Attribution License *

We accept content under licensed for use under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>

☐ I hereby license the content submitted through this form under Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

What do you want to hear and/or talk about? *

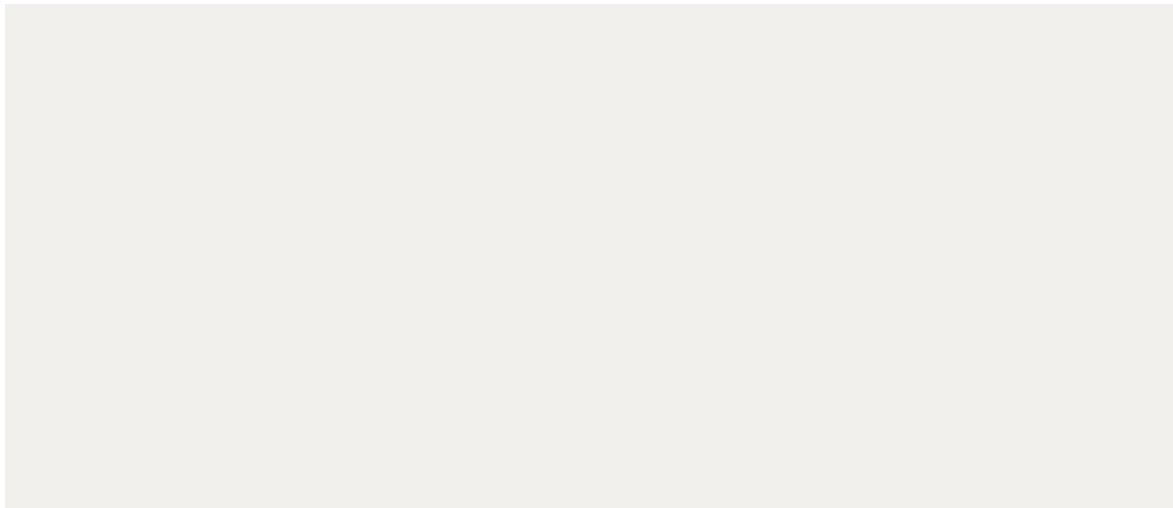
This is a required question

Continue »

Powered by

This form was created inside of CIVICS.com.

[Report Abuse](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Additional Terms](#)





MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

<http://web.mit.edu>

eCitizen.MIT.edu houses law and policy related research of the [MIT Human Dynamics](#)

[Lab \(http://hd.media.mit.edu\)](http://hd.media.mit.edu). This research was partially sponsored by the Army Research Laboratory under Cooperative Agreement Number W911NF-09-2-0053.



Copyright (C) 1997 -2014 MIT, All Rights Reserved and Licensed Under [Creative Commons "Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 United States"](#) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/us/legalcode>) subject to the following terms established by [MIT OpenCourseware \(http://ocw.mit.edu/\)](#) and hereby incorporated by reference, on 1. [MIT interpretation of "Non-Commercial"](#) and 2. [Use of Name and Trademarks of MIT \(http://ocw.mit.edu/terms/index.htm#mitname\)](#).