

Big Data Week 2013 to feature 200 events in 20 countries, across four continents

A series of community-led events kicks off on 22nd April

LONDON, 15th April 2013 - [Big Data Week](#), a series of community-led Big Data conferences, meet-ups, workshops, networking events and hackathons that focus on the social, political, technological and commercial impacts of data, is back. Kicking off on 22nd April, it will bring together an anticipated 5,000 Big Data practitioners across 20 countries and four continents. Amongst the 20 participating countries are the UK, US, Australia, Germany, Spain and for the first time Malaysia and Lebanon.

With more than 200 events, Big Data Week is a platform for thousands of data scientists, data technologists, data visualisers and leaders from the business, not-for-profit and governments sectors to share how Big Data is impacting their organisations. "Big data has gone from a buzz word to a business reality. Now is the moment to learn from each other to advance the art and science of harnessing data to benefit all aspects of society," said Kenneth Cukier, a co-author of the book 'Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think' and the data editor at The Economist, who will keynote an [event](#) on 25th April at Imperial College London.

"Big data is a technology as transformative as the web: not simply the domain of the IT department, but driving value in business, breakthroughs in science, and change in society," said Edd Dumbhill, program chair for the O'Reilly Strata Conference and the O'Reilly Open Source Convention. "Over the last year, the potential of big data has become big news, but it's still early in the adoption story. In 2013 we're learning how the pieces fit together at all levels, from data-informed decision making to databases and analytics. As best practices emerge, an event like Big Data Week is central to sharing this knowledge and demonstrating what smart use of data looks like."

The full list of the 200+ events can be found at <http://www.bigdataweek.com> with highlights including:

- **April 25: Putting Data to Work (Imperial College, London)** - Edd Dumbhill, program chair for the O'Reilly Strata Conference and the O'Reilly Open Source Convention, will host and chair a day of case studies, presentations, community showcases and debates with the UK data community. Speakers include representatives from Bloomberg, DataSift, The Economist, Fusion-io, FutureGov, the BBC, the Guardian and Smart Cities.
- **April 22: The Big Data Revolution in town (Beirut)** – Big Data Week Beirut will raise awareness to the power of data and analytics in bringing new opportunities to people and businesses in the Middle-East and Africa. The event is hosted by the Lebanese American University.
- **April 24: Evening with GigaOM's Derrick Harris: Big Future for Big Data (Atlanta)** - Derrick Harris, Cloud Editor and Senior Writer from GigaOM will present what's new and what's next for Big Data. Derrick has been covering cloud computing, big data and other emerging IT trends for GigaOM since 2009 and has written the words "cloud" and "Hadoop" possibly more than any other person on the planet.
- **April 24: Londata: Big Data + Big Media (London)** – Londata's panel will discuss how big data is affecting the media and publishing industries. The panellists include practitioners from the television, online video, local publishing and media planning & buying sectors.

"I founded Big Data Week in 2012 to bring together communities of like-minded individuals who share passion for data. In one year, the event has expanded across four continents and the number of events has quadrupled," said Stewart Townsend, the founder of Big Data Week. "I am excited that many of the events are taking place in new European, Asian and Middle-Eastern cities, offering a diverse cultural viewpoint on Big Data."

Building a Smarter London

Big Data Week is partnering with the EU's [iCity programme](#) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) to facilitate the building of a 'smarter' London by opening the London Datastore (LDS) to developers.

The participating developers will gain access to London's Open Infrastructure and the technologies embedded in the fabric of the city. Developers are encouraged to sign up online and attend a session on 25 April: <http://bigdataweek.com/icity/>.

Global Big Data Challenge – The world's healthiest city

As part of the Big Data Week, teams around the world will be tasked to find the world's healthiest city using publically available data sources. They will develop models for ranking the health of a city using sources such as government statistics, weather patterns, Twitter sentiment and any other publically available data sets. Teams can sign up via the Big Data Week website:

<http://bigdataweek.com/bigdatachallenge/>.

The event is being produced by [media140 Worldwide](#); a vibrant global organisation that educates and inspires forward thinking professionals on future trends in social and digital technologies. "media140 is very excited to have the opportunity to lead and creatively direct this global initiative and leverage our networks and expertise to help develop Big Data Week into the largest and most diverse global community of data focused events", said Andrew Gregson, founder, media140.

Event registration closes on 19 April. For more information about the events taking place in London and across the globe visit: <http://bigdataweek.com/> or follow Big Data Week on Twitter at @bigdataweek and #bdw13.

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