GOING MOBILE?

Mobility is integral to the future of computing, and at Carnegie Mellon University's CyLab Mobility
Research Center, the future has already arrived.

MOBILITY IS NOT A BUZZWORD. "Speed" and "ease of use" are buzzwords. Mobility is a transformational concept. There aren't all that many of them, "PC," "World Wide Web" and "Information Age" stand out. Mobility ranks with them. And like those other transformational concepts, Mobility has shattered one paradigm and is birthing a new one. "Anywhere, anytime"– that's the computing vision evolving all around us, right now.

Once upon a time there were telecommuters, road warriors and desktop users. But they have all been swallowed up in this great transformational concept. Now there is only you: you at home, you on the road, you at the office -- "Anywhere, anytime." Wherever you are, whatever you want to do, work or play, this transformational concept has brought you a new culture both in the physical and cyber dimensions -- "Anywhere, anytime."

Mobility is a technological imperative which is re-shaping human culture, and a cultural and economic imperative which is re-shaping technology. Mobility is integral to the future of computing; and in some places, the future has already arrived. One such place is Carnegie Mellon University's CyLab Mobility Research Center, based at the Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley campus in the pulsating heart of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

"Our role," says Center Co-Director, Dr. Martin Griss, "is to broadly research the issues ranging across lifestyle, technology business and policy, to identify trends, participate in formulating standards, supporting toolkits and infrastructure; to foster entrepreneurship and community; to offer leadership and to educate students and faculty to actively participate and lead in this avalanche of change."

Mobility is one of the most dynamic areas of technical research and education for the 21st Century, and the CyLab Mobility Research Center is positioned to lead the way. That's why a group of movers and shakers, C-level executives, representing Adobe, Bosch, Cisco, Google, HP, Intel, Microsoft, Motorola, NASA, SAP, Sun, and Yahoo gathered to brainstorm at the Center's Mobility Research Summit.

Which companies will have the resources to capitalize on this moment and establish the foundational underpinnings of the new mobile digital universe? Which technologists will have the vision, fortitude and opportunity to move at the forefront of the advancements that will come over the next few years?

"This is where we can make a difference," Dr. Priya Narasimhan, Center Co-Director explains. "While industry faces these time-to market pressures, we can act as a proofing ground for newer technologies, e.g., security, privacy, reliability. We can answer these more difficult questions that the market needs and that our industrial partners can leverage, even as they continue to develop and release new products. At the Center, we believe in solving real problems in the real world. We're exploring all of these systems concepts -- infrastructure, devices, user interfaces, data, networking, operating systems, file-systems -- through large-scale pilot and testbed deployments. This is a significantly different approach from building small one-off lab projects."

"We take a holistic perspective, integrating issues such as business, policy, ecosystem, security, usability and technology in choosing projects to work on, partners to work with and in how we educate and guide students to think about the problems," Dr. Griss adds, "while many other programs focus only on technology or a small number of items."

Technology companies searching for ways to compress the arc of time are looking to the CyLab Mobility Research Center as a collaborative partner in vital research.

Technologists searching for a competitive advantage in the marketplace of ideas are turning to the Center for Ph.D. degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Master of Science degrees in Information Technology – Mobility (MSIT-MOB), offered in conjunction with Carnegie Mellon's Information Networking Institute (INI). The Center is also a beacon for those looking for promising faculty and post-doctorate opportunities.

Join them all and travel to the future.